

Florida-California Cancer Research Education & Engagement (CaRE²) Health Equity Center

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Florida-California Cancer Research Education & Engagement (CaRE²) Health Equity Center Newsletter!

CENTER GRAND OPENINGS



The CaRE² Health Equity Center partnership between Florida A&M University, University of Florida and University of Southern California is off to a strong start, with grand opening events being held at all three institutions.

The first grand opening and open house was held on October 29, 2018 at the University of Florida Research

and Academic Center in Lake Nona, Florida, which houses the physical UF CaRE² Health Equity Center. The UF center operates and has faculty and staff in Gainesville and Jacksonville as well.

USC's grand opening and open house was held on December 18, 2018 at the Soto Building at USC's Health Sciences campus with fantastic enthusiasm and support.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at UF.



Approximately 70 people attended the USC Open House, and we were also joined by folks from Florida as well as Dr. Sonya Springfield from NCI via video conference.

Center Grand Openings (Continued)

Last, but not least, FAMU held their grand opening and open house on February 1, 2019 in the College of Pharmacy. As was with the other two, the event was well attended in person and virtually by representatives from all three CaRE² Health Equity Centers and representatives from NCI.

CaRE² KICK OFF MEETING



The Florida-California Care² Health Equity Center held the inaugural partnership meeting in November 2018, in New Orleans, LA. This face-to-face meeting set the tone for a strong start to our collaboration.

POST-BAC ANNOUNCEMENT

The University of Florida welcomes the first CaRE² post-bac trainee, Michael Maduka, to the UF CaRE² Health Equity Center. Michael is a recent graduate of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, with a BS in Biology. He has previously worked in Dr. Bereket Mochona's lab developing an anticancer agent that comprises dual or triple effects that can simultaneously act on two or three proteins to avoid drug resistance and also be more specific and not act too broadly and harm healthy cells. Over the next year he will be working under the mentorship of Dr. Jose Trevino over the next year in preparation for a strong application to medical school.



CaRE² IS ONLINE!

Want to keep up with us in real time, rather than just a quarterly update?

Visit our websites at <http://care2usc.org> and <https://care2.cancer.ufl.edu>, follow us on social media @care2usc and @care2famu, and for the most up to date info, become a member to receive updates directly to your inbox at <http://bit.ly/2zQN3KS>



WEBINAR AND MEET & GREET WITH USC FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR DR. SOLOMON ROTIMI



The FAMU and UF CaRE2 Health Equity Centers worked in collaboration with the Fulbright Scholar Program's Outreach Lecturing program to host a Webinar on The Genomic and Ancestral Roots of Prostate Cancer in Black Men, given by esteemed lecturer and Fulbright visiting scholar, Dr. Solomon Rotimi. Dr. Rotimi is a Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry at Covenant University in Nigeria and also a member of the Prostate Cancer Transatlantic Consortium (CaPTC). He has been investigating the roles of single nucleotide polymorphisms in candidate genes in prostate tumors in Nigerian men. A recording of this webinar is forthcoming.

The following morning, Dr. Rotimi, UF MPI Dr. Wilkie, and FAMU MPI Dr. Reams held a meet and greet breakfast open to researchers, faculty, and graduate students at the UF Gainesville campus.



WEBINAR WITH NCI DIVERSITY TRAINING BRANCH PROGRAM DIRECTOR DR. ALISON LIN

In order to support our investigators preparing for the upcoming diversity supplements application deadline, The CaRE2 Health Equity Center hosted a webinar on February 6, 2019 with NCI Diversity Training Branch Program Director Dr. Alison Lin. She graciously participated in a Q&A session about NCI Diversity and Re-Entry Supplements.

SPOTLIGHT ON... EDWARD AGYARE, PHD



Dr. Edward Agyare is an Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics at Florida A&M University. His laboratory works with a variety of nanoparticles for imaging and chemotherapy. They have previously loaded Magnevist, a contrast agent, into liposomal nanoparticle for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of pancreatic cancer in vivo and performed the first comprehensive biodistribution and pharmacokinetics analysis of such a nanoprobe. They also developed techniques to enhance the signal-to-noise ratio of tumor-imaging using such nanoprobes. Their previous work with drug delivery system has focused on using gemcitabine loaded-thermosensitive liposomal nanoparticle mediated hyperthermia to sensitize tumors to gemcitabine and defined a novel dual mechanism of action involving anti-hypoxic and vascular disrupting properties of this approach. In anticipation of clinical translation of this paradigm, his laboratory is currently developing a theranostic nanoparticle that combines Magnevist and modified gemcitabine as one unit that would have the ability to detect and suppress pancreatic tumor growth.

Dr. Agyare's CaRE² collaborative study, with Dr. Jose Trevino at the University of Florida and Dr. Bo Han at the University of Southern California, investigates critical barriers to PCa therapeutics and also define a more personalized therapeutic approach for underrepresented minority PCa patients. They will identify molecular characteristics that help differentiate molecular signature between pancreatic tumors among Blacks and Latinos which will allow for a more personalized approach to targeting PCa. They plan to design and develop stearyl-linked-Gemcitabine with surface modified anti-EGFR antibody nanoparticles (GemEnps); evaluate GemEnps as a potential alternative chemotherapeutic agent in the treatment of PCa orthotopic PDX pancreatic animal models based on the similarities and differences in sequencing of pancreatic cancer genomes of Blacks, Latinos and Whites and translate knowledge of DNA changes to clinical tools for better management of Black and Latino with PCa.

CaRE² PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS

One way we advance our cause to address and reduce cancer health disparities among Black and Latino patients is to contribute to the body of knowledge around this issue. Collaborations within The Florida-California CaRE² Health Equity Partnership have resulted in the following contributions to the literature:

- Xiao J, Cohen P, Stern MC, Odedina F, Carpten J, Reams R. Mitochondrial biology and prostate cancer ethnic disparity. *Carcinogenesis*. 2018 Oct 9. [Epub ahead of print]
- Scarton L, Yoon S, Oh S, Agyare E, Trevino J, Han B, Lee E, Setiawan VW, Permuth JB, Schmittgen TD, Odedina FG, Wilkie DJ. Pancreatic Cancer Related Health Disparities: A Commentary. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2018 Jul 18;10(7).

CaRE² DIRECTORS NEWS

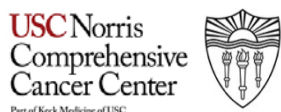
Congratulations to our team for the following recognitions:

Folakemi T. Odedina	UF MPI	Carnegie African Diaspora Alumni Fellow, US Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program, 2018 Appointed UF Term Professor (2018-2020), University of Florida Invited to participate in 2019 World Cancer Leaders' Summit
John Carpten	USC MPI	AACR Jane Cooke Wright Award 2018 AACR Annual Conference Program Committee Chair 2019 AACR Cancer Health Disparities Think Tank 2018, Co-Chair AACR Inaugural Progress Report on Cancer Health Disparities, Chair
Mariana Stern	USC MPI	Appointed Associate Director, Cancer Prevention & Control, Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center Invited to participate in AACR Cancer Health Disparities Think Tank 2018 AACR Inaugural Progress Report on Cancer Health Disparities, Steering Committee Member NCI Board of Scientific Advisors ad hoc Working Group on Prevention, Member AACR 12 th Cancer Health Disparities Conference Co-Chair 2019

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