



**Cancer Biology Annual Retreat Trainee Posters**  
**October 6, 2026** 🐎 **Lexington, Kentucky**

- 1 Characterization of CHT1 as a metabolic regulator in obesity-associated pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma  
Adaliz J. Torres-Rosado      adaliz.torres-rosado@osumc.edu      Graduate Student      University of Illinois Chicago
- 2 Functional Dissection of Leukemia Stem Cell Genes Reveals Causal Drivers of Treatment-Specific AML Resistance  
Nahal Azimi      nazimi@sbpdiscovery.org      Graduate Student      Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute
- 3 Investigating the Antioxidant Role of Lipid Uptake in Tumors  
Dylan Calhoon      dylancalhoon@gmail.com      Graduate Student      University of Texas Southwestern
- 4 Combined Targeting of XBP1s and GRP94 for the Treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia  
Yin-Kai Chen      ychen2@houstonmethodist.org      Graduate Student      Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center
- 5 **Bone Metastasis Induces Leaky Gut in Mice with Cancer-Induced Bone Pain** **1<sup>st</sup> Place Poster**  
**Kelly Contino**      **kelly.contino@wfusm.edu**      **Graduate Student**      **Wake Forest University School of Medicine**
- 6 A Novel Metabolic Vulnerability in Epstein-Barr Virus-Associated Lymphomas  
Emily DiMaulo-Milk      emilydm@unc.edu      Graduate Student      University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- 7 EZH2 Inhibition as a Tool for Improving Lung Disease Outcomes  
Dave-Preston Esoe      dave.esoe@uky.edu      Graduate Student      University of Kentucky
- 8 **Engineering Armored CAR T Cells with Anti-Inflammatory Cytokine IL-37 to Revitalize Aged T Cells** **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Poster**  
**Ruby Freeman**      **rfreem9@emory.edu**      **Graduate Student**      **Emory University**
- 9 Transient Site-Specific Copy Number Gains Drive Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition and Cellular Plasticity in Breast Cancer  
Brooke L. Gates      brooke.gates@cuanschutz.edu      Postdoctoral Fellow      University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus
- 10 Targeting Fatty Acid Metabolism in SPOP Mutated Prostate Cancer  
Joanina Gicobi      Gicobi.joanina@mayo.edu      Postdoctoral Fellow      Mayo Clinic
- 11 Inhibition of EZH2 sensitizes Osimertinib resistant cancer to Osimertinib overcoming multiple resistance mechanisms  
Christian Gosser      christiangosser@uky.edu      Graduate Student      University of Kentucky

- 12 Investigating the Role of PP2A in Promoting Adaptive Signaling Through AXL During EMT in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer  
Sanika Gulavani      sgulavan@purdue.edu      Graduate Student      Purdue University
- 13 Investigating NCOA3 as a Driver of POU2F3+ Small Cell Lung Cancer Proliferation and Lineage  
Benjamin Hanna      beh44@duke.edu      Graduate Student      Duke University
- 14 Structure-Guided Discovery of USP5 Inhibitors for the Treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia  
Kian Hershberger      cq7751@wayne.edu      MD/PhD Student      Wayne State University
- 15 \*A Team-Based Approach to Resolving Grade-Dependent Ganglioside Alterations Across Human Gliomas  
Gabriela Hery      ghery01@ufl.edu      Graduate Student      University of Florida
- 16 Fat or Fiction: Defining and Targeting Regulators of Fatty Acid Uptake in Cancer  
Rachel "Rae" House      rachel.house@vai.org      Postdoctoral Fellow      Van Andel Institute
- 17 Combination Therapy of A GLI2 Inhibitor with Paclitaxel Alters TNBC Tumor-Induced Bone Disease  
Emily Jaremba      emily.a.jaremba@vanderbilt.edu      Graduate Student      Vanderbilt University
- 18 Investigating the Role of TREM2 in Lung Metastatic Outgrowth  
Kelby Kane      kelby.m.kane@vanderbilt.edu      Graduate Student      Vanderbilt University
- 19 Targeting ER/AR Crosstalk in Endocrine-Resistant ER+ Breast Cancer  
Matt Konda      mkonda@kumc.edu      Graduate Student      University of Kansas Medical Center
- 20 Defining SPP1+ Macrophage-driven Tumor Plasticity and Immune Dysfunction in Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma (ccRCC)  
Sara "Tess" Ledebauer      qtv4qt@virginia.edu      Graduate Student      University of Virginia
- 21 Constructing the Structure-Function Map of Aquaporin-7 in the Context of Breast Cancer  
Joey Markitan      jmarkita@nd.edu      Graduate Student      University of Notre Dame
- 22 TBA  
Courtney Martin      courtney.martin@uky.edu      Graduate Student      University of Kentucky
- 23 Glucocorticoid Receptor  $\beta$  Links Adipogenic and Pro-Inflammatory Signaling in Obesity and Metabolic Liver Disease  
Genesee Martinez, PHD      genesee.martinez@uky.edu      Post-Doctoral Fellow      University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center

- 24 STAT-Dependent and STAT-Independent Functions of Janus Kinases 1/2 in the Normal and Neoplastic Mammary Gland Epithelium  
Carson Moen hu8042@wayne.edu Graduate Student Wayne State University
- 25 Metabolic Endotoxemia Modulates Host Immune Function in ER+ Breast Cancer  
Lauren Moulden lauren.moulden@wfusm.edu Graduate Student Wake Forest University School of Medicine
- 26 Gangliosides as Regulators of the Hybrid Epithelial-Mesenchymal Phenotype in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma  
Ali Moursy, BSc ali.moursy@vai.org Graduate Student Van Andel Institute
- 27 Delineating the Mechanisms Enabling Lung Adenocarcinomas to Overcome Dependence on WNT/ $\beta$ -catenin Signaling  
Brandon Murphy brandon.murphy@hci.utah.edu Postdoctoral Fellow Hunstman Cancer Institute
- 28 Lysosomal Lipid Metabolism Promotes Tumor Cell Invasion Through Local Energetics and Membrane Lipid Remodeling  
Roseanne Nooren nooren.roseanne@mayo.edu Graduate Student Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- 29 AGO2 Mediated miRNA Sorting into Extracellular Vesicles in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer  
Abby Olalde-Welling aolaldew@purdue.edu Graduate Student Purdue University
- 30 Enhancing Engineered T Cell Therapy Efficacy in Ovarian Cancer by Immune Checkpoint Modulation  
Rylee A. Poole urx9mz@virginia.edu Graduate Student University of Virginia
- 31 Uncovering the Contribution of Stress Granules to Tumor Dissemination and Their Regulation by the ABL Kinases  
Tatiana Prioleau tatiana.prioleau@duke.edu Graduate Student Duke University
- 32 \*A Team-Based Approach to Resolving Grade-Dependent Ganglioside Alterations Across Human Gliomas  
Sadi Quinones-Al-Muhtaseb, PhD squinonesalmuhta@ufl.edu Graduate Student University of Florida
- 33 Tumor-Targeted Multifunctional Extracellular Vesicles as Drug Carrier for Lung Cancer Therapy  
Murali Ragothaman murali-ragothaman@ou.edu Postdoctoral Fellow University of Oklahoma Health Campus
- 34 Organ Dependence of Therapeutically Effective RAS Inhibitor Dosage in Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer  
Elyse Schechter egschechter@uchicago.edu Graduate Student University of Chicago
- 35 Targeting High Risk Osteosarcoma: MYC Modulation Alters Metastasis  
Emily Seiden emilysei@med.umich.edu Postdoctoral Fellow University of Michigan

- 36 The Role of Eukaryotic Elongation Factor 2 Kinase in Sex Disparities in Melanoma Immune Response and Tumor Persistence  
Andrew Shinkle a.shinkle@uky.edu Graduate Student University of Kentucky
- 37 Mechanistic Dissection of Caspase-2-Dependent Self-Renewal in NPM1c+ AML  
Brandi Small brandi.small@bcm.edu Graduate Student Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital
- 38 The Regulation of IL-6/Gp130 Signaling by PTPRF in Colon Cancer  
Haley Stanczyk haley.stanczyk@uky.edu Graduate Student University of Kentucky
- 39 Characterization of CHT1 as a Metabolic Regulator in Obesity-Associated Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma  
Adaliz J. Torres-Rosado adaliz.torres-rosado@osumc.edu Graduate Student The Ohio State University
- 40 B Cell Depletion Enhances Antitumor Immunity and Improves Therapeutic Response in Group 3 Medulloblastoma  
Taylor Uccello tuccello@mgh.harvard.edu Postdoctoral Fellow Massachusetts General Hospital
- 41 SRSF6 Modulates Glioblastoma Response to Combined  $ERR\beta$  Activatin and CLK Inhibition  
Johnny Velasquez jv758@georgetown.edu Graduate Student Georgetown University
- 42 Mitotic Mechanisms of Resistance to KIF18A Inhibition in Chromosomally Unstable Cancers  
Ethan Wagner ethan.wagner@uvm.edu Graduate Student University of Vermont
- 43 Determinants of Sacituzumab Govitecan Therapeutic Response in Breast Cancer Models  
Carson Walker walkercj11@vcu.edu Graduate Student Virginia Commonwealth University
- 44 Decoding Cancer Signals in Blood: Cell-Free DNA Methylation Signatures Power Personalized Survival Prediction in Advanced Prostate Cancer  
Jodie Wong Jodie.Wong@Moffitt.org MD/PhD Student Moffitt Cancer Center
- 45 TAF2 Potentiates MYC-Driven Hepatocellular Carcinoma Through Activation of the RAS-MEK/ERK Pathway  
Rabha Younis rabha.younis@vcuhealth.org Postdoctoral Fellow Virginia Commonwealth University
- 46 Defining the Role of NPEPPS in Hyperthermic Chemotherapy Response in High-Grade Serous Carcinoma  
Natalie Zajczenko natalie.i.zajczenko@cuanschutz.edu Graduate Student University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus