



Diversity!

Shawna Ehlers, Ph.D., L.P., ABPP-CHP Co-Chair, Division of Outpatient Consultation and Consultant in Clinical Health Psychology, *et.al.* recently published a paper, a collaboration among cancer psychology, cancer survivorship, and the LGBTQ+ writing group, entitled Include, Affirm, and Empower: A Paradigm Shift in Cancer Clinical Trials for Sexual and Gender Diverse Populations.

One of the current goals of the new **Community Engagement Committee** is to increase enrollment of under-represented minorities (URM) in the SPORE biobank and programs. If you have ideas or would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity, please contact [Michelle Van Hee](#).

Key Dates

- ★ *Annual Progress Report*
June 7, 2022
- ★ *2022 Annual Liver SPORE Retreat*
July 20, 2022
- ★ *Competitive Renewal*
August 25, 2022

Congratulations Dr. Lewis Roberts on receiving the
***** 2022 Blue Faery Award for Excellence in Liver Cancer Research! *****

Dr. Roberts has graciously decided to use the award towards increasing African subjects in the SPORE's biorepository.





Recent Publications

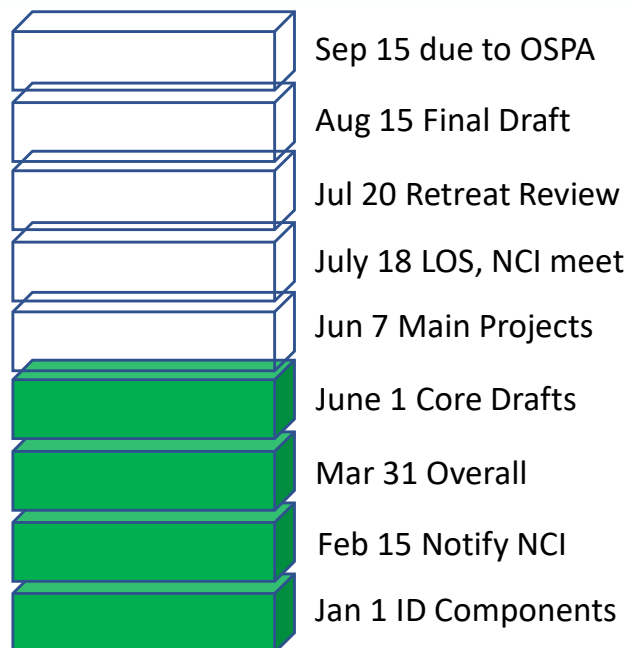
Project 4

[Oncolytic virus-mediated expansion of dual-specific CAR T cells improves efficacy against solid tumors in mice.](#)

Evgin L, Kottke T, Tonne J, Thompson J, Huff AL, van Vloten J, Moore M, Michael J, Driscoll C, Pulido J, Swanson E, Kennedy R, Coffey M, Loghmani H, Sanchez-Perez L, Olivier G, Harrington K, Pandha H, Melcher A, Diaz RM, **Vile RG**. *Sci Transl Med*. 2022 Apr 13;14(640):eabn2231.

doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.abn2231. Epub 2022 Apr 13. PMID: 35417192

Competitive Renewal Progress and Timeline



Liver SPORE Acknowledgement

[Potential Role of Inflammation-Promoting Biliary Microbiome in Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis and Cholangiocarcinoma.](#)

Katsuyuki Miyabe, Vinay Chandrasekhara, Nicha Wongjarupong, Jun Chen, Lu Yang, Stephen Johnson, Nicholas Chia, Marina Walther-Antonio, Janet Z Yao, Sean C Harrington, Cynthia K Nordyke, John E Eaton, Andrea A Gossard, Sharad Oli, Hamdi A Ali, Sravanthi Lavu, Nasra H Giama, Fatima A Hassan, Hawa M Ali, Felicity T Enders, Sumera I Ilyas, Gregory J Gores, Mark D Topazian, Purna C Kashyap, Lewis R Roberts. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2022 Apr 24;14(9):2120.

doi: 10.3390/cancers14092120.

Small Grant Award

Dr. Janae Kirsch; mentor Dr. Shawna Ehlers

Co-Investigators: Dr. Christi Patten, Dr. Eleshia Morrison, Ms. Jennifer Geske, Ms. Olayinka Odumosu, Dr. Lewis Roberts, Dr. Mark McNiven, Dr Fowsiyah Ahmed

Medical Mistrust and Discrimination in Hepatobiliary Cancer

Award: \$10,000

2022 Department Small Grant Program, Department of Psychiatry and Psychology, made possible by Mayo Clinic CTSA through grant number UL1TR002377 from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Liver Awareness Campaign sponsored by SHAC

The **Somali Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)** received funding from Genentech to support a Liver Health Awareness Campaign. This one-year campaign will utilize a multi-tiered approach to promote liver health among East African Communities in Minnesota. The broad goals of this project are to increase liver health knowledge, reduce the burden of end-stage liver disease, and improve linkage to care for individuals with high liver risk. Using a community engagement framework, SHAC will implement a social marketing campaign by creating culturally relevant, linguistically appropriate, and timely messages. SHAC also will convene a network of diverse healthcare providers caring for African communities in Minnesota. SHAC will partner with other organizations and healthcare leaders to establish workshops offering CME & CEU credits for network members related to liver health disparities, early liver cancer detection, and improving liver health outcomes for African patients.

This project builds on previous funding from the [Saint Paul & Minneapolis Foundation's Pan African Community Endowment](#) (2020-2022) that supported SHAC to develop and pilot a social marketing campaign to promote hepatitis screening, follow-up care, and early cancer detection (prevention) educational programs that are culturally and linguistically acceptable. The outcome of this project are three Somali public service announcement videos that are now available for dissemination.

Updated Patient Registry

The International Cholangiocarcinoma Patient Registry is a collaborative effort between patients and the global research community. Patients can participate in unique and urgent research efforts by allowing investigators access to their de-identified health records. You can join over 2,000 patients with cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer) in this critical effort.

Stool sample collection added to GWAS (blood sample collection): Research teams at the Mayo Clinic are expanding their efforts to study the microbiome by adding stool sample collection for patients with cholangiocarcinoma. The data from this initiative will be shared widely with members of the research community.

The ability for patients to engage in and partner with researchers on efforts like these are critical to furthering scientific understanding of the mechanisms of this cancer.

For more information please see: www.cholangiocarcinoma.org

Liver SPORE Contacts:

Mark McNiven, Ph.D., Director, Administrative Core
John Henley, Ph.D. & Michelle Van Hee, Co-Administrators

Chen Wang, Ph.D., Director, Bioinformatics Core
Vivien Yin, Ph.D., Director, Biostatistics Core

Lewis Roberts, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., Director, Biospecimen Core
Mike Torbenson, M.D., Director, Pathology Core
Fowsiyo Ahmed, M.B.B.S., Biospecimen Coordinator
Michelle Van Hee, Biospecimen Requests

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