Brooklyn College Cancer Center

Issue 5 | Spring 2025

Dear Members of the BCCC-CURE Community,

Welcome to the fifth edition of our Brooklyn College Cancer Center (BCCC-CURE) newsletter. In this issue, we update you on the activities and accomplishments of our BCCC-CURE faculty, staff, and student members since September 2024. We are excited to report on the accomplishments and innovative new projects of our researchers, students, educators, community outreach workers, along with our partners. We would also like to express our thanks to the American Cancer Society, the Gray Foundation, and our donors, partners, and friends for the continued support of 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.

2024 IN REVIEW

We are proud to share our renewed funding secured by the Brooklyn College Cancer Center from the Gray Foundation, for Operations Support, for the third year in a row.

Gray Foundation [2025]
Operations Support Grant
$100,000

We are pleased to continue granting subawards from the American Cancer Society Diversity in Cancer Research Institutional Development Grant (DICRIDG) secured by Brooklyn College Cancer Center in the fall of 2022

American Cancer Society [2024-2026]
Diversity in Cancer Research Internship DICRIRG 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

ACS - BCCC-CURE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AWARDEES [2025-2026]

Alvaro López-Sánchez (PhD in Chemistry, November 2024, Sorbonne University, France), Brooklyn College Cancer Center – American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, Brooklyn College, CUNY (Contel Lab)

At BCCC-CURE, I will be conducting research focused on developing novel heterobimetallic gold-titanium and gold-ruthenium complexes, as well as gold-based antibody-drug conjugates, to improve current chemotherapeutic treatments for (clear cell) renal cell carcinoma, the most prevalent type of kidney cancer. This will involve their synthesis, optimization of their pharmacological properties, and investigation of their mode of action through modifications to their chemical structure. Developing new treatments for this condition is particularly important, as therapeutic options for advanced or metastatic stages are either lacking or poorly effective.

Oliatan Oladipupo (PhD in Chemistry, December 2024, University of Alabama, United States), Brooklyn College Cancer Center – American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, Brooklyn College, CUNY (Contel Lab)

My postdoctoral research at BCCC-CURE will focus on developing novel platinum(IV)-gold compounds with multi-drug effects as potential agents against ovarian cancer. Current treatments include surgery followed by platinum-based therapy. However, this therapy is not selective, leading to secondary side effects, with the cancer cells acquiring resistance after treatments. For many patients in the late stages, ovarian cancer will recur after receiving chemotherapy, requiring maintenance therapies that do not work very well. The cytotoxicity and mechanism of action of the new metallodrugs will be evaluated against selected ovarian cancer cell lines. I expect to identify two agents with higher efficacy and lower systemic toxicity than currently approved platinum drugs. I will work in improving their delivery and targeting properties by encapsulated them in liposomes and immunoliposomes.

Open Funding Calls for Faculty

ACS-BCCC-CURE Pilot Grants. $40,000 per pilot grant (1-year)
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. Funding available for 3-4 grantees.
Application deadline March 31st, 2025, 5:00PM

Open Funding Calls for Students

Fellowships for PhD Students

BCCC-CURE Gray Foundation Doctoral Student Research Mentoring Initiative $4,500 per student (3 Doctoral Students)
Application deadline: April 4th, 2025, 5:00PM

Fellowships for Masters Students

ACS Masters Scholars $50,000 – Students must be enrolled in a master program with an interest in Cancer Control and Prevention or Cancer Research. Advisors must be BCCC-CURE faculty members or BCCC-CURE clinician scientists. (2 or 3 Masters Students with a BCCC-CURE Researcher, $25K per year (2), per student) *List of potential mentors for Masters Scholars.
Application deadline April 25th, 2025, 5:00PM

Internships for Undergraduate Students

ACS Summer Internships for Undergraduate Underrepresented Students $5,000 (8 Undergraduate Students with a BCCC-CURE Researcher) *list of professors looking to take students in summer 2025.
Application deadline: March 20th, 2025, 5:00PM

BCCC-CURE-Gray Foundation Summer Undergraduate Internships $4,000 (3 Undergraduate Students with a BCCC-CURE Researcher) *list of professors looking to take students in summer 2025.
Application deadline: April 4th, 2025, 5:00PM

Travel awards for Postdocs, Graduate, and Undergraduate Students

BCCC-CURE-Gray Foundation Travel Awards $1,500 per student (5 awards for researchers at Post-Doctoral, Doctoral, Masters, and Undergraduate student level. ACS Postdocs are not eligible)
Application deadline: April 4th, 2025, 5:00PM

Internships for High School Students

BCCC-CURE-Gray Foundation High School Summer Research Internships $2,000 (2 High School Students from PUBLIC High Schools in NYC ONLY with a BCCC-CURE Researcher)
Application deadline: April 4th, 2025, 5:00PM

American Cancer Society

Brooklyn College Cancer Center

FOUNDATION gray

FEDERAL GRANTS

National Science Foundation

Principal Investigator: Mariana Torrente
Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry
Title: RUI: Elucidating Epigenetic Mechanisms for Prion Function in Yeast
Dates: 8/2024 - 7/2027
Award Amount: $700,000

EXTERNAL GRANTS

Hudson River Park Trust

Principal Investigator: Phillip Staniczenko
Department: Biology
Title: Wave Exposure at Gansevoort Peninsula and Implications for the Restoration Success of the Eastern Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*)
Dates: 5/2024 - 1/2025
Award Amount: $10,000

INTERNAL GRANTS

ACS DICRIDG Pilot Grants

Principal Investigator: Murat Alper Cevher
Department: Biology
Title: Characterizing Cell-Specific Interaction of Oncogenic Activator RUNX1 with Transcriptional Coactivator Mediator in Colon Cancer
Dates: 7/2024 - 6/2025
Award Amount: $40,000

Principal Investigator: Ankit Jain
Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry
Title: Developing Structured Condensates for Potential Anti-Cancer Drug Delivery
Dates: 7/2024 - 6/2025
Award Amount: $40,000

Gray Foundation-BCCC-CURE Seed Grants

Principal Investigator: Maria Contel
Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry
Title Study of the Activity of a Ruthenium-Based Anticancer Agent and its Optimized Targeted Formulations in BRCA1-Defective Triple Negative Breast Cancer
Dates: 6/2024 - 5/2025
Total Amount: $12,000

Principal Investigator Sheena Philogene
Department: Library
Title: Extended Analysis of Breast and Ovarian Cancer Incidence Trends in Brooklyn NY: A Geospatial Approach
Dates: 6/2024 - 5/2025
Total Amount: $5,000

Principal Investigator: Aneta Mieszawska
Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry
Title A Nanoparticle-Based Approach for Hereditary BRCA-Mutated Ovarian Cancer (OvCA)
Dates: 6/2024 - 5/2025
Total Amount: $12,000

Principal Investigator: Shaneen Singh
Department: Biology
Title: Deciphering the Molecular Mechanisms of RNA Binding Proteins (RBPs) Mediated Regulation in Breast Cancer: *In Silico* focus on the Common RBP Interactors of Nucleolin and BRCA1
Dates: 6/2024 - 5/2025
Total Amount: $5,000

PSC-CUNY Research Award Program Cycle 55

Principal Investigator: Maria Contel
Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry
Title: Development of Gold-Based Chemo- and Targeted Therapies for the Treatment of Renal Cell Carcinoma
Dates: 7/2024 - 6/2025
Total Amount: $6,000

Principal Investigator: Ankit Jain
Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry
Title: Developing Structured Coacervates as Novel Drug Delivery Systems
Dates: 7/2024 - 6/2025
Total Amount: $6,000

Principal Investigator: Shaneen Singh
Department: Biology
Title: In Silico Analysis to Model NCL-BRCA1 Mediated DNA Repair in Breast Cancer: A BRCT Point of View
Dates: 7/2024 - 6/2025
Total Amount: $4,800

Principal Investigator: Garumma Feyissa
Department: Health and Nutrition Sciences
Title: Exploration of Barriers and Facilitators to Integrating Mental Healthcare into Perinatal Services
Dates: 7/2024 - 6/2025
Total Amount: $11,999.50

Principal Investigator: Devorah Kletenik
Department: Computer and Information Science
Title: Designing for Everyone: A Playful Approach to Teaching about Universal Design
Dates: 7/2024 - 6/2025
Total Amount: $5,998.31

Principal Investigator: Phillip Staniczenko
Department: Biology
Title: Measuring the Effects of Wind-Driven Waves on Wetland Erosion and the Implications for Smooth Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) Restoration in Jamaica Bay, NYC
Dates: 7/2024 - 6/2025
Total Amount: $5,934.5

PUBLICATIONS FROM LATE 2024

Our researchers have published 14 cancer and health related articles through the last six months of 2024.

Anderson, C. R., Curtsdotter, A. R. K., **Staniczenko, P. P. A.**, Valdovinos, F. S., & Brosi, B. J. (2024). The Interplay of Binary and Quantitative Structure on the Stability of Mutualistic Networks. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, *64*(3), 827–840. https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icae074

Azimi, S., & **Gallicchio, E.** (2024). Binding Selectivity Analysis from Alchemical Receptor Hopping and Swapping Free Energy Calculations. *The Journal of Physical Chemistry. B*, *128*(44), 10841–10852. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpcb.4c05732

Barriales, K., Khandaker, S., **Jain, A…** (2024). Aqueous Graphene Dispersion and Biofunctionalization via Enzymatic Oxidation of Tripeptides. *Small (Weinheim an der Bergstrasse, Germany)*, *20*(38), e2400775. https://doi.org/10.1002/smll.202400775

Cabral, F.V., Xu, Q., **Greer, A.**, Lyons, A. M., & Hasan, T. (2024). Superhydrophobic Dressing for Singlet Oxygen Delivery in Antimicrobial Photodynamic Therapy against Multidrug-Resistant Bacterial Biofilms. *ACS Applied Bio Materials*, *7*(9), 6175–6185. https://doi.org/10.1021/acsabm.4c00733

PUBLICATIONS FROM LATE 2024 (continued)

Coradi Tonon, C., de Souza Rastelli, A. N…**Greer, A.**, & Lyons, A. M. (2024). Effect of treatment frequency on the efficacy of superhydrophobic antimicrobial photodynamic therapy of periodontitis in a wistar rat model. *Photochemistry and Photobiology*, 10.1111/php.14021. https://doi.org/10.1111/php.14021

Eli, O. S., Bejcek, L. P., Lyubimova, A., Sackett, D. L., & **Murelli, R. P.** (2024). Intermolecular Oxidopyrylium (5 + 2) Cycloaddition/Reductive Ring-Opening Strategy for the Synthesis of α-Methoxytropones. *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*, *89*(23), 17813–17817. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.4c01989

Fisher, R. M. A., & **Torrente, M. P.** (2024). Histone post-translational modification and heterochromatin alterations in neurodegeneration: Revealing novel disease pathways and potential therapeutics. *Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience*, *17*, 1456052. https://doi.org/10.3389/fnmol.2024.1456052

Greenberg, J. A., Cheung, M. M., Gross, M., Ochs-Balcom, H. M., & **Jiang, X.** (2024). Dietary eggs, egg nutrients, polygenic score for body mass index, "Western pattern" diet, and weight change, a prospective analysis in the Women's health initiative. *Clinical Nutrition (Edinburgh, Scotland)*, *43*(11), 80–90. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clnu.2024.09.022

Hurston, J. S., Worthy, C. C…., **Horlyck-Romanovsky, M. F.**, Younger-Coleman, N., & Sumner, A. E. (2024). An Overview of Body Size Preference, Perception and Dissatisfaction in Sub-Saharan Africans Living in the United States. *Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity: Targets and Therapy*, *17*, 3279–3293. https://doi.org/10.2147/DMSO.S474956

Kadam, I., Dalloul, M.… **Saxena, A.,** & **Jiang, X**. (2024). Role of one-carbon nutrient intake and diabetes during pregnancy in children's growth and neurodevelopment: A 2-year follow-up study of a prospective cohort. *Clinical Nutrition (Edinburgh, Scotland)*, *43*(6), 1216–1223. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clnu.2024.04.011

Lapoot, L., Jabeen, S., O'Connor, R. M., Korytowski, W., Girotti, A., & **Greer, A.** (2024). Photosensitized Oxidative Damage from a New Perspective: The Influence of Before-Light and After-Light Reaction Conditions. *The Journal of organic chemistry*, *89*(18), 12873–12885. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.4c01305

Niwa, E. Y., Arevalo, K., Shane, J., & **Reigada, L. C.** (2024). The double pandemic: Examining cultural stress among Asian Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Cultural diversity & ethnic minority psychology*, *30*(4), 691–702. https://doi.org/10.1037/cdp0000690

Power, K. M., Nguyen, K. C., Silva, A., **Singh, S**., Hall, D. H., Rongo, C., & Barr, M. M. (2024). NEKL-4 regulates microtubule stability and mitochondrial health in ciliated neurons. *The Journal of Cell Biology*, *223*(9), e202402006. https://doi.org/10.1083/jcb.202402006

Storch, B., & **Reigada, L. C.** (2024). Utilizing a multisystemic model of resilience to synthesize research in youth with inflammatory bowel disease: a narrative review. *Translational Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, *9*, 45. https://doi.org/10.21037/tgh-24-2

FALL 2024 DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Congratulations to our recent BCCC-CURE doctoral graduates!

Lloyd Lapoot, CUNY Biochemistry PhD Program (Advisor: Prof. Alexander Greer)

John-Charles Baucom, CUNY Chemistry PhD Program (Advisor: Prof. Ryan Murelli)

FALL 2024 EVENT SPOTLIGHT

BCCC-CURE Fall 2024 Scientific Seminars and Symposia

Friday, September 20, 2024, 12:30PM – 1:30PM Joint BCCC-CURE, Psychology and Health and Nutrition Departments Scientific Seminar by Dr. Florence Lui (BCCC-CURE Clinician Scientist, Assistant Attending Psychologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Immigrant Health & Cancer Disparities Service, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences) Title: "Stakeholder Perspectives on Developing a Multicomponent Support Program for Chinese Cancer Survivors: The Role of Culture and Community." Hosted by Maria Conte in Room # 3143 Ingersoll.

Friday, October 18, 2024, 12:30PM – 1:30PM Joint BCCC-CURE and Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Scientific Seminar by Dr. Wee Han ANG (Associate Provost and Vice Dean, Faculty of Science at National University of Singapore). Title TBD, Hosted by Maria Contel in Room # 3143 Ingersoll.

Friday, November 1, 2024, 12:30PM – 1:30PM Joint BCCC-CURE and Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Scientific Seminar by Dr. Benjamin Blass "Sigma-2 and Alzheimer's Disease: A Therapeutic Opportunity." Hosted by Maria Contel in Room # 3143 Ingersoll.

Friday, November 8, 2024, 12:30PM – 1:30PM Joint BCCC-CURE and Biology Department Scientific Seminar by Dr. Jill Bargonetti-Chavarria (Hesselbach Professor Chair, Molecular, Cellular, and Development PhD Program Department of Biological Sciences Hunter College; Graduate Center, CUNY; and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Weill Cornell Medical College Department of Cell Biology). Hosted by Dr. Jennifer Basil in Room # 3143 Ingersoll.

Friday, December 6, 2024, 9:00AM – 2:00PM First BC Cancer Related Health Disparities Symposium. Organized by BCCC-CURE, Psychology Department, Health and Nutrition Sciences Department, and BC Center for Health Promotion with participants from City College of New York, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, and the Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai.

Community Outreach Events

Thursday, October 1, 2024, 2024, 12:15 – 2:15PM Cancer Prevention Information Session: *What Cancer Types Affect Women of Color?* with the collaboration of CUNY Haitian Studies Institute, BC Caribbean Studies, BC Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, BC Immigrant Student Success Office, Health and Nutrition Sciences Department and the participants from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Maimonides Health, Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center, ACS Voices Program.

Sunday, October 27, 2024, 8:00AM – 12:00PM Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk: Brooklyn College Against Cancer Team Building Awareness & Raising Funds for Cancer Research! Organized by the American Cancer Society.

Thursday, October 10, 2024, 12:15 – 2:15PM Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention "Taking Action Against Cancer!", Co-hosted by BC Cancer Center, CUNY Haitian Studies Institute, BC Caribbean Studies, BC Africana Studies, BC Puerto Rican & Latinx Studies, BC Immigrant Student Success Office, Health & Nutrition Sciences Department, Center for Health Promotion, BC Women's Center, Women of Color Student Club, and the BC Health and Wellness Office. With the participation of SHARE Cancer Care, Mount Sinai Cancer Center, ACS Voices of Black Women, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center's Immigrant Health & Cancer Disparities Service.

BCCC-CURE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR HIGHLIGHT

Devorah Kletenik, Ph.D
Assistant Professor,
Computer & Information Science Department,
Brooklyn College, CUNY

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

I investigate software accessibility and best practices in designing software for cancer survivors with impairments. Cancer survivors often have impairments that result from cancer and/or its treatment (for example, "chemo brain" or peripheral neuropathy) and those impairments can have a significant impact on their quality of life. We are considering the optimal ways to design software for cancer survivors.

When and where did you start doing cancer research?

In Brooklyn College, approximately 1.5 years ago. It's an extension of other work related to software design and accessibility for people with disabilities and neurodiverse users. I'm excited to extend my work to the cancer space now.

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

The most rewarding has been hearing the stories of cancer survivors and the ways that our work can address real challenges that they face and hopefully make a difference in their lives. So much of cancer research stops with the completion of treatment, but cancer survivorship is an important and very relevant topic.

The most challenging is finding cancer survivors to speak with! In particular, we've tried recruiting online and through social media and found that most of our survey responses were fraudulent, likely generated by bots. Finding the actual people has been a challenge. (If you're reading this and are a cancer survivor who would like to speak about your experiences, please contact me!)

Do you collaborate with external institutions?

I collaborate with Prof. Rachel F. Adler at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, who has been thinking about software design for cancer survivors for quite some time now. She is a fantastic colleague, mentor and friend. The Cancer Research Advocacy Group (CRAG) at UIUC has also been a great resource in our work, and now we've also joined forces with Dr. Sean Mullen to partner with his Exercise, Technology, and Cognition (ETC) Laboratory to explore the way software design and generative AI can help cancer survivors improve their physical activity and cognition.

What do you do for fun in your free time?

I have five wonderful children, which doesn't leave me with a lot of free time

BCCC-CURE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW HIGHLIGHT

Alvaro López-Sánchez, Ph.D
Brooklyn College Cancer Center – American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department,
Brooklyn College, CUNY

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

I am a chemist and I work on the development of metal-based chemotherapeutic agents to improve current clinical treatments. During my PhD, I focused on the design and biological evaluation of platinum(IV) prodrugs bearing antioxidant moieties to prevent oxaliplatin-induced peripheral neuropathy, the main side effect suffered by colorectal cancer patients

treated with oxaliplatin. My current research at Prof. Maria Contel's lab focuses on the development of heterobimetallic gold(I)-based complexes containing titanium or ruthenium centers, as well as antibody-drug conjugates, for the treatment of clear cell renal cell carcinoma.

When and where did you start doing cancer research?

I began doing cancer research when I started my PhD at Sorbonne University (Paris). Prior to that, my background was in molecular (organic) chemistry, but the intersection of chemistry and biology in cancer research fascinated me. This is why I decided to further focus on medicinal inorganic chemistry applied to cancer research and join Prof. Contel's lab as a postdoctoral researcher.

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

One of the most rewarding aspects of my research, as an early-career scientist working in a multidisciplinary field, is the collaborative nature of it. Interacting with people from diverse academic backgrounds and areas of expertise is extremely enriching, as it provides continuous opportunities for learning. Thanks to this, I have learned (and continue to learn!) about chemical synthesis, cell biology, or *in vivo* behavioral tests. One challenge that comes to my mind is time management and organization, particularly when working in multiple locations, but the positive aspects outweigh the challenges.

Do you collaborate with external institutions?

I have collaborated with Prof. Giorgia Pastorin (National University of Singapore) and Prof. Giulia Adriani (A*STAR), with whom I had the opportunity to go on a research visit.
In our lab at Brooklyn College, we collaborate closely with Prof. Jason S. Lewis from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on the development of antibody-drug conjugate formulations.

What do you do for fun in your free time?

I love playing tennis, going for (long) walks, seeing my friends, listening to live jams and doing analog photography from time to time!

BCCC-CURE DOCTORAL STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Pasindu Wijerathne
Doctoral Student,
Biology Department,
Brooklyn College and
Biochemistry Program,
Graduate Center, CUNY

In 2-3 sentences describe your cancer research topic?

Mediator is a multi-protein complex involved in regulating all protein-coding genes. Gene expression is controlled at the molecular level by interactions between Mediator subunits and other proteins, and these connections once dysregulated may cause problems including cancer. In my project, I'm mapping Mediator associated oncogenic proteins in colorectal cancer cells using proximal biotinylation assays. Our ultimate goal is to develop therapeutics at the interaction sites to silence genes involved in oncogenic outcomes.

When and where did you start doing cancer research?

I started my cancer research career in Prof. Frida Kleiman's lab at Hunter College when I was a PhD rotation student in her lab. In Prof. Frida's lab, I researched triple-negative breast cancer, which has a poor prognosis due to the lack of targeted therapies and its treatment by a combination of chemotherapy and a long non-coding RNA. I found it fascinating, and it led me to believe that I would prefer cancer research over other fields.

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

I am greatly inspired by this cancer research work, as it provides a deep feeling of purpose and significant contribution to society, as it could aid in the larger battle against cancer. Cancer research is often related to discovering a new mechanism, a pathway, or a therapeutic target, and discovering such new insights keeps me excited. In cancer research, I gain expertise in advanced techniques such as proximal biotinylation

assays, mass spectrometry, lentiviral vector systems to create stable cell lines, the baculovirus expression system, immobilized template recruitment assays, protein knockdown using siRNA, etc.

Experiments typically need troubleshooting; therefore, persistence and patience are needed to see significant results. It can be difficult to manage long hours in the laboratory for running and troubleshooting experiments. Bacterial or mycoplasma contaminations, getting a non-specific PCR product, no PCR product at all, and unexpected smearing due to the star activity of restriction enzymes are not unusual and might be very frustrating. Time-sensitive research, like mammalian cell culture, frequently demands attention even on Saturdays and Sundays, making work-life balance more challenging.

Do you collaborate with external institutions?

Yes, I do collaborations with Rockefeller University and Mount Sinai.

What do you do for fun in your free time?

I usually spend my free time watching detective films. I also prefer listening to music or going for a short walk, as it helps me in managing stress.

UPCOMING BCCC-CURE EVENTS

BCCC-CURE Spring 2025 Scientific Seminars and Symposia

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 12:30 – 1:30 PM BCCC-CURE Joint Scientific Seminar with Chemistry & Biochemistry Department by Dr. Clotilde Policar (Dean of the Sciences Education of Ecole Normale Supérieure Deputy Director of the Laboratoire des BioMolécules) "Metal Complexes in Cells: From Bio-Activity to Bio-Imaging" hosted by Prof. Maria Contel in Room # 3143 Ingersoll.

Friday, February 14, 2025, 12:30 – 1:30 PM BCCC-CURE Joint Scientific Seminar with Chemistry & Biochemistry Department by Dr. Alvaro Lopez-Sanchez, (Brooklyn College Cancer Center – American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department) “Development of Pt(IV) conjugates of oxaliplatin and redox modulators as anticancer agents with reduced neurotoxicity” hosted by Prof. Maria Contel in Room # 3143 Ingersoll.

Friday, March 14, 2025, 12:30 – 1:30 PM BCCC-CURE Joint Scientific Seminar with Chemistry & Biochemistry Department by Dr. Prabodhika Mallikaratchy (Professor Department of Molecular, Cellular & Biomedical Sciences, CUNY School of Medicine) “The development of novel functional nucleic acid materials as tools to elucidate complex biological interactions" hosted by Prof. Maria Contel in Room # 3143 Ingersoll.

Friday, March 21, 2025, 12:30 – 1:30 PM BCCC-CURE Joint Scientific Seminar with Biology Department by Dr. Joshua C. Leinwand (Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine and Mount Sinai) “Tissue microbes, immunity and cancer” hosted by Prof. Anjana Saxena in Room # 3143 Ingersoll.

Friday, April 4, 2025, 12:30 – 1:30 PM BCCC-CURE Joint Scientific Seminar with Health and Nutrition Sciences by Dr. David Berrigan (Program Director, Behavioral Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute) Title: TBD, hosted by Prof. Margrethe Horlyck-Romanovsky in Room # 3143 Ingersoll.

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 12:30 – 2:00 PM Friedman Lecture provided by the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department and co-hosted with BCCC-CURE: Dr. Carol Carter (SUNY Distinguished Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Stony Brook University Renaissance School of Medicine (RSOM) "Anti-Viral Therapeutics Targeted To Host Proteins" hosted by Prof. Ryan Murelli at the BC Library, Tanger Auditorium.

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 12:30 – 1:30 PM BCCC-CURE Joint Scientific Seminar with Chemistry & Biochemistry Department by Dr. Masaoki Kawasumi (Professor Department of Dermatology, University of Washington) “Caffeine and Epigenetics: Novel Approaches to Prevent and Treat Skin Cancer” hosted by Prof. Alexander Greer in Room # 2143 Ingersoll.

BCCC-CURE Spring 2025 Community Outreach Events and Education Sessions

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 12:30 – 2:00 PM, BC Cancer Related Educational Opportunities: Info Session for BC students. At the Student Center, Maroney-Leddy Room (4th floor).

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 12:30 – 2:30 PM, (or Tuesday April 1, 2025) Third Annual BC Staff Cancer Prevention Info Session and Luncheon with SHARE Cancer Support. At the Student Center, Gold Room.

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 12:15 – 2:15 PM, BC Health and Wellness Fair - in joint collaboration with BC Health Programs/Immunization Office and BCCC-CURE. (West Quad)

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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