# 27th Annual Cancer Research Symposium

**Thursday, September 30, 2021**

**SESSION I: Population Sciences and Health Disparities**  
*Chair: Shehnaz Hussain, PhD, ScM*

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| 8:30 – 8:40 am   | Introduction and Welcome                                               | Primo Lara, MD  
Director, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center | Zoom                   |
| 8:40 – 9:10 am   | Keynote Presentation: “Improving Effectiveness of Lifestyle Interventions” | Sarah-Jeanne Salvy, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine,  
SOCCI Cancer Research Center for Health Equity,  
Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine,  
University of Southern California, Cedar-Sinai Medical Center | Zoom                   |
| 9:10 – 9:25 am   | Q&A                                                                   |                                                                         |                        |
| 9:25 – 9:40 am   | “Significance of the Gut-Liver Axis for Progression Along the Disease Continuum from NAFLD to HCC” | Shehnaz Hussain, PhD  
Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences,  
Associate Director for Population Sciences, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center | Zoom                   |
| 9:40 – 9:45 am   | Q&A                                                                   |                                                                         |                        |
| 9:45 – 10:00 am  | “Comparative Metabolomics of Hispanic and Caucasian Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: A Pilot Study” | John Newman, PhD  
Research Chemist, USDA ARS Western Human Nutrition Research Center,  
Associate Adjunct Professor, Department of Nutrition, UC Davis |                        |
| 10:00 – 10:05 am | Q&A                                                                   |                                                                         |                        |
| 10:05 – 10:15 am | Break                                                                 |                                                                         |                        |
| 10:15 – 10:30 am | “Genetic Diversity, Diet and Susceptibility to Hepatic Steatosis in Mice” | Brian Bennett, PhD  
Research Leader, USDA ARS Western Human Nutrition Research Center,  
Associate Adjunct Professor, Department of Nutrition, UC Davis |                        |
| 10:30 – 10:35 am | Q&A                                                                   |                                                                         |                        |
| 10:35 – 10:50 am | “Bile Acid Dysregulation and Cancer Risk”                             | Yu-Jui “Yvonne” Wan, PhD  
Professor and Vice Chair of Research, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UC Davis |                        |
| 10:50 – 10:55 am | Q&A                                                                   |                                                                         |                        |
| 10:55 – 11:10 am | “Hepatocyte p53 Ablation Induces Metabolic Dysregulation that is Corrected by Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy in Mice” | Bethany Cummings, DVM, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, UC Davis |                        |
| 11:10 – 11:15 am | Q&A                                                                   |                                                                         |                        |

**SESSION II: Career Development and Education**  
*Chair: Frederick Meyers, MD, MACP*
11:15 – 12:00 pm  | Panel: “Diverse Scholars Finding Success at UCDCCC”  
| Erin Doherty, BS  
PhD Candidate, Department of Chemistry, UC Davis  
| Luke A. Wittenburg DVM, PhD, DACVCP  
Associate Professor, Developmental Cancer Therapeutics, Department of Surgical and Radiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis  
| Alan Lombard, PhD  
Assistant Professional Researcher, Department of Urologic Surgery, UC Davis  
| Diedre Reitz, PhD  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, UC Davis  
| Nicole Coggins, PhD  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Genome Center and Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, UC Davis

12:00 – 1:30 pm  | Poster Session

**SESSION III: Basic/Translational Science**  
*Chair: Luis Carvajal-Carmona, PhD*

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| 1:30 – 2:00 pm | Keynote Presentation: “The Repertoire of Mutational Signature in Human Cancer” | Ludmil B. Alexandrov, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Cellular and Molecular Medicine and Bioengineering, UC San Diego |
| 2:00 – 2:15 pm | Q&A                                                                   |                                               |          |
| 2:15 – 2:30 pm | “Therapeutic Targeting of Tumor Lineage Plasticity in Therapy-Resistant Prostate Cancer” | Hongwu Chen, PhD  
Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, UC Davis |
| 2:30 – 2:35 pm | Q&A                                                                   |                                               |          |
| 2:35 – 2:50 pm | “Spatial RNA Profiling Reveals Cell Type-Specific Biomarker Expression During Melanoma Development.” | Maija Kiuru, MD, PhD  
Associate Professor of Clinical Dermatology and Pathology, Department of Dermatology, UC Davis |
| 2:50 – 2:55 pm | Q&A                                                                   |                                               |          |
| 2:55 – 3:05 pm | Break                                                                 |                                               |          |
| 3:05 – 3:20 pm | “Targeting Epigenetic Vulnerabilities in Breast Cancer”               | Sanchita Bhatnagar, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, UC Davis |
| 3:20 – 3:25 pm | Q&A                                                                   |                                               |          |
| 3:25 – 3:40 pm | “Disrupting the Rbm38-eIF4E Complex to Increase p53 Expression as a Potential Cancer Therapeutic Strategy” | Christopher Lucchesi, PhD  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Surgical & Radiological Sciences, UC Davis |
| 3:40 – 3:45 pm | Q&A                                                                   |                                               |          |

End of Day 1
### Friday, October 1, 2021

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<td><strong>Poster Session</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SESSION IV: Clinical Research</strong></td>
<td><em>Chair: Karen Kelly, MD</em></td>
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| 9:30 – 10:00 am | David R. Gandara Lectureship on Developmental Therapeutics: "Cancer Therapy Resistance: Mechanisms, Challenges and Opportunities" | Peter Nelson, MD  
Member, Divisions of Human Biology and Clinical Research, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center,  
Professor, Division of Medical Oncology, University of Washington,  
Head, Program in Prostate Cancer Research  
PI, Pacific Northwest Prostate Cancer SPORE |          |
| 10:00 – 10:15 am | Q&A                                        |                                                                          |          |
| 10:15 – 10:30 am | "Translation of Bladder Cancer Therapeutics" | Maria Mudryj, PhD  
Professor and Vice Chair of Education and Outreach, Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, UC Davis  
Mamta Parikh, MD, MS  
Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology and Oncology, UC Davis |          |
| 10:30 – 10:35 am | Q&A                                        |                                                                          |          |
| 10:35 – 10:50 am | "Targeting the DNA-Binding Domain of the Androgen Receptor in Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer" | Paramita Ghosh, PhD  
Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, Department of Urologic Surgery, UC Davis  
Ruiwu Liu, PhD  
Research Scientist, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, UC Davis | Zoom     |
| 10:50 – 10:55 am | Q&A                                        |                                                                          |          |
| 11:00 – 11:05 am | Break                                      |                                                                          |          |
| 11:05 – 11:20 am | "Characterization and Novel Targeting of the AKR1C3/AR/AR-V7 Axis for the Treatment of Lethal Prostate Cancer" | Chengfei Liu, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Urologic Surgery, UC Davis |          |
| 11:20 – 11:25 am | Q&A                                        |                                                                          |          |
| 11:25 – 11:40 am | "A Phase 2 Neo-adjuvant Biomarker Driven Clinical Trial for High-Risk Prostrate Cancer" | Marc Dall’Era, MD  
Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Urologic Surgery, UC Davis |          |
| 11:40 – 11:45 am | Q&A                                        |                                                                          |          |
| 11:45 – 11:55 am | Closing Remarks and Poster Awards Announcement | Primo Lara, MD  
Director, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center |          |

**Symposium Close**