

LIVER DIGEST

A weekly update of PLRC happenings

April 8, 2021



PITTSBURGH LIVER RESEARCH CENTER

A partnership of University of Pittsburgh & UPMC

www.livercenter.pitt.edu

*Please acknowledge support from the PLRC (NIH/NIDDK
P30DK120531) in your publications and presentations.*

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Dr. Mo Ebrahimkhani's group publishes manuscript in Springer Protocols

Dr. Mo Ebrahimkhani's group published an article titled, "**Neighborhood Impact Factor to Study Cell-Fate Decision-Making in Cellular Communities.**" **Ebrahimkhani Lab members** Joshua Hislop and Jeremy Velasquez, also contributed to this study.

Carter SR, Hislop J, Hsu J, Velazquez JJ, Ebrahimkhani MR. Neighborhood Impact Factor to Study Cell-Fate Decision-Making in Cellular Communities. Methods Mol Biol. 2021;2258:17-28. doi: 10.1007/978-1-0716-1174-6_2. PMID: 33340351.

[Click here for the full article on Pubmed.](#)

Pilot and Feasibility Program Awards 2021

The PLRC Grant Review committee has selected the awardees for the 2021-2022 Pilot and Feasibility Program grants. Our thanks to all who submitted proposals.

Congratulations to the following awardees of the 2021 PLRC Pilot and Feasibility Program grants:

Dr. Amanda Clark, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, funded for grant, entitled, "**Exosomes from hepatic non-parenchymal cells promote dormancy and therapeutic resistance of liver metastases.**"

Dr. Hamza Yazdani, Research Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, funded for grant, entitled, "**Role of Exercise Training in Preconditioning the Liver against Ischemia/ Reperfusion Injury in an Orthotopic Murine Liver Transplant Model.**"

Dr. Silvia Liu, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, funded for grant, entitled, "**Development of bioinformatics pipeline to detect fusion transcripts in liver cancer samples via long-read sequencing technology.**"

Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, funded for grant, entitled, "**Epidermal growth factor receptor in cell death signaling during acute liver injury and its therapeutic implications.**"

[Click here for more information.](#)

Please feel free to click their individual names to congratulate them!

Director's Award in New Direction and Innovation

We are delighted to announce PLRC member and junior investigator **Dr. Dooman Arefan**, in collaboration with PLRC member **Dr. Alessandro Furlan**, has been selected as recipient of the PLRC-DANDI! The award period is March 15, 2021 – March 14, 2022.

[Click here to learn more about the funded grant](#), "A radio-genomics study for predicting beta-catenin mutation in hepatocellular carcinoma patients using multi-modal imaging data and [artificial intelligence](#)." Please feel free to [click here to congratulate them!](#)

GI Research Rounds - Dr. Sungjin Ko presenting on April 9 at 12pm

[Dr. Sungjin Ko](#), PLRC member, will be presenting a talk at the GI Research Rounds, entitled, "**NOTCH-YAP1/TEAD-DNMT1 Axis Regulates Hepatocyte Reprogramming into Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma.**"

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) on April 9th at 12:00pm

[+1 412-447-5295](#) United States, Pittsburgh (Toll)

Conference ID: 253 661 793#

Pathology Research Seminar - Dr. Peter Lucas presenting on April 14 at 12pm

[Dr. Peter Lucas](#) will be presenting a talk at the Pathology Research Rounds, entitled, "**Targeting P95HER2 in Treatment Resistant HER2+ Breast Cancer.**"

[Click here for Zoom details](#)

[Click here for CME Code](#)

Drug-Induced Liver Injury Meeting (Co-sponsored by AASLD & FDA)

Held virtually **April 20-22, 2021**. The website below contains links for attendee **Registration** and an **Agenda** of planned sessions, speakers and panel discussions, as well as information for the submission of poster abstracts by attendees.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Topics covered:

- Latest developments in the field of hepatotoxicity
- Innovative tools for diagnosis and assessment
- Liver injury in patients with cancer or underlying liver disease
- Drug induced liver injury during the COVID Pandemic.

Post-Doc Position Available - Dr. Duncan Lab

A postdoctoral research position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Andrew Duncan in the Department of Pathology and McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. We are looking for a highly motivated individual to participate in an NIH-funded project related to liver pathobiology. Polyploidy is a defining feature of the liver where polyploid hepatocytes represent half of hepatocytes in humans and as many as 90% in mice. Although polyploid hepatocytes have been recognized for over 100 years, the functional role of these cells is poorly understood. Ongoing projects explore (a) how diploid and polyploid hepatocytes respond to acute injury; (b) the role of cell polarity in regulation of mitotic fidelity; and (c) mechanisms of liver adaptation to chronic injury .

[Click here for more information](#)

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](#). Contact AJ Singh (singha16@upmd.edu) if you have specific questions or suggestions.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Innovators in Science Award

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited

Research Grants

PSC Partners Seeking a Cure

Research Grants

Alpro Foundation vzw

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

For Weeks Ending:

- [April 9](#)
- [April 2](#)

Click here for all current NIDDK Funding opportunities

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