

LIVER DIGEST

May 26, 2023

A bi-weekly update of PLRC happenings



In this issue:

• PLRC Faculty Highlights

- Dr. Andrew Feranchak publishes in Am. J Physiol Gastrointest & Liver Physiol

• Upcoming Seminars

- May 30th @ noon Dr. Sayee Anakk; S120 BST & Zoom
- June 13th @ noon PLRC HSLBC "Core Workshop" in S123 BST

• Funding Opportunities

• Announcements

- NIDDK-Data Management Webinar
- CLA Program & Events
- FASEB The Cholangiocarcinoma Conference
- AASLD "Liver Meeting"
- ASIP "Annual Meeting" Abstract Portal OPEN!
- Pathology Retreat Poster Award Winners

• Want Ads :

- Open positions posted
- Jobseekers CV/resumes posted

Please acknowledge all support from the PLRC in your publications and presentations. Note the grant number and all CORES used. (NIH/NIDDK P30DK120531)

Please continue to share your relevant accolades (grants, publications, awards and other news worthy items) with us, as it relates to the PLRC mission, so we can share with all of our members.

Visit the PLRC website (www.livercenter.pitt.edu) for up-to-date news, and upcoming seminar and event information. Contact Aaron Bell (bellaaro@pitt.edu) if you have specific questions or suggestions.

Our mailing address is:

Pittsburgh Liver Research Center
S414 Biomedical Science Tower
200 Lothrop St. | Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Copyright © 2019 Pittsburgh Liver Research Center,
All rights reserved.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Andrew Feranchak, MD, Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Associate director of PLRC, along with PLRC leaders **Aatur Singhi, MD**, **Silvia Liu, PhD** and **Paul Monga, MD**, published an article in American Journal of Physiology: Gastrointestinal Liver Physiology entitled,



"TMEM16A partners with mTOR to influence pathways of cell survival, proliferation and migration in cholangiocarcinoma".

[Kulkarni S, Li Q, Singhi AD, Liu S, Monga SP, Feranchak AP. TMEM16A partners with mTOR to influence pathways of cell survival, proliferation and migration in cholangiocarcinoma. Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol. 2023 May 23. doi: 10.1152/ajpgi.00270.2022. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37219012.](#)

ABSTRACT:

Expression of TMEM16A, a calcium activated chloride channel, is elevated in some human cancers and impacts tumor cell proliferation, metastasis and patient outcome. Evidence presented here uncovers a molecular synergy between TMEM16A and mTOR, a serine-threonine kinase that is known to promote cell survival and proliferation in cholangiocarcinoma (CCA), a lethal cancer of the secretory cells of bile ducts. Analysis of gene and protein expression in human CCA tissue and CCA cell line, detected elevated TMEM16A expression and Cl⁻ channel activity. TMEM16A's Cl⁻ channel activity impacted the actin cytoskeleton and the ability of cells to survive, proliferate and migrate as revealed by pharmacological inhibition studies. The basal activity of mTOR too was elevated in the CCA cell line compared to the normal cholangiocytes. Molecular inhibition studies provided further evidence that TMEM16A and mTOR each was able to influence the regulation of the other's activity or expression respectively. Consistent with this reciprocal regulation, combined TMEM16A and mTOR inhibition produced a greater loss of CCA cell survival and migration than their individual inhibition alone. Together these data reveal that the aberrant TMEM16A expression and cooperation with mTOR contributes to a certain advantage in CCA.

LIVER DIGEST

May 26, 2023



PLRC SEMINARS

- May 30 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **HYBRID** @ S123 BST & via Zoom



Sayee Anakk, PhD
Associate Professor of Molecular & Integrative Physiology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Title: Bile Acids- The Maverick

- June 13 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm @ S123 BST
**HSLBC Workshop **



**HUMAN
SYNTHETIC
LIVER
BIOLOGY
CORE**



Alex Soto-Gutierrez

Alina Ostrowska

Live In-person Workshop presenting the unique and innovative resources available to PLRC researchers and how you might utilize them to strengthen translational nature and impact of your research and grant proposals.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

To see all NIH Grants sorted by week, please visit: [NIH Guide: 2023](#)

Or click below for recent weeks:

Week of: [May 12:](#) [May 19:](#) [May 26:](#)

[Click here](#) for all current **NIDDK**
Funding opportunities

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Human Liver Tissue and Hepatocytes Resource-Related Research Project (R24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

[RFA-DK-23-012](#) **NIH/NIDDK**

The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to support a Human Liver Tissue and Hepatocytes Research Resource (HLTHRR) program to enable the continued availability of human liver tissue and hepatocytes to biomedical researchers. The research resource is expected to facilitate the procurement and preservation of human liver tissue and hepatocytes as well as the distribution of these materials to qualified biomedical researchers

Early Identification and Diagnosis of Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) in At-Risk Populations.

This competitive program seeks to encourage organizations to submit grant applications for independent educational activities focused on healthcare professionals involved in the management of patients at risk for NASH. Potential applicants are encouraged to identify and address the educational needs of healthcare professionals, with a focus on general practitioners and non-liver specialists, to increase the awareness of NASH for at-risk patients.

PFIZER, Inc Opp ID: 7b662cf9-78f0-471b-8e58-f2f1552f7976

NOT-AG-23-008: Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplements for HIV/AIDS and Aging Research
([nih.gov](#)) **Due Date: May 22nd**

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements for Research on Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Populations (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional): <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-22-032.html>

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research on the Health of Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Populations: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-md-22-012.html>

Notices of Intent to Publish:

NOT-DK-23-006 Notice of Intent to Publish a funding Opportunity Announcement for A Consortium for Gut-Brain Communication in Parkinson's Disease (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

NOT-DK-23-007 Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for A Consortium for Gut-Brain Communication in Parkinson's Disease (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

NOFOs:

RFA-DK-22-023 Ancillary Studies to the NIDDK Inflammatory Bowel Disease Genetics Consortium (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) **Next Due Date: November 8, 2023.**

LIVER DIGEST

May 26, 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Communityliveralliance.org](https://communityliveralliance.org)
DeLIVERing HOPE campaign: Liver Disease Awareness
Fresh-a-Fare Fundraiser @ Jamison lamb Farm in Latrobe



- **NIDDK Data Management & Sharing (DMS) Webinar Series.:**

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is excited to announce the **NIDDK Data Management & Sharing (DMS) Webinar Series**. . This multi-part series will provide education and outreach to the NIDDK scientific community about data management and sharing topics. For more info and to register, visit [NIDDK DMS webpage](https://www.nidDK.nih.gov/data-management-sharing/).

- * The first webinar (**April 25, 2023, 12–1pm ET**), “**Writing a DMS Plan**,” will provide an overview of DMS planning and highlight resources, including NIDDK-specific guidance and tools, that are available to investigators. In addition, participants will learn how data librarians can help investigators manage their data throughout the data life cycle and how one institution is supporting their investigators.
- * The second webinar (**May 31, 2023, 1–2pm ET**), “**Finding a Repository for Your Data**,” will provide in-depth information to guide investigators in selecting the right repositories for their scientific data. NIDDK DMS resources and tools for selecting repositories will be presented, and the presentations will highlight how NIDDK programs, such as dkNET (NIDDK Information Network) and the NIDDK Central Repository, can be utilized. In addition, participants will learn how generalist repositories, particularly those participating in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Generalist Repository Ecosystem Initiative (GREI), can aid investigators when an existing repository is not a good match for their data.
- * The third webinar (**June 27, 2023, 12–1pm ET**), “**Metadata and Data Standards for NIDDK Research Data**,” will cover the importance and utility of metadata and data standards in maximizing the value of scientific data and how these standards intersect with the NIH DMS policy. Participants will learn about NIDDK DMS resources and tools to help select appropriate metadata and data standards when drafting a DMS Plan. In addition, several NIDDK and NIH projects that have developed and implemented rigorous data and metadata schema will share best practices, lessons learned, and how these efforts have enhanced the quality of the data.

- **FASEB “The Cholangiocarcinoma Conference: Molecular Drivers, Microenvironment & Precision Medicine” August 13-17, 2023 @ Palm Springs, CA**

ABSTRACTS DUE 6/11/23; LATE BREAKING 7/7/23

[Meeting Registration & Abstract Submission OPEN NOW!](#)

[Meeting AGENDA](#)

- **AASLD Multi-Omics Approaches for Cholestatic Liver Diseases: From Diagnosis to Disease Mechanisms and Precision Medicine JUNE 1-2 ONLINE**

- **AASLD “THE LIVER MEETING” Nov. 10-14, 2023 @ Boston, MA.**

Meeting Registration opens Late July Abstract deadline Past Due (5/24/23)

Abstract Travel Award deadline 6/15/23 [application link](#)

- **ASIP “Tissue, Matrix, and Pathobiology: Joint Meeting of ASMB, HCS and ASIP”**
Oct. 22-25, 2023 @ Salt Lake City Utah.

Abstracts due by 6/28/23: [Abstract Submission Site](#)

[Meeting Registration Site](#)

LIVER DIGEST

May 26, 2023



Congratulations to the 2023 Pathology Retreat Poster Award Winners !

GENERAL SESSION, Awards sponsored by the Department of Pathology

Graduate Student Research

- * Outstanding Poster Award: Rithika Behera, **Brandon Lehrich**, Varun Mandi
- * Merit Poster Award: Gabrielle Gilmer, Matthew Halbert, Rick van der Geest



Brandon Lehrich



Shehnaz Bano



Chhavi Goel

Basic Research

- * Outstanding Poster Award: **Anya Singh-Varma**
- * Merit Poster Award: **Shehnaz Bano**, **Chhavi Goel**



Anya Singh-Varma

Clinical Research

- * Outstanding Poster Award: Simmi Patel, Rachel Vanderschelden
- * Merit Poster Award: Dimitrios Korentzelos

LIVER RESEARCH, Awards sponsored by the Pittsburgh Liver Institute

- * Outstanding Poster Award: **Sierra Wilson**
- * Merit Poster Award: **Ryan LeGraw**



Sierra Wilson



Ryan LeGraw

CATER T32 TRAINING PROGRAM,

Awards sponsored by Dr. Paul Monga

- * Outstanding Poster Award: **Meagan Makarczyk**
- * Merit Poster Award: **Joe Maggiore**



Meagan Makarczyk



Joe Maggiore

****PLRC HIGHLIGHT****

WANT ADS

This section is available for PLRC members to communicate wants or needs in your laboratories.

Available positions / Collaboration ideas / Equipment needs

Please send any "wants/needs" to be advertised to Aaron Bell (bellaaro@pitt.edu)

OPEN POSITIONS:

- Postdoc/Technician: **Bone cell Differentiation** \$45K; PI: Harry Blair: US citizen ONLY! Contact: 412-383-9616 or hcblair@pitt.edu

JOB SEEKERS:

- **An ECFMG certified medical graduate** from Hyderabad, India, currently working as a research fellow at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN in the department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Artificial Intelligence lab is seeking a 1 yr paid research fellow position starting from June/July 2023 in Gastroenterology at UPMC ([More info and CV available here](#)) or email bellaaro@pitt.edu
- **Research Assistant Professor**, Pathology Dept, UPMC Hillman Cancer Ctr. With experience in Bioinformatics, proteomics, genomics, molecular biology. liz45@pitt.edu [link to CV](#)
- **Senior Lab Scientist**, UPMC Dept of Pediatrics, with broad molecular biology experience and work in liver and breast cancer. suk85@pitt.edu [Link to CV](#)