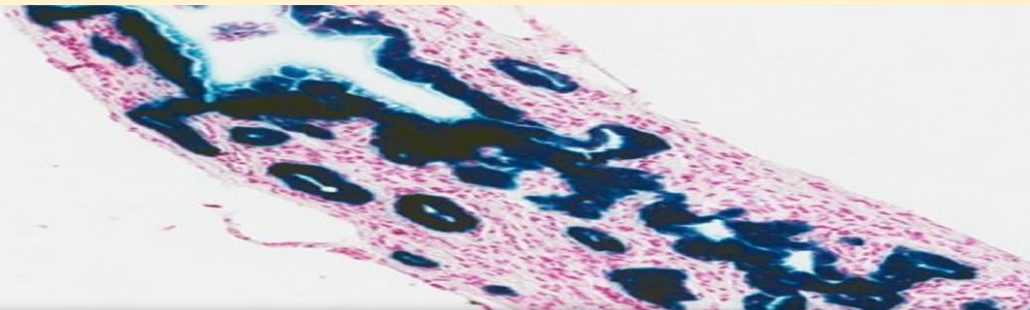




Hepatobiliary Cancer SPORE Quarterly Newsletter

<https://www.mayo.edu/research/centers-programs/cancer-research/research-programs/gastrointestinal-cancer-program/mayo-clinic-hepatobiliary-spore>



Q3 2023

GLI Webinar

The Global Liver Institute (GLI) sponsored this webinar outreach event to feature the incredible work being done by the nations only two liver cancer SPOREs (Mayo Clinic and MD Anderson) and to showcase the importance of collaboration. Our SPORE Director, Dr. Mark McNiven, spoke about how evidence-based and innovative ongoing research supported by the SPORE is advancing the science to improve patient outcomes. Dr. Lionel Kankeu Fonkoua (CEP Awardee) discussed clinical trial design, the focus on disparities, and increasing diverse patient outreach. Thanks to Sarah Manes for her efforts in organizing this event!



SPEAKERS



Lionel Fonkoua, M.D.
Mayo Clinic



Neehar Parikh, M.D.
University of Michigan Health



Amit Singal, M.D.
UT Southwestern Medical Center



Ahmed Kaseb, M.D.
MD Anderson NCI SPORE



Mark McNiven, Ph.D.
Mayo NCI SPORE



Bruno Sangro, M.D.
Clínica Universidad de Navarra

TOPICS

- **Reducing Disparities in Clinical Research Trials**
Lionel Fonkoua, M.D.
- **Liver Cancers Screening Options and Innovation**
Neehar Parikh, M.D.; Amit Singal, M.D.
- **Liver Cancers Research Updates**
Ahmed Kaseb, M.D.; Mark McNiven, Ph.D.; Bruno Sangro, M.D.

REGISTER



SCAN THE QR CODE, OR VISIT:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/ LIVER-CANCERS-WEBINAR](https://bit.ly/liver-cancers-webinar)

SPORE Renewal Application

The Competitive Renewal Application for Years 5-10 was submitted to NCI in September. Thank you to all SPORE investigators, our Internal and External Advisory Boards, the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center, and especially our Patient Advocates.

Welcome Qian Shi, Ph.D.

The Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core B is exceptionally fortunate to have recruited **Dr. Qian Shi**, Professor of Biostatistics and Oncology at Mayo Clinic Department of Quantitative Health Science and Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center, as **Co-Director**. She has extensive experience collaborating with basic scientists, oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, and surgeons across a spectrum of translational research projects, especially clinical trials, for the past 15+ years at Mayo Clinic. Dr. Shi served as a distinguished member of our Internal Advisory Board in the ongoing funding period.



SPORE Investigators with SPARK

SPARK: Science Program for the Advancement of Research Knowledge

This educational outreach program provides high school students with unparalleled mentored research experience in world-class laboratories at Mayo Clinic-Florida. SPARK scholars gain experience in basic science, the research process, critical thinking, and professional conduct in Mayo's state-of-the-art facilities and working with top researchers in their field. Developed in 2017 by **SPARK Faculty Director, Dr. Al Copland** (HBC SPORE Project Leader), this program has been successful in mentoring 100 trainees, with most engaging in cancer research. Investigators within our HBC SPORE who serve as SPARK faculty mentors include Drs. Copland, Tushar Patel (Project 3 Co-Leader), Baoan Ji (DRP Awardee), and Samuel Antwi (CEP Awardee).



2023 SPARK Class

SPARK Website:

<https://www.mayo.edu/research/centers-programs/spark-research-mentorship-program/overview>

Congratulations Lionel A. Kankeu Fonkoua, M.D.

Dr. Kankeu Fonkoua (CEP Awardee) has been awarded the Mayo Clinic CCaTS KL2 Mentored Career Development Award for a project entitled "Optimizing CAR T-cell development for FGFR2-aberrant cholangiocarcinoma" under the mentorship of Drs. Saad Kenderian and Mitesh Borad. This is an important horizontal collaboration with our SPORE. Dr. Kankeu Fonkoua is an Assistant Professor of Oncology at Mayo Clinic-Rochester.



Congratulations Gina Razidlo, Ph.D.

Dr. Razidlo (DRP Awardee) recently was awarded a new R01! This supports a key horizontal collaboration with her ongoing DRP project entitled "Rab GTPases as drivers of lipid droplet metabolism in hepatocellular carcinoma". Dr. Razidlo is an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and her research program focuses on the mechanisms of tumor cell invasion and migration.



Congratulations Sumera Ilyas, M.B.B.S.

Dr. Ilyas (CEP Awardee) was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine and will serve as Co-Investigator of full translational Project 2 in the proposed renewal funding period (Years 5-10). Recent new accomplishments include:

- **Max Innovation award** (\$100,000 over 2 years; Role, PI).
- **FASEB Science Research Conference, The Cholangiocarcinoma Conference: Molecular Drivers, Microenvironment and Precision Medicine** (Palm Springs, CA; Aug. 13-17, 2023; Role, conference chair and organizer)



Recent Publications

Tomlinson JL, Valle JW, **Ilyas SI**. Immunobiology of Cholangiocarcinoma. J Hepatol. 2023 May 16:S0168-8278(23)00338-0. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2023.05.010. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37201670.

Ilyas SI, Affo S, Goyal L, Lamarca A, Sapisochin G, Yang JD, **Gores GJ**. Cholangiocarcinoma - novel biological insights and therapeutic strategies. Nat Rev Clin Oncol. 2023 May 15. doi: 10.1038/s41571-023-00770-1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37188899.

HILPDA promotes NASH-driven HCC development by restraining intracellular fatty acid flux in hypoxia. Povero D, Chen Y, Johnson SM, McMahon CE, Pan M, Bao H, Petterson XT, Blake E, Lauer KP, O'Brien DR, Yu Y, Graham RP, Taner T, Han X, **Razidlo GL**, Liu J.

J Hepatol. 2023 Aug;79(2):378-393. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2023.03.041. Epub 2023 Apr 13. PMID: 37061197, 2) Ectopic expression of DOCK8 regulates lysosome-mediated pancreatic tumor cell invasion. Gutierrez-Ruiz OL, Johnson KM, Krueger EW, Nooren RE, Cruz-Reyes N, Heppelmann CJ, Hogenson TL, Fernandez-Zapico ME, **McNiven MA**, **Razidlo GL**.

Cell Rep. 2023 Aug 30;42(9):113042. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2023.113042. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37651233, and 3) Disruption of proteome by an oncogenic fusion kinase alters metabolism in fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma. Levin SN, Tomasini MD, Knox J, Shirani M, Shebl B, Requena D, Clark J, Heissel S, Alwaseem H, Surjan R, Lahasky R, Molina H, **Torbenson MS**, Lyons B, Migler RD, Coffino P, **Simon S**

SPORE Community Engagement and Diversity Council Initiatives

Our SPORE continues to engage our patient communities in the catchment areas around Mayo Clinic-Rochester (Midwest), Mayo Clinic-FL, and Mayo Clinic-AZ via multiple initiatives.

Please contact Dr. Kankeu Fonkoua to join the Community Engagement and Diversity Council and get involved!

We value the participation of SPORE investigators, administrators, and especially our **Patient Advocates**.

IMPROVING LIVER CARE FOR AFRICAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN COMMUNITIES: A WEBINAR FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Presented by Somali Health Advisory Council



Nasra Giama, DNP, APRN, PHN
Clinical Associate Professor
University of Minnesota
Mayo Clinic



Lionel Kankeu Fonkoua, MD
Assistant Professor of
Oncology
Mayo Clinic



Lewis Roberts, MD, ChB, PhD
Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic

This workshop will provide information on providing culturally competent viral hepatitis and liver health care to African and Southeast Asian immigrant communities.

CME/CEU credits will be provided for physicians and nurses.

Register
through the
link or the QR
code:



[Will add updated link]

Date: July 28th, 2023
Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM CDT
Location: Zoom, link provided
through registration form

REMINDERS

Acknowledge the HBC SPORE **P50 CA210964** in your abstracts, presentations, and publications.

Liver SPORE Contacts

Mark McNiven, Ph.D., SPORE Director
Mike Torbenson, M.D.
Co-Director, Biospecimen & Pathology Core
John Henley, Ph.D, Administrator
Amanda Bedard, Administrative Assistant

Lewis Roberts, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., SPORE Co-Director
Qian Shi, Ph.D. and Chen Wang, Ph.D.
Co-Directors, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core
Fowsiyo Ahmed, M.B.B.S., Biospecimen Coordinator
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