

Cancer Research Day

Nearly 140 students, fellows and faculty conducting cancer research at IUPUI, Indiana University-Bloomington, Purdue University, and the Harper Cancer Research Institute, a collaboration between the IU School of Medicine and the University of Notre Dame, presented during the IU Simon Cancer Center's Cancer Research Day on May 12.



Winners from the 2016 IU Simon Cancer Center's Cancer Research Day. Photo: Tim Yates, Office of Visual Media / IU School of Medicine

Cash awards for best posters by graduate students, post-doctoral/medical fellows, research technicians and clinical nurses were presented. The following earned awards:

Basic Science ***Medical & Graduate Students***

First: Vivekananda Kedage and James Haley

Second: Joshua Plotnik

Third: Joseph Rupert

Fourth: Dan Merrill

Honorable Mentions

Elizabeth Loughran, Ashley Orillion, Jessica Tang

Basic Science
Post-Doc / Medical Fellow

First: Ashley Maiuri and Nishad Salim

Third: Navnath Gavande

Fourth: Sneha Surendran

Honorable Mentions

Monica VanKlompberg and Heather O’Leary

Basic Science
Research Technician & Research Scientist

First: Christopher Bays

Second: Tyler Vernon

Third: Rafael Barreto

Behavioral and Population Science / Epidemiology
Graduate Students

First: Monica Kasting

Second: Kelly Chinh

Third: Katherine E. Merriweather

Behavioral and Population Science / Epidemiology
Post-Doc / Medical Fellow

First: Cari Tsinovoi

Translational / Clinical Research
Graduate Students / Medical Students / MD, PhD Students

First: Ali Ozes

Second: May Elbanna

Third: Matthew Segar

Honorable Mentions

Brittani Bungart and Yu-Hsiang Chen

Translational / Clinical Research

Post-Docs / Medical Fellows

First: Alicia Teagarden

Second: Fenil Shah

Third: Christopher Suarez

Honorable Mentions

Samih Raad and Joshua Kays

**Translational / Clinical Research
*Research Technician / Research Associate***

First: Samantha McElyea

Cancer Research Day is an annual event that aims to increase understanding and awareness of IU Simon Cancer Center research endeavors and encourage collaboration with other cancer research institutions in Indiana.

The call for abstracts for next year's Cancer Research Day will open in March 2017.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

IU SIMON CANCER CENTER

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center



IUSCC news

April 2016

News briefs

Chuckstrong Tailgate Gala sets record with nearly \$1.2 million for cancer research at IU Simon Cancer Center

The fourth annual Chuckstrong Tailgate Gala set a record April 21 with nearly \$1.2 million netted for cancer research at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center.

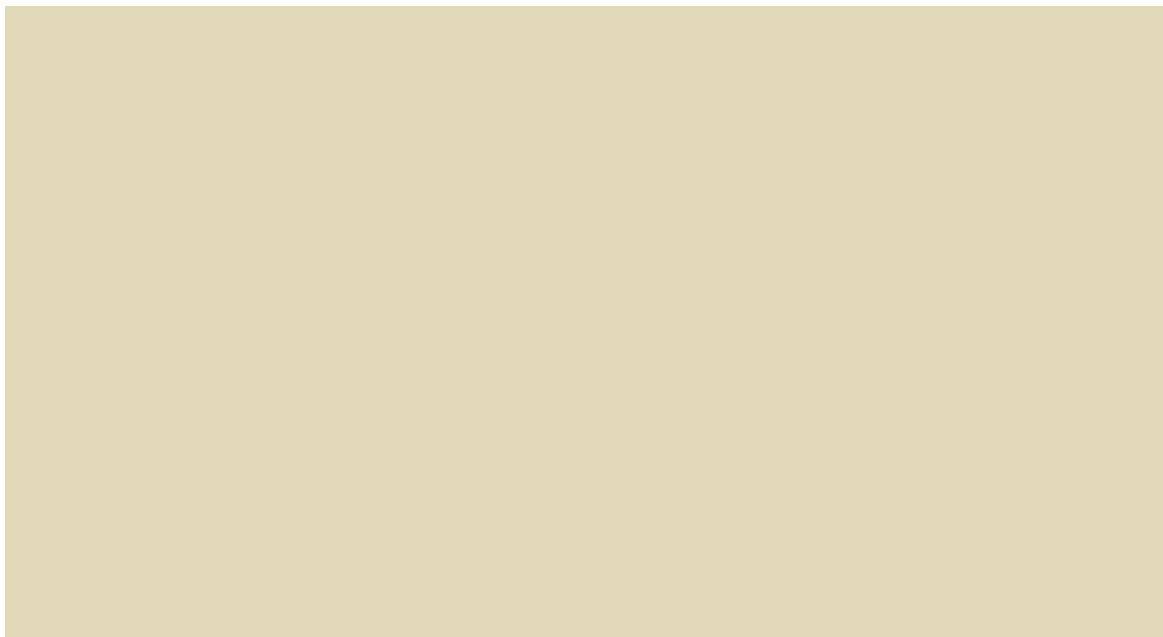
Hosted by the Indianapolis Colts and head coach Chuck Pagano at the Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center, the tailgate gala raised the funds through corporate sponsorships, live and silent auctions, and the annual Chuckstrong Giving Challenge. The total includes \$250,000 that was given by the Jim Irsay family and \$50,000 from the coach and his wife, Tina.

The record-setting amount also included \$30,000 that was generated by 25 people who paid \$1,200 each for the thrilling chance to catch a touchdown pass from quarterback Andrew Luck.

Peggy Throgmartin was one of those to successfully catch a pass from Luck.

"I finally got up the nerve to try it," Throgmartin said. "I love the fact that everybody can gather together and play a little football and have fun. It goes to a good cause. It's well worth every dime."

The event brought together more than 500 guests, nearly all of the Colts players, the Colts coaching staff, and the Colts cheerleaders. The guests participated in activities such as a 40-yard dash, punt returns, and tackling stations on the Colts practice field before they turned their attention to raising money for cancer research.





The Chuckstrong Tailgate Gala's starting lineup takes its position before the start of the event on April 21.
Banayote photo

Coach Pagano, who was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia nearly four years ago, asked the crowd to contribute to fight the "monster" -- cancer.

"There's a monster out there, and it's terrorizing everyone," Pagano told the crowd. "Cancer does not discriminate. It's touched everybody in this room. What I'm asking tonight is that we all come together. I'm asking that we all form a powerful army tonight. I'm asking you to give tonight so that the doctors, the researchers, and the scientists that are here tonight and the other 200 at the IU Simon Cancer Center can do their jobs."

Funds from the tailgate gala are used to support cancer research projects that translate laboratory discoveries into improved treatment options for patients. Research leads to advancements to find better ways to prevent, detect, and treat cancer.

"We're so grateful for Coach Pagano, the Indianapolis Colts, and the community for making the tailgate gala such a success each year," Patrick Loehrer, MD, director of the IU Simon Cancer Center, said. "Equally important, we are thrilled that the tailgate gala gives us the opportunity to tout the importance of cancer research and its impact on patient care. Without research, we wouldn't be able to make strides against cancer."

In all, the Chuckstrong initiative has raised \$3.7 million for cancer research at IU.

Top-level "touchdown" sponsors for the event were Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, DairyChem, the Efroymsen Family Fund, Huntington Bank, Lilly Oncology, Sol and Kay Raso, the Throgmartin family, the IU Simon Cancer Center, the IU School of Medicine, and Indiana Knitwear.

MORE

Channel 13 goes inside a research lab to learn about the impact of Chuckstrong funds on cancer research at the IU Simon Cancer Center. [Watch the story.](#)

[See photo gallery.](#)

News briefs

5 questions with Dr. Lisa Carter-Harris

[Lisa Carter-Harris](#), PhD, assistant professor at the Indiana University School of Nursing and a researcher at the IU Simon Cancer Center, recently spoke at "[The Impact of Stigma on Public Health and Public Health Policy](#)" Congressional briefing on Capitol Hill. Below she answers questions about her research, what led her to focus on stigma, and more.



What can you tell us about your research?

I am a behavioral scientist. I study why people screen versus not screen for lung cancer and how the shared decision-making process can be incorporated as a clinical platform to facilitate patient-provider discussions about the option to participate in lung cancer screening. I have a particular interest in the impact of stigma on screening decisions, adherence to follow-up with abnormal findings, and treatment in lung cancer. To date, our team has developed a conceptual model to guide research in understanding lung cancer screening participation, developed and psychometrically validated the Lung Cancer Screening Health Belief Scales (instruments to measure perceived risk, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, and self-efficacy in lung cancer screening), explored the patient

perspective of lung cancer and screening with long-term smokers as well as the decision to opt out of lung cancer screening that has been offered by their primary care provider, and explored barriers to lung cancer screening implementation from the provider perspective. We are currently developing a computer-tailored intervention program to support patient-provider discussions about lung screening.

How did you become interested in this particular area of research?

During my doctoral program, I was focused on breast cancer and understanding cultural differences in delayed presentation after finding a lump. As part of my program, I took a health-policy course and the major assignment in the course was a paper on health policy related to our research interest. When I spoke with the professor about my topic, she said breast cancer has been studied extensively in the literature and encouraged me to do something else ... something less studied. So, I turned to the literature and was very intrigued by the Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act (and all of its iterations). In addition to the didactic course work in health policy, we also had to complete a health-policy practicum so my dissertation chair offered me the opportunity to attend the Lung Cancer Alliance Annual Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C. to complete a field experience related to health policy in lung cancer. It was during those meetings and hearing the stories from lung cancer survivors, family members, and other advocates for lung cancer research that sparked a passion. I still remember sitting in the audience like it was yesterday and hearing a presenter talk about the stigma related to lung cancer and thought to myself this is a social justice issue, not just a health-policy issue. Passion was ignited and the rest is history.

What's most rewarding about your work?

As a clinician, I have always found working with patients to improve health outcomes to be the most rewarding part of my work. As a behavioral scientist who brings the unique perspective of a clinician to research, my excitement stems from the ability to work on issues that are meaningful to patients and impact patient outcomes by always being the researcher who asks "is this important to the patient", "will this make a meaningful impact on patients lives," and helping other researchers and clinicians understand the most important perspective -- the perspective of the individual making the decision about their health. Before I finished my PhD, it always fascinated me the disconnect between ordering a test or course of treatment and educating the patient thoroughly about the options and the evidence, but ultimately, if I did not understand what was truly important to the patient, the best evidence was not adopted. I wanted to understand why and be able to have impact that meant something. My work to understand the impact of stigma (and other important variables in lung screening) has led to greater understanding with this population.

"I have been fortunate to develop incredible collaborations with brilliant minds across the campus and in the community, which has helped me advance the science forward in my area."

Outside of research, what are your other interests, hobbies?

Outside of research, I love spending time with my family. I have a 15-year-old son, Zachary, and a 14-year-old daughter, Gabriella, that keep me on my toes. Other interests include traveling, photography, and running half-marathons.

What attracted you to IU?

The interdisciplinary nature of IU is the biggest attraction for me. I started here as a post-doc and stayed because of the incredible team of scientists at the IU School of Nursing, IU School of Medicine, IUPUI as a campus, and the IU Simon Cancer Center. I have been fortunate to

develop incredible collaborations with brilliant minds across the campus and in the community, which has helped me advance the science forward in my area.

News briefs

Pollok named Angio BioCore director

Karen Pollok, PhD, has been named director of the [AngioBioCore](#) (ABC), succeeding Angelo Cardoso, MD, PhD. As the core director, Dr. Pollok will work closely with [Mervin Yoder](#), MD, who serves as director of ABC services associated with the U54 Cooperative Centers of Excellence in Hematology. Dr. Pollok also serves as director of the [InVivo Therapeutics Core](#). Dr. Pollok can be reached at 274-8891.



Pollok

IUSM launches intranet

The IU School of Medicine community has a new place to connect and collaborate online – [MedNet](#). The limited-scope intranet will serve as a news and announcement portal for the entire school, providing frequently used documents and resources, while also offering private portals for secure communication.

IUSM retail store now open

Show your IU School of Medicine pride with attire from the [IU Official Custom Shop](#). The store is now open and features a variety of items for all seasons of wear. Click on the IU School of Medicine logo on the home page to view the complete inventory. Customization options are available and the site offers low rates for shipping. A portion of the sales of all IU School of Medicine items from the site will benefit student programming. Have a suggestion for an item to include on the Custom Shop? Send a quick note to iusm@indiana.edu.

Wright Scholarship recipient about to graduate from med school

Two years ago, IU medical student Mason Anthony “Tony” Brown earned a William J. Wright Scholarship from the IU Simon Cancer Center. ([Read the feature story from the archives.](#)) Now, the fourth-year med student is about to graduate and talks about his goals as a future physician. [Watch the Inspire IUPUI video.](#)

NCI seeks moonshot ideas

The National Cancer Institute has launched an online platform to enable the research community and the public to submit ideas on the National Cancer Moonshot efforts. Submissions will be considered by the Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) of scientific experts and patient advocates as they develop the scientific direction at NCI for the initiative.

CANCER
research ideas
Facilitated by the National Cancer Institute

Ideas for advancing progress against cancer may be submitted at CancerResearchIdeas.cancer.gov.

Ideas, which may range from cancer prevention to advancing understanding of the origins of cancer to reducing cancer health disparities, may be submitted in the following areas:

- Cancer clinical trials
- Data sharing
- Dissemination and population sciences
- Immunotherapy, combination therapy, and immunoprevention
- Pediatric cancer
- Tumor evolution and progression
- Other exceptional opportunities

Submit ideas by July 1.

To sign up for updates on the online platform and other aspects of the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative, visit the initiative's main website at www.cancer.gov/moonshot-cancer-initiative.

Husband-wife cancer supporters earn Spirit of Philanthropy Award

Gene and Nancy Bate are two recipients of the 2016 IUPUI Spirit of Philanthropy Award, one of the most esteemed philanthropy awards given by the campus to individuals, foundations, and corporations who share their time, financial resources, and ideas with IUPUI. Since Gene Bate

was diagnosed with cancer in 2005, he and his wife, Nancy, have supported IU cancer research to show their gratitude for life-saving care provided by [Larry Einhorn](#), MD, and [Michael Robertson](#), MD. In recent years, the Bates have been ardent supporters of the Chuckstrong Tailgate Gala, an event hosted by the Indianapolis Colts and head coach Chuck Pagano to benefit IU Simon Cancer Center research. In addition to sponsoring the event and serving on the event committee, the Bate's company donates all of the NFL jerseys worn by event volunteers each year. Gene is the CEO of Indiana Knitwear Corp. in Greenfield.

Cancer center members in the news

[Roberto Pili](#), MD, was a featured speaker at the New York Academy of Sciences conference "Epigenetics: Cancer and Beyond." The symposium convened leaders in the field to explore the therapeutic potential of pharmacologic modulation of the epigenome.

[Ken Nephew](#), PhD, is a co-investigator of the Ovarian Cancer Consortium for Long-Term Survival. His work focuses on characterizing the epigenome of tumors from LTS by performing DNA methylation profiling and exhaustive bioinformatics analysis. The data will be integrated with the other biologic, molecular, and psychosocial data generated by the other projects. Led by the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and funded by the Department of Defense, the consortium's researchers seek to identify a biologic, molecular, and psychosocial pattern that can predict long-term survival by all women with ovarian cancer.



Nephew

[Pat Loehrer](#), MD, was a panelist on the "Role of Engineering Innovation in Global Health" discussion during the Innovation for International Development Expo at Purdue University. The expo focused on applying engineering innovations to help the poorest and most vulnerable populations around the world.

The NCI selected a microscopy image from [Khalid Mohammad](#), MD, PhD, and [Theresa Guise](#), MD, for display at the NCI's exhibit booth during the ASCO meeting in June. The image, [Cancer to Bone](#), will be at booth #5053. The NCI received nearly 100 visually compelling microscopy images from 25 NCI-designated cancer centers. You can view all of the photos at <https://visualsonline.cancer.gov/closeup2016>.

[Mahua Dey](#), MD, and colleague Stefan Petranek are recipients of a New Frontiers Experimentation Scholarship from IU's New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities program. They will receive a grant for their project entitled "Bridging the Gap: Using Video Art to Document the Human Face of Disease and Predict Quality of Life Assessments in Brain Tumor Patients."