



**UVMCC Summer Student Fellowships
Past Awardees**

2023 Awardees

Student: Kathleen Waeldner

Mentor: Christopher Anker, MD

Department: Radiation Oncology

Research Project: Non-operative management paradigm clinical trial with rectal cancer patients

Student: Erin Mathieu

Mentor: Jon Boyson, PhD

Department: Surgery

Research Project: Conducting the preliminary characterization of the B16F10 melanoma model in mice.

Student: Anika Advant

Mentor: Jan Carney, MD, MPH

Department: Med-Pulmonary

Research Project: Identifying barriers and facilitators to awareness and rural Vermont participation in cancer clinical trials.

Student: John Rustad

Mentor: Frances Carr, PhD

Department: Pharmacology

Research Project: Establishing that bromodomain inhibitors in combination with agonist selective activation of the tumor suppressor TRb would be a novel therapeutic option.

Student: Kanayo Ikeh

Mentor: Nimrat Chatterjee, MSc, PhD

Department: Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Research Project: Understanding the role of translesion synthesis in cancer resistance to therapy.

Student: Ava Cote

Mentor: Brian Cunniff, PhD

Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Research Project: Evaluating molecular mechanism by which the new mesothelioma drug thiostrepton elicits cell death.

Student: Logan Sands

Mentor: Paula Deming, PhD



UVMCC Summer Student Fellowships Past Awardees

Department: Biomedical and Health Sciences

Research Project: Investigating the effects of STK11 on ER+ breast cancers.

Student: Cong Gao

Mentor: Seth Fietze, PhD

Department: Biomedical and Health Science

Research Project: Establishing some analysis parameters to study the RNA and protein expression patterns in distinct regions of breast tumors using available data.

Student: Myeongjin Bae

Mentor: Nancy Gell, PT, PhD, MPH

Department: Rehab & Movement Science

Research Project: Conducting a longitudinal study that comparing fall trajectories, based on physical function impairment at baseline, in older cancer survivors to those without a cancer history.

Student: Ian Orsmond

Mentor: Karen Glass, PhD

Department: Biochemistry

Research Project: Understanding how bromodomain-containing proteins contribute to the development of Tamoxifen resistance in breast cancer.

Student: Kassandra Mastras

Mentor: Marc Greenblatt, MD

Department: Med-Hematology Oncology

Research Project: Participating in the curation process and evaluating evidence to develop the rules for classifying MUTYH variants as either pathogenic or benign.

Student: Hayden Christensen

Mentor: Melanie Bui, MD, PhD

Department: Med-Dermatology

Research Project: Conducting a retrospective chart review to describe oncologic outcomes for invasive squamous cell carcinoma of the skin.

Student: Abigail Wootton

Mentor: Nataniel Lester-Coll, MD

Department: Radiation Oncology

Research Project: Conducting a chart review/database build in order to examine the association between hybrid technique and patient side effects.



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Student: Mikaela Mari

Mentor: Puyao Li, MD

Department: Radiation Oncology

Research Project: Conducting multiple retrospective studies looking at outcomes and toxicity of radiation treatment for breast and gyn cancers.

Student: Amy Chang

Mentor: Sarah Nowak, PhD

Department: Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Research Project: Evaluating factors associated with the decline in mammography screening utilization in Vermont and the US over the past decade.

Student: Petergaye Murray

Mentor: Conor O'Neill, MD

Department: Surg-Oncology

Research Project: Coordinating data collection and data instrument validation for the prehabilitation project, engaging dedicated nutrition services to ensure timely nutrition interventions.

Student: Jenna Eaton

Mentor: David Seward, MD, PhD

Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Research Project: Identifying putative molecular network alterations that might inform anti-PD-1 therapy response

Student: Priyanka Chavarkar

Mentor: Gary Stein, PhD

Department: Biochemistry

Research Project: Investigating cancer-compromised genetic and epigenetic control of proliferation and differentiation

Student: Petra Kapsalis

Mentor: Jason Stumpff, PhD

Department: Molecular Physiology & Biophysics

Research Project: Understanding the molecular basis of CIN cell dependence on KIF18A.

Student: Isabella Sutherland

Mentor: Alissa Thomas, MD

Department: Neurological Sciences



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Research Project: Determining the timing and evolution of post-radiation changes for IDH-mutant low grade glioma (astrocytoma and oligodendroglioma, grade 2 and 3).

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Student: Jennifer Chen

Mentor: Thomas Ahern, PhD, MPH

Department: Surgery

Research Project: Racial and geographic disparities in breast lymphedema

Student: Randi Gravelle

Mentor: Brian Cunniff, PhD

Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Research Project: Mitochondrial dynamics support breast cancer tumorigenesis

Student: Kanayo Ikeh

Mentor: Nimrat Chatterjee, MSc, PhD

Department: Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Research Project: Unraveling the functional dynamics of REV1 during cancer cell response to therapy

Student: Ellen Mats

Mentor: Shahid Ahmed, MBBS

Department: Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology

Research Project: The Influence of Bacteria on the Formation of an Immune-Escaped Bladder Cancer: A Pilot Correlative Study

Student: Gopika Nandagopal

Mentor: Alan Howe PhD

Department: Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Research Project: Investigating the STK11 C-terminal domain in lung cancer

Student: Arjune Nibber

Mentor: David Seward, MD, PhD

Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Research Project: Characterization of STK11 Missense Variants Using Prime Editing

Student: Shannon Prior

Mentor: Paula Deming, PhD



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Department: Biomedical and Health Sciences

Research Project: Investigating metabolic rewiring in progression of STK11-null lung cancer: glutamine dependence and the hexosamine biosynthetic pathway

Student: Alyssa Richman

Mentor: Seth Frieze, PhD

Department: Biomedical and Health Science

Research Project: Epigenetic Analysis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Student: Jennifer Toner

Mentor: Peter Kaufman, MD

Department: Hematology & Oncology

Research Project: Correlating Properties of Breast Cancer Organoids to Patient's Tumor Information

2021 Awardees

Student: Alqassem Abuarqoub

Mentor: James Stafford, PhD

Department: Neurological Sciences

Research Project: Targeting novel metabolic and epigenetic interactions in pediatric high grade glioma

Student: Rachel Bombardier

Mentor: David Krag, MD

Department: Surgery

Research Project: COVID-19 and Cancer

Student: Amy Chang

Mentor: Alissa Thomas, MD

Department: Neurological Sciences

Research Project: The effect of frailty score on treatment decisions and overall survival rate in elderly patients with glioblastoma

Student: Trevor Coles

Mentor: Gary Stein, PhD

Department: Biochemistry

Research Project: Cancer-Compromised Epigenetic Control of Nucleolar Function

Student: Linda Cui



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Mentor: Nataniel Lester-Coll, MD

Department: Radiation Oncology

Research Project: Adult Prostate Sarcoma: An Analysis of the National Cancer Database

Student: Sean Lenahan

Mentor: David Seward, MD, PhD

Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Research Project: GLUL repression may exacerbate anti-PD1 therapy resistance in KRAS-driven NSCLCs lacking STK11

Student: Kiera Malone

Mentor: Karen Glass, PhD

Department: Biochemistry

Research Project: Recruitment of the AAA domain-containing protein 2 to nucleosomes

Student: Mikaela Mohardt

Mentor: Brian Sprague, PhD

Department: Surgery

Research Project: Collagen organization as a novel predictor of malignant potential in pre-invasive breast cancer

Student: Allison Morrissey

Mentor: Andrea Lee, PhD

Department: Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Research Project: The Role of Two Histidine Residues in MutY Glycosylase Detection of 8-oxoguanine:Adenine DNA Damage Sites

Student: Joaquin Reategui

Mentor: Andrea Villanti, PhD, MPH

Department: Psychiatry

Research Project: Does dose or type of vaping prevention messaging impact vaping-related beliefs and behaviors in Vermont young adults?

Student: Kayla Sohl

Mentor: Frances Carr, PhD

Department: Pharmacology

Research Project: Synergistic effects of JQ1 and TRbeta in tumor suppression



**UVMCC Summer Student Fellowships
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Student: Joshua A. Victor

Mentor: Nimrat Chatterjee, PhD

Department: Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Research Project: Ascertaining SARS-COV2-dependent DNA damage response in human cells¶