

CONNECTING CANCER CENTERS

Faculty Development Through the Emerging Cancer Scholars Exchange

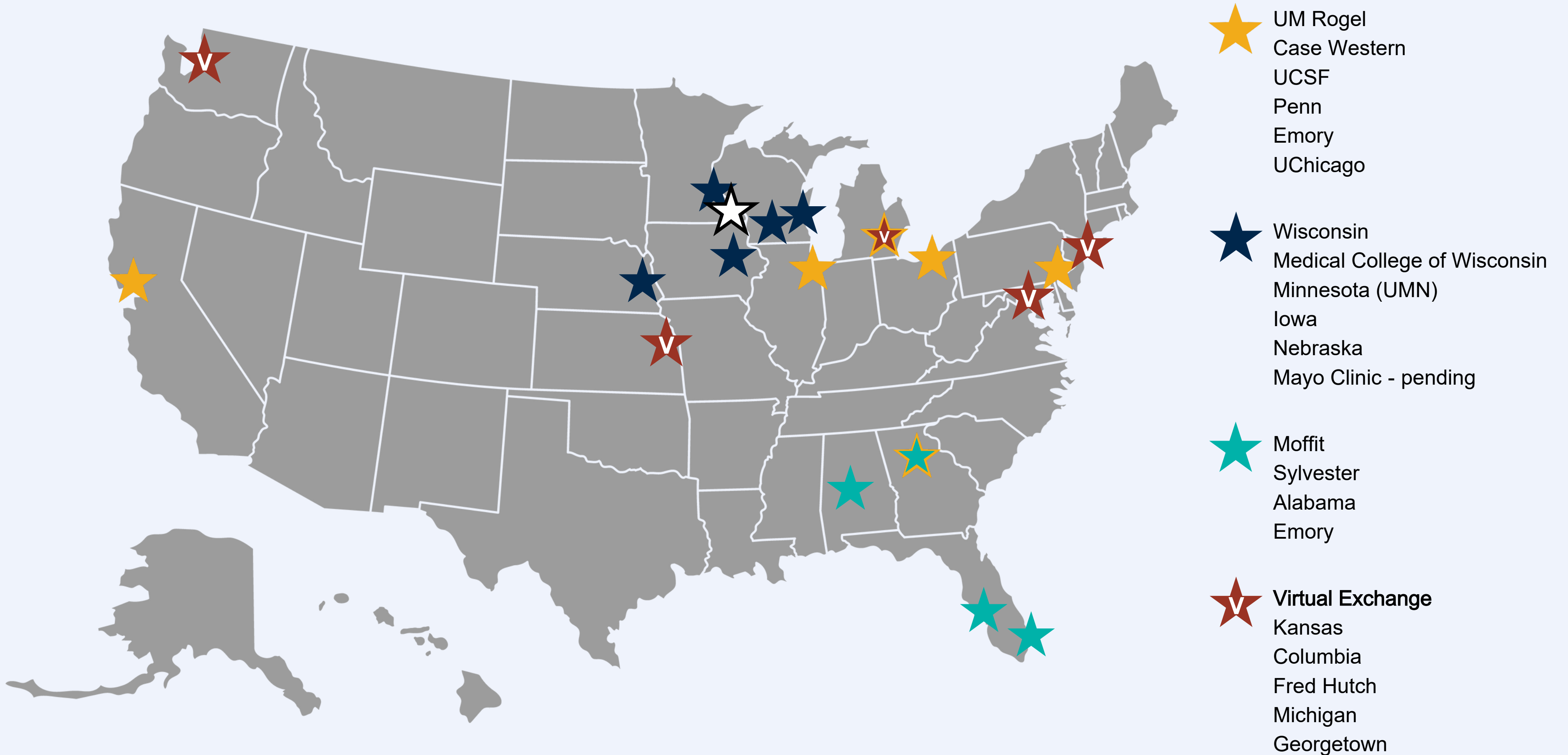


EMERGING CANCER SCHOLAR EXCHANGE

Provide career development opportunities for early career faculty cancer center members via invited presentations at prestigious peer universities.

- Develop relationships with potential research collaborators, mentors, and sponsors
- Hone their oral presentation skills
- Bolster their CVs as they prepare for promotion

Emerging Cancer Scholars Exchange



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Eligible Faculty

- Assistant Professors
- Generally, in first ~5 years of their appointment (but this can have some flexibility)
- Cancer Center Members
- Pre-tenure application/pre-promotion
- Individuals who are building a robust research portfolio to discuss but are still pre-promotion
- In the final years of building their CV for promotion, in year 2 or 3 of their K, and/or have not yet submitted a promotion packet

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- Each institution hosts their own internal call for proposals
- This can be done however each institution prefers to do it*
 - Broad call across all early career faculty members
 - Share with Emerging Leaders Council
 - Each research program to launch calls and/or nominate individuals from within their program or by thematic area to ensure the range of faculty being considered across programs.

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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Rogel Cancer Center is seeking accepting applications for the **2025 - 2026 Emerging Cancer Scholars Exchange Program**.

This program is designed to provide career development opportunities for early career faculty cancer center members through invited presentations at prestigious peer universities. Early career faculty will have the opportunity to develop relationships with potential research collaborators, mentors, sponsors, hone their oral presentation skills, and bolster their CVs as they prepare for promotion.

Scan Code to review requirements, program components, and apply by **January 6, 2025**

Contact privetra@med.umich.edu with questions.



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Consistent Applications Among Sites

Materials needed for consideration are below:

- 1-2-page letter of interest, including several talk ideas
- Up-to-date CV

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Internal Review

- Internal Institutional Review
- Each institution selects their top 5 applicants
 - Completed how each institution prefers*

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Final Selections

- Finalists are selected at each institution and shared with with the cohort
- Out of the final 30, each institution ranks their top 8-10
- Ranks visible to all partners
- Coordinating Center then matches scholars with their exchange institution
- So far all institutions have received their top choice and then either their second or third choice
- Final placements discussed and agreed upon at deliberation meeting
- Each center notifies their own applicants of their award and cc's the coordinating center to initiate scheduling

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Budget

- Institutions may manage this differently based on reconciling requirements at their institutions
- Scholar's home institution will cover their scholars costs, (airfare, ground transport, hotel, per diem, etc.)
- The hosting institution will schedule their talk, coordinate faculty meetings, and cover any associated expenses (faculty dinner, seminar lunch, etc.)

SAMPLE SCHEDULE



Sunday, October 27 10:30 PM	DTW Arrival <i>*You will need to schedule transportation from the airport to your hotel – suggest lyft/uber</i>	
Monday, October 28 9:15 – 10:00a	Breakfast with Dr. Narla	<i>*Dr. Narla to pick you up at the Graduate and escort you to Room 6206 for meetings</i>
10:00 – 10:30a	Dr. Steven Weiss	Rogel Cancer Center Room 6206
10:30a – 11:00a	Dr. Judy Leopold	Rogel Cancer Center Room 6206
11:00 – 11:30a	Dr. Eric Fearon	Rogel Cancer Center Room 6206
11:30 – 12:00	Seminar Prep, Walk to UH South	<i>*Dr. Fearon to escort you to UH South</i>
12:00 - 1:00p	Emerging Cancer Scholars Talk <i>"Beyond MEK Inhibition: Targeting NF1 loss in nervous system tumors"</i>	UH South - F2305 MCHC Auditorium
1:30 – 2:00p	Dr. Daniel Wahl	Rogel Cancer Center Room 6206 <i>*Dr. Wahl to escort you back to Rogel 6206 from MCHC</i>
2:00p – 2:30p	Dr. Daniel Chang	Rogel Cancer Center Room 6206



2:30 – 3:00p	Dr. Roman Giger	Rogel Cancer Center Room 6206
3:00p -4:00p	Break	Rogel Cancer Center Room 6206
4:00 -4:30p	Dr. Maria Castro	Rogel Cancer Center Room 6206
4:30 – 5:00p	Dr. Santhi Ganesh	Rogel Cancer Center Room 6206
6:00 PM	Dinner at The Boro Drs. Goutham Narla, Maria Castro	

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Updates/Lessons learned

- Allow sufficient time to schedule scholars
- Work through reimbursement needs of each institution
- May share coordinating responsibilities among each center
- Try to arrange informal time with trainees when possible
- Incorporate meetings with other early career faculty
- Collect CV instead of Biosketch for internal reviews
- Do not ask applicants to rank or mention specific locations they would like to go to in the application

SCHOLAR FEEDBACK

From Dr. Jingjing Sun, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, UNMC:

"One of the biggest challenges I faced was building a collaborative network beyond my immediate mentors and close colleagues. Developing these connections is not always easy, as it takes time to gain visibility and credibility as an early-stage investigator." The Upper Midwest Emerging Scholars Exchange Program completely transformed my opportunities," said Dr. Sun. "On May 20, 2025, I visited the University of Minnesota's Masonic Cancer Center. Presenting my work in this new academic setting connected me with colleagues I might never have met otherwise. Since then, I have submitted two collaborative proposals with Masonic Cancer Center researchers, and several exciting projects are in development."

From Dr. Shujie Yang, Assistant Professor of Pathology, U Iowa:

"The Emerging Scholar Exchange Program has extremely beneficial for me. I have not had the chance to present at another institution before and this program gave that opportunity. It helped me share my work, gain valuable feedback, and learn from other's experience. It also opened my eyes to the wonderful activities happening at Medical College of Wisconsin and allowed me to connect with many excellent people."



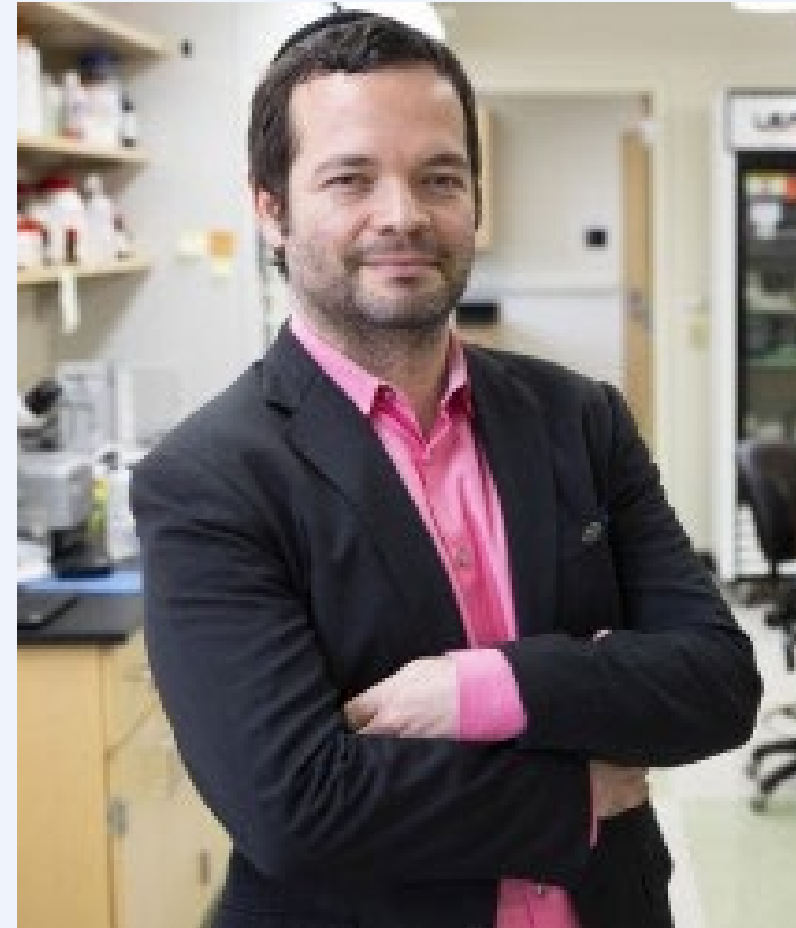
SCHOLAR FEEDBACK

From Dr. Alexander Birbriar, Assistant Professor of Dermatology, UW:

"I am very thankful for this great opportunity. I very much enjoyed my visit to University of Iowa and was treated very well. I interacted a lot and created new collaborations with members of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center."

From Dr. SoAntje Schaefer, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, MCW:

"The fact that I could suggest with whom I'd like to meet and that I met almost everyone who I suggested is certainly the reason why this Exchange Program was very beneficial. There were follow-up emails with several HCCC members. I made new, valuable connections (especially with other young PIs), established new collaboration partners and extended my network in the Midwest. I feel confident that I will continue to stay in contact with some of them. Another important contributing factor why this visit was so positive was that everyone was very open in sharing their science, but also their experience in mentoring and running a lab. It was also great that my talk was well attended, with many questions including from trainees."



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Questions?

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Interest/Participation Form



<https://forms.gle/awiqEke9bXAUf9yK>

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This form helps you connect with partners in your region and see which centers are already participating in exchanges.

By signing up, you'll

- Gain immediate access to a list of interested/participating institutions
- Receive access to start -up materials from the University of Michigan to support your program

