



Brooklyn College Cancer Center

Spring 2024

Dear Members of the BCCC-CURE Community,

Welcome to the third edition of our Brooklyn College Cancer Center (BCCC-CURE) newsletter. This issue reflects the accomplishments of our BCCC-CURE faculty, staff, and student members throughout the second half of 2023. Congrats to those highlighted! We were thrilled to welcome three new assistant professors who joined Brooklyn College in August of 2023 and have become BCCC-CURE members (learn about them in the highlights section). We want to thank to the American Cancer Society, the Gray Foundation, and our donors, partners, and friends for the continued support to the BCCC-CURE. We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the BCCC-CURE Newsletter. If you have any feedback or comments to make please do not hesitate to contact our team at: BCCC-CURE@brooklyn.cuny.edu

2023 IN REVIEW

We are proud to share our new and expanded funding secured by the Brooklyn College Cancer from the American Cancer Society Diversity in Cancer Research Institutional Development Grant (DICRIDG) and the Gray Foundation Operations Support Grant Center

American Cancer Society [2024-2026]

Diversity in Cancer Research Internship IRG Supplement: "BCCC-CURE Summer Internships for Undergraduate Underrepresented Students." This award will fund 6-8 full time summer internships (\$5K per student) and professional development activities for undergraduate students underrepresented in cancer research.

\$121,000

Gray Foundation [2024]

Operations Support Grant

\$100,000

We are pleased to once again provide our PIs and students with subawards from our ongoing ACS DICRIDG and Gray Foundation Operations Support grants to support their ongoing research and education. We invite funding proposals to our four available grant mechanisms:

Open Funding Calls



ACS-BCCC-CURE Pilot Grants. \$40,000 per pilot grant

Three one-year grants in cancer research per year (2024-2026). Open to full-time faculty at Brooklyn College (members of BCCC-CURE) within the first 6-years of initial appointment, or faculty transitioning to Cancer Research from related areas.

Deadline April 17th, 2024

Postdoctoral Fellows. \$72,000-\$75,000 salary per year

Two two-year postdoctoral fellowships in Cancer Research. Open to candidates within 3 years of receiving a doctoral degree, and with less than 3-years of mentored postdoctoral research. Open for US citizens, US residents and international candidates, living in the US (holding a US visa at the time of submitting the application). We look for applicants starting in July-August of 2024.

Deadline May 31st, 2024

Masters Scholars. \$50,000 per master scholar

Six two-year scholarships (\$25,000/year). Open to students enrolled in a master program at Brooklyn College or BCCC-CURE partner institutions, with an interest in Cancer Control and Prevention or Cancer Research. Advisors must be BCCC-CURE faculty members or BCCC-CURE clinician scientists. We are looking for 2-3 scholars starting in Summer/Fall 2024.

Deadline June 15th, 2024



Gray Foundation Seed grants. \$5,000-\$12,000 per grant

Two one-year grants to fund BRCA cancers related research, open to experimental and computational/data analysis researchers.

Deadline April 15th, 2024

Congratulations to our 10 BCCC-CURE PIs who were awarded new grants in 2023 to support their research! In addition to more than \$3,000,000 from federal grantors and \$40,000 from The Brooklyn College Cancer Center has also been fortunate to be able to provide over \$100,000 in grant funds to five faculty researchers.

FEDERAL GRANTS

National Institutes of Health

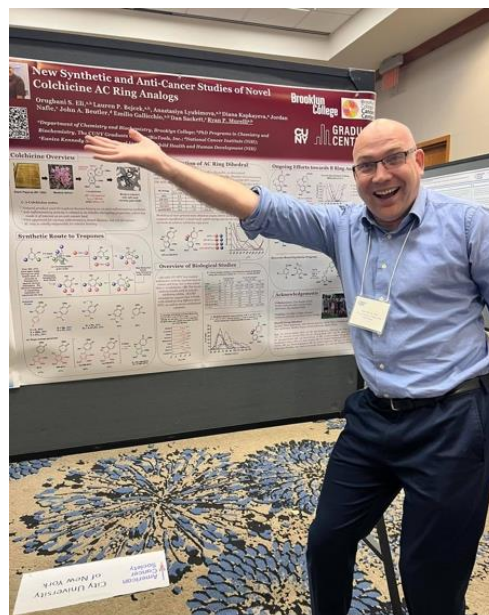
Principal Investigator: Maria Contel
Title: Platinum-Gold Compounds as Potential Chemo- and Targeted Agents for Ovarian Cancer
Dates: 8/2023 - 6/2027
Total Amount: \$642,851

Principal Investigator: Xinyin Jiang
Title: Interaction of Choline and Fat in the Prenatal Programming of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis
Dates: 7/2023 - 4/2027
Total Amount: \$644,936

Principal Investigator: Emilio Gallicchio
Title: Enhancing Drug Discovery Research by Free Energy Modeling
Dates: 9/2023 - 8/2026
Total Amount: \$455,870

Principal Investigator: Mariana Torrente
Title: New Targets in C9orf72 FTD: Exploring Histone H3 S10 Phosphorylation
Dates: 6/2023 - 3/2025
Total Amount: \$104,365

Principal Investigator: Margrethe Horlyck-Romanovsky
Title: Service Contract: New York City Ghanaian Immigrant Mental Health and Well-Being Project
Dates: 5/2023 - 4/2026
Total Amount: \$1,135,394



National Science Foundation

Principal Investigator: Cheryl Carmichael
Title: Non-Academic Research Internships for Graduate Students (INTERN): Science Communication Training
Dates: 6/2023 - 11/2023
Total Amount: \$52,626

INTERNAL GRANTS

ACS DICRIDG Pilot Grants

Principal Investigator: Devorah Kletenik
Title: Investigating Accessible Software Design for Cancer Survivors with Impairments
Dates: 6/2023 - 5/2024
Total Amount: \$40,000

Principal Investigator: Ryan Murelli
Title: New Synthetic Strategies and Preliminary Ant-Cancer Studies of Novel Colchicine AC Ring Analogs
Dates: 6/2023 - 5/2024
Total Amount: \$40,000

Gray Foundation-BCCC-CURE Seed Grants

Principal Investigator: Sheena Philogene
Title: Time Series Analysis of Incidence and Geographic Distribution of Breast and Ovarian Cancer Incidence in Brooklyn, NY
Dates: 6/2023 - 5/2024
Total Amount: \$5,000

Principal Investigator: Shaneen Singh
Title: Untangling the Interconnected Roles of Nucleolin and BRCA1 in Breast Cancer: A BRCA1-C-Terminal (BRCT1) Point of View
Dates: 6/2023 - 5/2024
Total Amount: \$5,000

Principal Investigator: Anjana Saxena
Title: BRCA1/BARD1-Regulated and RNA-Binding Protein (RBP)-Targeted Therapeutic Approach in Breast Carcinoma
Dates: 6/2023 - 5/2024
Total Amount: \$12,000

PSC-CUNY Research Award Program Cycle 54

Principal Investigator: Brian Gibney
Title: Cytochrome c-to-b Conversion Proteins
Dates: 7/2023 - 6/2024
Total Amount: \$3,463

Principal Investigator: Alexander Greer
Title: Deconvolution of Dark Processes in Photosensitized Oxidation Reactions
Dates: 7/2023 - 6/2024
Total Amount: \$3,500

Principal Investigator: Margrethe Horlyck-Romanovsky
Title: Mobilizing Caribbean Restaurants as Structural Components in Asset-Based Diabetes Prevention: A Feasibility Study
Dates: 7/2023 - 6/2024
Total Amount: \$12,000

Principal Investigator: Devorah Kletenik
Title: Developing Neurodiversity Simulation Games for Accessibility Instruction
Dates: 7/2023 - 6/2024
Total Amount: \$3,499

Principal Investigator: Kiyoka Koizumi
Title: Indigenous Midwives of Ecuador – Enhancing Acceptance by Western-Medicine Trained Health Care Providers
Dates: 7/2023 - 6/2024
Total Amount: \$5,918

Principal Investigator: Mariana Torrente
Title: Validating H3S10ph Dysregulation in ALS
Dates: 7/2023 - 6/2024
Total Amount: \$12,000

Thorough the second half of 2023, our researchers published 22 cancer and health related articles in more than 20 academic journals and were granted a US patent.

Ahad, A., K. Saeed, H., Del Solar, V., López-Hernández, J.E., Michel, A., Mathew, J., Lewis, J.S. and **Contel, M.** (2023). Shifting the Antibody–Drug Conjugate Paradigm: A Trastuzumab–Gold-Based Conjugate Demonstrates High Efficacy against Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2-Positive Breast Cancer Mouse Model. *ACS pharmacology & translational science*, 6(12), 1972–1986.

Baucom, J.C., Agyemang, N.B., Trelles, T., **Gallicchio, E.** and **Murelli, R.P.** (2023). Studies on the Configurational Stability of Tropolone-Ketone-, Ester-, and Aldehyde-Based Chiral Axes. *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*, 89(1), 541–552.

Bennett, S.A., Cobos, S.N., Son, E., Segal, R., Mathew, S., Yousuf, H. and **Torrente, M.P.** (2023). Impaired RNA Binding Does Not Prevent Histone Modification Changes in a FUS ALS/FTD Yeast Model. *Micropublication Biology*, 2023.

Carmichael, C.L. and Mizrahi, M. (2023). Connecting Cues: The Role of Nonverbal Cues in Perceived Responsiveness. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 53, 101663.

Chen, L., Wu, Y., Wu, C., Silveira, A., Sherman, W., Xu, H. and **Gallicchio, E.** (2023). Performance and Analysis of the Alchemical Transfer Method for Binding-Free-Energy Predictions of Diverse Ligands. *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling* 64(1), 250–264.

French, C. M., Bertola, L. D., Carnaval, A. C., Economo, E. P., Kass, J. M.... and **Staniczenko, P.P.** (2023). Global determinants of insect mitochondrial genetic diversity. *Nature Communications*, 14(1), 5276.

Kadam, I., Dalloul, M., Hausser, J., Huntley, M., Hoepner, L., Fordjour, L., Hittelman, J., **Saxena, A.**, Liu, J., Futterman, I.D., Minkoff, H. and **Jiang, X.** (2023). Associations Between Nutrients in One-Carbon Metabolism and Fetal DNA Methylation in Pregnancies with or Without Gestational Diabetes Mellitus. *Clinical Epigenetics*, 15(1), 137.

Kitila, S.B., **Feyissa, G.T.** and Wordofa, M.A. (2023). Completion of the Maternal Health Care Continuum—Barriers and Facilitators Among Pregnant Women in Jimma Zone, Southwest Ethiopia: A Prospective Study. *Health Services Insights*, 16, 11786329231214607.

Lapoot, L., Jabeen, S., Durantini, A.M. and **Greer, A.** (2023). Role Of Curvature in Acridone for 1O₂ Oxidation of a Natural Product Homoallylic Alcohol: A Novel Iso-Hydroperoxide Intermediate. *Photochemistry and Photobiology*, 1–10.

Lapoot, L., Wang, C., Matikonda, S.S., Schnermann, M.J. and **Greer, A.** (2023). Bluer Phototruncation: Retro-Diels–Alder of Heptamethine Cyanine to Trimethine Cyanine through an Allene Hydroperoxide Intermediate. *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*, 88(24), 17430–17437.

López-Hernández, J.E., Nayeem, N., Cerón-Carrasco, J.P., Ahad, A., Hafeez, A., León, I.E. and **Contel, M.** (2023). Platinum (IV)–Gold (I) Agents with Promising Anticancer Activity: Selected Studies in 2D and 3D Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Models. *Chemistry–A European Journal*, 29(59), e202302045.

Lue, C. H., Abram, P. K., Hrcek, J., Buffington, M. L., and **Staniczenko, P. P.** (2023). Metabarcoding and applied ecology with hyperdiverse organisms: Recommendations for biological control research. *Molecular Ecology*, 32(23), 6461–6473.

Lyons, A.M.; **Greer, A.**; Xu, Q.F., Singlet Oxygen Generating Device for Selective Destruction of Pathogens, US application #17/099,273 (20210138258), allowed 10/05/2023. *US Patent Office*.

Malavia-Jones, D., Farrer, R.A., Stappers, M.H., Edmondson, M.B., Borman, A.M., Johnson, E.M., **Lipke, P.N.** and Gow, N.A. (2023). Strain and Temperature Dependent Aggregation of *Candida Auris* Is Attenuated by Inhibition of Surface Amyloid Proteins. *The Cell Surface*, 10, 100110.

Oliveira, M.S., Santos, K.F., de Paula, R.M., Vitorino, L.C., Bessa, L.A., **Greer, A.**, Di Mascio, P., de Souza, J.C. and Martin-Didonet, C.C. (2023). Nitric Oxide Detection Using a Chemical Trap Method for Applications in Bacterial Systems. *Microorganisms*, 11(9), 2210.

Podlaski, F., Cornwell, S., Wong, K., McKittrick, B., Kim, J.H., Jung, D., Jeon, Y., Jung, K.B., **Tolias, P.** and Windsor, W.T. (2023). Peptide Nucleic Acids Containing Cationic/Amino-Alkyl Modified Bases Promote Enhanced Hybridization Kinetics and Thermo-dynamics with Single-Strand DNA. *ACS omega*, 8(37), 33426-33436.

Reigada, L.C., Kaighobadi, F., Niwa, E.Y., Ahmed, T., Carlson, D.J. and Shane, J. (2023). An intersectional examination of the impact of COVID-stress and discrimination on college students' resilience and mental health. *Journal of American College Health*, 1-11.

Schiavone, D.V., Gallardo, J., Kapkayeva, D.M., Baucom, J.C. and **Murelli, R.P.** (2023). Lactam-fused tropolones: a new tunable, environmentally sensitive fluorophore class. *Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry*, 21(39), 7900-7907.

Smith, E.J., Apfelbaum, L.J., Yeh, M.C. and **Horlyck-Romanovsky, M.F.** (2023). Staff resilience and innovation essential to New York City diabetes prevention programs going virtual during COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. *BMC Health Services Research*, 23(1), 1148.

Staniczenko, P. P., and Panja, D. (2023). Temporal origin of nestedness in interaction networks. *PNAS nexus*, 2(12), pgad412.

Tonon, C.C., de Souza Rastelli, A.N., Bodahandi, C., Ghosh, G., Hasan, T., Xu, Q., **Greer, A.** and Lyons, A.M. (2023). Superhydrophobic Tipped Antimicrobial Photo-dynamic Therapy Device for the In Vivo Treatment of Periodontitis Using a Wistar Rat Model. *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*, 15(43), 50083-50094.

Woodson, M.E., Mottaleb, M.A., **Murelli, R.P.** and Tavis, J.E. (2023). In vitro evaluation of tropolone absorption, metabolism, and clearance. *Antiviral Research*, 220, 105762.

Yang, Q., Cai, X., Zhu, Y., Hu, Z., Wei, Y., Dang, Q., Zhang, Y., Zhao, X., **Jiang, X.** and Yu, H. (2023). Oat β -glucan supplementation pre-and during pregnancy alleviates fetal intestinal immunity development damaged by gestational diabetes in rats. *Food & Function*, 14(18), 8453-8466.

Zhao, X., Cai, X., Zhu, H., Dang, Q., Yang, Q., Zhu, Y., Zhang, Y., Zhang, M., **Jiang, X.**, Hu, Z. and Wei, Y. (2024). 27-Hydroxycholesterol inhibits trophoblast fusion during placenta development by activating PI3K/AKT/mTOR signaling pathway. *Archives of Toxicology*, 1-15.

Congratulations to our recent BCCC-CURE doctoral graduates!

Nana Agyemang, CUNY Chemistry PhD Program (Advisor: Prof. [Ryan Murelli](#))

Afruja Ahad, CUNY Biology PhD Program (Advisor: Prof. [Maria Contel](#))

Andriele Eichner, CUNY Biochemistry PhD Program (Advisor: Prof. [Shaneen Singh](#))

Sheenam, CUNY Biochemistry PhD Program (Advisor: Prof. [Emilio Gallicchio](#))

Dan Schiavone, CUNY Chemistry PhD (Advisor: Prof. [Ryan Murelli](#))

FALL 2023
DOCTORAL
GRADUATES

We are happy to continue connecting our students with wide ranging career oriented education programs, with the help of our partner institutions:

FALL 2023 STUDENT PROGRAMS

- [Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center Lay Health Navigators Program](#)
- [Weill Cornell's IMPACT- Community Health Education Program](#)
- [Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Summer Internship Program \(COOL\)](#)

2022 EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Scientific Seminars and Symposia

September 22, 2023 10:00-2:00PM, First Brooklyn Blood Cancer Symposium, organized by Brooklyn College Cancer Center (BCCC-CURE), Memorial Medical Care, PC, & Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MMC, PC and MSKCC) with the collaboration of Maimonides Cancer Center, New York City Blood Specialists (NYCBS) & Brooklyn Cancer Center, and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.

December 1, 2023 12:30-1:30PM, BCCC-CURE Joint seminar with the Biology Department by [Dr. Robert G. Roeder](#) (Arnold and Mabel Beckman Professor, Laboratory of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Rockefeller University). "Transcriptional Regulatory Mechanisms in Animal Cells." Host: [Dr. Murat Alper Cevher](#) (BC Biology Department)

December 8, 2023 12:30-1:30PM, BCCC-CURE Joint seminar with the Chemistry Department by [Dr. Guillermo Moreno Alcantar](#) (Alexander von Humbolt Postdoctoral Fellow. Technical University of Munich, Germany.) "Supramolecular Metalla-Assemblies: Multifunctional Platforms for Biomedical Applications." Host: [Dr. Maria Contel](#) (BC Chemistry Department).



Community Outreach Events

September 19, 2023 12:00PM – 2:00PM Brooklyn College Health and Wellness Fair for BC Students on the West Quad.

September 22, 2023 6:00PM – 8:00PM Community Outreach Cancer Screening Event, organized by Memorial Medical Care, PC; Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Brooklyn College Cancer Center. Free mammograms, prostate cancer testing, and general health screenings. In addition to health & wellness educational materials, and fun interactive activities for children. (Light snacks and refreshments)

September 29, 2023 10:00AM – 1:30PM Panel discussion “Linking with our Community-Based Organizations” panel discussion part of the *Second Annual Tisch Cancer Institute Community Outreach and Engagement Retreat!* “Cultivating Community: The ABCs of Enhancing Equity in Cancer Research, Education and Outreach” (The Mount Sinai Hospital, Madison Ave, New York, NY 10029) OR Participate via Zoom.

October 4, 2023, 6:30PM – 7:30PM Education Information Session “What Is the Brooklyn College Cancer Center (BCCC-CURE)? Where Can You Find Resources to Do Cancer Research?” Hosted by: Dr. Lisa Millsaps-Graham

October 22, 2023 8:00AM – 12:00PM American Cancer Society 21st Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at Coney Island Maimonides Stadium and boardwalk.

November 15, 2023 6:30PM – 7:30PM Virtual Cancer Prevention Workshop “Cancer and Youth. How is that Possible? Learn About HPV and Vaping.” With Ms. Mikhalya Brown, Clinical Research Coordinator at Mount Sinai Hospital. Hosted by Dr. Lisa Millsaps-Graham and Ana Bartolomé, through Brooklyn College Cancer Center and the BC Health Task Force Initiative as part of the BC Health and Wellness Series and the [Graduate Center for Worker Education](#).

November 16, 12:30PM – 1:30PM Education Information Session “Health and Biomedical Opportunities at BCCC-CURE and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.” BC Library Woody Tanger Auditorium, **meet and greet lunch 1:30PM-2:00PM.**



BCCC-CURE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR HIGHLIGHTS



Murat Cevher, Ph.D

Assistant Professor,
Biology Department,
Brooklyn College

In 2-3 sentences can you describe your cancer research topic?

The most important coactivator complex Mediator (composed of 30-tightly associated protein) is mutated and/or truncated in colorectal cancer. Mediator is involved in activation of protein coding genes. Different mutations/truncations result in differential activation of protein coding genes that may contribute to cancer. We try to mechanistically understand the physiological relevance of these mutations in the formation of colorectal cancer.

When and where did you start doing cancer research?

I started working on breast cancer research in 2004 when I was a graduate student in Dr. Kleiman's laboratory. Since 2004, I am working on mechanistic aspects that may contribute to cancer.

Briefly, what are the most rewarding and most challenging components of your cancer research career?

Rewards: I bring new angle to cancer research. Our unique wet lab mechanistic/functional approach that is complemented with in vivo and structural studies bring new questions/answers to the table that could not be observed previously by doing genome wide screenings or other bioinformatic or cell based studies. In addition, we work directly with human proteins as opposed to other organisms and this allows us to study mutation related mechanistics/functions directly.

Challenges: Understanding mechanism takes a lot of effort and time. Biochemistry (and so is any other approach) is tricky and you need to verify results from a number of angles to be sure. Once you are sure of the outcome, this is very rewarding and you can accomplish excellent solid contribution to science.

Do you collaborate with external institutions?

We have excellent collaborators depending on the project we pursue.

What do you do for fun in your free time?

I like to ski, swim, go sightseeing, and play squash.



Ankit Jain, Ph.D

Assistant Professor,
Chemistry Department,
Brooklyn College

In 2-3 sentences can you describe your cancer research topic?

Our research group works on developing liquid condensates as anti-cancer drug delivery systems. Especially, delving into stimuli responsive and programmable therapeutics.

When and where did you start doing cancer research?

My first cancer research was my undergraduate project which was the synthesis of dendrimers and the study of release profiles of anti-cancer drugs from them. We synthesized PAMAM dendrimers and studied release profiles of drugs like doxorubicin from it. This work was done at SASTRA University in India.

Briefly, what are the most rewarding and most challenging components of your cancer research career?

While the overarching theme of my research is drug delivery, in its essence it is an amalgamation of supramolecular chemistry, reaction networks, and cancer therapy. The challenge is to bring these diverse areas together so that the outcome yields a responsive, programmable system. The most rewarding aspect is when such ideas go from blackboard to fruition.

Do you collaborate with external institutions?

Absolutely! Though I have just started my independent career, as a postdoctoral fellow and a

graduate student I have had fruitful collaborations with external institutions. Notably, as a postdoc collaborations ranged from MSKCC (New York) to ELSI (Tokyo).

What do you do for fun in your free time?

My free time is divided between re-watching Studio Ghibli films, playing chess, and playing with our pet cat Benji (abbreviation of Benjamino).



Garumma Feyissa, Ph.D
Assistant Professor,
Health and Nutrition
Sciences Department,
Brooklyn College

In 2-3 sentences can you describe your cancer research topic?

My research interests related to cancer include health disparity research at population level, uncovering existing disparities in the adoption of preventive interventions at the community level and identifying strategies to improve health equity related to cancer. In addition, I am interested in understanding the lived experiences of cancer survivors and design strategies to maximize social and mental wellbeing of cancer survivors.

When and where did you start doing cancer research?

My first cancer research goes back to 2010, when I worked with other researchers to understand the community's reaction to the introduction of an HPV vaccine to Ethiopia. Through that experience, I learned that in addition to the disparity related to accessibility, remarkable proportions of our society is the victim of misconceptions related to vaccination. On the other hand, the mortalities and morbidities avoided, the healthcare costs avoided by introducing these vaccines, is enormous. Equally important, though, are understanding the health education and community partnerships approaches

needed before investing in any of these preventive interventions. The research I mentioned above has informed the appropriate health communication strategies that should be implemented before investing resources in the vaccines.

Briefly, what are the most rewarding and most challenging components of your cancer research career?

My cancer research mainly focuses on health equity and health promotion strategies related to cancer. So, I will describe the opportunities and challenges from this perspective.

The most rewarding experiences related to health equity research related to cancer are related to its impact, getting connected to the community and having the sense of personal fulfillment. Cancer research, in a sense, is also an urgency because cancer contributes to the highest level of mortality across ages. And sadly, it disproportionately affects underserved communities. This is the primary reason that we should work with our community to reduce preventable deaths. Building relationships with individuals and communities affected by cancer and the public fosters a sense of connection and purpose. In addition, it helps to understand how the community perceives their risks, and about the availability of prevention options related to cancer. This gives an insight into focus areas and health promotion strategies related to cancer.

For instance, in 2020, 5.28 million cancer deaths occurred globally. Out of this, 68% (3.63 million) were preventable deaths. So, what is preventing

individuals and communities from utilizing prevention opportunities to save their lives? It is undeniable that accessibility is one issue. However, understanding reasons behind the low utilization of prevention programs, we can design evidence-based health communication strategy that addresses the concerns of the community and thereby save the lives of millions. Hence, I find fulfillment in helping communities adopt healthier lifestyles and reduce cancer risk by designing evidence-based health promotion strategies through my research.

Coming to the challenges, conducting health equity research related to cancer poses several challenges. This is because there is a complex interplay of social, economic, and healthcare factors that influence health behaviors and health outcomes related to cancer. These challenges can impact the ability to accurately assess and address disparities in cancer outcomes.

Do you collaborate with external institutions?

Yes, I do collaborate both with local and global partners. For me, research is always teamwork. I do believe that collective efforts play a pivotal role in enhancing creativity, creating opportunity for sharing ideas, and doing things efficiently. I collaborate not only with researchers, but also with clinicians at frontline, patients, the community and with community-based organizations.

What do you do for fun in your free time?

During my spare time, I love jogging and/or walking around parks, river sides and beaches. I enjoy what nature has to offer, snapping pictures of seasonal events, flowers, snow, and sunsets. I also love reading. I also get the pleasure in spending time with family and friends.

UPCOMING BCCC-CURE EVENTS

BCCC-CURE Spring 2024 Scientific Seminars and Symposia

Wednesday, January 31, 2:30 – 4:30PM PhD Student Javier Lopez-Hernandez Doctoral Dissertation Defense. “Development of Platinum(IV) – Gold(I) – Based Anticancer Agents” Hosted by Prof. [Maria Contel](#). This will be a hybrid event: BC Library Room # 411 | [Zoom Link](#).

Cancelled | To Be Rescheduled Joint BCCC-CURE and Chemistry Scientific Seminar by [Dr. Rein Ulijn](#) (Director of Nanoscience Initiative at the Advanced Science Research Center) “Peptide-Based Supramolecular Systems Integrated with Biology.” Hosted by Prof. [Ankit Jain](#). This will be a hybrid event: Room # 3143 Ingersoll | [Zoom Link](#).

Thursday, February 8, 12:30 – 1:30PM Joint BCCC-CURE and Biology Scientific Seminar by [Dr. Saurabh Agarwal](#) (Assistant Professor and St. Baldrick’s Scholar, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, St. John’s University, New York) “Deciphering the Epigenetic Mechanisms in Neuroblastoma Cancer Stem Cells: A Targeted Therapeutic Approach”. Hosted by Prof. [Shaneen Singh](#). Room #113 New Ingersoll.

Thursday, February 29, 12:30 – 1:30PM Joint Scientific Seminar BCCC-CURE, Health and Nutrition Sciences, Sociology, PRLS, and Women’s Center by [Ms. Mia Keelys](#), (Federal Affairs Director of Hologic). “Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare, Policy, & Equity: A Revolution or Regression?” Hosted by Prof. [Maria Contel](#). BC Library, Woody Tanger Auditorium. A Light lunch will be provided from **1:30 – 2:15PM** at BC Library #411. Register [here](#).

Friday, March 15, 9AM – 1PM Training: “Funding Opportunities for Brooklyn College Principal Investigators & Researchers: A Workshop on IP Creation and Tech Transfer”. Organized by BCCC-CURE in collaboration with different CUNY Innovation and Entrepreneurship Offices & Programs (ASRC-CAT, CUNY Technology &

Commercialization Office, iCorps Program). Coordinators: Tavis Ezell and Yuki Chen (ASRC-CAT) and Prof. [Maria Contel](#). (BCCC-CURE). Lecture Hall # 148 New Ingersoll.

Thursday, May 2, 12:15 – 1:15PM Friedman Lecture Chemistry Department (co-sponsored by BCCC-CURE) by [Dr. Jason Lewis](#) (BCCC-CURE Advisory Board member; Emily Tow Chair in Oncology; Vice Chair for Research, Department of Radiology; Chief, Radiochemistry and Imaging Sciences Service; Director of the Radiochemistry and Molecular Imaging Probe Core Facility, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center). “Visualizing and Treating Cancer with Radiopharmaceuticals.” Hosted by Prof. [Ryan Murelli](#). BC Library, Woody Tanger Auditorium.

Friday, May 10, 12:30 – 1:30PM Joint BCCC-CURE and Chemistry Scientific Seminar by [Dr. William Chain](#) (Associate Professor, University of Delaware). “Synthesis of Anti-Cancer Terpenoid Natural Products.” Hosted by Prof. [Maria Contel](#). This will be a hybrid event: Room # 3143 Ingersoll | [Zoom Link](#).

May 29, 30, 31, and June 3, 4, and 5 (9:00AM – 1:30PM) Joint BCCC-CURE and Chemistry & Biochemistry Department Training: “Theory and Practice NMR Course.” 1D, 2D, Multinuclear and VT NMR Experiments. Practice Sessions using the Department 400 MHz Bruker NMR. Oriented to Synthetic Chemists. Hosted by Dr. Esteban Urriolabeitia (Senior Researcher, National Council of Scientific Research/University of Zaragoza, Spain). Slots limited. Training exclusive for Chemistry & Biochemistry Department Members and BCCC-CURE researchers (priority will be given to BCCC-CURE PIs, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Doctoral students). Room and registration link: TBA.

BCCC-CURE Spring 2024 Community Outreach Events and Education Sessions

Tuesday, February 15, 12:30PM – 1:30PM Education Information Session. “Health and Biomedical Summer Opportunities at BCCC-CURE and Maimonides Health” at BC Library Room 411 **meet and greet lunch 1:30PM-2:00PM**. Hosted by: Professor Jennifer Basil and Ms. Ana Bartolomé.

Date and time TBD. Education Information Session. “What Is the Brooklyn College Cancer Center (BCCC-CURE)? Where Can You Find Resources to Do Cancer Research?” Hosted by: Ms. Ana Bartolomé and Professor Sheena Philogene.

Thursday, April 11, 12:30PM – 2:30PM Brooklyn College Staff Cancer Prevention Information Session and Luncheon, Student Center, Bedford and Amersfort rooms (2nd floor).

Tuesday, May 7, 12:30PM – 2:30PM BC Health and Wellness Fair: Take Action! Take Care! At the BC East Quad. Co-hosted by BCCC-CURE and BC Office of Health and Wellness.

BCCC-CURE Spring 2024 Student Educational Opportunities

- [ACS – BCCC-CURE Summer Cancer Research Internship for Under-Represented Students](#)
Deadline March 1st, 2024
- [Gray - BCCC-CURE Travel Awards](#)
Deadline March 15th, 2024
- [Gray - BCCC-CURE Summer Research Internship for High-School Student](#)
Deadline March 15th, 2024
- [Gray - BCCC-CURE Summer Doctoral Students Research Mentorship Initiative](#)
Deadline March 15th, 2024

- [Gray - BCCC-CURE Summer Research Internship for Undergraduate Student](#)
Deadline April 1st, 2024
- [Maimonides Cancer Center College Summer Shadowing Program](#)
applications open in March 2024

Stay Connected



Please visit our [website](#) to find timely information about our past and upcoming educational opportunities, community outreach events, and information about becoming a BCCC-CURE member.

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