



# TREC Connects!

Your bi-monthly newsletter from the TREC Training Program

Volume 3, Issue 1. January 2021

## Greetings!

Dear TREC Colleagues,  
Happy New Year! We hope that you are doing as well as possible and coping okay especially given the recent events in Washington DC.

On the TREC front – check out all of the tremendous accomplishments that YOU - our TREC community - has made since our last Newsletter.... new grant awards, new publications, new career opportunities. Super exciting!

Our period for accepting TREC 2021 Notices of Intent to apply ended last month and we received **100 Notices of Intent to apply!** This is phenomenal, and we thank you for YOUR help talking up TREC. Applications are due January 15. We are still hoping to conduct TREC-2021 in person at Water's Edge in Connecticut. We will decide in late Spring. If not, we will go virtual again. Diana will be in touch via email as the winter and spring progress to organize Workshop logistics and, the universe willing, travel planning.

Thanks to many of you who sent in their keywords, twitter/Instagram handles, and sample grants for our TREC members page / exemplar grants repository. The webmaster is programming the website upgrades now and Diana will email an announcement when they are ready – we anticipate that will be within the next couple of weeks.

Thank you again for ALL of your contributions to transdisciplinary research in energetics and cancer! Happy New Year!

*~~ Melinda Irwin, Diana Lowry, and the TREC Senior Advisory Board*

## Grants Awarded

**Inspired in part or in full by the TREC Workshop – Congratulations!**

**Please notify Diana of YOUR new grants to showcase in the next newsletter!**

**PI: Adriana Coletta.** 2018 TREC Fellow.

Huntsman Cancer Center/University of Utah

Title: The feasibility and acceptability of a Comprehensive Oncology Rehabilitation and Exercise (CORE) program among Breast Cancer survivors

Mechanism: 5 for the Fight Foundation

**PI: Nia S. Mitchell.** 2020 TREC Fellow.

Duke University

Title: Feasibility and acceptability of a community-based weight loss program among African American breast cancer survivors

Mechanism: Institutional pilot through Duke Cancer Institute

**PI: Ting-Yuan (David) Cheng, PhD.** 2017 TREC Fellow

University of Florida

Title: Energy balance, mTOR pathway signaling, and breast cancer prognosis

Mechanism: NCI R01

**PI: Natalia Heredia, PhD.** 2020 TREC Fellow

University of Texas

Title: A culturally-tailored lifestyle intervention for Hispanic NAFLD patients

Mechanism: Prevent Cancer Foundation

## Publications

Inspired in part or in full by the TREC Workshop and not yet reported in previous TREC Newsletter

[Impact of Body Mass Index on Presence of ctDNA and Disease Recurrence after Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: Analysis from BRE12-158](#). Ballinger TJ, Guanglong J, Kassem N, Radovich M, Schneider BP. (2020). *Clinical Cancer Research*. Online ahead of print. DOI: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-20-3341.

[Provider discussion about lifestyle by cancer history: A nationally representative survey](#). Arem H, Duan X, Ehlers DK, Lyon ME, Rowland JH, Mama SK. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2020 Dec2:cebp.1268.2020. doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-20-1268. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33268489.

[SARC-F for screening of sarcopenia among older adults with cancer](#). Williams G, Dai C, Bhatia S, Giri S. *Cancer*. 2020 Dec 28. doi: 10.1002/cncr.33395. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33369894.

[The Exercise in All Chemotherapy Trial](#). Schmitz KH, Potiaumpai M, Schleicher EA, Wolf LJ, Doerksen SE, Drabick JJ, Yee NS, Truica CI, Mohamed AA, Shaw BW, Farley DC. *Cancer*. 2020 Dec 17. doi.org/10.1002/cncr.33390. Epub ahead of print. PMID: in process.

[Factors influencing physical activity in cancer patients during oncological treatments: a qualitative study](#). Avancini A, Tregnago D, Rigatti L, Sartori G, Yang L, Trestini I, Bonaiuto C, Milella M, Polotto S, Lanza M. *Integr Cancer Ther*. 2020 Jan-Dec;19:1534735420971365. doi: 10.1177/1534735420971365. PMID: 33349064.

[Social jetlag and prostate cancer incidence in the Alberta Tomorrow Project: a prospective cohort study](#). Hu L, Harper A, Heer E, McNeil J, Cao C, Park Y, Martell K, Gotto G, Shen-Tu G, Peters C, Brenner D, Yang L. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2020 Dec 21;12(12):3873. doi: 10.3390/cancers12123873. PMID: 33371502; PMCID: PMC7767515.

[Body Mass Index, Chemotherapy-Related Weight Changes, and Disease-Free Survival in Haitian Women With Nonmetastatic Breast Cancer](#). Fadelu T, Damuse R, Lormil J, Pecan E, Greenberg L, Dubuisson C, Pierre V, Triedman SA, Shulman LN, Rebbeck TR. *JCO Glob Oncol*. 2020 Oct;6:1656-1665. doi: 10.1200/GO.20.00307. PMID: 33151773; PMCID: PMC7713562.

[Landmark trials in the medical oncology management of early stage breast cancer](#). Hensing W, Cesar ASM, Peterson, Lindsay L, Sheng Jennifer Y. *Semin Oncol*. 2020 Aug 30. doi: 10.1053/j.seminoncol.2020.08.001. Online ahead of print. PMID 32933761.

This publication emanated from the peer mentor:mentee relationship forged from the TREC 2020 Workshop where Lindsay was paired with Jenny as peer mentor! Congrats to you both and your co-authors on this publication!

[Preclinical Models to Study Obesity and Breast Cancer in Females: Considerations, Caveats, and Tools](#). Giles ED, Wellberg EA. *J Mammary Gland Biol Neoplasia*. 2020 Nov 4. doi: 10.1007/s10911-020-09463-2. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33146844.

[Development and Evaluation of an Accelerometer-Based Protocol for Measuring Physical Activity Levels in Cancer Survivors: Development and Usability Study](#). Crane TE, Skiba MB, Miller A, Garcia DO, Thomson CA. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth*. 2020 Sep 24;8(9):e18491. doi: 10.2196/18491. PMID: 32969828; PMCID: PMC7545325.

Please notify Diana of YOUR pubs to showcase in the next newsletter!

## Appointments and Promotions

Since the last TREC *Connects* Newsletter we have heard great other career development news – kudos to:

**Natalia Heredia, PhD, MPH**, 2020 TREC Fellow, has accepted a tenure-track, assistant professor faculty position at the University of Texas School of Public Health. Natalia started in her new position at the beginning of this month, and her new email address is [Natalia.i.heredia@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Natalia.i.heredia@uth.tmc.edu). *Congratulations, Natalia!*

**Hannah Arem, PhD**, 2018 TREC Fellow, has accepted a new position as *Scientific Director of Implementation Science*, at Medstar Health Research Institute. At Medstar, Hannah's portfolio focuses on bringing implementation science methods to various topics, including cancer survivorship, women's health, and maternal and infant mortality. Hannah's new email address is [Hannah.Arem@medstar.net](mailto:Hannah.Arem@medstar.net). *Way to go, Hannah – congrats!!*

**Lindsay Peterson, MD**, 2017 TREC Fellow, has recently been promoted to Associate Professor at Siteman Cancer Center, Washington University in St. Louis. This is not an institution change so Lindsay's email remains the same. *Terrific news, Lindsay!*

**Lorraine Dean, ScD**, Former TREC Fellow from the NCI-Centers Initiative (2010-2016), and Workshop Faculty 2017. Lorraine has been promoted to Associate Professor in Epidemiology (primary) and Health Policy and Management (joint) in the School of Medicine at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. This is terrific news, Lorraine – *congratulations!*

**Do YOU have a new email address? -- remember to notify Diana so she can update the TREC distribution list!**

## And more shout outs to .... *drum roll, please!*

**Lauren Nye, MD**, 2017 TREC Fellow, presented a poster at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) last month, of the initial data stemming from her TREC project titled [Energetics and Lifestyle in Inherited Syndromes – the ELLIS Study](#) (SABCS member login required). *Terrific, Lauren – beautiful poster and thanks for citing TREC!*

**Rishi Jain, MD**, 2019 TREC Fellow, has had his TREC-related poster accepted for presentation at the virtual ASCO GI 2021 meeting this month! If you are attending ASCO GI this year, be sure to cheer on Rishi and his TREC poster! *Congrats, Rishi!*

## Conferences/Webinars/Other TREC News

**Disseminate your work – and please remember to cite TREC if relevant!**

**Cancer and Aging Webinar: Microenvironmental Impact on Oncogenesis and Immunity. January 14, 2021 at 1-2pm Eastern.**  
Catch Dr. James DeGregori and **Dr. Curtis J. Henry (2019 TREC Fellow)** as they describe the evolutionary perspective to address cancer and aging questions and the role of the aging immune system in response to immune therapy in cancer.  
[Register for this webinar here.](#)

**TREC Webinar Series – next scheduled is January 27, 2020 at 10-11am Pacific Time (1-2pm Eastern)!**

Presenters:

**Christina Dieli-Conwright, PhD.** TREC Fellow - 2017.

*Optimizing neurological health through exercise in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy*

**Keri Schadler, PhD.** Fellow - 2020.

*ERK5 as a key mediator of exercise-induced tumor vessel remodeling: help wanted for an R01 spin*

Webinar Zoom Link – previously distributed via a calendar hold from Diana but here it is again:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87573920408?pwd=bXBZVRVOEk5dWYvK3drZzJLaXRXZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 7392 0408 Passcode: 254734

Know of others who may like to attend our Webinars? Please feel free to forward the invitation (Zoom limit is 100, first come first served).

**Final TREC webinar for the 2020-2021 series– save the dates! - Mar 24, 2021 – 10-11am Pacific.**

**ASCR Lifestyle and Cancer Symposium Evidence Matters Webinar – January 28, 2021 11am – 3:30pm EST.** [Register here.](#)

**e-ICDAM – International Conference on Diet and Activity Assessment: A Global Vision – virtual – February 8-12, 2021.** Hosted by Wageningen University and Research, home institute for two TREC Fellows, **Drs. Renate Winkels** (TREC 2018) and **Dieuwertje Kok** (TREC 2019). Conference website and registration is [here](#).

**ASPO Annual Meeting 2021 – virtual – March 29 – April 1, 2021.** Conference Link [here](#). Abstracts due November 16, 2020.

**AACR Annual Meeting 2021 – virtual – WEEK 1: April 10-15. WEEK 2: May 17-21.** Meeting link [here](#). Key dates:

- Abstract submission deadline closed previously.
- Late breaking and clinical trials abstract submission deadline: Monday, January 11, 2021
- “Placeholder abstracts” permitted for late breaking clinical trials – due Jan 11, final data due Feb 4, 2021.

**ASPO New Investigator Workshop– virtual – April 16, 2021, 12-3pm Eastern.** Applications due January 29. [Apply here.](#)

**Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting – Virtual Conference, April 12-16, 2021**

SBM is a vibrant, multidisciplinary society focused on the role of behavior in improving health. Most of our country's most daunting health challenges have behavioral origins, and achieving SBM's vision of “better health through behavior change” has never been more important. SBM members include the nation's leading scientists and practitioners, and SBM annual meetings are the premier forum for the most influential behavioral medicine research. Learn more about the annual meeting [here](#).

Rapid communication abstracts open October 15 and are due November 6. Submit your rapid communication abstract [here](#).

If you have questions about the Annual Meeting or joining SBM, contact Scherezade Mama at [skmama@mdanderson.org](mailto:skmama@mdanderson.org).

**Translational Energy Balance and Cancer Conference. Houston, TX - July 8-10, 2021.**

The conference “**Translating Energy Balance from Bench to Communities: Application of Parallel Animal-Human Studies in Cancer**” will be held at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Some of the most successful bench to clinic translation in energy balance and cancer research occurs when transdisciplinary researchers perform parallel studies in which mechanistic studies in animal models inform clinical or population studies, and vice versa. This conference will be a forum for discussions based on clear examples of successful parallel studies, as well as frank discussion about the level of evidence needed in animal and clinical research to compel clinical practice change.

International leaders in nutrition and exercise research, Dr. Melinda Irwin and Dr. Steven Hursting, will deliver keynote addresses. Four plenary sessions on Nutrition, Physical Activity and Exercise, Body Composition, and Moving Energy Balance Research Toward Clinical Practice Change will occur on day two, followed by Hot Topics in Cancer Research on the third day. The third day will also include a Specific Aims Workshop for trainees and junior faculty. One on one career mentoring will be available at multiple sessions throughout the conference.

*New abstract deadline: March 31, 2021 - <https://submit.mdanderson.org/?event=9418448c-403b-411d-a056-a71491b0b1d0>*

Questions: contact Karen Basen-Engquist at [kbasenen@mdanderson.org](mailto:kbasenen@mdanderson.org) or Keri Schadler [klschadl@mdanderson.org](mailto:klschadl@mdanderson.org)

## Other Opportunities and Items of Interest

**Call for Papers – Special Edition on Diet and Physical activity** in the journal *Nutrients*, co-edited by **Drs. Wendy Demark-Wahnefried** (TREC Faculty) and **Christina Dieli-Conwright** (2017 TREC Fellow). Details from Christina:

Dear TREC Colleagues,

*Nutrients* has a decent impact factor of 4.54, so hoping you might be working on a paper currently that you might send this way? As stated in the description below, you can either float the abstract by me, Wendy or the editorial office.

\*Journal\*: Nutrients (ISSN 2072-6643; IF: 4.546)

\*Special Issue\*: **Effect of Diet and Physical Activity on Cancer Prevention and Control.** [Link is here.](#)

\*Guest Editor\*: **Prof. Dr. Wendy Demark-Wahnefried and Dr. Christina Dieli-Conwright**

\*Submission deadline\*: **7 September 2021**

Nutrients is planning a Special Issue focusing on **Effect of Diet and Physical Activity on Cancer Prevention and Control.**

We would be happy to receive your manuscript related to this topic. Once the Special Issue is closed, we will share it with relevant scholars to promote all contributions. Nutrients is an open access journal with high visibility (<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/nutrients>); we also conduct free English editing after the acceptance of your paper. The article processing charge (APC) is 2000 CHF (2400 CHF after 31 December 2020) per accepted paper, and authors invited by the Guest Editor will enjoy a 20% discount.

If you wish to check the suitability of your manuscript for this issue prior to submission, you are welcome to send an abstract to the Editorial Office (your name and email address) and we will provide you with feedback shortly.

Thank you for your consideration!  
Christina

**Previously announced (and still active) Call for Papers – special issue energy balance and cancer for the journal *Cancers* – see invitation from Justin Brown (TREC Fellow 2018):**

Dear TREC Colleagues,

I am guest editor of a special issue titled “The Mechanisms of Physical Activity, Diet, and Body Composition in Cancer Prevention and Control” in the journal *Cancers*. For those of you not familiar with this journal, it is an open access publication that is indexed in PubMed and received a 2019 impact factor of 6.126. The link to the call for papers is [here](#). Deadline for manuscript submissions is **30 June 2021**. I encourage you to keep this special issue in mind as you prepare papers for publication. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me: [justin.brown@pbrc.edu](mailto:justin.brown@pbrc.edu).

Thank you,  
Justin

**Item of Interest from the NIH via Dr. Linda Nebeling – NIH Solicits Public Comment on Proposed Transfer of the Office of Nutrition Research (OSR):**

Dear Colleagues,

In follow-up to the release of the [2020-2030 Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research](#) last year, we would like to inform you of the proposed transfer of the Office of Nutrition Research (ONR) within the NIH.

Nutrition is critically important for maintaining health and preventing a wide range of diseases, with NIH nutrition research supported across numerous Institutes and Centers. Central coordination of nutrition research across the agency will enable effective and seamless implementation of the Strategic Plan and a new related large cohort study in development.

**The NIH is seeking public comment** on the proposed transfer of the ONR from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives ([DPCPSI](#)) within the NIH Office of the Director. DPCPSI was created by Congress to enhance NIH-wide coordination of cross-cutting research topics. This proposal would address the need for increased trans-NIH collaboration and coordination on nutrition research following the launch of NIH's first Strategic Plan in this area and the subsequent large cohort study.

NIH has developed a [webpage](#) for public comment. **The public comment period will be open until Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, and comments may be directed to [DPCPSIreorgcomments@nih.gov](mailto:DPCPSIreorgcomments@nih.gov).**

Please share broadly with your networks!

Thank you,  
Linda Nebeling

### **NIH/NCI: Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Announcement – Webinar – Tailoring Follow-Up Care for Cancer Survivors Using Risk-Stratified Pathways.**

**[NOT-CA-21-019](#)**. Risk-stratified cancer survivorship care is a personalized approach to care in which cancer survivors are triaged or stratified to distinct care pathways based on their needs and the types of providers their care requires. The purpose of this Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) is to highlight the NCI Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences' interest in receiving R01 applications focused on identifying important factors for defining risk-stratified survivorship care and/or developing and testing approaches to improve the clinical management and outcomes for adult cancer survivors using risk-stratified survivorship care pathways.

Interested investigators are encouraged to discuss their proposed aims with the scientific contacts, Dr. Michelle Mollica and Dr. Lisa Gallicchio, prior to submission.

**Learn More about this NOSI in an Informational Webinar - Tuesday January 19, 2020 from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST.** This Webinar will provide an overview of the NOSI and the application process, and include a Question and Answer session to address questions from the investigator community. To register, please visit the [Webinar Registration Page](#). The webinar will be archived on the [HDRP Events](#) webpage.

## **Funding Opportunities**

New FOA published since our last newsletter:

**NIH/NCI: [PAR-21-035](#). Cancer Prevention and Control Clinical Trials (R01 Clinical Trial Required)**

**Notices of Intent to Publish (FOAs anticipated in January 2021) -- NIH Common Fund Nutrition of Precision Health, powered by the *All of Us* Research Program:**

[Artificial Intelligence for Multimodal Data Modeling and Bioinformatics Center \(U54 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\) \(NOT-RM-21-001\)](#)

[Metabolomics and Clinical Assays Center \(U24\) \(NOT-RM-21-002\)](#)

[Microbiome and Metagenomics Center \(U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\) \(NOT-RM-21-003\)](#)

[Dietary Assessment Center \(U24 Clinical Trial Optional\) \(NOT-RM-21-006\)](#)

[Clinical Centers \(UG1 Clinical Trial Required\) \(NOT-RM-21-007\)](#)

[Research Coordinating Center \(U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\) \(NOT-RM-21-008\)](#)

## **Career Opportunities**

**Tenure-line Faculty Position in Exercise and Oncology (Professor/Associate Professor-level) – University of Michigan School of Kinesiology – Ann Arbor, M**

This position is forward by TREC Faculty **Drs. Melinda Irwin and Henry Thompson**. The search is for eight new tenure-track faculty members as a strategic hiring initiative targeting several emerging and multidisciplinary teams. A major component of this initiative includes the request for applications for faculty position at the Professor or Associate Professor level in the intersecting area of exercise and oncology. More information and the application portal is located on interfolio, [here](#). **Applications due February 15, 2021.**

## **Post-doctoral Fellowship in Energy Balance and Cancer Survivorship – Kaiser Permanente Division of Research Northern California – Oakland, CA**

This opportunity announcement is brought to TREC by 2018 Fellow **Dr. Elizabeth Cespedes Feliciano**. Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research (DOR) is seeking a post-doctoral fellow (100% FTE for at least 2 years) interested in investigating the influence of energy balance (including body composition and dietary patterns) on cancer survivorship as well as the mechanisms of those relationships. The postdoctoral fellow will work with investigators on a variety of NIH- and foundation-funded projects including: (a) investigating whether plant-based dietary patterns influence breast cancer outcomes; (b) examining the relationship of body composition to metabolic syndrome prevalence in breast cancer patients and to expression levels of genes in immune and metabolic pathways in breast tumors; (c) examining whether muscle mass in colon cancer patients is related to functional status, metabolic syndrome or chemotherapy toxicity; and (d) understanding the role of frailty as measured by muscle loss in outcomes of oncologic and other surgeries in older adults. Roles and responsibilities include conducting independent epidemiologic and biostatistical analysis, writing manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication and presentation of abstracts at scientific meetings and assisting in study conduct (e.g., design requirements for databases and data validation) and in grant writing and submission. The successful candidate will ideally have methodological training in epidemiologic methods, biostatistics, programming skills, content knowledge in nutrition and/or cancer survivorship, strong writing skills, experience in the publication of scientific manuscripts, and interest and experience in grant writing.

Please submit a cover letter, CV, writing sample (published paper preferred), and references to Adrienne Castillo at [Adrienne.Castillo@kp.org](mailto:Adrienne.Castillo@kp.org) (Sr. Research Project Manager). Substantive queries may be addressed to Elizabeth Cespedes Feliciano, ScD, SM at [elizabeth.m.cespedes@kp.org](mailto:elizabeth.m.cespedes@kp.org) (Research Scientist and Principal Investigator). We will accept materials until the position is filled.

### **Essential functions**

- Supports well-defined research with some supervision from the Research Scientist.
- Prepares publications independently and drafts grant proposals for review by the Research Scientist.
- Provides input on study design, develops analytic plans and interprets study results for the Research Scientist.
- May work with other Research Scientists internal to DOR and scientists external to DOR.
- May provide consultation and direction to programmer analysts with regard to data management and analysis.
- Prepares and presents abstracts and papers at national scientific meetings and for peer-reviewed publications.
- Seeks consultation from senior scientists for specific scientific and administrative issues.

### **Basic qualifications**

- PhD or equivalent in, Epidemiology, Nutrition, Exercise Science or Public Health or related field.
- Proven proficiency in cancer research methodology/research study design, hypothesis testing and quantitative data interpretation and application.
- Proven proficiency in computer applications in a PC environment, including statistical software (eg., SAS/R.)
- Master’s level coursework in biostatistics including survival analysis.
- Knowledge of medical terminology.
- Background/experience in methods to assess body composition and/or cancer epidemiology with an emphasis on energy balance or nutrition. Background in physical activity epidemiology within cancer will be considered.
- Preference will be given to applicants with strong analytic and writing skills, including a demonstrated ability to publish papers and write successful grant proposals.

**TREC Connects! Volume 3, Issue 1 (January 2021)**

Visit us at [TRECTraining.yale.edu](http://TRECTraining.yale.edu)

Please acknowledge the TREC Training Course grant number in any research product resulting from the Workshop:  
**TREC Training Workshop R25CA203650 (PI: Melinda Irwin). Thank you!**