Please send submissions for the eALERT to Sarah Keblin by 4 PM Wednesday for submission in the current week's issue.

**Thursday, October 23, 2014**

**VCC Program Grant Recipients Announced**

**Juckett Lecture: Curtis Harris, MD**

**VCC Member Retreat: November 14**

**VCC Research Symposium: November 21**

**Brovember launches November 1**

**Leunigs' Event to Benefit Men's Health and Cancer Efforts at the VCC**

**Monster Bash to Benefit VCC**

**VCC in the NEWS**

**Publications and Announcements**

**Funding Opportunities- NEW LISTING THIS WEEK**

**Ongoing Events**

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**Weekly Event Spotlight**

**2014 VCC Program Grant Recipients Announced**

The Vermont Cancer Center (VCC) is pleased to announce the 2014 recipients of VCC Program Grants. These grants represent internal funding aimed at stimulating interdisciplinary, translational research at the VCC, and
VCC Grand Rounds
Tuesday, October 28

Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes

Akiko Shimamura, MD, PhD
University of Washington
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Reardon Classroom/Medical Education Center 300
8 AM to 9 AM

Save the Date

October 2014
Breast Cancer Awareness Month

23 Fletcher Allen Denim Day
to benefit the High Risk Breast Program.

24 Biochemistry Seminar:
Genetic Association Approach to Identify Disease Gene Targets,
featuring Dawei Li, PhD, Dept. of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, UVM College of Medicine; Given C443, 12-1 PM.

24 Mahana Magic Monster Bash
to benefit child-life services at the Vermont Cancer Center; Old Lantern, Charlotte, 7-11 PM.

26-31 AACR Translational Cancer Research for Basic Scientists Workshop; Boston, MA.

are made possible through the support of the Lake Champlain Cancer Research Organization.

The following cancer-related projects have been awarded $20,000, 1-year grants to support teams of investigators initiating promising translational research. The following projects are representative of the innovative and collaborative work being pursued by teams of Vermont Cancer Center scientists, behaviorists, and physician-investigators:

**GATA3 binding profiles in archival breast tumors: ChIP-Seq method refinement and validity assessment in support of an R01 application.**

**Co-Principal Investigators:** Tom Ahern, PhD, MPH, Donald Weaver, MD, and Jonathon Gordon, PHD.

This project brings together a transdisciplinary team of VCC investigators with expertise in epidemiology, biochemistry, and breast cancer and aims to develop a molecular test for risk of late cancer recurrence. The test will evaluate binding of regulatory proteins to genes that might affect cancer development and dormancy. Findings from this project could address a pressing need in the cancer survivor population—establishing risk for recurrence.

**Generation of iPSCs from Leukemic Patients: Understanding the Molecular Mechanisms that Trigger and Sustain Leukemia**

**Principal Investigator:** Kaleem Zaidi, PhD

**Co-Principal Investigators:** Rodrigo Grandy, PhD, Jeffrey Spees, PhD, and Chris Holmes, MD, PhD

Through a Coupling of expertise in the basic science of stem cell biology, induced Pluripotent Stem Cell (iPSC) generation, and leukemia and hematologic disorders, this innovative project will develop iPSCs from patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), the most common acute leukemia affecting adults. The objective is to establish models that will allow investigators to study the mechanisms that contribute to leukemia initiation and progression. A long-term goal is to generate AML-specific-iPSC lines that enable development of and evaluation of new therapies as well as assess drug responsiveness in a patient-specific way.

**A Serum microRNA Biomarker Signature for**
28 VCC Grand Rounds: Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes; Akiko Shimamura, MD PhD, University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Med Ed 300, 8-9 AM.

28 Norris Cotton Cancer Center Grand Rounds via LIVE Webcast: Improving the quality of perioperative and acute care in the patient diagnosed with glioma: lessons learned, featuring Natalie Riblet, MD and Camilo Fadul, MD.

30 J. Walter Juckett Distinguished Lecture: Interweaving the Threads of the p53, Inflammation and Non-Coding RNA Networks into the Tapestry of Cancer and Aging, Curtis Harris, MD, adjunct professor of medicine at Georgetown University and longtime leader in the field of molecular carcinogenesis; Davis Auditorium, 12 PM.

31 Biochemistry Seminar: Investigating molecular and evolutionary mechanism through protein fitness landscapes, featuring Daniel Bolon, PhD, UMASS Medical School; Given C443, 12-1 PM.

November 2014
Lung and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

4 VCC Grand Rounds: Med Ed 300, 8-9 AM.

11 VCC Grand Rounds: The Role of Src-family Kinases in Metastatic Progression, Irwin H. Gelman, PhD, Roswell Park

Prostate Cancer Progression

Co-Principal Investigators: Jane Lian, PhD, Scott Perrapato, DO, and Steve Ades, MD

The goal of this interdisciplinary project is to find a signature of micro-RNAs (miRNAs, small, non-coding RNAs that play key roles in the regulation of genes) that will provide biomarkers for assessing prostate cancer progression. Novel molecular targets for clinical intervention will be established. By understanding what the miRNAs are and what they do, the team hopes to better predict prognosis and response to treatments for prostate cancer patients.

Papillary Microcarcinoma of the Thyroid: An Investigation of Molecular Pathogenesis

Co-Principal Investigators: Nikoletta Sidiropoulos, MD and Fran Carr, PhD

Through partnerships between scientists with complementary expertise in thyroid cancer treatment and molecular biology of thyroid cancer, this study team hopes to unravel the biology of Papillary Microcarcinoma (PMC), a tumor responsible for 50% of all thyroid cancers. By studying the DNA changes in these tumors, they hope to elucidate how an individual PMC will behave over time. The ultimate goal of the research team is to translate these findings into clinical parameters that will increase capabilities to tailor therapeutic interventions.

Long Noncoding RNA Markers of Breast Cancer Risk of Recurrence

Co-Principal Investigators: Donald Weaver, MD, Brian Sprague, PhD, Mark Evans, PhD, Jonathan Gordon, PhD, Janet Stein, PhD

This study will examine a new class of molecular markers called long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs), which are important in normal and tumor cell function. The research team will investigate contributions of lncRNAs to regulation of gene expression. They will study the best method for investigating lncRNAs in patients and will then screen a set of breast cancers (previously shown as at low or high risk for recurrence) for lncRNAs expression. LncRNAs associated with risk for disease recurrence will be investigated to identify...
Cancer Institute; Reardon Classroom (Med Ed 300), 8-9 AM.

14  VCC Member Retreat; for VCC members and staff only; 12-5 PM, Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building; for more information please contact Charles Brooks.

9-12  AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities; San Antonio, TX.

16  Leunigs' Bistro Event to Benefit the VCC.

18  VCC Grand Rounds; Chronic Opioid Protocol presentation and practical training, featuring Carlos Pino, MD; Reardon Classroom (MedEd 300), 8-9 AM.

18-21  AACR International Symposium on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics; Barcelona, Spain.

21  VCC Clinical and Translational Research Symposium; Molecular and Behavioral Cancer Epidemiology; Davis Auditorium, Fletcher Allen Health Care, 8:00-4:30. RSVP to Charles Brooks.

December 2014

1-4  AACR Special Conference on Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy: A New Chapter; Orlando, FL.

9-13  San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium; registration deadline is Friday, October 31; San Antonio, TX.

novel markers for clinical decision making.

Juckett Lecture Series Presents Curtiss Harris, MD

The VCC’s J. Walter Juckett Distinguished Lecture Series presents "Interweaving the Threads of the p53, Inflammation, and Non-Coding RNA Networks into the Tapestry of Cancer and Aging," featuring Curtis Harris, MD. Harris is a clinical professor of medicine and oncology at Georgetown University School of Medicine, and has a broad range of research interests from molecular genetics and epigenetics of human cancer to molecular epidemiology of human cancer risk, diagnosis and prognosis.

The lecture will take place at noon on Thursday, October 30th in Davis Auditorium and is open to public.

For more information, please contact Charles Brooks.

Fall 2014 VCC Member Retreat

VCC members, please block your calendar for Friday, November 14 from 12-5 PM for the fall VCC Member Retreat. A calendar meeting request was sent via Outlook; if you do not use Outlook, please be sure to manually add this to your calendar. The event will take place in the Waterman building’s Memorial Lounge and lunch will be served.

If you a have any questions about the retreat please contact VCC Administrative Director, Kate Webster.

2014 VCC Clinical and Translational Research Symposium: Nov. 21

Mark your calendar for the 2014 VCC Clinical and Translational Research Symposium on Friday, November 21, 2014. This year’s all-day research meeting, taking place in Davis Auditorium, will be focused on Molecular and Behavioral Cancer Epidemiology and will cover a wide range of related topics.
The event is open to the entire UVM community as well as individuals from outside academic and clinical organizations. Event co-chairs Chip Cole, PhD, and Tom Ahern, PhD, MPH have arranged an impressive group of both Vermont Cancer Center member and invited guest speakers. A full agenda will be posted to the VCC website by Monday, October 20.

**JUNIOR INVESTIGATORS AND CALL FOR POSTERS**

Junior investigators will also be invited to speak and will be selected to do so from among those participants that submit posters for the day's scientific poster presentation. The poster session is open to all attendees and poster topics do not need to directly correlate to the theme of the meeting. This will be a judged poster session with prizes offered in various categories. If you are interested in contributing a poster, please contact Charles Brooks. Junior investigators will be invited to speak based upon a qualified abstract; abstracts due by November 7th for consideration.

For more information about the event or submitting an abstract, click here, or contact Charles Brooks.

**Return of the MO--to Benefit the VCC!**

Gentleman, start thinking mustache! Once again, the Vermont Cancer Center, led by a group of dedicated providers, will be growing mustaches in November to raise awareness, and new this year--funds, for men's health and cancer research efforts happening at the Vermont Cancer Center.

Included in this effort will be an all-day fundraiser hosted by Leunigs' Bistro on November 16th where participants will be encouraged to come "show their MO".

Stay tuned for more information including how to join in the growing and fundraising efforts around what we'll be calling here at the VCC, "Brovember"!

For more information please contact Manon O'Connor, Senior Director of Development for the Vermont Cancer Center.
Vermont Cancer Center providers and researchers pose with Bob Conlon of Leunigs' Bistro for a Brovember kick-off photo

Leunigs' Bistro to Host November 16 Fundraiser for Men's Cancer Research and Education at the VCC

In follow-up to their month-long efforts to raise funds and awareness for the High Risk Breast Program at the Vermont Cancer Center, Leunigs' Bistro, on Church Street in Burlington, will be hosting an all-day fundraiser on Sunday, November 16th to benefit men's health and cancer research and education efforts at the Vermont Cancer Center. Mark your calendar and join other VCC members, staff and faculty for brunch, lunch or dinner!

5th Annual Monster Bash to Benefit Child Life Services at the VCC

Mahana Magic will host its 5th Annual Monster Bash, to benefit child life services at the Vermont Cancer Center, on Friday, October 24th from 7-11 PM at the Old Lantern in Charlotte. Tickets are on sale now! Click here for more information or to purchase tickets.
VCC in the NEWS

Jim Wallace, MD was interviewed by the Burlington Free Press regarding new developments in radiation treatment for breast cancer patients. Click here to read the article.

Michelle Sowden, DO, spoke at both Cocktails Curing Cancer, a local non-profit event raising funds for both the VCC and the ACS, and at the annual Fletcher Allen Auxiliary Lunch. Sowden shared with attendees at both events advancements in breast cancer care and research made possible through philanthropic support.

Publications and Announcements

*Please send announcements and publication notices to Sarah Keblin for inclusion in the weekly eALERT and other promotional material*

Recent Publications by VCC Members:


**Funding Opportunities**

Green indicates NEW this week

- College of Medicine Internal Grant Program and Bridge Support Program; deadline for each is midnight, October 31, 2014.

- NCI Centers of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence (CCNEs)(U54); deadline for submission is November 3, 2014.

- NCI New Approaches to Synthetic Lethality for Mutant KRas-Dependent Cancers (U01); LOI due 30 days before submission date of application; submission dates are Nov. 10, 2014 and July 8, 2015.

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Explorations Awards; seeking innovative global health and development solutions in any discipline; two page proposals being accepted from September 4 through November 12, 2014.

- NCI Innovative Research in Cancer Nanotechnology (IRCN) (U01); deadline for submission *multiple dates" see announcement.

- Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award; four years of funding totaling $460,00 plus debt retirement up to $100,000; deadline for application is Monday, December 1, 2014.

- 2015 Kimmel Scholar and Translational Science
Award: $200K over two years for junior faculty research in cancer; application deadline is December 3, 2014.

- UVM Reach Grants: providing seed funding to promote innovative research, scholarship and creative arts at UVM; deadline for submission is December 5, 2014.

VCC Internal Funding/Grants Available
Click Here

Ongoing Events

Environmental Pathology and Carcinogenesis Seminar Series
Mondays at Noon, HSRF 200

VCC Grand Rounds
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th
Tuesday 8-9am, MedEd 300

Please refer to the VCC Website for information regarding regularly scheduled tumor board meetings. Information can be found here.

VCC Leadership:
Gary S. Stein, PhD, Co-Director
Claire F. Verschraegen, MD, Co-Director
Kate Webster, Administrative Director
Sarah Keblin, Communications Manager