

LIVER DIGEST

A weekly update of PLRC happenings

February 4, 2021



**PITTSBURGH LIVER
RESEARCH CENTER**

A partnership of University of Pittsburgh & UPMC

www.livercenter.pitt.edu

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PLRC Virtual Seminar on Tuesday, February 16 at 12:00pm

The next PLRC virtual seminar will be held on **Tuesday, February 16 at 12:00 pm via Zoom. Dr. Jesus Banales**, Head of the Liver Diseases Group at the Biodonostia Research Institute of Donostia University Hospital in Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain. The title of his talk will be, “Role of protein NEDDylation in the pathogenesis of cholangiocarcinoma: Novel therapeutic opportunities.”

Dr. George Michalopoulos receives NIH funding

Dr. Michalopoulos received NIH funding to study the impact of Inhibition of EGF Receptor on Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. This proposal, which is funded for 5 years, will study an important role of EGFR signaling in the pathogenesis of NASH/NAFLD and has high translational impact. Congratulations to Dr. Michalopoulos. Other PLRC members supporting the study include PLRC members **Dr. Ramon Bataller** and CBRPC Director **Dr. Aatur Singhi**.

Dr. Monga and PLRC colleagues publish in Hepatology

Study from **Dr. Monga**'s group in Hepatology identifies subset of hepatocellular cancers that show simultaneous activation of Wnt and Nrf2 signaling. Other PLRC members who contributed to the study include 2020 P&F recipient **Dr. Akshata Moghe**; Directors of CBRPC **Dr. Aatur Singhi** and **Dr. David Geller**; Assistant Director and Manager of GSBC **Dr. Silvia Liu**; and Associate Members (Drs. **Junyan Tao**, **Aaron Bell**, **Michael Oertel**).

Tao J, Krutsenko Y, Moghe A, Singh S, Poddar M, Bell A, Oertel M, Singhi AD, Geller D, Chen X, Lujambio A, Liu S, Monga SP. Nrf2 and β -catenin coactivation in hepatocellular cancer: Biological and therapeutic implications. Hepatology. 2021 Feb 2. doi: 10.1002/hep.31730. **Epub ahead of print.** PMID: 33529367.

Dr. Andy Duncan and PLRC colleagues publish in MCB

Dr. Andy Duncan's group publishes in Molecular Cell Biology on the role of IQGAP1 in

hepatocellular cancer. Other PLRC members including **Drs. Tao** and **Monga** also contributed to this work.

Delgado ER, Erickson HL, Tao J, Monga SP, Duncan AW, Anakk S. Scaffolding Protein IQGAP1 is Dispensable But Its Overexpression Promotes Hepatocellular Carcinoma via YAP1 Signaling. Mol Cell Biol. 2021 Feb 1:MCB.00596-20. doi: 10.1128/MCB.00596-20. **Epub ahead of print.** PMID: 33526450.

Dr. Michael Jurczak and Dr. Paul Monga contribute to a study in Nature Chemical Biology

PLRC members **Dr. Michael Jurczak** and **Dr. Paul Monga** contribute to a study in Nature Chemical Biology.

Liu Y, Jurczak MJ, Lear TB, Lin B, Larsen MB, Kennerdell JR, Chen Y, Huckestein BR, Nguyen MK, Tuncer F, Jiang Y, Monga SP, O'Donnell CP, Finkel T, Chen BB, Mallampalli RK. A Fbxo48 inhibitor prevents pAMPK α degradation and ameliorates insulin resistance. Nat Chem Biol. 2021 Jan 25. doi: 10.1038/s41589-020-00723-0. **Epub ahead of print.** PMID: 33495648.

Dr. Paul Monga publishes a review article in GE Liver

Hu S, Monga SP. Wnt/ β -catenin Signaling and Liver Regeneration: Circuit, Biology and Opportunities. Gene Expr. 2021 Jan 20. doi: 10.3727/105221621X16111780348794. **Epub ahead of print.** PMID: 33472727.

**Dr. Samira Kiani presenting at Pathology Seminar on Wednesday, Feb 10
at 12-1pm**

Dr. Samira Kiani, Associate Professor in the department of Pathology and PLRC member, will present at the Pathology Seminar with a talk entitled, “***Myd8 Repression Using the Crispr Technology to Reprogram host Immune Response.***”

[Click here for Zoom Information](#)

[Click here for CME Code](#)

**Keystone Symposium-Hepatobiliary Cancer: Pathobiology and Translational
Advances**

Keystone Symposium will be held virtually March 22-24, 2021. Details for prospective attendees concerning Registration, Financial Aid, Abstract Submission, and Current Program are given at **Keysym.us/VKSHepatoCancer21** (indicated in the flyer).

[Please click here for Registration](#)

KEYSTONE SYMPOSIA
eSymposia

Joint with: Fatty Liver Disease and Multi-System Complications

Hepatobiliary Cancers: Pathobiology and Translational Advances

March 22-24, 2021 | 10:00AM EDT | 2:00PM UTC*

*Program is in development and subject to change

SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZERS:

Alphonse E. Sirica, Gregory J. Gores and Lopa Mishra



Register at: keysym.us/VKSHepatoCancer21



AASLD Emerging Topic Conference - CHRONIC HEPATITIS B: FROM THE POPULATION TO NEW MOLECULES AND BACK

A comprehensive and in-depth discussion of the most updated treatment strategies as well as data/care gap to prevent and manage the HBV population. A review of the preclinical and clinical frontiers of HBV cure molecules after a state-of-the-art review of novel molecular and immunologic HBV cure markers will be covered along with an assessment of HBV cure's impact on HBV epidemiology and population health.

[Click here for more Information and to Register](#)

Workshop for GSBC users on Next Generation Sequencing

Dr. Silvia Liu, Manager of GSBC will be presenting in part a Next-Generation-Sequencing Workshop hosted by the CRC.

Important links to get more information on the workshop and for registering:

<https://crc.pitt.edu/CRC-Spring-2021-Next-Generation-Sequencing-Workshops>

<https://crc.pitt.edu/crc-spring-2021-ngs-workshop-trainer>

<https://crc.pitt.edu/NGS-Spring-2021-Workshops-Register>

Janssen Scholars of Oncology Diversity Engagement Program

Janssen Oncology, of Johnson & Johnson will be hosting a '**Virtual Janssen Oncology Day**', providing a unique opportunity to be exposed to the research and development process within industry and understand the critical skillsets to have a successful industry career. Highlights include:

- **Formal presentations given by Janssen Oncology scientific and strategic leaders** highlighting the drug development process across Discovery, Clinical Development, Safety/Toxicology, Manufacturing, Translational Research and Data Science/Computational Biology
- **Smaller breakout sessions with Janssen Oncology leaders** to facilitate more in-depth dialogue about what success looks like in industry, transferable skills from academia to industry, etc.

[Click for more information and to apply.](#)

Update Information

Please continue to share your relevant accolades (grants, manuscripts, other news) with us, as it relates to PLRC mission, so we can share with all members. Please visit [PLRC website here](#). We expect the website experience to be even more dynamic through postings of relevant videos, blogs, spotlights, and images. We hope to depend on you to provide us such resources and links. Please contact AJ Singh (singha16@upmd.edu) if you have specific questions and suggestions.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Pilot Grants for Gastrointestinal Biology Research

Center for Gastrointestinal Biology and Disease (CGIBD)

To see all NIH Grants sorted by week, please visit: NIH Guide: 2021

For Weeks Ending:

February 5

January 29

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