

Welcome

Welcome to the second CRI quarterly newsletter. The newsletter showcases cancer-related research activities in the Faculty of Health Sciences to research colleagues, clinicians, funders and the public. The newsletter is distributed quarterly via email and published on the CRI website:

<http://www.health.uct.ac.za/fhs/research/groupings/cri>

The year continues on a strong note for cancer researchers across the Faculty. As we venture into the second half of 2019, there have been numerous events, publications, awareness days, training sessions and seminars to celebrate.

News & Events

- **Congratulations to Dr Katie Smith**, Wellcome Trust Fellow and Honorary Research Associate at the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine who was recently awarded a **grant** from the **Poliomyelitis Research Foundation (PRF)** for her work entitled *"Regulation of HPV infection and cervical cancer progression following helminth infection."* This work builds on a 2018 publication in Scientific Reports, demonstrating that exposure to hookworm parasites can decrease HPV uptake and cervical cancer cell migration by altering EMT marker expression (doi: 10.1038/s41598-018-30058-9). The newly funded project will be led by MSc student Claire Butters.
- The **Cancer and Primary Care Research International Network (Ca-PRI)** conference was held at the University of Toronto in May. The conference theme highlighted *"Cancer Inequities at Home and Abroad in the Age of Migration: Roles for Primary Care."* **Dr Deborah Constant** presented work on exploring the feasibility of using mobile phones to improve the management of clients with cervical cancer precursor lesions, while **Prof Jennifer Moodley** presented on the development and validation of the **African Women Awareness of CANcer (AWACAN) Tool**. The next Ca-PRI meeting will be held in Oxford, UK, in April 2020.



- **The Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine (IDM)** held a special seminar in April entitled *"Advances in KSHV-associated Malignancies."* The talk was hosted by **Dr Georgia Schafer** and main presentation given by **Dr Thomas Uldrick**, Deputy Program Head of the Global Oncology Program at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, Washington. **Dr Uldrick** is a global expert on KSHV-associated malignancies.
- News from the **South African Medical Research Council's (SAMRC) Gynaecological Cancer Research Centre (GCRC)**:
 - Findings from the GCRC study on holistic sexuality post gynaecological cancer treatment will be presented by **Sorrel Pitcher** at the Psychology Society of SA Congress in September and **Dr Nazia Fakie** at the SA Congress of Oncology Conference in August.
 - In July, **Sorrel Pitcher** will be attending the summer school at the University of Amsterdam titled 'Sexuality, Culture and Society'. Safe travels, Sorrel!
- News from the **Division of Otorhinolaryngology**:
 - **14th UCT Karl Storz Fellow in Advanced Head and Neck Surgery** from Ethiopia commenced 12 months' training in April 2019
 - **African Head and Neck Society (AfHNS) Clinical Practice Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer in Developing Countries and Limited Resource Settings** now has guidelines for thyroid, parotid and submandibular gland tumours. In the 1st 3 months of its existence, it attracted 1630 visitors, with 7860 pages viewed. View the guidelines here: <https://developingworldheadandneckcancerguidelines.com/>
 - **3rd African Head and Neck Society Meeting** held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in May: Training council formed to establish AfHNS fellowships in 4 Sub-Saharan African countries to be run by past UCT Karl Storz Head and Neck Fellows. This ensures sustainability of head and neck surgical training in Africa and accelerates the provision of head and neck cancer services.

New websites launched

- The **Gynaecological Cancer Research Centre (GCRC)** website is now live! Visit the website here: <http://www.samrc-gcrc.uct.ac.za/>

News & Events continued...

- The CRI's 3rd REDCap Data Management Course was held over five sessions in May-June. Eight participants enrolled in the practical course covering topics including data management principles, planning and designing a REDCap project, creating a data collection instrument, downloading data dictionaries, data importing, managing users and participants, designing surveys, data quality checks and report generation. Small seminars on REDCap specific topics will be offered in the second semester – watch this space!



- PG CRI Event Postponed: The PG CRI Group postponed the seminar with **Love Your Nuts Founder and testicular cancer survivor, Torsten Koehler**. A new date will be scheduled for the 3rd term.



Recent Cancer Publications

1. Antel, K., Levetan, C., Mohamed, Z., Louw, V. J., Oosthuizen, J., Maartens, G., & Verburgh, E. (2019). **The determinants and impact of diagnostic delay in lymphoma in a TB and HIV endemic setting**. BMC Cancer, 19(1). doi:10.1186/s12885-019-5586-4
2. Blumenthal, M. J., Schutz, C., Barr, D., Locketz, M., Marshall, V., Whitby, D., ... Schäfer, G. (2019). **The Contribution of Kaposi's Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus to Mortality in Hospitalized Human Immunodeficiency Virus-Infected Patients Being Investigated for Tuberculosis in South Africa**. The Journal of Infectious Diseases. doi:10.1093/infdis/jjz180
3. Chambuso, R., Ramesar, R., Kaambo, E., Denny, L., Passmore, J.-A., Williamson, A.-L., & Gray, C. M. (2019). **Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Class II - DRB1 and -DQB1 Alleles and the Association with Cervical Cancer in HIV/HPV Co-Infected Women in South Africa**. Journal of Cancer, 10(10), 2145–2152. doi:10.7150/jca.25600
4. Chen, W. C., Bye, H., Matejic, M., Amar, A., Govender, D., Khew, Y. W., ... Mathew, C. G. (2019). **Association of genetic variants in CHEK2 with oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma in the South African Black population**. Carcinogenesis. doi:10.1093/carcin/bgz026
5. El Rassi, E., Adappa, N. D., Battaglia, P., Castelnuovo, P., Dallan, I., Freitag, S. K., ... Bleier, B. S. (2019). **Development of the international orbital Cavernous Hemangioma Exclusively Endonasal Resection (CHEER) staging system**. International Forum of Allergy & Rhinology. doi:10.1002/alr.22316
6. Fagan, J. J. (2019). **Priority setting in otolaryngology in under resourced settings: Practical and ethical dilemmas (Editorial)**. Current Opinion in Otolaryngology & Head and Neck Surgery, 27(3), 191–192. doi:10.1097/moo.0000000000000534
7. Fagan, J. J., Chaturvedi, P., & Kowalski, L. P. (2019). **Treatment Options for Hypopharyngeal Cancer in Developing Countries in Africa/South America/Asia**. Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, 159–166. doi:10.1159/000492360
8. Kaschula, C. H., Tuveri, R., Ngarande, E., Dzobo, K., Barnett, C., Kusza, D. A., ... Schäfer, G. (2019). **The garlic compound ajoene covalently binds vimentin, disrupts the vimentin network and exerts anti-metastatic activity in cancer cells**. BMC Cancer, 19(1). doi:10.1186/s12885-019-5388-8
9. Lu, Y., Lian, S., Cheng, Y., Ye, Y., Xie, X., Fu, C., ... Jia, L. (2019). **Circulation patterns and seed-soil compatibility factors cooperate to cause cancer organ-specific metastasis**. Experimental Cell Research, 375(1), 62–72. doi:10.1016/j.yexcr.2018.12.015
10. Lubbe, D., Mustak, H., Seayaroh, K., Goncalves, N., & Fagan, J. (2019). **Transorbital Endoscopic Surgery**. Current Otorhinolaryngology Reports. doi:10.1007/s40136-019-00237-x
11. Matejic, M., Mathew, C. G., & Parker, M. I. (2019). **The Relationship Between Environmental Exposure and Genetic Architecture of the 2q33 Locus with Esophageal Cancer in South Africa**. Frontiers in Genetics, 10. doi:10.3389/fgene.2019.00406

Please send any cancer-related news, events, publications and conference information for the period July-September 2019 for inclusion in our next quarterly newsletter to: Amanda.Edwards@uct.ac.za