


# Meet the CRN Scholars!

Fourteen individuals from eleven sites were selected to participate in the CRN Scholar component of the Investigator Development Program. Each Scholar is currently working with a local mentor, either to develop a pilot study that will ultimately lead to a successful R01 proposal or to be first author on a research paper published in a peer-reviewed journal. The Scholar program is helping participants to develop the attitudes, knowledge and skills needed for successful collaborative research.


Program Directors:

Suzanne Fletcher, MD, MSc  
Robert Fletcher, MD, MSc

**Maryam Asgari, MD**  
Topic: RCT of vitamin D for chemoprevention of skin cancer.  
Mentor: Lawrence Kushi, ScD




**Carmit K. McMullen, PhD**  
Topic: Ethnography of informal caregiving for ostomates who are colorectal cancer survivors.  
Mentor: Mark Hornbrook, PhD




**Robin R. Whitebird, PhD, MSW**  
Topic: Complementary & alternative medicine, aging, chronic disease, and end-of-life care. Stress reduction for caregivers of patients with cancer.  
Mentor: Cheri Rolnick, PhD




**Laura Coleman, PhD, RD**  
Topic: Case Control Study of Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness in Patients with Lymphoma  
Mentor: Humberto Vidaillet, MD




**Robert T. Greenlee, PhD, MPH**  
Topic: Establishing a CRN-based consortium for studying the occurrence, epidemiology, therapeutic management, & disease course of rare cancer(s).  
Mentor: Edward Belongia, MD




**Andrea E. Cassidy-Bushrow, PhD, MPH**  
Topic: Examination of shared risk factors for common diseases & the role of systemic inflammation in cancer and cardiovascular disease.  
Mentor: Benjamin Rybicki, PhD




**Michael Klompas, MD, MPH**  
Topic: Disease surveillance using electronic data streams. Harmful effects of HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer.  
Mentor: Richard Platt, MD




**Natasha K. Stout, PhD**  
Topic: Development & application of disease simulation models of cancer prevention, control, & the natural history of breast cancer.  
Mentor: Sue J. Goldie, MD, MPH




**Chyke A. Doubeni, MD, MPH**  
Topic: Racial and socioeconomic disparities in colorectal cancer.  
Mentor: Terry Field, ScD




**Nirav Shah, MD, MPH**  
Topic: Using the Prevention Index to quantify overuse of cancer screening (working with JB Jones).  
Mentor: Robert Langer, MD, MPH




**James B. Jones, MBA**  
Topic: Health information technology to improve outcomes of care in the collection, reporting, and use of quality improvement data.  
Mentor: Robert Langer, MD, MPH




**Reina Haque, PhD, MPH**  
Topic: Cancer epidemiology, pharmaco-epidemiology & cancer etiology. Tumor markers of effectiveness & survival.  
Mentor: Virginia Quinn, PhD



**Andrew Williams, PhD**  
Topic: Trial to decrease colorectal cancer stage at diagnosis by increasing physician adherence to USPSTF screening guidelines.  
Mentor: Thomas Vogt, MD, MPH



**Scott B. Robinson, MPH**  
Topic: Screening practices for prostate & colorectal cancer.  
Mentor: Margaret Gunter, PhD




**CRN Connection**

The CRN Connection is a publication of the CRN developed to inform and occasionally entertain members of the CRN. It is produced with the oversight of the CRN Communications & Collaborations Committee.

Contributors.....Maryam Asgari, Andrea Cassidy-Bushrow, Laura Coleman, Chyke Doubeni, Robert Greenlee, Reina Haque, J.B. Jones, Michael Klompas, Carmit McMullen, Nirav Shah, Natasha Stout, Robin Whitebird, Andrew Williams

Oversight..... Martin Brown, Terry Field, Wendy McLaughlin, Deb Ritzwoller, Cheri Rolnick, Leah Tuzzio, Ed Wagner, Robin Yabroff

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Please send comments or suggestions on this newsletter to Leah Tuzzio at [tuzzio.l@ghc.org](mailto:tuzzio.l@ghc.org)

# Call for Proposals: CRN Pilot Projects and Activities

The Cancer Research Network (CRN) invites the submission of proposals for pilot activities that address issues relevant to enhancing research on cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, long-term care and post-diagnosis monitoring in the context of health care delivery systems.

### Who can apply?

All investigators from within the 14 CRN institutions, regardless of involvement with the CRN, are eligible to submit proposals. If the Principal Investigator (PI) of the proposal is not at one of the CRN sites, there must be a CRN Co-investigator. Approximately \$300,000 will be available in the first year of CRN pilot project funding.



### Funding Criteria

Applications will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Potential for generating a fundable grant (most important criteria)
2. Involvement of a junior investigator
3. The project leverages unique features of the CRN and HMO setting
4. Scientific value for the dollar
5. Consistent with scientific priorities of the CRN
6. Priority will be given to new investigators, investigators with a new strategic focus and new collaborations

### 2008 Application Schedule

- January 14**..... Abstracts (limited to ~350 words) due at PI Office
- February 14**..... Full applications & budgets due at PI Office
- February 15-March 3**... Applications are reviewed
- March 6-12**..... Steering Committee makes final decision
- Early April**..... Notification of selection
- ~ May**..... PI Office submits selected proposals & budgets to NCI. Once NCI reviews, approves, and awards funds, funding will be awarded.

Application materials will be available on the CRN website or contact Leah Tuzzio for questions: [tuzzio.l@ghc.org](mailto:tuzzio.l@ghc.org)

### All projects must:

1. Involve at least one CRN site
2. Have the potential to lead to a fundable proposal involving two or more CRN sites (e.g., an R01, R21, K-award or alternative funding, including funding from foundations or other non-federal sources.)

### CRN News

Congratulations! The CRN Steering Committee unanimously approved Mark Hornbrook's (KPNW) & Larry Kushi's (KPNC) nomination as the CRN co-PIs! The new CRN Executive Committee includes Mark, Larry and Ed.

### National Conferences

- American Psychological Oncology Society  
Irvine, CA  
February 28-March 2, 2008
- NCI's 2nd Annual PROMIS  
Bethesda, MD  
March 3-5, 2008
- 14th Annual HMORN  
Minneapolis, MN  
April 13-16, 2008
- 25th Annual AcademyHealth  
Washington, DC  
June 8-10, 2008

# The Cancer Research Network Connection

## Ed's Corner of the World

### Report from the CRN PI



We had a productive Steering Committee meeting at NCI with several members of our Academic Liaison Committee and NCI staff. The major agenda item was to begin work on establishing the CRN's scientific priorities. The first step was to get everyone's suggestions, which resulted in approximately 75 suggested research topics ranging from childhood cancer risk to end of life care. Step 2 will involve an initial categorization of the items and asking CRN scientists to rate them. An NCI consulting firm will help with this and subsequent steps. The final product will be a framework of research priorities to guide our programs and communications.

We also discussed the process and timing for distributing pilot funds. We will have one solicitation this grant year. It's not too soon for those interested in pilot funding to begin drafting your research ideas. We hope to fund between 3-6 projects or activities. The number one priority for pilot funding will be the likelihood that the project will result in the submission of a larger NIH or related research grant.

Hope you have a very happy holiday season.

## News From NCI

Understanding health disparities and determining the most effective strategies for reducing them is one of the most compelling topics in public health research. The NCI sponsored Centers for Population Health and Health Disparities (CPHHD) initiative was designed to accelerate scientific progress in this domain by supporting sophisticated, transdisciplinary research that employs evidence and methods from many disciplines to address the problem at multiple levels of analysis. Just published is a report on the structure, function and research results of the CPHHD. Research highlights span the spectrum from basic research on the biology of stress to multi-level analysis of behavior and community factors.

The full report is available at:

[http://www.cancercontrol.cancer.gov/populationhealthcenters/cphhd/documents/CPHHD\\_report.pdf](http://www.cancercontrol.cancer.gov/populationhealthcenters/cphhd/documents/CPHHD_report.pdf)

- Martin Brown (NCI)

## In This Issue

### CRN Investigator Development Program:

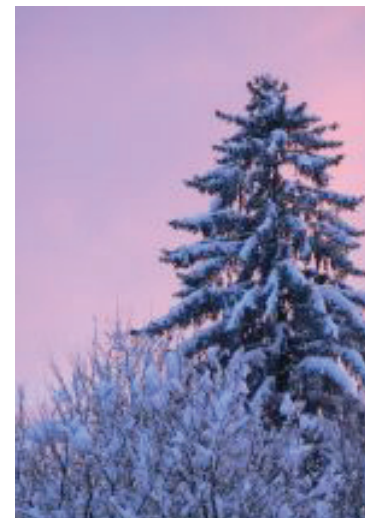
*Profiles of 14 scholars from 11 CRN sites*

### Call for Applications:

*CRN pilot activity funds to be awarded*

### CRN News

*Congratulations to the new co-PIs!*



*The Cancer Research Network (CRN) is a collaboration of 13 non-profit HMOs plus one CRN-affiliated HMO committed to the conduct of high-quality, public domain research in cancer control. The CRN is a project of NCI and AHRQ.*