

Welcome!

On behalf of the NCI Center for Cancer Research-Fellows and Young Investigators (CCR-FYI) Steering Committee and CCR-FYI Colloquium Subcommittee, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 17th Annual CCR-FYI Colloquium! The goal of the CCR-FYI is to foster the pillars of scientific and personal success among post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows, graduate students and post-baccalaureate fellows on NIH campus. The CCR-FYI is graciously supported by the CCR Office of Training and Education (OTE), which works to enhance the intramural trainee experience. The CCR-FYI thanks Drs. Doug Lowy, Glenn Merlino, Tom Misteli and Jonathan Wiest, along with their administrative staff and the OTE for their continuous support to the CCR-FYI committee. In line with the mission, the CCR-FYI brings together scientists to share ideas, build collaborations, exchange knowledge and empower fellows in their current and future career paths. To achieve these goals, we organize seminar series, outreach events, newsletters, professional development workshops, networking events and of course the annual colloquium.

This year's colloquium theme is "***The Era of Gene Editing—Overcoming Today's Challenge for Tomorrow's Cure***". In 2016 we witnessed huge advances in gene editing techniques in research, a technique here to stay. To this end, rapid development and advances in genome editing technologies have substantially improved our abilities to envision potential prevention, treatment and cure of many diseases including cancer. However, these technologies remain double-edged swords! To paraphrase one of the pioneers in CRISPR/Cas9 Dr. Feng Zhang – the excitement of these powerful technologies should be coupled with strategic planning, rigorous regulatory screenings and systematic optimization of the technology for safe, ethical and legal use as a life changing medicine. Nonetheless, gene editing has opened a new door for collaborative efforts from both basic and clinical research to potentially cure not only cancer but many other maladies. We hope that our colloquium will offer a platform for the NCI research community to engage in meaningful discussions about the excitement and challenges of gene editing approaches while sustaining the shared goal of eradicating cancer!

In line with the Colloquium theme, we bring together leading experts who are innovating the field of gene editing, drug delivery approaches and high throughput cancer genomics both from within and outside the NIH. To highlight cutting-edge research performed by the extramural community, we will feature keynote talks by Dr. Paloma Giangrande of the University of Iowa and Dr. Christina Curtis of Stanford University. We also feature keynote addresses from two outstanding NIH scientists: Dr. Carol Thiele and Dr. Serguei Kozlov. Further, an Outstanding Post-doctoral Fellow awardee, Dr. Alexander Gorka, from the Chemical Biology Laboratory will present his work on optical approaches to cancer imaging and targeted drug delivery. Finally, we will feature an inspiring cancer survivorship lecture by Mrs. Emily Bennett-Taylor, a brave stage-IV lung cancer survivor and a spokesperson and patient advocate for the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation.

In addition, the 2017 Colloquium will feature various career development workshops focused on industry, academia, as well as, non-traditional career paths in science

administration, publishing, and science editing. Panelists will present and discuss strategies, difficulties, experiences and techniques to successfully navigate new career paths. The 2017 Colloquium will also deliver a CRISPR/Cas9 workshop, introduction to NIH research resources, and a job interviewing skills workshop. Other skill enhancement workshops focused on stress management and mentoring will surely be informative for many of us. We are also hosting a biotech career fair where local recruiters can screen for perfect candidates amongst NCI fellows.

We hope that the 17th Annual CCR/FYI Colloquium offers you all an excellent opportunity to learn about your colleague's research, enrich your scientific knowledge, network, collaborate and find opportunities with potential future employers and help your transition to a successful next step!

Thank you,

CCR-FYI Colloquium subcommittee Co-chairs:

Manasi S Apté, Ph.D. M.Sc.
Melissa Fernandez, Ph.D. M.Sc.
Patty Wiley, Ph.D.
and
CCR-FYI Colloquium committee