

Hepatobiliary Cancer SPORE

Quarterly Newsletter

Q1 2023

Achievements

Admin Core: hosted our advocate focused mini-retreat in February (page 2).

Biospecimen and Pathology Core: new collaborations have increased diversity of our hepatobiliary cancer biospecimens by >1,300 since last quarter (page 3)!

Project 1: 6 new papers published since last quarter (page 2).

Project 2: Dr. Rory Smoot selected as Associate Medical Director – Enterprise Surgery of the Cancer Clinical Trials Office (see below).

Project 4: Dr. Richard Vile presented at the NCI GI/Pancreas/NET Cancer SPORE Call in January.

Career Enhancement Program: Dr. Lionel Kankeu Fonkoua awarded collaborative KL2 grant (page 2).

Key Meetings

★ *NCI GI/Pancreas/NET SPORE Monthly Virtual Meeting*

April 10, 2023 (MDACC GI SPORE)

May 12, 2023 (UNC Pancreatic Cancer SPORE)

June 12, 2023 (MSKCC Pancreatic Cancer SPORE)

★ *10th Annual Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation Conference Salt Lake City, Utah*

April 12-14, 2023

★ *46th Annual Research Society on Alcohol Scientific Meeting Bellevue, Washington*

June 24-28, 2023

Congratulations Dr. Rory Smoot (P2)

On being selected as Associate Medical Director – Enterprise Surgery of the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center's *Cancer Clinical Trials Office*. This important infrastructure facilitates efficient opening of clinical trials while also ensuring rigor, safety, and that the needs of our patients come first.



Internal Career Development Award – Dr. Lionel Kankeu Fonkoua

Optimizing CAR T-cell development for FGFR2-aberrant cholangiocarcinoma

Mentors: Drs. Saad Kenderian and Mitesh Borad

This collaborative CCaTS KL2 grant will provide 75% protected time for 3 years starting in July 2023.



Advocate Focused Mini Retreat – February 20, 2023

Our biannual SPORE retreat was lay person focused and well attended by many patient advocates and representatives from the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation, Global Liver Institute, and Somali Health Advisory Committee. We value our outspoken advocates who ask fundamental questions and keep us focused!

Recent Publications

[Clinical and demographic predictors of survival for fibrolamellar carcinoma patients-A patient community, registry-based study.](#)

Berkovitz A, Migler RD, Qureshi A, Rosemore C, **Torbenson MS**, Vaughan R, Marcotte E, **Simon SM**. Hepatol Commun. 2022 Oct 17. doi: 10.1002/hep4.2105. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36245434

[Oncogenic addiction of fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma to the fusion kinase DNAJB1-PRKACA.](#)

Neumayer C, Ng D, Jiang CS, Qureshi A, Lalazar G, Vaughan R, **Simon SM**.

Clin Cancer Res. 2022 Oct 27:CCR-22-1851. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-22-1851. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36302174

[Clinical outcomes in fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors.](#)

Chen KY, Popovic A, Hsiehchen D, Baretti M, Griffith P, Bista R, Baghdadi A, Kamel IR, **Simon SM**, Migler RD, Yarchoan M. Cancers (Basel). 2022 Oct 30;14(21):5347. doi: 10.3390/cancers14215347. PMID: 36358766

[Targeting BCL-XL in fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma.](#)

Shebl B, Ng D, Lalazar G, Rosemore C, Finkelstein TM, Migler RD, Zheng G, Zhang P, Jiang CS, Qureshi A, Vaughan R, Yarchoan M, de Jong YP, Rice CM, Coffino P, Ortiz MV, Zhou D, **Simon SM**.

JCI Insight. 2022 Sep 8;7(17):e161820. doi: 10.1172/jci.insight.161820. PMID: 36073545

[Human liver organoids for disease modeling of fibrolamellar carcinoma.](#)

Narayan NJC, Requena D, Lalazar G, Ramos-Espiritu L, Ng D, Levin S, Shebl B, Wang R, Hammond WJ, Saltsman JA 3rd, Gehart H, **Torbenson MS**, Clevers H, LaQuaglia MP, **Simon SM**.

Stem Cell Reports. 2022 Aug 9;17(8):1874-1888. doi: 10.1016/j.stemcr.2022.06.003. Epub 2022 Jul 7. PMID: 35803261

[Alternative lengthening of telomeres in primary hepatic neoplasms.](#)

Yasir S, Thompson S, Chen ZE, Knudson R, Knutson D, Kloft-Nelson S, Graham RP, Jain D, **Simon SM**, Wu TT, **Torbenson M**. Hum Pathol. 2022 Nov 9:S0046-8177(22)00260-X. doi: 10.1016/j.humpath.2022.11.003. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36370823

Biospecimen and Pathology Core – Biospecimen Diversity

Multiple collaborative initiatives ensure the diversity of our hepatobiliary cancer biospecimens.

•Sample Collection Collaborations:

- Viral hepatitis and liver cancer in Ghanaian patients – Dr. Amelie Plymoth (received 1200)
- Paraffin blocks from Ghanaian patients with HB cancers – Dr. Kafui Akakpo (received 65)
- Epigenomic Biomarkers of HIV-Associated Cancers in Nigeria – Dr. Lifang Hou (received 130)
- CCA and Gallbladder Cancer samples – Dr. Keun Soo Ahn (received 450)

•Expanded Collaborations to Increase HB Cancer Biospecimen Diversity

- University of Texas Health San Antonio – Dr. LuZhe Sun
- NIH Liver Cancer Program – University of Maryland – Dr. Xin Wei Wang
- University of Florida, Jacksonville – Dr. Sam Antwi
- University of Witwatersrand, South Africa – Drs. John Devar and Emmanuel Nweke
- University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR – Drs. Cruz-Correa and Rivera (MOU signed in March 2023)

•Pre-Collection Efforts to Establish Diverse Biospecimen Repositories

- Ghana Teaching Hospitals – Accra – Drs. Regina Appiah-Opong and Amoako Duah
- CERBA, Burkina Faso – Dr. Albert Yonli
- Rwanda Military Hospital, Kigali, Rwanda – Dr. Fidel Rubagumya
- St. Paul's Hospital/Millennium Med Coll, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – Dr. Haile Desalegn
- Jos University Teaching Hospital, Jos, Nigeria – Prof. Edith Okeke

Upcoming Presentations by SPORE Investigators

Hepatobiliary Neoplasia Research Meeting:

- Dr. Jessica Lancaster, Career Enhancement Program: April 21, 2023
- Dr. Susanne Warner, Developmental Research Program: May 19, 2023

NCI GI/Pancreas/NET Cancer SPORE Call: (Past)

- Dr. Richard Vile, Project 4: January 13, 2023

Hepatobiliary Neoplasia Research Meeting: (Past)

- Dr. Vinay Chandrasekhara, Developmental Research Program: March 17, 2023

Liver SPORE Contacts

Mark McNiven, Ph.D., SPORE Director
Mike Torbenson, M.D.
Co-Director, Biospecimen & Pathology Core
John Henley, Ph.D, Administrator
Amanda Bedard, Administrative Assistant

Lewis Roberts, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., SPORE Co-Director
Chen Wang, Ph.D. & Vivien Yin, Ph.D
Co-Directors, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core
Fowsiyi Ahmed, M.B.B.S., Biospecimen Coordinator
Images used with permission.