



## 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:** Cassandra 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.



**UVMCC Summer Student Fellowships  
Past Awardees**

**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



**UVMCC Summer Student Fellowships  
Past Awardees**

**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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Past Awardees**

**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  
Past Awardees**

**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¶