Welcome to the Obesity & Cancer Section Newsletter

We hope to see you at the Obesity and Cancer Section Reception during ObesityWeek℠ 2015 in Los Angeles

Please put a note in your calendar for 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm on Thursday, November 5, 2015. You are invited to join the Obesity and Cancer Section for our annual business meeting, poster and travel award presentation, a 30-minute expert panel on obesity and cancer related questions and research, with reception for Section members to follow immediately thereafter.

Our reception is very generously sponsored by the California Walnut Commission through their representative Ms. Carol Sloan, to whom we are very grateful. Please join us.

Announcing the winners of the Susan G. Komen Travel Award Competition

The Obesity and Cancer Section is very grateful to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, and its representative Kendall Bergman, for generously once again providing funding for talented junior investigators to support their travel to attend ObesityWeek 2015 in Los Angeles. Each competitive award is in the amount of $2,400. A panel of judges selected the winners from a large group of creative and accomplished researchers. Please attend our meeting and reception at 7:30 pm on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015 at the Los Angeles Convention Center to offer your congratulations to:
1. Lisa Cadmus-Bertram, PhD
   Assistant Professor
   University of Wisconsin- Madison
   Madison, WI, USA
   In recognition of her pioneering epidemiological work on physical activity and
   obesity in breast cancer risk and survival.

2. Lorraine T. Dean, ScD
   Instructor
   Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology
   University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
   Philadelphia, PA, USA
   In recognition of her significant insights into the role of inflammation in breast
cancer progression and survival in obese women, as well as racial disparities.

3. Kristy A. Brown, PhD
   NHMRC Career Development Fellow
   Research Group Head, Metabolism and Cancer
   Hudson Institute of Medical Research
   Clayton, Victoria
   Australia
   In recognition of her significant insights into the role of inflammation in breast
cancer progression and survival in obese women, as well as racial disparities

4. Ayca Gucalp, MD
   Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
   New York, NY, USA
   In recognition of her innovative clinical research into adipose tissue
   inflammation in obesity, and potential biomarkers to stratify risk for breast
cancer carcinogenesis, progression and outcomes.

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Announcing the winners of
the American Institute for Cancer Research
Abstract Award Competition

The Obesity and Cancer Section is very grateful to the American Institute for
Cancer Research, and its representative Susan Higginbotham, PhD, for generously once again providing
funding to allow us to recognize outstanding scientific poster contributions at
ObesityWeek 2015 in Los Angeles. A panel of judges selected the winners from a
large group of creative and accomplished researchers. Please attend our meeting
and reception at 7:30pm on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015 at the Los Angeles
Convention Center- Room 501ABC to offer your congratulations to:

Early Career Investigators

1. Ása Anveden, PhD
   Department of Molecular and Clinical Medicine
   Institute of Medicine at Sahlgrenska Academy
University of Gothenburg
Gothenburg, SWEDEN
Bariatric Surgery Reduces the Risk for Cancer in Women - Results from the Swedish Obese Subjects Study

2. Sigrid Gribsholt, PhD
Aarhus University Hospital
Aarhus, DENMARK
Changes in Use of Antidiabetic, Antihypertensive and Hypolipidemic Drugs Within 36 Months After Roux-en Y Gastric Bypass Surgery in the Treatment of Obesity: A Nationwide Population-Based Study

3. Ru-Jye Chuang, DrPH
University of Texas Health Science Center
School of Public Health
Houston, TX, USA
Evaluation of the CATCH Early Childhood Program Implementation in Head Start Children in Texas: The TX CORD study

Student Winners

4. Brooke Nezami
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC, USA
Reducing Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Consumption in Preschool Children: A Randomized Trial of the Smart Moms mHealth Program

5. Elizabeth Ma
University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL, USA
Urinary F2-Isoprostanes Do Not Reflect Oxidative Stress Operative in Human Insulin Resistance, but are Correlated with Lean Mass and Serum Lipids

ObesityWeek 2015

Obesity and Cancer Section Meeting and Panel on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015
7:30pm - 8:30pm PST
Followed by reception
Los Angeles Convention Center

The American Institute for Cancer Research has generously agreed again to sponsor a panel discussion on critical topics in obesity-associated cancer. The panel will feature three experts in this field and will be open to the interested public for questions and discussion. There will also be ample opportunity to engage the speakers with your questions, through an interactive Q&A period and a wine and cheese reception to follow. Please save the date and plan to attend, as this promises to be a true highlight of ObesityWeek 2015.

The panelists will be:
Cheryl Rock PhD, RD: Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health, and the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, San Diego, CA, USA. Dr. Rock's research efforts are focused on the role of nutritional and dietary factors in the development and progression of cancer, particularly breast cancer, and healthy weight management in adults. Her research efforts address diet composition and weight management, and how diet, adiposity and physical activity affect biomarkers and risk and progression of cancer and chronic diseases.

Jennifer Ligibel, MD: Assistant Professor, Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Attending Physician, Adult Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA. Dr Ligibel is interested in the relationship between energy balance and breast cancer prognosis. She is currently conducting a trial looking at the impact of exercise on insulin and a number of other fat-derived hormones in breast cancer survivors, as well as a project looking at the feasibility of home-based exercise in patients undergoing treatment for early stage breast cancer. She also investigates the biological impact of exercise on the body, as well as to further study the impact of diet and exercise on breast cancer prognosis.

Ása Anveden, MD: Department of Molecular and Clinical Medicine, Institute of Medicine at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden. Dr Anveden has recently analyzed cancer incidence after bariatric surgery in the Swedish Obese Subjects study. Specifically, she has reported that bariatric surgery reduces risk for cancer. Most recently, she has reported that bariatric surgery reduces the cancer risk for in women, especially cancers of the female reproductive system.

June Stevens, PhD has graciously agreed to moderate this panel. She is a Professor in the Departments of Nutrition and Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is the American Institute for Cancer Research Distinguished Professor. Dr. Stevens is an obesity epidemiologist with a large research program focusing on the causes, consequences, and prevention of obesity in different populations.

New Section Leadership for 2015-2016

Wendy Demark-Wahnefried, PhD, RD (Chair, 2015-2016) 
Associate Director for Cancer Prevention and Control
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama
Wendy Demark-Wahnefried, PhD, RD, is professor and Webb Endowed Chair of Nutrition Sciences and the associate director for cancer prevention and control at the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Demark-Wahnefried is a nutrition scientist with training in biochemistry, genetics, and behavioral science. She was recently recruited (spring 2010) from M.D. Anderson Cancer Center where she was a full professor in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences; earlier in her career she was at Duke University Medical Center. For the past two decades, her research career has spanned basic science studies focused on determining mechanisms of action of food-related components on neoplastic progression, to clinical research that involves nutrition-related concerns of cancer patients, as well as determining effective lifestyle interventions that improve the overall health of cancer survivors and their families. Her laboratory has conducted some of the largest studies exploring metabolic and body composition changes in response to cancer treatment. An area of research in which Dr. Demark-Wahnefried has experienced particular success is the delivery of home-based lifestyle interventions among cancer survivors, where she has led and continues to lead a number of NIH-funded trials aimed at improving the diet and exercise behavioral of cancer survivors. She was named a Komen Professor of Survivorship for her work in this arena. Dr. Demark-Wahnefried serves on the several boards and panels, including the American Cancer Society, several NIH standing and ad-hoc committees, and the World Cancer Fund. Her research interests include diet/hormonal and genetic interactions and their association with neoplasia (specifically breast and prostate cancer); dietary intervention to prevent chronic disease factors affecting compliance and recidivism; and lifestyle modification among cancer survivors.

Kathryn H. Schmitz, PhD, MPH, FACSM (Chair-Elect, 2015-2016)
CCEB Senior Fellow, Professor of Epidemiology
Founding Director of the Exercise Medicine Unit

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

Kathryn Schmitz, PhD, MPH, FACSM, is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Medicine. She is an exercise interventionist who has led multiple trials, including a large randomized controlled trial to assess the safety of upper body exercise among 295 breast cancer survivors with and without lymphedema (Physical Activity and Lymphedema Trial (PAL)). She has conducted dissemination research translate the PAL intervention to become more broadly disseminable. The revised program, called Strength After Breast Cancer, has now been delivered to nearly 1,000 breast cancer survivors. An online educational training program to prepare exercise professionals and physical therapists to deliver the program has just become available. Dr. Schmitz has published over 170 peer reviewed scientific papers (scopus h-index of 42) and has had continuous NIH funding for her research since 2001, including three R01s, two R21s and a TREC Center (Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics and Cancer). She has also received research support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality. She has served on the expert panel for the YMCA/Lance Armstrong Foundation Cancer Survivorship Collaborative, wrote the cancer survivorship section of the recently published U.S. DHHS report of the Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee, served on the ad hoc committee that developed the ACSM Cancer Exercise Trainer certification, and is the lead author of the ACSM Roundtable on Exercise for Cancer Survivors, which published guidance for exercise testing and prescription for cancer survivors in July 2010.
Vijay Hegde, PhD (Secretary/Treasurer, 2015-2016)
Assistant Professor - Nutritional Sciences
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
Email: vijay.hegde@ttu.edu

Vijay Hegde, PhD is an Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. Dr. Hegde's primary research interests are to discover effective strategies to prevent or treat obesity and its related comorbidities. More specifically, his research is focused on the E4orf1 protein of human adenovirus type 36 (Ad36), which is necessary and sufficient to increase adiposity and to improve glucose disposal. Current studies are focused in developing E4orf1 of Ad36 as a novel therapeutic agent to improve diabetes. His additional research interests are to understand the higher risk associated with many forms of cancer among people with diabetes and/or obesity.

Arwa Jawadi, MS (Early Career Representative, 2015-2016)
Texas Tech University Lubbock, TX
Email: arwa.aljawadi@ttu.edu

Arwa Aljawadi received her Bachelor's degree in Medical Engineering from the University of Technology in Mosul, Iraq in 2005. She then worked as a teaching assistant for four years in the same university. In 2010, Arwa received a Fulbright scholarship from the US Department of State to pursue her graduate studies in the United States, where she joined the Master's program at Texas Tech University. Arwa successfully completed her Master's degree in Nutritional Sciences in 2013. Currently, she is a 2nd year graduate student and a Ph.D. candidate in Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa's lab. Her current research project investigates the relationship between obesity and breast cancer in postmenopausal women. Her research focuses on understanding how obesity can increase the risk of breast cancer through, first, inflammation where the pro-inflammatory cytokines that are released by adipose tissue can enrich the tumor microenvironment, and second, through exosomes as a method of cellular interaction between adipose tissue and cancer cells. Furthermore, she is also investigating the effects of omega-3 fatty acids, specifically eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), as a dietary intervention to reduce and/or prevent breast cancer. Upon completing her Ph.D., Arwa intends to conduct postdoctoral studies in cancer and obesity. Her goal is to attain a faculty position to teach and conduct additional research in cancer and obesity, in a research-oriented university.

If you have any questions or comments about the section, please feel free to contact Gerald or Wendy directly.

You can also visit the Obesity and Cancer Section website here: http://www.obesity.org/about-us/obesity-a-cancer.htm

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