



PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 • Truhlsen Event Center, UNMC Campus

Agenda

7:00 - 8:00am

Poster Session & Breakfast

8:00 - 8:30am

Welcome Session

Don Coulter, MD, Director, Pediatric Cancer Research Group (PCRG); Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Hematology/Oncology, UNMC

H. Dele Davies, MD, Interim Chancellor, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UNMC

Ann Anderson Berry, MD, PhD, Executive Director, Child Health Research Institute; Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Neonatology, UNMC

8:30 - 9:15am

Nebraska Children's Brain Tumor Collaborative (NCBTC)

Sidharth Mahapatra, MD, PhD, Co-Champion, PCRG; Associate Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Chair, Nebraska Children's Brain Tumor Collaborative, UNMC

9:15 - 10:15am

Mechanisms of Gene Regulation as a Target for High Risk Medulloblastoma Therapy

Rajeev Vibhakar, MD, PhD, MPH/MSPH, Professor, Pediatrics - Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, University of Colorado

10:15 - 10:45am

Break & Poster Session Continued

10:45 - 11:45am

Less Heat, More Light: Discovering Smarter Therapies for Pediatric Brain Tumors

Robert Wechsler-Reya, PhD, H. Houston Merritt Professor of Neurological Sciences; Scientific Director of Brain Tumor Research, Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University Medical Center

11:45 - 12:30pm

Lunch

12:30 - 1:00pm

Invited Speakers Panel Discussion *Moderated by Don Coulter, MD, and Sidharth Mahapatra, MD, PhD, Co-Champions, PCRG*

Special Guest Panelist: Kylie Dockter, Executive Director, Team Jack Foundation

Agenda continues on next page

Agenda Continued

1:00 - 2:00pm

Empowering Pediatric Brain Tumor Research through Open Science-model - from Biological Samples, through Big Data to Precision Medicine

Mateusz Koptyra, PhD, MS, Lab Director, Center for Data Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

2:00 - 4:00pm

Featured UNMC PCRG Collaborations

Moderated by: Sidharth Mahapatra, MD, PhD, Co-Champion, PCRG; Associate Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Chair, Nebraska Children's Pediatric Brain Tumor Collaborative, UNMC and Chittalsinh Raulji, MBBS, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Hematology/Oncology, UNMC

Nicole Shonka, MD, Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Oncology & Hematology and **Surinder Batra, PhD**, Professor and Chairman, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Paul Trippier, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences;
DJ Murry, PharmD, Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science;
Sidharth Mahapatra, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Aaron Mohs, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and
Afshin Salehi, MD, MS, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurosurgery

Kyle Hewitt, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Genetics, Cell Biology & Anatomy and **Kate Hyde, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Kishor Bhakat, PhD, Professor, Department of Genetics, Cell Biology & Anatomy and
Ram Mahato, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

About the PCRG

The Pediatric Cancer Research Group (PCRG) is a multidisciplinary team of scientists working to improve the outcomes of children diagnosed with cancer by combining the scientific infrastructure of the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Fred & Pamela Buffet Cancer Center with the resources and clinical expertise of Children's Nebraska.

The PCRG is the pediatric cancer CHRI area of emphasis (AOE), and its efforts span:

- Epidemiology and prevention, including extensive research into water quality as it relates to pediatric cancer rates in Nebraska and other rural areas
- Pathology of different cancers/tumors, including medulloblastoma, neuroblastoma, hematological malignancies and more
- Innovative treatments with collaborators from pharmaceutical sciences and increased infrastructure to conduct clinical trials, including augmenting data management
- Quality of care research, such as the use of robotics and virtual reality to improve experiences in physical therapy or decrease the need for sedation in radiation oncology and imaging
- Survivorship research in partnership with Children's Nebraska Center Survivorship Clinic
- Developing resources and tools to benefit a wide range of cancer research, including animal models and tumor banks
- Training for the next generation of researchers through fellowships and laboratory experiences

**Child Health
Research Institute**

 University of Nebraska
Medical Center

 **Children's**
NEBRASKA