



GMaP Region 2

March 2021 Newsletter



Happy National Nutrition Month!

By Vivekka Suppiah, MSc

National Nutrition Month, spearheaded by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, aims to encourage everyone to make “informed food choices” and develop “healthful eating and physical activity habits.” In celebration of National Nutrition Month, the GMaP Region 2 team asked two of our scholars about what nutrition looks like for them.

Dr. Lakeshia Cousin, T32 Postdoctoral Fellow in Behavioral Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center, says that between job hunting and writing grant applications, paying attention to nutrition and physical activity has become more challenging:

“It’s not been easy since I spend long nights writing in front of my computer, writing and preparing for interviews. However, I prioritize the weekend to shop for my favorite nutritious foods and prepare meals ahead of time, so when I’m busy, I can grab my food and get back to work. To stay physically active, I take frequent breaks, go for a walk, or get a quick 30-minute exercise break using my exercise app to relieve stress during my crunch time.”

Dr. Ursula Martinez Pradedo, Applied Research Scientist at Moffitt Cancer Center, says “For me, eating healthy and exercising are two pillars in my life. I shop for food and prepare

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meals for the week every Sunday, so I know I won't be tempted to go buy something unhealthy when I'm tired and don't feel like cooking. I also try to stay physically active, so I go swimming or running 3-4 mornings before work. It really helps me to start my day with energy.”

For information on how to incorporate good nutrition habits into a busy lifestyle, visit this [website](#).

The Collaboration Corner

Meet one of our many wonderful partners in GMaP Region 2! Want to be featured in our next issue? [E-mail us!](#)



Brenda Ramos-Gonzalez, MPHE
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My name is Brenda Ramos-Gonzalez and I am the [Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity \(PACHE\)](#) - Community Health Educator (CHE) for the Moffitt Cancer Center (Tampa, Florida) and Ponce Health Sciences University (Ponce, Puerto Rico) Partnership, also known as the MCC-PHSU partnership (Grant #5U54CA163068-09).

I came into this role after developing an interest in Community Outreach, Women’s Health, and LGBTQ+ Health during my Master’s in Public Health Education program. Previously, I worked as an Education Coordinator for Susan G. Komen, a Community Health Specialist for a Federally Qualified Health Center,

and as an Education Unit Coordinator for the Health Justice Center.

My main goal as a PACHE-CHE is to develop more collaborative partnerships while providing community-based cancer education to improve the health of Latino communities in Tampa and underserved communities in the south of Puerto Rico. I currently oversee the [National Outreach Network \(NON\) Screen to Save](#) project in Puerto Rico, where I collaborate with several Moffitt team members, including the NON-CHE and the [M-POWER](#) program. We host a variety of educational events including: ¡Salud! Serie de Charlas, The Bridge y Hablemos de Cáncer, and Latinos y el Cáncer.

Mentorship: A Two-Way Street



Jason Rivera (left) is a fourth-year medical student at Florida State University's College of Medicine. As an undergraduate student, he was a CURE-funded trainee from 2013-2017 in the lab of Dr. Douglas Cress (right) through the Project LINK program at Moffitt Cancer Center. He will be heading to the University of Colorado to complete his residency in Family Medicine this May.

By Jason Rivera, BS

1. How did your time as a CURE trainee influence your current career track?

My time in Project LINK helped me identify problems and use the scientific process to come up with the best possible solution. I was also able to collaborate with many different people across many disciplines which made me versatile and appreciate the vastly diverse medical fields. The basis for the work we did with Project LINK was to make peoples' lives healthier, longer, and more enjoyable. I use this same basis to guide my passions in medicine and it is the reason why I chose a career in primary care.

2. What do you find most valuable about having a mentor?

I think having a mentor is essential for every young learner because their purpose is to help guide you towards the right path while giving you the freedom to carve out the path yourself. In my case, Dr. Cress gave me tasks and helped me navigate the processes of both computer and bench lab research. He also allowed me the space to pursue this research at my own pace and with my own methods.

My favorite memories in his lab include the work I did with the other people in the lab, such as with Nick Gimbrone and Bhaswati Sarcar.

3. What are your future career aspirations?

My career aspirations include working in the public health realm addressing upstream issues such as equitable access to healthcare, social determinants of health, and racism in medicine. I definitely plan on becoming a mentor in hopes of inspiring the future generations to this field of work. I see the value of mentorship and using my experiences and knowledge to influence others. Many times, people from my background never have contact with a role model in the STEM fields. I hope to help bridge this gap



Jason's last day in the Cress Lab.

in the future.

By Douglas Cress, PhD

1. Who were your mentors and how did they help shape your career?

My father and grandfather were my first mentors. My grandfather taught me to face problems creatively and my father taught me how to make a creative solution operational. Every mentor since then has reinforced those two key concepts to varying degrees.

2. What do you enjoy most about being a mentor?

Without any doubt my favorite part about being a mentor is when a stu-

dent blows you away with an idea or concept that you never saw coming. The day this happened for me with Jason was during his Research Day presentation. Jason was doing chart reviews to fill in information on a cohort of lung cancer patients that we are still studying today. He was asked a question about lung cancer staging and he totally knocked it out of the park.

3. What is some advice you would give to scholars trying to build a meaningful mentor-mentee relationship?

Take an active role in the relationship by asking questions and pitching ideas. At Moffitt, this is difficult since the Principal Investigators (PIs) have offices away from the labs and spend a lot of time in meetings and writing grants. Nonetheless, use Zoom, email and when possible, personal office visits to ask questions. Do your homework and find out what you can about your PI and other mentors in the lab from the literature.



Dr. Cress and Jason at Research Day 2014, an annual event at Moffitt Cancer Center where student trainees present their research projects.

Announcements

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE www.cancer.gov

Disparities and Barriers to Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Care

April 20, 2021

1 pm ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This webinar will focus on the recently released Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) technical brief, [Disparities and Barriers to Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Care](#). The brief was commissioned by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to support the development of a research agenda associated with the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act. Webinar presenters will discuss the background of the report, its findings, as well as crucial next steps to address disparities and barriers in survivorship care.

There will be a brief question and answer session following the presentation.

Two new funding opportunities from the NIH Common Fund's Transformative Health Disparities Research initiative

Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity at Minority Serving Institutions

Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity

Applications due by Friday, May 28, 2021



SAVE THE DATE!

MMC/ VICC/ TSU
Partners in Eliminating Cancer Health Disparities
20th Annual Scientific Symposium



ZOOM link: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95118281667?pwd=OEExaHhQWmRlVjVjJ1aGw2dz09>

"COVID-19 and Cancer"

Featured Speakers:
Robert Winn, MD – Professor of Internal Medicine, Director, VCU Massey Cancer Center
Mark Denison, MD – Professor of Pediatrics, Director, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, VUMC
James Hildreth, MD, PhD – President and Chief Executive Officer, MMC
Morgan F. McDonald, MD, FAAP, FACP – Deputy Commissioner of Population Health, Tennessee Department of Health
Brian Rini, MD – Professor of Medicine, Chief of Clinical Trials, VICC
Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD – Professor of Radiation Oncology, Executive Director, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance

May 22, 2021

8:30am – 12:30pm

Virtual via ZOOM

Registration is Free



VANDERBILT-INGRAM CANCER CENTER



NRMN
Mentoring to Diversify the Biomedical Workforce

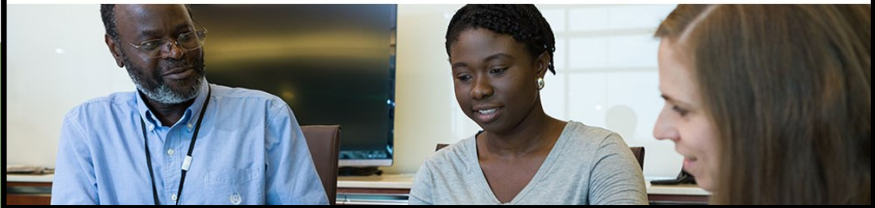
July 26-29, 2021
Virtual Workshop

Application Submission Deadline: Apply Now (login required)
Friday, April 2, 2021 5:00 p.m. ET

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Genetics

Discovering the causes of cancer and the means of prevention

Careers at DCEG *Contract Positions, Postdoctoral & Postbaccalaureate Fellowship Positions



ASCO/AACR METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH WORKSHOP

An intensive workshop in the essentials of effective clinical trial designs of therapeutic interventions in the treatment of cancer for clinical fellows and junior faculty clinical researchers in all oncology subspecialties, including radiation and surgical oncology and radiology.



Apply today to participate in the University of Utah Grant Writing Coaching Group Study!

10th Annual Expanding the Role of Promoters/Community Health Worker Conference

Date: Friday, April 16, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

Theme: COVID-19: Navigating Misinformation, Promoting Telebehavioral Health, and Vaccine Confidence
Training Program: Dia de La Mujer Latina, Inc. (DML) and the Intercultural Center for Health, Research, and Wellness, Inc.
Location: online
Total Number of Hours: 5 DHS-certified CEUs for CHWs and CHW Instructors (1-hour Communication; 2-hour Service Coordination; 2-hour Knowledge-base)
Registration Fee for Each Day: Free
Registration Information: email Nelly at txpchw201@gmail.com
Contact Information: email Nelly at txpchw201@gmail.com

APPLY TODAY
TOGETHER, EQUITABLE, ACCESSIBLE, MEANINGFUL
CANCER CARE FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY PATIENTS
TEAM SGM TRAINING
A VIRTUAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1, 2021

GW Cancer Center

Interested in more opportunities like these? Want to be featured in our next newsletter? Contact us at gmap.region2@moffitt.org

GMAP Region 2 Resources

The **GMAP Region 2 Travel Award** is intended to support career development related to cancer research or cancer health disparities research. This scholarship will provide reimbursement (e.g. registration, airfare, hotel, etc.) for ESI's or Trainees to present research at conferences and attend skills workshops/trainings. Applicants must be located in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri or Puerto Rico, be a trainee or Early Stage Investigator (ESI), and submit a complete application.

To learn more or apply, click [here!](#)



APPLY TO THE GMAP REGION 2 REGISTRATION SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP TODAY!

The **Trainee/Early Stage Investigator Registration Support Scholarship** is intended to support underrepresented scholars and investigators in cancer research or cancer health disparities research by providing reimbursement for registration fees associated with virtual or in-person meetings, conferences, workshops or training. To learn more or apply, click [here!](#)



Graphic Courtesy of VectorStock.com 2020

GMAP Region 2 EXPERT GRANT REVIEWS ARE AVAILABLE!

The Expert Grant Review award is intended to assist New Investigators and Early Stage Investigators who are applying for funding awards with feedback from senior researchers in the region. Region 2 is comprised of a variety of Cancer and CHD researchers who are experienced with the grant writing process and successful grant funding outcomes and are ready to help you!

Thank you for Joining GMAP Region 2!

The Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMAP) — consists of 7 regions and engages more than 1,200 disparities researchers, diversity trainees, and community health educators — employs a systematic and comprehensive strategy for building networks for the support and efficient management of cancer and cancer health disparities (CHD) re-search, training and infrastructure.

GMAP Region 2 is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Puerto Rico and is based at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. GMAP provides enhanced access to career development resources, such as job openings, travel/scholarship funding, grant writing workshops, connections to the Training Navigator at the National Cancer Institute, and so much more!



Don't forget to follow us on social media!



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