



Wilmot Cancer Institute
Community Outreach Engagement
3rd Annual
Community Cancer Action Council Retreat
THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

10.7.22



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MEDICINE

WILMOT
CANCER INSTITUTE

WELCOME

Welcome to the 3rd annual Community Cancer Action Council (CCAC) retreat. It has been an honor serving as co-chairs of the CCAC this year. We have been blessed to work with a group of dedicated and talented volunteers who care deeply about the community and increasing cancer health equity. And, their enthusiasm has only been matched by the commitment and perseverance of the COE team who have been the catalyst for Wilmot's partnership with the community.



Nikisha Ridgeway

Between the two of us, we have interacted with Wilmot in multiple ways – as caregiver of cancer patients (now survivors), as funder of multiple research studies, as advisors to Wilmot leadership,



Karen Hermance

and as members of the CCAC. These various relationships have allowed us to form a positive and comprehensive opinion of the organization and its operations.

Wilmot is a top-notch institute that we are proud to partner with. We value the relationship we have formed with Drs. Friedberg and Cupertino, and all of the COE team. We have a greater voice, a deeper understanding, and more respect for the researchers, doctors, staff, and clinicians that it takes to fight the insidious disease of cancer. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work and cannot thank them enough for their service.

We hope you all enjoy your time today. Most importantly, we hope you gain a better understanding of the importance your voice and the power of partnership when scientists work with community today to decrease the impact of cancer tomorrow.

MESSAGE FROM DR. FRIEDBERG

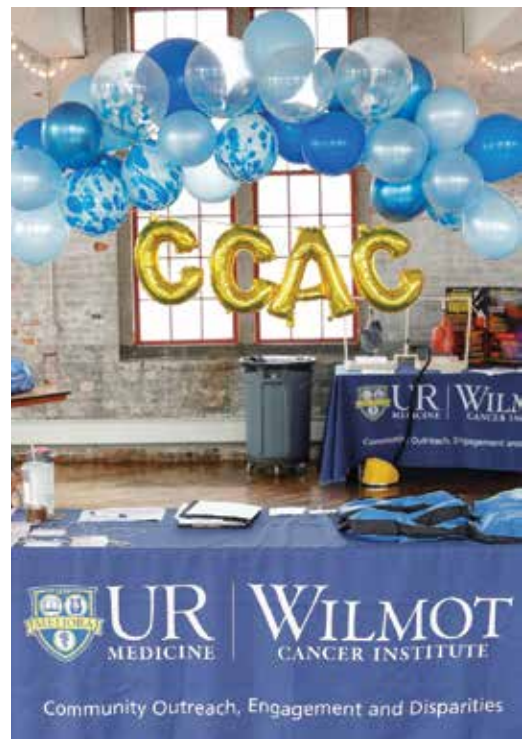
Director of the James P. Wilmot Cancer Institute

Wilmot's mission is to provide the highest quality treatment and care, through expert and innovative medicine, science, and education, for any patient burdened by any cancer within our region and beyond. We serve a catchment area consisting of 27 counties in central and western New York with a population of over three million people. If our catchment area were a state, it would have the second highest incidence of cancer in the country. Wilmot is the only academic cancer center focused on overcoming this disturbing disparity. We can't thank our CCAC members enough for providing the essential connection between Wilmot and our diverse region. This retreat represents an essential opportunity for bi-directional engagement between our scientific research programs and the community.

I also need to thank Dr. Paula Cupertino for taking the leap and joining our team three short years ago. Getting Paula to come to Wilmot was essential for the future of our cancer center. In order to achieve designation by the NCI, every new cancer center needs to have a community engagement program with an experienced leader. We were starting from scratch and when we found Paula, we knew that she was the absolute right person for this role. She came here quickly, got to work...just as a global pandemic struck, and despite that, has done an enviable job. She has risen to the challenge of building a Community Outreach & Engagement program worthy of NCI designation at Wilmot and expanding our reach throughout the 27-counties that we serve. I look forward to moving ahead with this robust group, as we continue to develop and expand our COE program in 2023!



*Jonathan Friedberg,
M.D., M.M.Sc.*



Community Outreach and Engagement

The impact of cancer across Wilmot Cancer Institute's 27-county western and central New York region is high — in fact, it has remained consistently higher than U.S. and New York State rates for the past 20 years. If these 27 counties were its own state, it would have the 2nd highest rate of cancer in the country. Wilmot is committed to reducing this cancer burden and improving the health of local and regional residents in partnership with community organizations, leaders, and coalitions throughout the catchment area.

The Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) Office is the catalyst for this partnership. COE applies the principles of community-academic partnerships to achieve its goals, which are to reduce disparities in the continuum of cancer care and promote cancer health equity. Working closely with the COE is a group of 34 people who form a Cancer Community Action Council (CCAC) organized in four priority working areas: primary prevention, survivorship, access and regional integration and community-research. CCAC members represent many local organizations, and offer guidance to Wilmot leadership, clinicians and researchers, providing a much-needed community voice in planning and strategic activities. Ultimately, community priorities and research questions inform Wilmot's basic scientists to be more responsive to community priorities, Wilmot's efforts to address the impact of cancer are strengthened and transformed because of the power of these partnerships.

COE partners take part in many events across the region. If you would like to learn more, or get involved, please email: Wilmot_COE@urmc.rochester.edu

Working with
Communities
Today to
Lessen the
Impact of Cancer
Tomorrow.

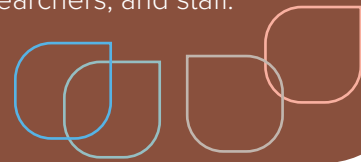
Engage with COE

- Work with a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to advise research. Community Advisory Boards (CABs) are convened by Wilmot COE to guide and inform researchers in understanding cultural nuances and needs of community while sharing community perspectives around research topics.
- Access reports and maps on cancer epidemiology and health disparities. Wilmot's data-mapping tool, the Cancer Visual Analytic System (CANVAS), was created to define the 27-county region, prioritize cancers of particular burden, and identify communities in greatest need.
- Participate in community outreach activities across the region to interact with community members.
- Engage in *Community Conversations on Cancer* educational series.
- Join the CCAC.
- Save the Date: 4th Annual CCAC Retreat – Friday, October 6, 2023.



ABOUT THE CCAC

The Community Cancer Action Council (CCAC), established in 2019, is a community-led group that drives WCI's research and clinical priorities. The CCAC is a cornerstone of all community-academic partnerships undertaken by COE. The CCAC sets goals to identify high-priority research, outreach, and education initiatives; foster clinical trial participation; increase participatory research that is responsive to the community; and promote equity. CCAC fosters community engagement with the Wilmot Director, leadership, researchers, and staff.



Working Groups

CCAC is organized into four working groups (WG) that focus on aspects of the cancer continuum: access to care, prevention, survivorship and research. Each CCAC WG, in partnership with Wilmot researchers and clinicians, develops and executes an annual project.

- Cancer Prevention and Risk Reduction working group provides evidence-based education and interactive events that promote healthy behaviors consistent with decreasing cancer risk.
- Community-Driven Cancer Research working group increases participation, equitable access, and diversity in cancer research and clinical trials.
- Access to Cancer Care and Rural Integration working group aims to improve access to quality cancer care and research services throughout the region.
- Cancer Care and Survivorship working group addresses the assistance and resources needed to support individuals going through treatment, survivorship, or caregiving.



Jason Coleman

Access to Cancer Care and Rural Integration

Co-Chairs: Jason Coleman, Lynae Wyckoff

Wilmot Faculty Lead: Charles Kamen

Wilmot Liaison: Sarah Merritt

Working group Members: Julie Berkhof, Kylie M Candelaria, Michele Foster, Abdi Gudina, Diane Huussen, Joanne Kochanek, Karen L Pennington, Mary Schrock, Stacey Wicksall

Project Description: The Access to Care 2022 project aims to increase the availability of telehealth services in communities with significant barriers to in-person care. Currently they are partnered with the Macedon Public Library and developing a model for sustainable telehealth hubs in public locations that can be disseminated to the entire URMIC catchment area.



Lynae Wyckoff





Cancer Prevention and Risk Reduction

Co-Chairs: Ronalyn Pollack, Illuminada Vilca

Wilmot Faculty Lead: *open position*

Wilmot Liaison: Laura Sugarwala

Working Group Members: Kevin Spencer Beckford, Camila Ospina Fadul, Jackie Greene, Rebecca Hess, Asim Johnson, Kimberly McIntosh, Sarah Merritt, Michele Tufano

Project Description: The CPRR has been developing an e-Toolkit that guides individuals on how best to reduce risk of cancer and other chronic diseases to provide to organization leadership. This toolkit provided to employers will contain information regarding accessible programs/resources that provide cancer screenings (hereditary and non), tobacco cessation, nutrition education, physical activity education, survivorship and caregiver support, etc.



Illuminada Vilca



Ronalyn Pollack

Cancer Care and Survivorship

Chair: Lizanne Zamites

Wilmot Faculty Lead: *open position*

Wilmot Liaison: Arlette Chávez-Iñiguez and Lee Kehoe

Working group Members: Evelyn Arana-Chicas, Sandy Sabatka, Carin Adams, James McCauley, Sue Dambrowski, Mary Ellen Smith, CaTyra Polland, Brooke Erickson, Marilee Murphy, Kathleen Maxian, Darlene Richards, Jennifer North

Project Description: This group has been compiling evidence-based information and resources for patients and caregivers. A website, or webpages, will be developed to ensure that information is available to diverse populations and resources can be accessed in all parts of the region.



Lizanne Zamites



Community-Driven Cancer Research

Co-Chairs: Jeffrey Freeman, Elisa DeJesus

Wilmot Faculty Lead: Francisco Cartujano-Barrera

Wilmot Liaison: Ruthmarie Hernández

Working Group Members: Don Armstrong, Beverly Canin, Anne Gadomski, Karen Hermance, Gabriel Pellegrino, Nancy Wood, Edgar SantaCruz



Jeff Freeman



Elisa DeJesus

Project Description: The CDCR is working to develop a short clinical trials education video in Spanish and ASL to use as a resource for Latino and Deaf/Hard of Hearing community education. This will be developed to meet the health literacy needs related to cancer and seeks to increase the target populations' participation in clinical trials. The group is also working to investigate existing and required resources necessary to develop a pipeline to facilitate youth in underrepresented communities in developing an interest in cancer research and leadership in cancer prevention.



Community Voices Panel

Hear from community and CCAC leaders about identified priorities across the continuum of cancer care, and engage in discussion to determine how research can help answer community questions.

Panelists:

Kevin Spencer Beckford

Sr. Vice President and Chief People & Compliance Officer, GRYT Health Inc.; Member: CCAC Cancer Prevention & Risk Reduction Working Group

Elisa DeJesus

Director, Health Literacy & Language Services, Ibero-American Action League, Inc.; Co-lead: CCAC Community-Driven Cancer Research Working Group

Jason Coleman

The American Cancer Society, Cancer Control; Member: CCAC Access to Cancer Care and Rural Integration

Lizanne Zamites

Executive Director, Sustain. Inspire, Survive; Member: CCAC Cancer Care and Survivorship Working Group

Rev. Patrina Freeman

Associate Minister and Director of Evangelism, Helping Hand Missionary Baptist Church, and Town of Irondequoit Councilmember; Chair: Faith in Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Hanzell Carrillo

Administrative Process Specialist, Barclay Damon; Member: Kick Vaping Latino Advisory Board (CAB)

Jannette Berkley-Patton, Ph.D.

Dr. Jannette Berkley-Patton is a professor in the School of Medicine Biomedical and Health Informatics Department, the director of the UMKC Community Health Research Group, and the Merle and Muriel Hicklin Endowed Chair in Internal Medicine in the School of Medicine. She is also the director of the UMKC Health Equity Institute. She is faculty advisor and supervisor in training undergraduate and doctoral students on her research team. Additionally, she is the principal investigator of 3 NIH grants (culturally-tailored diabetes prevention with African American patients from University Health, a safety net hospital; religiously-tailored COVID-19 testing and linkage to care with African American church-affiliated populations; examination of Kansas City's free bus transit on health impacts in socially vulnerable communities) and a Jackson County-funded contract focused on increasing access to COVID-19 vaccinations and health screenings. She also serves as a Co-Investigator of several grant projects. Moreover, she is leading community-engaged research studies that address health disparities (e.g., HIV/STDs, mental health, dementia, diabetes, COVID-19) in collaboration with faith, community and health agency partners in some of Kansas City's most socially vulnerable communities and providing service learning opportunities through these studies for hundreds of UMKC students.



Jannette Berkley-Patton, Ph.D.

Discussing
community
priorities –
partnering to
find solutions.





Wakenda K. Tyler, M.D. M.P.H.

Dr. Wakenda Tyler is currently an Associate Professor, Division Chief of Orthopaedic Oncology and Vice Chair of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC). She is also a member of the Herbert-Irving Cancer Center at CUMC. Within the Columbia Medical system, she sits on several advisory committees to the Dean, including the Dean's Advisory Committee on Diversity and the Dean's Advisory Committee on Women in Health Care.

At the national level, she is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, The American Orthopaedic Association, The J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society, The Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society, The Orthopaedic Research Society and currently sits as the Chair of the Education Committee for the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society. She also serves as Deputy Editor for the Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery, for the musculoskeletal tumor section. Her research has spanned several topics over her career including basic science work in metastatic bone disease as well as clinical research in equity in sarcoma care in underserved communities.

Prior to joining the Columbia Medical Center team in 2017, Dr. Tyler initiated her career as an Attending Surgeon at the University of Rochester Medical Center, where she also rose to the rank of Associate Professor and Division Chief of Orthopaedic Oncology. She is most proud of her mentorship activities with young females coming from underserved communities in Rochester, NY. She also has the distinct honor of receiving the Resident Teaching Award at both Columbia University and University of Rochester Medical Centers.

Prior to her arrival in Rochester New York in 2009, she completed a fellowship in Orthopaedic Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Residency at Hospital for Special Surgery, both in New York City. She graduated with AOA designation from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. She also obtained her Master in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

On a personal note, Dr. Tyler is married with one child and outside of work and spending time with her family, she is an avid runner, competing at the regional and national level for her age group.



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



During the first half of 2022, COE participated in **77** community events reaching more than **5,300** diverse community members from across nine counties. COE referred more than **200** smokers to the Quit Center, Lung Cancer Screening, and appropriate tobacco and vaping studies. There were **six** community conversations covering topics of Colorectal Cancer Screening, health disparities, tobacco control, lung cancer, survivorship, and lymphoma attracting nearly **600** attendees. COE partnered to engage community members in **six** CABs, **four** CCAC projects, navigated uninsured individuals to free cancer screening, and educate barbers and stylists from **15** shops on colon cancer risks and screening.

COE has participated in more than **500 community events** in the past two years, serving more than **10,000 community members** from diverse backgrounds

480 patients have been seen in Wilmot's groundbreaking specialized geriatric oncology clinic for older adults

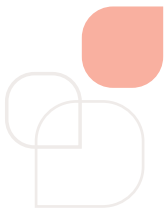
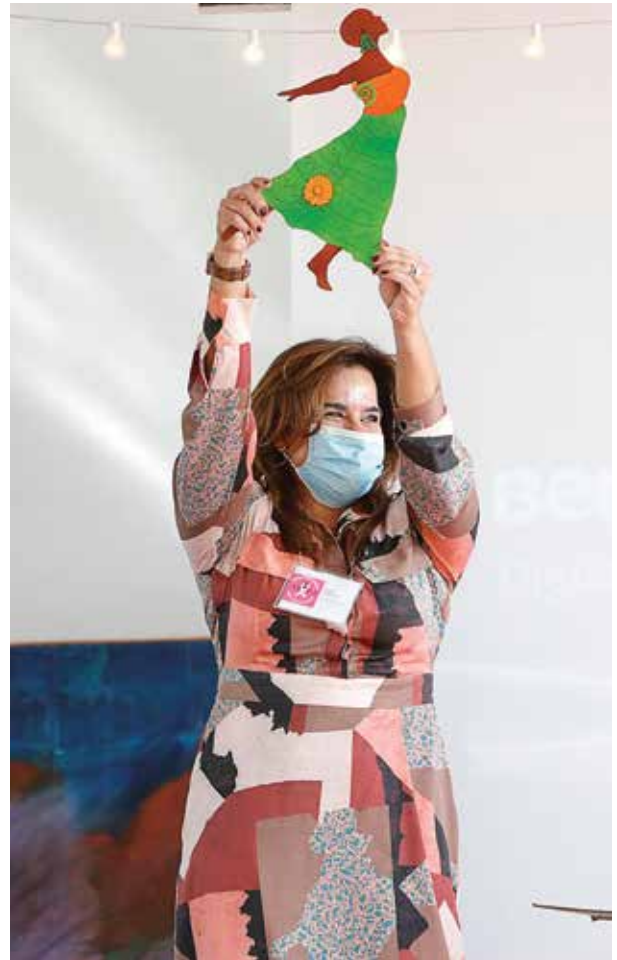
More than **\$150k** in community-based research pilot funding projects designed to address cancer health disparities

Nearly **16,000 uninsured and under-insured** people have been guided to free cancer screening through COE's state-funded Cancer Services Program

More than **600 smokers** have been offered free mobile smoking cessation treatment through COE's Tobacco Quit Center

More than **2,000 people** have attended free cancer education events in the catchment area





Poster Presentations

The effects of a whole food, plant-based (WFPB) dietary intervention on weight, cardiometabolic and cancer-related markers in women with metastatic breast cancer

Authors: Erin Campbell, Thomas Campbell, Eva Culakova, Joseph Guido, Lisa Blanchard, Michelle Janelsins, Karen Mustian, James Fettes, Luke Peppone

Summary: A study of 32 women to show if there is a difference for those receiving usual care compared to those with a strict whole food, plant-based diet, multivitamins, and educational visits on weight and other measures.

Feasibility of a whole-food, plant-based intervention among women with metastatic breast cancer and its effect on patient-reported outcomes

Authors: Thomas Campbell, Erin Campbell, Eva Culakova, Joseph Guido, Lisa Blanchard, Michelle Janelsins, Karen Mustian, James Fettes, Luke Peppone

Summary: A study to show if implementing an 8-week strict whole-food, plant based intervention is feasible in women being treated for breast cancers and its effects on patient outcomes.

Biobanking: donating your tissues to help understand cancer and find new treatments

Authors: Bradley Mills

Summary: Find out about the mission, donation process, and types of research supported by Wilmot Biobank, and ask questions about tissue donation.

Longitudinal assessment of cognition and neuropathy in adolescents and young adults with lymphoma

Authors: AnnaLynn Williams, Andrea Baran, Carla Casulo, Jeffrey Andolina, Louis Constine, Jennifer Gewandter, Jonathan Friedberg, Karen Mustian, Michelle Janelsins

Summary: A study to see when neurological symptoms appear in pediatric lymphoma patients and how they progress.

Understanding disparities and achieving equity in healthcare for adolescents and young adults with cancer in the greater rochester area

Authors: Lauren Spiker, AnnaLynn Williams, Abby Squicciarini, Jeffrey Andolina

Summary: A study to define how race/ethnicity, poverty, and insurance coverage impact the social and economic well-being of adolescents and young adults with cancer to find solutions to disparities.

An interval training exercise program to improve oncological outcomes in cancer survivors

Authors: Stephen Samuel, Po-Ju Lin, Karen Mustian

Summary: A study to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of an 8-week interval training exercise program on fatigue, cardiovascular function, muscular function, and quality of life among cancer survivors.

Yoga for pain among black cancer survivors

Authors: Karen Mustian, Po-Ju Lin, Jennifer Gewandter, Nikesha Gilmore, Francisco Cartujano-Barrera, Candice Lucas, Tazy Love, Alissa Huston, Kah Pah Loh, Charles Kamen, Paula Cupertino

Summary: A study done in partnership with the Faith in Our Community Advisory Board (FCAB) to create a user-centered, culturally accommodated version of yoga intervention to address disparities in pain and sociocultural barriers among Black cancer survivors.

Biopsychosocial correlates of smoking menthol cigarettes and cessation among Latino smokers

Authors: Evelyn Arana-Chicas, Francisco Cartujano-Barrera, Xueya Cai, Shan Gao, Lisa Sanderson Cox, Ana Paula Cupertino

Summary: A study to assess the biopsychosocial correlates of smoking menthol cigarettes and whether smoking menthol is associated with cessation among Latino smokers.

Associations between enroller demographics and subject enrollment into a randomized cancer prevention trial

Authors: Ivana-Re Baldie, Ryan Pohorenc, Nancy Wood, David Adler, Beau Abar

Summary: A study done to examine if enrollment in cervical cancer screenings was related to demographic similarities between the enroller and the patient.

The role of glutathione in sustaining lipid abundance in vivo

Authors: Asantewaa Tuttle, Ward, Kang, Duncan, Hecht, Zocchi, Smorodintsev-Schiller, Scales, Taylor, Rodriguez, Kavanagh, Chang, Smith, Girnius, Brown, Whelan, Schafer, Chen, Selfors, Gray, Bronson, Vasiliou, Brugge, Brenner, Munger, Cole, Cravatt, Rufini, DeNicola, Harris

Summary: A study to determine the role of Glutathione (GSH) in the body by depriving the body of GHS and tracking changes to weight and the transcription of other proteins.

Relationships between exercise and epigenetic ages in older adults with myeloid malignancies

Authors: Marielle Jensen-Battaglia, Chandrika Sanapala, Anish Rana, Michael Sohn, Erin Watson, Nikesha Gilmore, Heidi Klepin, Jason Medler, Jane Liesveld, Eric Huselton, Marissa LoCastro, Karen Mustian, Martha Susiarjo, Paula Vertino, Michelle Janelsins, Kah Poh Loh

Summary: A study to see if an 8-12 week exercise regimen can help to reduce accelerated aging, a common side effect of myeloid malignancies and cancer treatments.

Association between medication measures, treatment toxicity, and reduced relative dose intensity among older adults with advanced cancer

Authors: Mostafa Mohamed, Supriya Mohile, Katherine Juba, Hala Award, Megan Wells, Kah Poh Loh, Marie Flannery, Eva Culakova, Rachael Tylock, Erika Ramsdale

Summary: A study reviewing treatment adverse events for patients with incurable cancer to determine if there is a link between adverse events and the number of Potential Drug Interactions a patient has.

Peaceful acceptance of illness among older adults with cancer

Authors: Elizabeth Filbride, Will Consagra, Sofija Hryniv, Sule Yilmaz, Supriya Mohile, Allison Magnuson, Kah Poh Loh

Summary: A study analyzing a national trial to describe factors associated with illness acceptance, a state that is associated with lower levels of psychological distress and higher rates of advanced care planning completion.

A single-arm pilot study of adapted serious illness care program for older patients with acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndromes

Authors: Marissa LoCastro, Chandrika Sanapala, Jason Mendler, Sally Norton, Rachelle Bernacki, Thomas Carroll, Heidi Klepin, Erin Watson, Jane Liesveld, Eric Huselton, Kristen O'Dwyer, Andrea Baran, Marie Flanner, Benzi Kluger, Kah Poh Loh

Summary: A pilot study implementing an adapted telehealth-based Serious Illness Program to evaluate feasibility and usability.



Exercise-induced changes in inflammatory cytokines among older adults with myeloid malignancies

Authors: Ying Wang, Chandrika Sanapala, Erin Elizabeth Watson, Marielle Jensen-Battaglia, Nikesha Gilmore, Jason Mendler, Jane Liesveld, Eric Huselton, Paula Vertino, Martha Susiarjo, Karen Mustian, Michelle Janelsins, Kah Poh Loh

Summary: A pilot study that tested a mobile health exercise intervention among 20 older adults with myeloid malignancies receiving outpatient chemotherapy to see if exercise can improve physical function decline and symptoms like fatigue.

Exploring decisional control preferences in older patients with cancer and their caregivers

Authors: Sofiia Hryniv, Elizabeth Gillbride, Allison Magnuson, Loh Kah Poh

Summary: A secondary analysis of data from cluster-randomized trials on control preferences in treatment and informational preferences of older patients and their caregivers to evaluate whether geriatric assessment (GA) and GA-guided recommendations improve communication in older patients with advanced cancer and their caregivers.

Patient-reported pain augments common terminology criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAEs) to detect pain in older adults with advanced cancer receiving treatment

Authors: Evelyn Arana-Chicas, Mostafa Mohamed, Eva Culakova, Rachel Tylock, Meg Wells, Marie Flannery, Karen Mustian, Ana Paula Cupertino, Allison Magnuson, Supriya Mohile

Summary: A study assessing the agreement of clinician reporting and patient reporting pain in older patients with advanced cancer.

The MYC oncoprotein drives circadian clock disruption in the lung: possible implications in lung cancer development

Authors: Juliana Cazarin, Siti Noor Ain Binti Ahmad Shahidan, Rachel E. DeRollo, Brian Altman

Summary: A study to determine if restoring the circadian rhythm to a more regular pattern can cause changes in the expression of the MYC gene, linked to cancer growth.

A feasibility trial comparing the effectiveness of virtual YOCAS[®] yoga to standard care for treating insomnia in cancer survivors

Authors: Po-Ju Lin, Brittany LaVaute, Kristin Pullyblank, Allison Magnuson, Supriya Mohile, Wendy Brunner, Tim Korytko, Eva Culakova, Charles Kamen, Karen Mustian,

Summary: A study to examine the efficacy of a 4-week yoga intervention delivered virtually on insomnia and sleep quality in cancer survivors.

Human biophysiology shared resource (HBSR) cancer control and psychoneuroimmunology laboratory using biospecimens in research to improve cancer-related outcomes

Authors: Paige Van Haute, Lou Lotta, Kassie Doyle, Bryan Thompson, Mark Gallagher, Aaron Huynh, Sarah Alberti, Colleen Netherby-Winslow, Michelle Janelsins

Summary: Find out more about the group that helps to provide state-of-the-art laboratory resources to cancer researchers at Wilmot, by collecting and processing biospecimens, like blood and saliva, from patients and caregivers enrolled in clinical trials and clinical research studies.

The axon guidance receptor UNC5B is a driver of pancreatic cancer metastasis

Authors: Chris Harris, Anthony Casabianca, Zach Sechrist, Wade Narrow, Mike O'Dell, Aram Hezel, Darren Carpizo

A study of the reduction of certain receptor proteins in pancreatic cancer patients to indicate if treatment with an inhibitor may have benefits these patients. Alternative nutrient acquisition in triple-negative breast cancer

Authors: Fabio Hecht, Marco Zocchi, Isaac Harris

Summary: A study of how triple-negative breast cancer cells may get amino acids necessary for cancer cells to grow and to find a new avenue for treatment.

Mindful practice with medical interpreters

Authors: Gretchen Roman, Ronald Epstein, Reza Yousefi-Nooraie, Steven Barnett, Paula Cupertino

Summary: A study to determine if an adaptation of Mindful Practice in Medicine for interpreters would experience improved mindfulness, teamwork, coping and resiliency, stress, and professional quality of life when responding to the demands and challenges at work.

The axon guidance receptor UNC5B is a driver of pancreatic cancer metastasis

Authors: Chris Harris, Anthony Casabianca, Zach Sechrist, Wade Narrow, Mike O'Dell, Aram Hezel, Darren Carpizo

Summary: A study of a proteins in metastatic pancreatic tumors to determine if certain clinical trial treatments should be expanded to patients with pancreatic cancer.

Wilmot Research Programs and Priority Areas



Cancer Prevention and Control (CPC)

Supriya Mohile, M.D., M.S. & Karen Mustian, Ph.D., M.P.H.

The CPC program currently works alongside patients, survivors, and caregivers to develop effective interventions for reducing cancer risk as well as develop supportive care therapies that mitigate lingering effects of cancer and its treatments. Their current research focus areas include exercise oncology, health disparities, and geriatric oncology.

Cancer Microenvironment (CM)

Laura Calvi, M.D. & Minsoo Kim, Ph.D.

The Cancer Microenvironment program aims on improving cancer treatment methods through utilizing their research on cell manipulation. Their current focus is on developing methods of disrupting cancer-cell promoting microenvironments, reprogramming immunosuppressive responses, and mitigating tissue injury due to cancer treatments.

Genetics, Epigenetics, & Metabolism (GEM)

Paula Vertino, Ph.D. & Darren Carpizo, M.D., Ph.D.

The GEM program is a laboratory-based research program aims to better our understanding of cellular factors that drive cancer development. Their current focuses include genetic and epigenetic factors effecting cancer cell plasticity, aging's effect on vulnerabilities to cancer, and exploiting vulnerabilities brought about by oxidative stress and metabolic re-programming.

Clinical Trials Office

David Linehan, M.D. & Helen Peck, R.N., M.A., O.C.N.

Research is one of the highest priorities at Wilmot. The mission of the Clinical Trials Office is to provide exceptional centralized infrastructure to support physicians at Wilmot who conduct clinical research. Every effort is made to ensure access and opportunity for all patients to participate in clinical trials, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity and age.

Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination

Ruth O'Regan, M.D.

Wilmot is dedicated to advancing patient care through scientific discovery and in developing the next generation of physicians and scientists. Wilmot offers a wide range of integrated, interdisciplinary education training, and career-enhancing programs.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

M. Patricia Rivera, M.D.

Wilmot Cancer Institute is committed to recruiting and retaining diverse, underrepresented members so that our members and leadership officers reflect the diversity of the US population. Furthermore, we are committed to creating leadership and career advancement opportunities for under-represented members who will be our future leaders.

Roundtable Discussions

Cancer Prevention and Control

Presenter[s]: Supriya Mohile, M.D., M.S. & Karen Mustian, Ph.D.

Cancer Microenvironment

Presenter: Laura Calvi, M.D. & Minsoo Kim, Ph.D.

Genetics, Epigenetics, & Metabolism

Presenter: Isaac Harris, Ph.D.

Clinical Trials Office

Presenter: Helen Peck, R.N.

Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination

Presenter: Nicole O'Dell, Ph.D.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Presenter: M. Patricia Rivera, M.D.

Small extracellular vesicle biomarker signatures role in guiding immune checkpoint immunotherapy (Shark Tank)

Authors: Samuel Walker, James McGrath, Jonathan Flax

Project Summary: Individuals of African ancestry (AA) with colon cancer experience higher rates, and worse outcomes than Caucasians, which in some cases, may be due to differences in how their immune system recognizes and kills cancer. Understanding these differences is important as emerging therapies can enhance the immune system's killing capability and targeting these specifically to individuals of AA may improve treatment success. We are developing a technology probing the immune system by studying small, secreted particles produced by immune cells into the bloodstream called extracellular vesicles (EVs). These EVs markers may let us measure the activity of specific types of immune cells that fight cancer. If successful in developing this technology, it may be able to help AA cancer patients choose the optimal treatment.

Presenter: Jonathan Flax, M.D., M.B.A.

Patient-centered communication to build trust (Shark Tank)

Authors: Nikesha Gilmore, Lee Kehoe, Marie Flannery, Ron Epstein, Jihane Jean, Lelaina Nagel, Thandolwethu Shabangu, Charles Kamen

Project Summary: Racial disparities in healthcare stem from the complex interplay of multiple domains, including structural, socioeconomic, socio-environmental, behavioral, and biological. Historical events, biases, and discrimination have marred relationships between Black patients and their healthcare teams, resulting in many Black patients having suspicion of healthcare providers or the belief that their providers do not act in patients' best interest, i.e. medical mistrust. Since trust is indispensable to healthcare, understanding ways to build patient-provider relationships by ameliorating medical mistrust is critical to improving the care of older Black patients with cancer who are at increased risk of morbidity and mortality. Patient centered communication (PCC) strategies may mitigate some of the effects of medical mistrust in older Black patients with cancer by improving information exchange, fostering healing relationships, managing uncertainty, making decisions, managing emotions, and enabling self-management. A mixed method (i.e., integration of qualitative and quantitative data) approach will be used to understand the relationship between medical mistrust and patient-reported PCC (using quantitative surveys) and patients' perceptions of PCC (using qualitative methods) in pre-frail and frail older Black patients compared to white patients with cancer.

Presenter: Nikesha Gilmore, Ph.D.



Leveraging rural/urban diversity to identify a molecular role of pesticides in lymphomagenesis

Authors: Richard Burack, Carla Casulo, Ash Alpert

Summary: Geographic (urban versus rural) disparities in the incidence and mortality of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) could be in part due to pesticide exposure. Understanding the role of pesticides in lymphoma in urban versus rural health disparities is important to the Wilmot Cancer Institute (WCI) catchment area, since a total of 35% of patients seen at WCI live in rural settings. Latinos in our catchment area experience high rates of lymphoma compared to the rest of the population, have a large role in farming in New York, are likely to be exposed to pesticides while farming, and may lack protective equipment and relevant training because of language barriers and discrimination. Understanding the relationship between pesticides and lymphoma may identify an cause of lymphoma disparities for local Latino populations. We explored this possibility through examining samples from patients with high and low pesticide exposure, and meeting with a Community Advisory Board of Latino farmworkers.

Presenter: Richard Burack, M.D., Ph.D.

Differences in a prognostic signature of metastasis among racial groups

Authors: Ed Brown

Summary: The breast cancer mortality rate for African-American (AA) women is over 40% higher than for Caucasian-American (CA) women. We have previously demonstrated a novel low-cost method to help predict metastases in breast cancer patients. This will improve treatment decision-making and survival and reduce costs. However, we have recently found a difference between breast tumor tissue from AA patients versus CA patients in the light scattering signature (known as "F/B") that is central to our method. In this project, we are assessing differences in F/B, as well as other image-based predictors, between AA and CA patients using a large set of archived breast cancer tissue samples. Our goal is to improve our technology and reduce disparities between AA and CA patients by detecting metastasis early.

Presenter: Ed Brown, Ph.D.

Development of a vaping cessation text messaging intervention for latino young adults: a participatory research approach

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Summary: Using community-based recruitment strategies, we convened a Community Advisory Board (CAB) of eight Latino young adults (ages 18-25) with different vaping experiences (i.e., never users, ex-users, and current users of e-cigarettes). Members held a series of working meetings to adapt Decidetexto, a smoking cessation text messaging intervention, for vaping cessation. Members provided iterative feedback on the text messages until reaching a consensus on content. Proposed terminology in Spanish was also provided by members to translate the text messages. Kick Vaping, the newly developed vaping cessation text messaging intervention, consists of four consecutive phases: 1) Pre-quit (15 days), 2) Quit Day, 3) Post-quit Intensive (28 days), and 4) Post-quit Maintenance (7 weeks). The final library consists of 208 text messages. Proposed terminology in Spanish includes the words "cigarrillo electrónico" for "e-cigarette", "vaporizador" for "vape", and "vapear" for "vaping".

Presenter: Francisco Cartujano-Barrera, M.D.

Good Morning and Buenos Dias!



Today is a celebratory day. We welcome you all with joy & gratitude for what we have accomplished together, as well as determination for where we are headed.

At Wilmot, we are committed to working with communities today to lessen the burden of cancer tomorrow. That commitment is the common denominator uniting YOU – the Wilmot Cancer Institute Community Outreach Team, researchers, faculty, clinicians, community leaders, community-based organizations, and cancer survivors in partnership. In a recent branding exercise, we agreed to define ourselves through simple but powerful principles: positivity, inclusivity, diversity, responsiveness, community integration, and research.

Commitment is an act, not a word. The more than 54 members of our Community Cancer Action Council - CCAC - have demonstrated this through their tireless, resilient, and unrestricted commitment. Only the Wilmot Cancer Institute CCAC unites diverse community members, researchers, and Wilmot leadership to build trust, achieve health equity, and address cancer-related problems across our 27-county region.

To our communities disproportionately impacted by cancer and the social determinants of health, know that we SEE you and we HEAR you. The Wilmot Cancer Institute continues to make the investment and to integrate YOUR voices, priorities, and needs across our executive committee, strategic planning, training and education, clinical trials, research programs, and outreach to eliminate the alarming racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic cancer health disparities in the continuum of cancer care. We are proud of our six community advisory board groups working diligently to ensure community needs, preferences, and priorities drive our research programs.

I offer my most profound personal gratitude to our Wilmot Community Outreach & Engagement team and leadership - including Dr. Candice Lucas, Dr. Francisco Cartujano-Barrera, and Dr. Charles Kamen. Through your expertise, leadership, and action, we can achieve impact and continue our momentum. You are the lifeblood of our vision, the engine that drives this bus - and, WOW, are we going places! I am beyond blessed to have your support.

To our survivors and all families touched by cancer, know that your stories and your lived experience INSPIRE us to be “ever-better”; to make an undeniable and life-altering impact on cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, symptom management, and survivorship. Your support is helping us to rewrite the story of cancer in our communities.

Everyone - enjoy this day! Then - share what you see, hear, feel and witness today with your family, friends, and community so that this campaign - this movement - to impact cancer health disparities in our communities can grow. We go together, and we grow together, and we are just getting started!

Thank you.

Paula Cupertino
Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement

Awards, Recognitions, Acknowledgements

CCAC Aspire Award

Joanne Kochanek and Edgar Santa Cruz

This award is presented to two members of CCAC who have demonstrated outstanding support of the vision and mission of the CCAC. This year's recipients have not only attended the requisite CCAC meetings and activities, they have also aspired to cultivate an inclusive culture to promote equity within Wilmot, their own organizations and community initiatives.

Community Vision Award

Macedon Public Library (Stacey Wicksall, Executive Director) and Iluminada Vilca at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County

This award is presented to two community partners that have worked with CCAC to further projects and affect change to increase equity in our region. This year's recipients have embraced the goals and mission of CCAC, and furthered the vision of CCAC through its own works and initiatives.

COE Innovator Awards

Barbered, Beautied, Then Screened Collaborative and Kah Poh (Melissa) Loh, B.Med.Sci., M.B.B.Ch., B.A.O., M.S.

These awards are presented to a Wilmot researcher and a department that have worked with COE and CCAC membership to engage with community, reduce health inequity, and cultivate a inclusive culture. This year's recipients have gone beyond the walls of Wilmot and identified innovative ways to involve community in research and work to lessen the burden of cancer cross the region.

Special thank you to the CCAC Retreat Planning Committee for coordinating this wonderful event. Your hard work made it a true success.

Jason Coleman
Kristina Hawes
Karen Hermance
Ruthmarie Hernández
Diana Huussen

Joanne Kochanek
Candice Lucas
Sarah Merritt
Rafael Orfin
Nikisha Ridgeway

Thank you to our community partners. Only through your partnership can we attempt to remove barriers community members face, we would not be able to work toward lessening the impact of cancer in our communities.

Government agencies
Community Health Improvement Plan Committees
Non-profit organizations

Healthcare providers/systems
Cancer screening programs
Community-based organizations
Academic institutions

Library systems
Community coalitions
Cancer-centered organizations

Thank you to the COE team who go above and beyond every day to work diligently throughout the year to engage with our community.

Paula Cupertino, Associate Director
Charles Kamen, Assistant Director
Francisco Cartujano-Barrera, Assistant Director
Candice Lucas, Community Health Specialist (Action for a Better Community)
Vanessa Burgos, Community Health Specialist (Ibero American Action League)

Arlette Chavez, Staff Scientist
Kristina Hawes, Community Recruitment Coordinator
Ruthmarie Hernández, CTSI TL1 Population Health Research Postdoc
Zhanna Kulshanova, Outreach Coordinator

Diamarelys Lara, Human Subjects Research Coordinator I
Joyce Lucas, Community Health Specialist
Sarah Merritt, Sr. Health Project Coordinator, Rural Integration
Rafael Orfin, Research Assistant
Gretchen Roman, Postdoctoral Associate
Owen Tolbert, Student intern



OUR AGENDA

- 9:00am – 9:45am** Coffee, Pastries, and Posters
- 9:45am – 12:00pm** Morning Program
- Welcome and Acknowledgements:
Nikisha Ridgeway and Karen Hermance
- Welcome from URMC President's Office
Adrienne Morgan, Ph.D.
- Framing of the Day: Paula Cupertino, Ph.D.
- Community Voices Panel
Discussing community priorities; partnering to
find solutions.: moderated by Jannette
Berkley-Patton, Ph.D.
- Group photo and break
- 12:00pm – 1:30pm:** Served lunch and Keynote Address:
*Cancer Care Disparities: Where we are and
where we can go*
Wakenda Tyler, M.D., M.P.H.
- 1:30pm – 4:00pm:** Afternoon Program
- Wilmot Cancer Institute,
Moving Forward Together
Jonathan Friedberg, M.D., M.M.Sc.
- Wilmot Research Programs and Priority Areas
Facilitated by Charles Kamen, Ph.D.
- Roundtable and Poster Session
Wilmot Researchers with Community
members
- Idea Sourcing and Prioritizing
Facilitated by Charles Kamen, Ph.D.
- Awards/Recognitions and
Acknowledgements
Candice Lucas, Ed.D, M.B.A.
- Closing Remarks
Nikisha Ridgeway and Karen Hermance
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm:** CCACtail Hour and Networking



CCAC Cocktail recipe

- 3/4 ounce coconut rum
1/2 ounce blue curaçao
3 ounces pineapple juice
1 ounce sweet and sour mix*
Garnish: pineapple wedge
and cherry



WILMOT
CANCER INSTITUTE

MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER