



# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Spotlight on Early Career Investigators A Cancer Research Mini-Symposium

**Co-Chairs:**

**Shuchi Gulati, M.D., MSc and Alan Lombard, Ph.D.**

**Assistant Research Program Leaders for Education, Training, and Career Development  
UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Thursday, April 25, 2024	
9 – 9:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome:</b> Shuchi Gulati, M.D., MSc, and Alan Lombard, Ph.D.
9:05 – 9:15 a.m.	<b>Special Announcement:</b> Primo N. Lara, Jr., M.D., Director, University of California, Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center
<b>9:15 – 9:35 a.m.</b>	<b>Keynote Address:</b> Janai Carr-Ascher, M.D, Ph.D. “If You Let Me Play, Parallels in Sports and Science.”
9:35 – 9:45 a.m.	Q and A
9:45 – 9:55 a.m.	Suyakarn Archasappawat. “A New Vulnerability to BET Inhibition Due to Enhanced Autophagy in BRCA2-Deficient Pancreatic Cancer.”
9:55 – 10 a.m.	Q and A
10 – 10:10 a.m.	Alyssa Bellini, M.D. “The Effect of Body Mass Index on Breast Cancer Stage and Breast Cancer-Specific Survival: A California Cancer Registry Study.”
10:10 – 10:15 a.m.	Q and A
10:15 – 10:25 a.m.	Christopher Lucchesi, Ph.D. “The Multifarious Roles of ANGEL2 in Cancer”
10:25 – 10:30 a.m.	Q and A
10:30 – 10:40 a.m.	Dennis Montoya. “Integrin Alpha 4 Expression as a Marker for Response to a Novel CTLA-4 Inhibitor ONC-392.”
10:40 – 10:45 a.m.	Q and A
<b>10:45 AM – 12:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Roundtables and Lunch</b>
12:15 – 12:25 p.m.	Ani Movsisyan Vernon. “Cancer Incidence and Survival among the Armenian Population in California: Construction of the Armenian Surname List (ASL) and its Application in the California Cancer Registry (CCR).”
12:25 – 12:30 p.m.	Q and A
12:30 – 12:40 p.m.	Yuki Murakami. “Targeting the Spliceosome in High-Risk B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.”
12:40 – 12:45 p.m.	Q and A
12:45 – 12:55 p.m.	Kajetan Wysoczynski. “A Dosimetric Treatment Plan Comparison of Y-90 Radioembolization, Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy, High Dose Rate Brachytherapy, and Proton Beam Therapy for Liver Cancer.”
12:55 – 1 p.m.	Q and A

<b>1 – 2 p.m.</b>	<b>Poster Session</b>
<b>2 – 2:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Presentation Winners Announced: Alan Lombard, Ph.D.</b>

## Round Tables

### 1. Roadmap: What are my steps to research independence?

Facilitated by:

Alan Lombard, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Urologic Surgery and Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine

Paramita Ghosh, M.D.

Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine

### 2. Funding: What do I need for my first R01?

Facilitated by:

Nicholas Mitsiades, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor and Chief Translational Officer, Department of Internal Medicine and Associate Director for Translational Research, Comprehensive Cancer Center

Shehnaz Hussain, Ph.D., ScM

Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences and Associate Director, Population Science, Comprehensive Cancer Center

### 3. Career Pathways: How do I find a job in cancer research?

Facilitated by:

Stephanie Goldschmidt, B.V.M. and S., D.A.V.D.C., D.E.V.D.C.

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical and Radiologic Sciences

Julie Dang, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences and Executive Director, Office of Community Outreach and Engagement, Comprehensive Cancer Center

### 4. Grant Critique: I've received my pink sheets; now what?

Facilitated by:

Yuanpei Li, Ph.D., FAIMBE

Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine

Ashley Hodel, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Programs, Planning, and Evaluation, Comprehensive Cancer Center

### 5. Grant Structure: How do I plan my grant?

Facilitated by:

Aminah Ikner, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Office of Grant Development, Comprehensive Cancer Center

Matthew Saldana, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Office of Grant Development, Comprehensive Cancer Center

### 6. Belonging: How do I build a support structure?

Facilitated by:

Hisham Hussan, M.D.

Associate Professor, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Janai Carr-Ascher, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Hematology and Oncology and Assistant Director, Education, Training and Career Development, Comprehensive Cancer Center

### 7. Connections: Who do I need in my professional network?

Facilitated by:

Hongwu Chen, Ph.D.

Professor and Vice Chair of Research,  
 Department of Biochemistry and Molecular  
 Medicine and  
 Co-director, Cancer Metabolomics Initiative

Allen C. Gao, M.D., Ph.D.  
 Ralph de Vere White Professor,  
 Department of Urologic Surgery and  
 Director of Urologic Research

## Poster Presentations

1	Alba Alfonso-Garcia, Ph.D. "Fluorescence Lifetime Signatures of Colorectal Polyps: A Feasibility Study."
2	Carolin Aurich. "Structure-Function Analysis of the BRCA2 Tumor Suppressor Protein."
3	Gregory Bude. "Cell-Free Expression and Refolding of Membrane Proteins."
4	Joshua Claxton. "Generation of a CAR T Receptor Supported in a NanoLipo Protein Complex for Immunotherapy."
5	Bryan Correa Gonzalez. "Characterizing PARP Inhibitor and Next-Generation Anti-Androgen Responses in Advanced Prostate Cancer."
6	Hector Delgadillo. "Effects of Short- and Long-Chained PFAS on Triple Negative Breast Cancer Progression."
7	Agustina Diener. "Identifying Force-Dependent Protein Interactions Surrounding Actin Filaments."
8	Elizabeth Do. "Reduced T-Cell Receptor Diversity is Not Diagnostic for Intestinal Lymphoma in Cats."
9	Karla Gonzalez. "Reducing Disparities in Hereditary Breast Cancer Risk Assessment - The 'Tu Historia Cuenta' Program."
10	Madison Luker. "Evaluation of Inhaled IL-15 Therapy and IL-8 in Canine Osteosarcoma."
11	Justin Rehwaldt. "Rural-Urban and Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Invasive Melanoma, a Population-Based Retrospective Cohort Study."
12	Dena Sayrafi. "ROSE+: Rapid Adequacy and Diagnostic Determinations for Core-Needle Biopsy Specimens Using FIBI-Enabled Sample-Sparing Slide-Free Histology."
13	Aman Singla. "The Effects of Chronic Stress on Cancer Progression and Metastasis: An In-Vitro Breast Cancer Cell Model."
14	Tamara Solorzano. "Monitoring Environmental Contaminants Using Silicone Wristbands in the Yurok Tribe."
15	Julissa Suarez-Navarro. "Elucidating the Role of Yap in Sarcoma Development."
16	Cecelia Wong. "Identifying Cell-Cell Fusion Machinery Using Proximal Biotinylation."
17	Willy Ju. "Collagen and Elastin as Biomarkers for Studying Disease: Utilizing DUET Imaging."
18	Dah Som Kim. "Tandem LIM Domain Containing Proteins, LIMK1 and LMO1, Directly Bind to Force-Bearing Keratin Intermediate Filaments."
19	Morgan Domanico. "DNA Adducts Detectable in Lung After In Vivo Naphthalene Exposure."

