

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Newsletter

March 2024 Newsletter

Volume 2

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center
NCI Training Navigator Administrative
Supplement

Have a question about a funding opportunity? Email Misty Pocwierz-Gaines at misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu



Misty Pocwierz-Gaines, MA,
Lead Training Navigator

Spring has sprung in Omaha and there is a lot of new growth happening. In this edition you will find opportunities for professional growth and development.

Training Navigator Office News



Speaking of growth, we are excited to report that Erin Higgins has joined our Training Navigator Team as an Assistant Training Navigator. You may have already started receiving emails from her. If you haven't met her please stop by the 9th floor and say hello.

Early Training Program Outcomes

Since December 2023, the Training Navigator Program has provided trainees with approximately \$30,000 worth of scholarships to attend professional development events and scientific conferences. These scholarships have given trainees access to professional networks and cutting-edge information that will be vital to them as they progress through their careers. The professional skills workshops that the trainees have attended have already started impacting the trainees' confidence in public speaking and grant writing. See below for examples of the conferences and professional skills events that trainees have been able to attend.

- European Association of Urology Annual Congress
- Synthetic Biology: Engineering, Evolution & Design (SEED) Conference
- The Grant Funding Formula (by Dr. Sarah Dobson)
- Small Cell Lung Cancer Consortium Meeting
- American Association of Immunologists' Immunology 2024 Conference
- Beyond the Manuscript: A Skills Workshop for Improving Research Dissemination
- Advanced Data Analysis Course sponsored by De Novo

Upcoming: JAX Cancer Short Course

Annual Short Course on Experimental Models of Human Cancer

Hosted by The Jackson Laboratory

Bar Harbor, Maine

August 4-12, 2024

Seminars led by experts in:

- Cancer genetics and cell biology
- Animal models of cancer
- Tumor immunology
- Health disparities

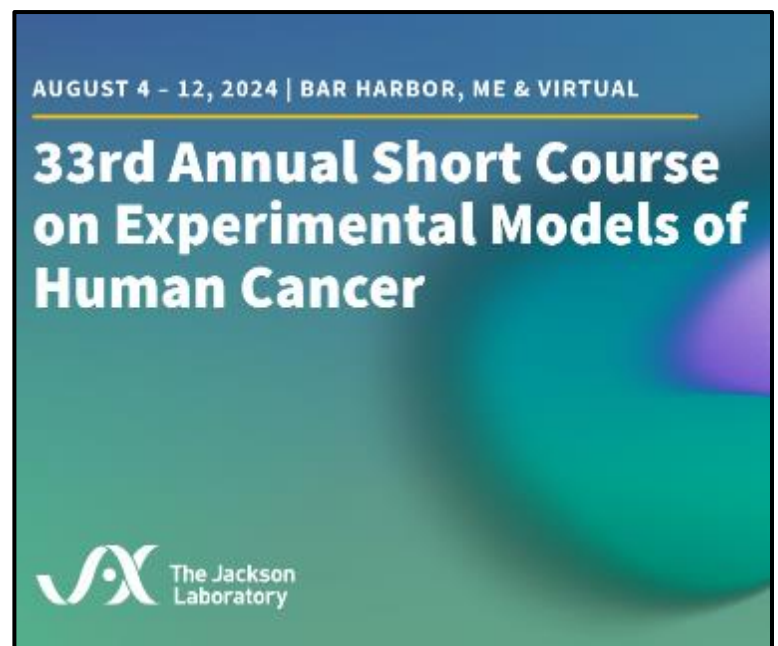
Attend in person for daily lectures, interactive workshops, & networking opportunities

Virtual option available with a comprehensive learning experience including live-streamed content & interactive Q&A sessions

Scholarships Available!

Those from underrepresented populations in the biomedical sciences are strongly encouraged to apply for a scholarship. More information about scholarships, registration, and the event can be found on the event page:

[JAX Cancer Short Course](#)



Writing WORKSHOP



Here is your opportunity to get a good start on that publication you've been meaning to write!

Join the Interprofessional Academy of Educators for a two-day hybrid publication writing workshop. You'll learn from Academy experts on best practices and new strategies, as well as have dedicated time to write. Individual authors and authorship teams are welcome, and you do not need to be an IAE member to attend.

[Register by Friday, May 10 at noon to reserve your spot.](#)

Date: May 16 & 17, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Central Time

Place: McGoogan Library classroom 6033 (WHM 6033) or via Zoom

Presenters: Jana Wardian, PhD, Michelle Howell, PhD, and Elizabeth Beam, PhD

It isn't too late: Introduction to Bioinformatics – An Online Course

This is a FREE online course that was developed by Dr. Jordan Rowley and Dr. Babu Guda at UNMC for anyone interested in learning the basics of bioinformatics. This self-paced course has seven modules, each covering a different topic. Each module also offers examples and datasets for hands-on practice, flashcards, and quizzes.

The modules are:

1. Introduction to the Field of Bioinformatics
2. Online Bioinformatics Resources and Tools
3. Advanced BLAST Searching
4. Multi-omics Technologies
5. NGS Data Analysis: An Overview
6. Functional Characterization of Genes and Gene Products
7. Using R and Bioconductor for Data Analysis

Have questions?

contact aveerappa@unmc.edu

This course is sponsored by [Nebraska INBRE](#) and the [Center for Biomedical Informatics Research and Innovation \(CBIRI\)](#).

Any participant from a qualified nonprofit organization (education, healthcare, research, government, etc.) in the state of Nebraska can register for this course for FREE. Please use the link below to start the registration process. Please make sure to use your nonprofit institutional email ID to qualify for registering. The course registration link will be sent to your institutional email.

To get started, please complete the registration approval form using your official institutional email:

Registration Approval

Form: <https://forms.gle/yRDwYPPiWmNgyvWt7>

Is an NCI K Award in Your Future?

What Are the Potential Long-Term Benefits of a K Award?

As described on the [NCI web site](#), NCI's career development (K) awards program assists early-career scientists and clinicians in developing independent cancer research careers.

NCI's Center for Cancer Training monitored K Award recipients' outcomes and concluded that the K Awards had a beneficial effect on positive outcomes in their research careers.

These outcomes included publications, grant funding, membership on federal advisory committees, and professional society membership.

- Having received a K Award positively correlated with obtaining subsequent NIH grants (including NCI grants)
- K Award recipients had higher average numbers of publications after receiving the award than scientists at the same career stage who had not received a K Award.
- A higher percentage of K Award recipients were subsequently actively involved in scientific professional societies and were members of NIH grant review panels.

Is an NCI K Award in Your Future?

What Are the Types of NCI K Awards Supported by the NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities?

NCI K01 Award: Mentored Research Scientist Development Award

[Web Site:](#)

- The NCI has K01 funding opportunities specifically for early career-stage researchers in cancer control and population sciences and cancer prevention.
- Applicants are required to have finished at least two years of training or experience after the Ph.D., but typically less than five years. Faculty members (including assistant professors) can potentially apply for this type of grant.

NCI K08 Award: Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award

[Web Site:](#)

- This NCI K08 Award grant program supports postdoctoral and non-tenured junior faculty members who are clinician-scientists for a period of mentored career development and research.
- Eligible applicants must be clinicians who have an active license to practice during the period of the K08 Award, but must also devote a defined percentage of their time to the K08 Award.

Is an NCI K Award in Your Future?

NCI K22 Award: Transition Career Development Award

Web Site:

- Support for investigators who are ready to begin the transition into independent faculty positions is provided by the NCI K22 Award.
- An NCI K22 project can be generally related to the postdoctoral mentor's grant project, but it must not duplicate portions of it (including the Specific Aims). The NCI K22 applicant's proposal must have a research goal and/or approach distinct from what is contained in the current mentor's active or pending grants.

What Are the Deadlines for K Awards?

The next deadlines for new submissions of K Award applications are:

- **June 12, 2024**
- **October 12, 2024**
- **February 12, 2025**

Clinical and Translational Research Focused NIH Structured Grant Writing Workshops

The IDeA-CTR Network is offering two FREE virtual grant writing workshops facilitated by the AtKisson Training Group (ATG), a national organization that provides training for individuals and groups, and direct support for high-value proposals.

Workshop details:

Day 1: Structuring NIH Proposals Workshop – Developing and Funding Your Research

- Examine the framework for the Specific Aims or Overview of your proposal with hands-on examples
- Discuss the Significance, Innovation, and Approach guidelines
- Understand the role of Program Officers and the viewpoints of the reviewers

Day 2: NIH K-Award Workshop

- Understand the requirements and nuances of a K-Award application
- Emphasize the purpose of each part and how different sections must mesh
- Connect proposal elements to tell your story in a cohesive way

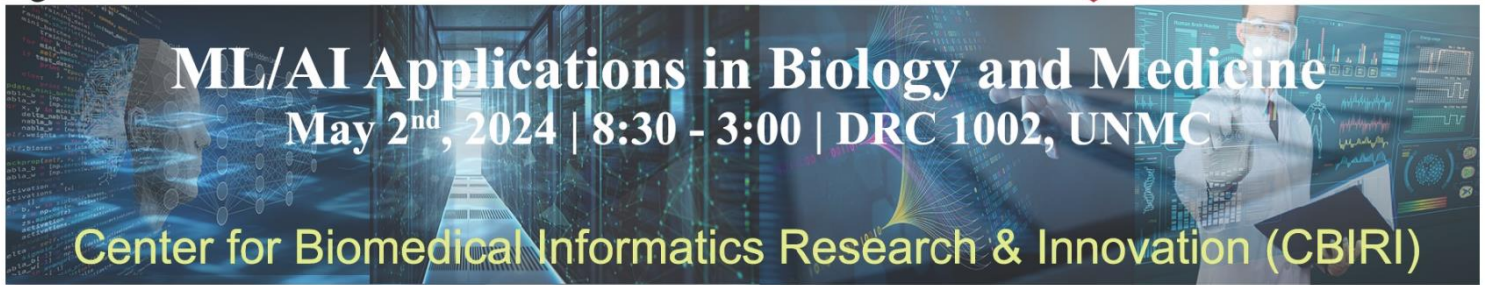
[Register today!](#)



AtKisson Training Group, LLC
Research Development | Grant writing
www.atkissontraininggroup.com



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T r a n s l a t i o n a l R e s e a r c h



Save the Date & Call for Abstracts.

Meet, greet, and mingle with the ML/AI and Research Informatics Community and learn about the diverse research projects that span across ML/AI applications in biology and medicine. Find collaborators and synergistic research opportunities to build team science projects that encompass ML/AI research. This will be a hybrid - virtual (Zoom) / in-person event, however, in-person attendance is highly recommended to be able to participate in the poster session, lunch, and meet colleagues.

8:30 a.m. COFFEE / SNACKS

9:00 WELCOME

*Dele Davies, MD, MS, MHCM, Senior Vice Chancellor,
Academic Studies, UNMC
IDeA-CTR Leadership (TBD)*

9:15 MORNING SESSION (30 minutes each)

- *John Windle, M.D., Founding Director, Center for Intelligent Health Care;
Professor, Dept. Internal Medicine, UNMC*
- *Shibiao Wan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. Genetics Cell Biology
and Anatomy, UNMC*
- *Pei-Chi (Peggy) Huang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, College of IS & T, UNO*

10:45 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 KEYNOTE

- *Ramana Davuluri, Ph.D., Professor, Dept. Biomedical Informatics, Director, Bioinformatics
Shared Resource, Stony Brook Cancer Center, State University of New York at
Stony Brook*

12:00 LUNCH

12:30 POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1:30 AFTERNOON SESSION (30 minutes each)

- *Juan Cui, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Dept. Computer Science and
Engineering, UNL*
- *Steven L Fernandes, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Computer Science
and Informatics, College of Arts & Sciences, Creighton University*
- *Jai Patel, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Researcher, Dept. Genetics Cell Biology
and Anatomy, UNMC*
- *Kirk Gasper, Ph.D. Candidate, College of IS & T, UNO / University of
Texas at Southwestern*

3:30 CLOSING REMARKS

3:45 ADJOURN

REGISTRATION

Registration information to soon follow.

POSTER ABSTRACTS

We are inviting all participants to present posters related to their work in ML/AI in Biology & Medicine. If you are interested, please submit an abstract (<150 words) by April 15th, 2024 to babu.guda@unmc.edu so that we can confirm thematic consistency.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Davuluri had his foundational training in Statistics and Computer Science and carried out research in Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics over the past 25 years. He is one of the first to apply the Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT), a large language model (LLM), to decode patterns in genomic DNA. His recently published DNABERT method became hugely popular in the research community. In addition, Dr. Davuluri has developed dozens of highly popular bioinformatics methods in the genomic, epigenetic, and alternative splicing areas and published in high impact journals. He was trained at the Cold Springs Harbor Laboratories and before moving to Stony Brook, he served on the faculty at Northwestern, Wistar Institute, and Ohio State.

SPONSORED BY:

UNMC Graduate Studies in support of the NIH-funded T32GM152775 training program on 'Critical Analysis of Data Rich Networks in Biomedical Sciences Training'

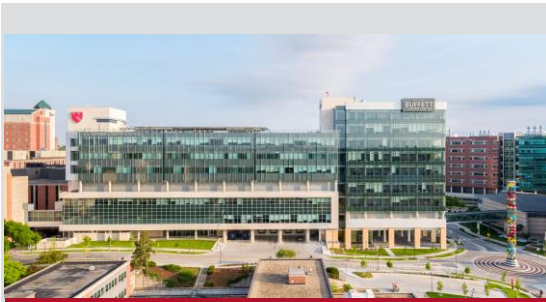
- Great Plains IDeA-CTR
- UNO – College of IS & T

QUESTIONS?

Ann Fruhling, PhD: afruhling@unomaha.edu
Babu Guda, PhD: babu.guda@unmc.edu

[Register Here](#)





Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Contact Information:

Misty Pocwierz-Gaines

Lead Training Navigator
402-559-4092
misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu

Erin Higgins

Assistant Training Navigator
erihiggins@unmc.edu

Joyce Solheim

Project Leader
402-559-4539
jsolheim@unmc.edu

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Managing Your Time and Stress



The rigor of juggling the many deadlines and requirements asked of a scientist- regardless of your career stage- can be very stressful. Please join us for a

presentation from Jeff Knapp, Director of the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Office, and members of his team for a presentation on Managing Your Time and Stress. The presentation will be from 12:00-12:50 pm in DRC I 1004. Lunch is provided for all attendees.

If you are interested in attending the seminar please email Misty Pocwierz-Gaines, misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu

