



Wilmot Cancer Institute
Community Outreach & Engagement
4th Annual
Community Cancer Action Council Retreat
THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS...
AND BEYOND

10.20.23



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MEDICINE

WILMOT
CANCER INSTITUTE

WELCOME

MESSAGE FROM DR. CUPERTINO

Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement

It is hard to believe that we are embarking on our 4th CCAC Annual Retreat. It is rewarding to celebrate the community partners who have been with us since 2020. It is refreshing to welcome new partners joining us this year. Despite CCAC's infancy, we already have a story to tell. A WILMOT-CCAC story grounded on real, equitable, and transparent partnerships ignited to impact the cancer burden in the 27 counties surrounding us.

Together, we aim to IMPACT. Our impact is achieved with IMPortantACTions to lessen the burden of cancer tomorrow.



*Paula Cupertino,
PhD*

As we continue to engage in bidirectional communication with our community partners, we can intentionally develop meaningful cancer control initiatives, increase research responsive to community priorities, and achieve equal representation in clinical trial studies. If we continue on this path, we will undoubtedly reach our ultimate

goal of lowering cancer incidence and mortality in our catchment area.

“Our destiny is largely in our own hands. If we find, we shall have to seek. If we succeed in the race of life, it must be by our own energies and our own exertions. Others may clear the road, but we must go forward, or be left behind in the race of life.” - Frederick Douglas

I hope these words inspire you as they have inspired our Community Outreach and Engagement team and remind us that the power to impact the cancer health disparities in our community lies right here within each of us.

MESSAGE FROM DR. FRIEDBERG

Director of the 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 continue to pursue this mission through the power of partnerships. Our CCAC members provide an essential connection between Wilmot and the more than 3 million people across 27 counties in Central and Western New York that we serve.



*Jonathan Friedberg,
MD, MMSc*

This retreat continues to represent an essential opportunity for bi-directional engagement between Wilmot's scientific research programs and the community. Community engagement has been instrumental in guiding our vision and informing our leadership as we embark on major updates to the Wilmot Strategic Plan. I have been meeting monthly with the CCAC leadership team, and our collaboration is shaping the future direction of Wilmot. I want to thank Dr. Paula Cupertino for leading this effort and her entire COE team for catalyzing the community voice into our research. These voices inform what we do, and I look forward to moving ahead with this robust group, as we continue to develop and expand our COE program in 2024 with a shared goal to eliminate suffering from cancer.

OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT TEAM:

Charles Kamen, PhD, Assistant Director

Francisco Cartujano, MD, Assistant Director

Emily Hayes, MPA, Operations & Evaluation Manager

Sarah Merritt, MS, Senior Regional Outreach Coordinator

Kristina Hawes, CCAC Project Coordinator

Zhanna Kulshanova, MPA, Outreach Coordinator

Mindy Robinson, Community Outreach Staff (Bassett)

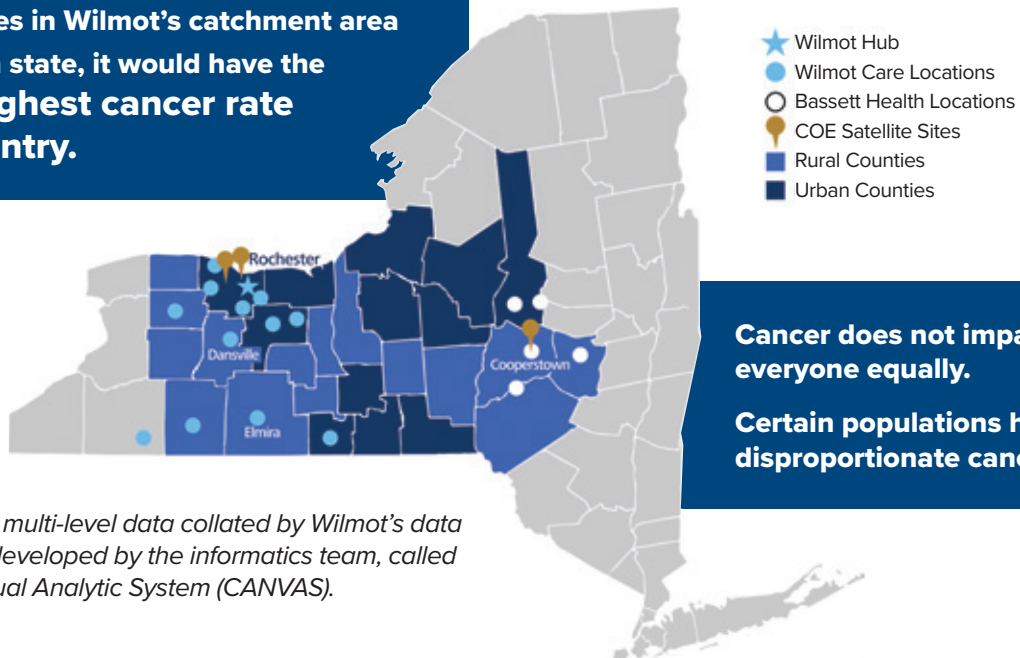
Joyce Lucas, Community Outreach Staff (ABC)

Arlette Chavez, MD, Research Coordinator and Tobacco Specialist

Our Goal: Working with communities today to lessen the impact of cancer tomorrow

The impact of cancer across Wilmot Cancer Institute's 27-county Western and Central NY region is high. Wilmot is committed to reducing this cancer burden equitably and improving the health of all local and regional residents in partnership with community organizations, leaders, and coalitions throughout the catchment area.

If the counties in Wilmot's catchment area were its own state, it would have the second highest cancer rate in the country.

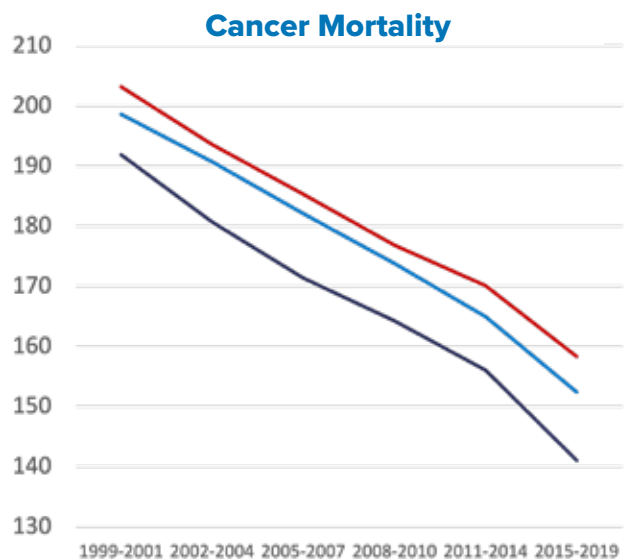
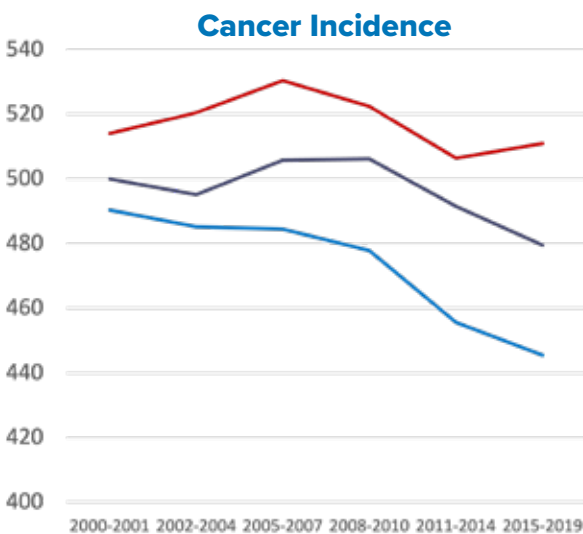


Cancer does not impact everyone equally.

Certain populations have a disproportionate cancer impact.

COE leverages multi-level data collated by Wilmot's data mapping tool, developed by the informatics team, called the Cancer Visual Analytic System (CANVAS).

Cancer incidence and mortality rates for Wilmot's CA have remained higher than New York State and the country for the past 20 years

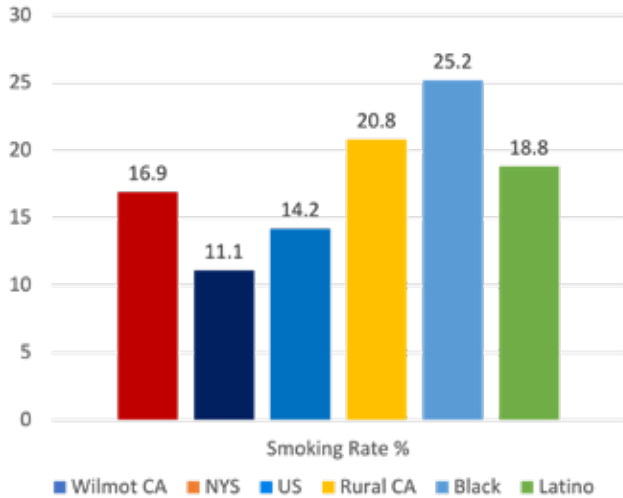


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■ Wilmot ■ US ■ NYS

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

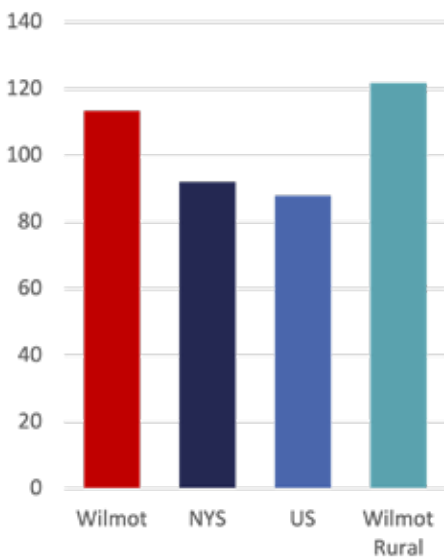
Focus on Tobacco Cessation



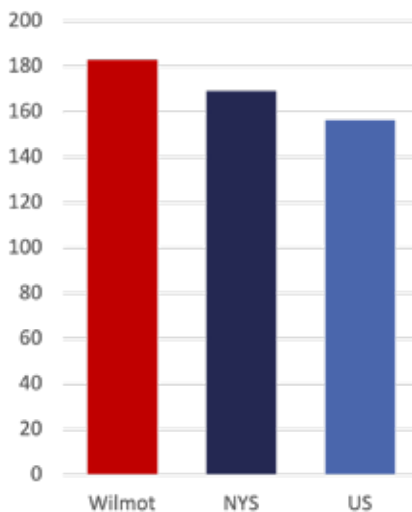
Rates of cigarette smoking are higher in the Wilmot catchment area than in the rest of the nation. 22 of the 27 counties in the CA have smoking rates higher than the state and the nation. Smoking is especially prevalent in Rochester, rural areas, and Black communities.

Wilmot's Priority Cancers

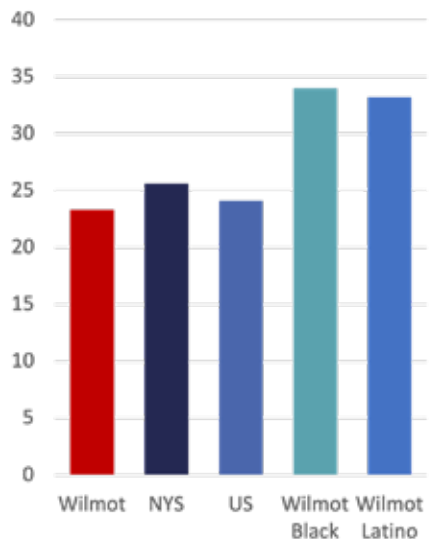
Tobacco-Related Cancer



Hematologic Malignancies



Pancreatic/Hepatobiliary Cancers



Based on presentations from COE on CANVAS data reports, community health needs assessments, and qualitative input from community grand rounds, CCAC members helped to identify and endorse Wilmot's priority cancer groups



In 2016, Wilmot gathered a group of cancer-focused community organizations to contribute their perspectives to the just-launched Cancer Moonshot initiative. Wilmot organized meetings of this group again in 2017 and 2018 to develop a road map for addressing the cancer burden in the region. In 2020, Cupertino facilitated the transformation of the community-led group into an action-oriented partnership, now known as the Community Cancer Action Council (CCAC), which serves as Wilmot's community advisory board.

The CCAC sets goals to identify high-priority research, outreach, and education initiatives responsive to community needs; increase diverse clinical trial participation; and promote equity.

CCAC Co-Chairs



Jeffrey Freeman



Karen Hermance

Working Group Co-Leads

Cancer Prevention and Risk Reduction

Candice Lucas
Kathleen Malignan

Survivorship

Sue Dambrowski
Lizanne Zamites

Access and Rural Integration

Jason Coleman
Michele Foster

Community-Engaged Research

Don Armstrong
Elisa DeJesus

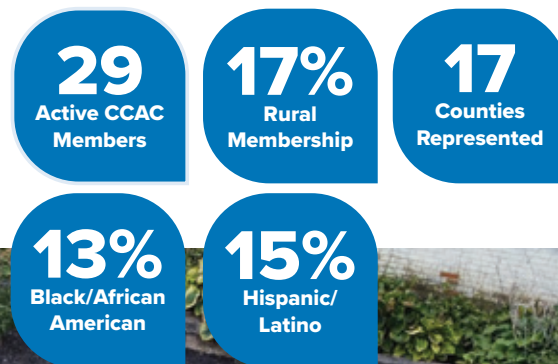
CCAC Steering Committee

The CCAC Steering Committee, made up of two Co-Chairs, and ten Working Group Leads, meet directly with Wilmot leadership, ensuring that community voice is incorporated in WCI planning.

The CCAC leadership participates in:

- Strategic planning and priority setting
- Implementing CCAC-led cancer prevention and control initiatives
- Coordinating COE pilot funding for community-engaged research
- Facilitating community education and disseminating research findings

We are proud of the diverse populations represented in CCAC across the 27 county catchment area



CCAC meets virtually on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 4 to 5:30 pm. Contact Kristina_Hawes@URMC.Rochester.edu to learn more and join!



CCAC WORKING GROUPS

CCAC is organized into four working groups (WGs) that represent areas of community need in which the CCAC looks to impact change. Each CCAC WG, in partnership with Wilmot researchers, clinicians, and staff, develops and executes an annual project. Check out the inspiring and impactful initiatives the groups worked on this past year below!

Cancer Prevention and Risk Reduction

In partnership with Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, the group hosted a health summit featuring various prevention and health resources, as well as three research presentations. The event reached over 100 community members.



Policy Advocacy: The group also wrote numerous letters of support and gathered signatures. Some examples include:

- Expand Medicaid coverage for biomarker testing (S1196A)
- Increasing Access to Lung Cancer Screening Act (H.R.9336)

Access to Care and Rural Integration

Partnering with the Macedon library, this group is creating a think tank of telehealth hub library locations funded through NYS grants in order to create best practices for community telehealth hub use.



The project aims to ensure equitable access to services regardless of geographic location.

Cancer Care and Survivorship

This working group has collected over 100 vetted resources throughout the WCI catchment area that include areas such as, financial assistance, support groups, transportation, etc.

These resources have been incorporated in an interactive map and will live on a webpage allowing viewers to search by county and/or by resource type. This project works to ensure that survivors and caregivers can easily find resources close to home.

Community-Driven Cancer Research

This group created a short educational video to increase awareness and knowledge of clinical trials. To meet the health literacy needs of our community, the video is captioned in Spanish, ASL, and English and is available on Wilmot's website.

In addition, the group collaborates with the Black Men Achieve and Encompass to educate youth from diverse backgrounds and encourage their interest and participation in future careers in research.



The CCAC partners and COE work collaboratively to engage community partners with investigators to address community priorities in research and enhance equitable participation in clinical trials. In collaboration, COE and CCAC have convened 7 Community Advisory Boards (CABs) – *Addressing Hematologic Malignancies, Faith in Community, Geriatric Oncology, Latinos Contra el Cáncer, Latino Youth Kick Vaping, SGM Survivors and Caregivers, Together Against Pancreatic Cancer*. The CABs foster community engagement in all phases of research studies, from identifying a research question to disseminating study results in the community. The CABs are comprised of community partners, patients, and caregivers with complementary skills and experiences needed to advocate for community preferences and interests. Specifically, the CABs review study materials to ensure clarity and cultural appropriateness, simplify study assessments, and collaborate in interpreting and disseminating research findings. These seven CABs ensure that the research conducted at Wilmut is relevant and responsive to our local communities.

7 CABs

55 Members
53 CAB Meetings

19 Research projects reviewed

14 CPC Projects
3 CM Projects
2 GEN Projects



4 studies culturally and linguistically adapted

6 grants submitted

3 co-authored publications

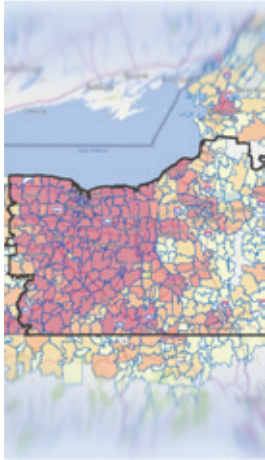


COE – A YEAR IN REVIEW

COE Specific Aims

AIM 1

Define and monitor the catchment area



AIM 2

Mobilize and empower community partnerships



AIM 3

Foster community-engaged cancer research and trials



AIM 4

Disseminate cancer control initiatives and inform policies



During the first half of 2023 COE facilitated:

228 Community Events in 14 Counties

- Reached over 6,400 diverse community members
- Completed over 550 Health Assessments to direct individuals to eligible services.

Over the last 2 years:

- 13,021 classes given via Wilmot's Integrative Oncology and Wellness Clinic
- 2,341 received screening through the NYS Cancer Services Program in Wilmot's catchment area



Tobacco Cessation Program Highlights

Our Tobacco Cessation Program continues to play an integral role in responding to the high rates of smoking among Black, Latino, and rural residents in the catchment area. It offers a fully remote, personalized text messaging program for tobacco cessation, available in English and Spanish, and access to nicotine replacement therapies, at no cost.

In 2023, informed data from CANVAS, COE deployed a targeted marketing campaign to advertise the program over various media platforms.

To speak with a tobacco specialist, call **(585) 504-9461** or email quitcenter@urmc.rochester.edu.



In the first half of 2023, **99** individuals who smoke were enrolled

Our Voice Your Science

Our CCAC Community-Driven Cancer Research (CDCR) working group has also played an important role in working with Dr. Friedberg to distribute pilot grants to target Wilmot catchment area-specific needs, including cancer disparities. CCAC members are present in every aspect of the process including: tailoring the RFA to include community priorities, participating on the review panel, and facilitating opportunities to engage with the community for project awardees. Since 2020, four projects have been funded and a new RFA was sent out in Fall 2023.

- 1 Mistrust: Oncologist among older black patients and caregivers (CPC)
- 2 Prognostic signature of metastasis among ethnic groups. Minimally invasive liquid (CM)
- 3 Biomarker assays to monitor immunotherapy responses (CM)
- 4 Disparities to identify a molecular role of pesticides in Lymphomagenesis (CM)



Community Conversations on Cancer

This educational webinar series is designed to inform, educate, and disseminate best-practices in cancer research, clinical care, and community engagement.

Topics are selected based on community interest and address social determinants of health, improving cancer care delivery, and promoting health equity within our region.

In the first half of 2023:

- **7** Conversations were delivered in partnership with CCAC
- Over **500** people from **24** counties attended
- Topics included: Vaping, Community Based Participatory Research

COMMUNITY PANEL

Wade Norwood

Chief Executive Officer of Common Ground Health

Rochester native Wade Norwood has held leadership positions in the community for more than three decades, including roles in public service, education and health care. In management at Common Ground Health since 2006, he has spearheaded the organization's efforts to engage underserved populations in health improvement, championing the creation of the African American Health Coalition, the Latino Health Coalition and the Partnership for Access to Healthcare, and providing ongoing support for these and other engagement initiatives. Mr. Norwood is also a leader in Rochester's faith community, acting as president and senior pastor at the Holy Jerusalem Spiritual Church.



Wade Norwood

Lucia Colindres

Chief Program Officer at Ibero-American Action League, Inc

Lucia oversees several Ibero programs and related health initiatives throughout the Finger Lakes and Capital region.

Lucia has 23 years of experience in Community Health and worked for Rochester Regional Health, where she led the Community Health Worker-DSRIP initiative, the National Health Service Corps, supported several FQHCs projects, and was responsible for the creation and transformation of the Multicultural Resource Center project at the Wilson Multicultural Medical Campus. Lucia has a B.S. in Social Science-Sociology from SUNY College at Brockport and a Master of Healthcare Administration from Roberts Wesleyan



Lucia Colindres

College. She also holds a Family Development Credential from Cornell University.

Lucia was the Executive Director of the Community Health Workers Association of Rochester, Inc., and is currently the Chief Project Officer. Lucia is a member of the Community Health Worker Leaders of the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW).

Wendy Brunner, MS, PhD

Chronic Disease Epidemiologist; Director of the Center for Rural Community Health, Bassett Research Institute, Bassett Medical Center

Wendy Brunner's current areas of research include healthcare access related to School-Based Health Centers, barriers to telehealth in rural communities and communication with parents about HPV vaccination.



Wendy Brunner

Jerome Underwood

President and CEO of Action for a Better Community

Holding an MBA in Finance from RIT, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from St. John Fisher College, Mr. Underwood is a graduate and present faculty member of the 100-year-old United Way's African American Leadership Development Program (AALDP). This program's purpose is to unite the goodwill and resources of the Greater Rochester community, so that everyone can thrive. Throughout his career, Mr. Underwood has always used his platform to give back and improve the lives of poverty-stricken citizens. He currently sits on the board of the Greater Rochester Community Transportation Foundation.



Jerome Underwood

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Eida M. Castro, PsyD, MSc

Dr. Eida Castro is a clinical psychologist and an Associate Professor at Ponce Health Sciences University in Puerto Rico. She has postdoctoral training and expertise in clinical, translational, and community-based participatory research; has led and co-led several NIH-funded and foundation grants, has authored, and co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed manuscripts; and mentored over 20 graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty. Dr. Castro is a Puerto Rico national leader in the field of psycho-oncology research and has developed a successful infrastructure and program that includes psycho-oncology clinical research, mentoring, and clinical training for clinical psychology graduate students, the first and only of its kind in southern Puerto Rico. In 2016, Dr. Castro was awarded the Puerto Rico Clinical and Translational Research Consortium Early Investigator Achievement Award as a recognition for the contributions made through this line of research.



Julie Dutil, PhD

Dr. Dutil leads the cancer genetics & genomics research program at the Ponce Research Institute, Ponce Health Sciences University in Puerto Rico. She is interested in identifying cancer genetic risk factors, understanding how inter-individual and inter-population genetic variations regulate the onset and progression in cancer, and developing strategies and tools to integrate genetic/genomics in the clinical management of cancer patients. Ongoing projects include the identification of breast cancer risk variants in high-risk non-BRCA families through next-generation sequencing.

Dr. Dutil is the principal investigator (PI) of the U54 PACHE PHSU-Moffitt Cancer Center (MCC) Partnership grant, aimed at expanding PHSU's research capabilities in basic and clinical sciences, strengthen the Puerto Rican tumors biobank, and establish a network and infrastructure to reduce health disparities in the treatment of cancer in Hispanic patients.

PROGRAMS

RESEARCH

Cancer Prevention and Control (CPC)

Supriya Mohile, MD, MS & Karen Mustian, PhD, MPH; Liaison: Scott McIntosh, PhD

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. Current research focus areas include exercise oncology, health disparities, and geriatric oncology.

Cancer Microenvironment (CM)

Laura Calvi, MD & Minsoo Kim, PhD; Liaison: Benjamin Frisch, PhD

Aims on improving cancer treatment methods through utilizing their research on cell manipulation. Current focuses include developing methods of disrupting cancer-cell promoting micro-environments, reprogramming immunosuppressive responses, and mitigating tissue injury due to cancer treatment.

Genetics, Epigenetics & Metabolism (GEM)

Paula Vertino, PhD & Darren Carpizo, MD, PhD; Liaison: Isaac Harris, PhD

A laboratory-based research program that aims to better our understanding of cellular factors that drive cancer development. 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 RESEARCH, EDUCATION & TRAINING

Clinical Trials Office (CTO)

David Linehan, MD; Assistant Director: Paul Barr MD; Liaison: Helen Peck, RN, MA, OCN

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 (CRTEC)

Ruth O'Regan, MD; Assistant Director: Carla Casulo, MD; Liaison: Nicole O'Dell, PhD, MLS

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 (DEI)

M. Patricia Rivera, MD; Assistant Director: Allison Magnuson DO

Liaison: Talitha-Koumi Oluwafemi, MS, MDiv, ThM

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

Wilmot Cancer Institute Shared Resources: A Major Partnership Driving Wilmot Research

T. McGinnity and Wilmot Shared Resources

Shared resources provide personnel, expertise, next-generation equipment and technology, and analysis that drive cancer research forward. They have worked with the Gerber lab to investigate how radiotherapy, with or without combination therapy, affects tumors, the tumor microenvironment, and the anti-tumor immune response in various cancers.

A Whole-Food, Plant-Based Diet Reduces Amino Acid Levels in Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer

T. Scales

Amino acids are critical to tumor survival and diet is a major source of amino acids in the body. A whole-food, plant-based diet was implemented in patients for eight weeks. These patients had a significant decrease in essential and non-essential amino acids, laying a foundation for research into the links between limiting amino acids in the body and altering tumor progression.

Vaping Cessation Access for College Students: An Observational Audit of North American College Websites

A. Gunturi, J. Rosman, R. Mulhern, B. Chakraborty, H. Widanka, S. Garjendra, F. Cartujano-Barrera, D. Ossip, S. McIntosh

More than half of young adults express a desire to quit vaping, but just over a third report trying. This study assessed the availability of vaping information and cessation resources targeted to college students on 64 North American college and university websites.

A Seaweed Supplement for Survivors of Cancer with Frailty Symptoms

J. McGuire

Over 40% of cancer survivors report frailty symptoms, which can include a combination of weakness, weight loss, decreased physical activity, slowness and fatigue. This study is looking to determine if an 8-week seaweed supplement intervention is a safe and effective option to improve a patient's quality of life after cancer treatment.

Identifying Mechanisms of Missed Opportunities in Conversations About Cognition and Capacity Between Physicians, Patients, and Caregivers

K. Kyi, G. DiGiovanni, J. M. Kelly, R. Tylock, M. Wells, N. Gilmore, K.P. Loh, S. Kadambi, L.A. Kehoe, M. Anand, A. Lin, L. Berkhof, L. Griggs, M.A. O'Rourke, J. Bearden, III, T. Bradley, S. Mohile, A. Magnuson

Impaired cognition increases the risk of treatment-related toxicity and poor cancer outcomes for patients, so communicating about cognition is essential for informed decision making. This research identified missed opportunities in discussing cognition and capacity in oncology clinical encounters to help develop interventions to enhance cognition communication.

Transportation Insecurity Among Older Adults with Cancer: A Scoping Review

M. Anand, L. Berkhof, C. Seplaki, A. Magnuson, S. Mohile, C. Kamen
Health related transportation insecurity (TI) is when a person cannot regularly move from place to place in a safe and timely manner because they lack the resources needed for transportation to maintain health. This research focused on reviewing literature to find common themes and inform interventions to reduce TI.

Vaping Perceptions, Concerns, and Use of Flavored Productions: Preliminary Qualitative Results

C. Yount, D. Guo, A. Mercer, A. Shirin, J. Pang, P. Vaughan, H. Widanka, D.J. Ossip, M. Bansal-Travers, S. McIntosh

This study aims to better understand the experiences of vape device users, including health concerns, flavored product and device preferences, reasons for vaping, and reasons for quitting. Themes found, based on the interviews conducted, can inform further studies to identify ways to support a decrease in vaping.

Physician Perspectives on Translating Patient Care Preferences into Care Decisions in the Emergency Department

S. Yilmaz, D. Adler, R. Epstein, K.P. Loh, M. Wittink, C. Grudzen, J. McElliot, N. Wood, S. Mohile

In the effort to better understand common barriers to elder cancer patients' care in the Emergency Department, the research team developed a survey of emergency department physicians and conducted an interview. This research helped to identify that having a customizable care plan would allow for better understanding of a patients' disease and help to provide concordant care

Antioxidants Support Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Cell Growth by Providing Amino Acids

F. Hecht, M. Zocchi, I.S. Harris

Cancer cells rely on amino acids for growth. This research investigates how triple-negative breast cancer cells may find a different way to scavenge amino acids for its benefit. This research can shed light on a new avenue for therapy of triple-negative breast cancer by manipulating the availability of nutrients that cancer cells need to grow.

Downstream Pathways by Which Extracellular Glutathione Can Be Used as a Source of Cysteine for the Cancer Cells

F. Alimohammadi, F. Hecht, M. Zocchi, E. Tuttle, T. Scales, G. Asantewaa, I.S. Harris

There is a long-standing belief that antioxidants are good for the treatment of diseases like cancer, but recent studies have shown that they can also increase tumor development. This study looks at the ways in which antioxidants such as glutathione can be consumed by cancer cells, and how this understanding can help inform drug developers in the future.

A Formative Evaluation of Health System Tobacco Policy Through Collaborative Partnership

J. Rosman, G. Ng, R. Mulhern, H. Widanka, D.J. Ossip, S. McIntosh

Development of comprehensive tobacco policy shows a real public health impact, ultimately reducing tobacco product use rates and lowering incidence of cancer. This study is a formative evaluation process to inform improvements in needs assessments and ultimately to produce improvements in health system tobacco policy.

The Role of Glutathione in Sustaining Lipid Abundance In Vivo

G. Asantewaa, E. Tuttle, N.P. Ward, Y.P. Kang, R. Duncan, F. Hecht, M. Zocchi, L. Smorodintsev-Schiller, T.Q. Scales, K. Taylor, K. Rodriguez, M.E. Kavanagh, H. Chang, Z. Smith, N. Gimius, D. Brown, S.A. Whelan, X. Schafer, Y. Chen, L.M. Selfors, G.K. Gray, R.T. Bronson, V. Vasilidou, J.S. Brugge, D. Brenner, J. Munger, C. Cole, B.F. Cravati, A. Rufini, G.M. DeNicola, I.S. Harris

Because we do not fully understand all the roles of antioxidants in the body, it is challenging to use them as treatment options. To investigate functions of antioxidants, experiments were conducted on mice, showing a possible link between not getting enough antioxidants and a cancer-linked disorder called cachexia, which causes people to lose a lot of weight.

ABSTRACTS

All of Us: Advancing Cancer Health Equity Research

D.E. Matute, M. Rojas Tawil, L. Jones, P. Bayrak, L. de Medeiros, F. Colugnati, A.P. Cupertino

The racial and ethnic diversity in the All of US database is key to the development of new prevention policies, assessing effectiveness of new therapies, and validating new biomarkers for early diagnosis in cancer research.

Biobanking: Donating Your Tissues to Help Understand Cancer and Find New Treatments

B.N. Mills

Medical researchers use human tissue samples to better understand diseases and find improved treatments for patients. An understanding of why, where, and how a patient should donate tissue is critically important before deciding to participate.

Can Smoking During Pregnancy Impact Your Baby's Pancreas?

Z. Guerra Soares, C. Wang, J. Twardowski, S. Mello

Smoking or vaping during pregnancy can be harmful to both mom baby. This project looks at mice to see how smoking during pregnancy might affect the baby's pancreas, a part of the body that helps with digestion.

Health Career Pathways: Teens Against Violence Alliance (TAVA)

D. Lynch, L. Roman, M. Mathias, L. Crutcher, S. Dawkins, N. Drumgoole, J. Reeves, Z. Staten, S. Paredes, M. Key, J. Garcia, C.L. Cole, A.P. Cupertino

A community partnership between URM Department of Surgery, Wilmot Community Outreach and Engagement, and Encompass Resources Learning was created to empower high school students with knowledge, experiences, and skills to co-create solutions to one of the many barriers to academic achievement: the increased rates of violence in Rochester since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Human Biophysiology Shared Resource- Cancer Control Psychoneuroimmunology Laboratory

P. Van Haute, L. Lotta, K. Doyle, B. Thompson, M. Gallagher, A. Huynh, S. Alberti, C. Netherby-Winslow, M. Janelins

The goal of this laboratory is to provide state -of-the-art laboratory resources to cancer researchers at Wilmot. We collect and process biospecimens, like blood and saliva, from patients and caregivers enrolled in clinical trials and clinical research studies, and analyze biological factors in those biospecimens.

Dysregulated Gene Expression Promotes Breast Cancer Progression

B. Dieujeste

Epigenetics studies how your behaviors and environment can cause changes that affect the way your genes express, and this can influence breast cancer progression. In cancer, some genes are accidentally turned off or on. This study looks at genes that are turned on during wound healing that can be switched back on in breast cancer cells leading to metastasis.



CCAC Co-Chairs and Wilmot Program Leaders

Edgar Santa Cruz Aspire Award

This award is presented to two members of the CCAC who have demonstrated outstanding support of the mission of the CCAC. This year's recipients have not only attended CCAC meetings and activities, they have also aspired to cultivate an inclusive culture to promote equity and increase community engagement in academics/healthcare. Recipients are chosen by their CCAC peers for going above and beyond to make a difference in their community.

Community Vision Award

This award is presented to two community partners that have worked with the CCAC to further projects and affect change in our region, all with a focus on equity. This year's recipients embrace the mission of CCAC and empower community, giving voice to true community need.

COE Innovator Award

This award is presented to two Wilmot employees that work with COE and CCAC to engage with community, reduce health inequity, and cultivate an inclusive culture. This year's recipients have identified and implemented innovative ways to involve the community in research, to ensure community voice in Wilmot's Strategic Plan, and to be responsive to community need, all to lessen the burden of cancer across our region.

In Memorium

We would like to dedicate this meeting, and all future Edgar Santa Cruz Aspire awards, to our friend and colleague Edgar Santa Cruz. Edgar won the Aspire award it's first year as a member of the Community Driven Cancer Research (CDCR) working group. He was a true champion for the Rochester community recognizing and respecting the importance of every person he came across. With a Masters in Social Work from the University of Chicago, Edgar put his training into action with organizations such as Cameron Ministries and Foodlink. He strived to open doors that would improve the lives of those he served. His dedication, passion, and huge heart were reasons for his selection as CDCR co-lead and member of the CCAC Steering Committee. He actively worked with Dr. Francisco Cartujano and the Latino CAB to support vaping and tobacco control research studies. He was also a member of the Protocol, Review, and Monitoring Committee at Wilmot Cancer Institute, ensuring that community focus, safety, and equity were included in clinical trials. Edgar was the embodiment of the 'Power of Partnerships.' He will be missed, but his legacy will live on.



AGENDA

8:30am–9:30am

Registration & Poster Session

9:30am–12:00pm
Morning Program

Welcome & Framing of the Day

Dr. Jonathan Friedberg and Dr. Ana Paula Cupertino

Working Groups Outcomes and 2023 Highlights

Community Panel

Facilitated by Dr. Candice Lucas

Photo/Break

12:00pm–1:00pm

Keynote Address

Dr. Eida Castro & Dr. Julie Dutil

1:00pm–4:00pm
Afternoon Program

Wilmot Program/Office Updates and 2023 Highlights

Facilitated by Dr. Francisco Cartujano

World Café

Facilitated by Dr. Charles Kamen

Awards

4:00pm–5:00pm

CCACtail hour

THANK YOU

Special thank you to the CCAC Retreat Planning Committee, our community partners, and to the COE team who go above and beyond every day to work diligently throughout the year to engage with our community to make an impact on the cancer burden in our catchment area.



Please scan this QR code to complete a post-event survey if you did not do so during the event.



CCACtail Recipe

Spiced Apple & Ginger

1 ½ oz. Bacardi Spiced Rum
1 ½ oz. Apple Juice
1 ½ oz. Ginger Ale
Garnish: 1 Lime Wedge



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