



## FROM THE DESK OF DR. WINN

WINTER 2016

2016 has been a year unlike no other. Our city experienced one of the most exciting moments in history when the Chicago Cubs won the World Series, albeit in Cleveland, but they did it! And on that team was first baseman, Anthony Rizzo, a survivor of Hodgkin's lymphoma. We had a win for the city and proof that cancer doesn't have to be the end-all. No sooner did we take a collective sigh of relief from the anxiety of baseball, than we geared up for the finale of election season. Excitement was in the air, as we knew that either way, this would be an historic election.

On January 20, 2017, we will welcome in a new administration. Whatever our viewpoints, we cannot neglect that a changing administration brings with it a changing landscape of leadership in our nation and how that might affect what we do as researchers, scientists, clinicians and care providers. It would be in our best interest to investigate the scope of our budgets, the kind of research that best reflects our catchment area and how this will affect our patient population. We work at the crossroads of a community who are speaking out for service, and in dire need of protection from disease. We need to be the voice of that community, where it can be challenging for a voice to be heard and for dollars to be allocated.

All of this said, the outlook is hopeful for our federal programs, including the Moonshot and the Precision Medicine Initiative, now called the *All of Us*<sup>SM</sup> Research Program. For months, your colleagues have been working with their colleagues here and at Northwestern and the University of Chicago on *All of Us*<sup>SM</sup> Research Program to help launch what will become a groundbreaking initiative for over 1 million individuals around the country. This personalized medical effort will collect a multidynamic sample of data, tracking an individual's medical records, biospecimens, and lifestyle reporting, among other collection tools. As the home of Mile Square and its 12 FQHCs, the UI Health Cancer Center will proudly serve as the community voice and extend an arm to those who are most underrepresented. The goal of the *All of Us*<sup>SM</sup> Research Program is to investigate the data collected and ultimately determine how an individual's genes and/or lifestyle decisions contribute to his/her health. We are committed to ensuring that our diverse population is a priority in these research standards, and that understanding the cause of health disparities is also addressed.

2016 was a tremendous year for our cancer center locally as well. We continue to make inroads with the Cuban Ministry of Health, we hosted a fantastic Cancer Research Forum, a Cancer Biology Retreat, and a ChicagoCHEC Symposium, not to mention a 5K along the lakefront with A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation, a Movember Basketball Tournament, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Breast Cancer Survivorship Celebration and we were one of 39 academic medical institutions to host a Moonshot Summit. And – we have our very own 20-ft inflatable colon! We also launched a Patient Advocate Brigade Office. This new endeavor will bridge the gap between patients and researchers and enable patients to be a more active participant in their treatment and to better understand the nature of their disease.

There is a new documentary film by James Redford, son of Robert Redford, called [Resilience](#), about the [ACES study](#) and the biological effects of stress, one of which is cancer. As we reflect on all that has happened here, in our city and in our country in the last year, let us think about what it means to be resilient. This film epitomizes many of our patients, who are the underserved, less fortunate, and simply do not have access to the resources that they need. They are those most at risk for the further cycle of violence and victimization, and more likely to face cancer. If we have the opportunity to lend a hand in any capacity and to build up that resilience, then we are making a difference. In this holiday season and as we move forward, let's continue to make that difference.

Wishing you a safe and happy holidays and kind regards,

Rob

## MOONSHOT UPDATE

On June 29, 2016, the UI Health Cancer Center was one of 39 academic medical institutions to host a National Cancer Moonshot Summit. It was an insightful, collaborative event, bringing together community partners, care providers, volunteers, our ChicagoCHEC Fellows, and many of our own clinicians, researchers and scientists. We had an opportunity to listen to a press conference with Vice President Biden and then develop and submit our own ideas on what we see for the future of cancer screening, prevention, and treatment.

In a call with the White House Moonshot Committee on December 2, 2016, we received a tremendous thank you for our support of the Vice President and the Moonshot program. The Committee wanted to assure us that VP Biden will continue in his role with the Moonshot and that details are still in development. All federal projects, programs and policies will continue through the next administration, and the goal is to continue to develop new programs and projects. In the next administration, these will likely happen at the agency level. Though the Moonshot was housed with VP Biden, it will not specifically sit with VP-elect Pence's office. More details will come and we will continue to update as information is passed along.

On December 13, 2016, the [21st Century Cures Act](#) was officially signed by President Obama. The bill places significant improvement on electronic healthcare records and manages a variety of healthcare IT provisions, as well as supports \$6.3 billion in biomedical research funding, with \$1.8 billion dispersed to the Moonshot and \$1.4 billion to the *All of Us* Research Project. Senator Mitch McConnell had the honor of announcing on the Senate floor, that Sec 1001 of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Bill would be named the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot and NIH Innovation Projects, after Biden's son Beau.

## PATIENT ADVOCATE BRIGADE

This year, the Cancer Center lost two of its most ardent patient advocates, Charmain Jones and Stephanie Carter Logan. Charmain Jones was a woman of faith and spirit, like no other. She took her health very seriously, from the moment she received her first breast cancer diagnosis, and she was the definition of charisma and personality. Stephanie Carter Logan was the picture of radiance. Her smile lit up a room, as a friend, a colleague, a mentor angel for our community partner, Imerman Angels, and as a survivor.

It is in the memory and honor of these women and all of our patient advocates, that we have developed the UI Health Cancer Center Patient Advocate Brigade. Both Charmain and Stephanie were vociferous in educating themselves, minimizing their risks, and recognizing how they could contribute to further the research of their disease. and engage other patients as advocates within their community.

As a clinician and community advocate, Dr. Winn also saw this need and felt that patients need to have an active voice at the table. This includes patients, survivors, families of patients, and those that can speak to the various communities within the Cancer Center's catchment area. The overarching goal of this Brigade is a place that speaks to the unique and diverse needs of our patients and survivors, culturally, ethnically, and socioeconomically.

The vision clarified is for these individuals to be active participants in the Cancer Center. This includes meeting with the Cancer Center leadership; receiving updates on research and grant proposals; providing feedback from the lens of the patient experience; and helping to maintain the Cancer Center mission of being a community-engaged institution. Ultimately, there is an opportunity to connect the patient, survivor and scientist. The establishment of a Patient Advocate Brigade is where those conversations can begin, and the Cancer Center is very enthusiastic to move forward with this initiative, knowing that it is being done with the interests of these two women who were such strong advocates for their own healthcare and encouraged others to do the same. The program officially opened its doors last week and is actively seeking individuals who are interested in participating. For additional information or to refer patients to the program, please contact Chris Gay of the UI Health Cancer Center OCERIS team at [chriscgay@uic.edu](mailto:chriscgay@uic.edu).



Top: Charmain Jones

Bottom: Stephanie Carter Logan



## BREAST CANCER SURVIVORSHIP CELEBRATION

October 7, 2016, marked the date of our annual Breast Cancer Survivorship Celebration. Held on the beautiful space across from the hospital entrance on Taylor St., we had a perfect fall day to celebrate our survivors and their families. This year we recognized all of the helping hands that contribute to cancer care, and those were symbolized at the event via wooden hands that were provided to departments, to decorate however they chose to represent breast cancer care. In addition to the departments of Surgery, Radiology, the Clinical Trials Office and the Diet and Behavior Shared Resource, we also had representatives from ChicagoCHEC, the American Cancer Society, Imerman Angels, Gilda's Club, and the Butterflies. We also had guests from Lily Oncology, who brought art from Lily Oncology patients and provided our patients with an opportunity to do some painting and jewelry making on their own. The day was made complete with speeches from our clinicians, including **Drs. Michael Warso, Lauren Green, Kent Hoskins**, and our Cancer Center Director, **Dr. Robert Winn**. As we continue to carry on the tradition of this day, it should be noted that this program was initially constructed with the spirit and inspiration of our patient advocate, Stephanie Carter Logan, whom we tragically lost a week prior to this event. We will miss Stephanie's passion and commitment to the Cancer Center, but we will continue pursuing her mission of patient and community engagement.



Pictures clockwise from left:

All of our survivors; Dr. Lauren Green from Radiology; Survivors and facilitators from Lily Oncology painting and making jewelry; Dr. Michael Warso and a survivor; Our helping hands in memory of our patient advocates; All of our helping hands



## CANCER RESEARCH FORUM REVIEW

**Dr. Ramon Parsons**, of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, was the Keynote speaker for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Research Forum, held on October 18, 2016. With over 150 attendees and 78 abstracts presented, it was an exceptional day of collaboration, with all four of the Cancer Center's research programs represented. Also featured was a presentation given by **Dr. Arek Dudek** of the Cancer Center's Clinical Trials Office, providing an update as to what the CTO office has accomplished in the last year, the status of our open trials, and new trials that are on the horizon. We also had a presentation by **Dr. Kent Hoskins** from the Breast Cancer Research Program, which is a newer endeavor of the Cancer Center, and gave our members and guests an opportunity to learn more about the breast cancer research that is being done and provided an opportunity for those who might be interested in getting involved with that program. Our Pilot Project winners from last year, **Drs. Arnon Lavie, Alan Diamond, Constance Jeffery and Karen Colley**, also provided updates on their respective research. Finally, **Dr. Richard Minshall** and his team from the Research Resources Center presented all of the various Core Resources that are available to the Cancer Center and how to connect with them, which was invaluable for all of our researchers and clinicians. Congratulations to all of our Research Forum participants and the poster presentation winners!



Left: Poster presentation winners: Subbulakshmi Karthikeyan; Kevin Smith; Darren Wozniak; Middle Picture: Keynote Speaker Dr. Ramon Parsons with Dr. Jan Kitajewski; Right: Poster presentation winner Dan-Ping Hu with Dr. Jan Kitajewski. Not pictured: Poster winners Erik Liederbach and Jose Antonio Suarez del Pino

## DIVERSITY IN CLINICAL TRIALS

The UI Health Cancer Center participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diversity in Clinical Trials, on September 21, 2016. Hosted by Pfizer and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois, at the Chicago Urban League, the theme for the evening was "Be a Gift," and the concept of what a gift of life clinical trials are to science and those who benefit from them. Of poignance was a [statement read by Dr. Winn, on behalf of the Big 10 Cancer Research Consortium](#), stating their commitment to diversity in clinical trial participation. With presentations by **Dr. Karriem Watson**, Northwestern University's **Shaan Trotter**, 4D Healthcare's **Star Cunningham**, and a surprise visit from State Representative and cancer survivor **Marcus Evans**, the UI Health Cancer Center had a pronounced voice on the importance of inclusiveness and diversity in clinical research. Likewise, all of the evening's participants stressed the necessity of advocating for oneself as a patient throughout the treatment and clinical research process, because of the sheer lack of diversity in research. This might not be intentional, but it is factual and until healthcare disparities aren't the norm and research standards are more inclusive of diverse populations, there will be these voids in clinical research. So self-advocacy is not just recommended, it's a necessity. The evening was capped with a presentation of videos of the importance of clinical trials and how they are a gift to the community. Videos presented at the event can be found [here](#).



Left: State Representative Marcus Evans; Students with Manager of Health and Education Equity, Zakiya Moton; Dr. Robert Winn

## ChicagoCHEC SYMPOSIUM

Our ChicagoCHEC Program celebrated its first anniversary with a Community Report and Symposium on September 29, 2016. With over 160 individuals in attendance at the beautifully refinished Malcolm X College, the day began with keynote speeches from **Dr. Linda Rae Murray**, former Chief Medical Officer of the Cook County Health & Hospital System and a ChicagoCHEC Steering Committee Member, and **Roz Varon**, ABC7 traffic reporter and breast cancer survivor and advocate. The day continued with breakout sessions on Survivors and Caregivers Navigating Cancer Resources; The Role of Community Health Educators in Achieving Cancer Health Equity; a Consumer Panel: Coordination of Care from Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, Survivorship, Palliative Care and End of Life Care; and Building Community Capacity through Equitable Funding.

The afternoon included a Town Hall; a panel of Cancer Public Health Initiatives and Policy at the State, County and City Level, featuring **Terry Mason, MD**, Chief Operating Officer of the Cook County Department of Public Health; **Allison Arwady, MD, MPH**, Chief Medical Officer of the Chicago Department of Public Health; and **Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia**, Cook County Commissioner of the 7<sup>th</sup> District. The day concluded with a panel that showcased the strength and commitment that cancer survivors have to advocate for themselves and for their community. This panel featured **Tatisa C. Joiner, Elizabeth Rivera, Yan Feng Li** and **Christopher Carlisle**. It was the perfect cap the day!



Clockwise from top:

Cancer survivor panel: Christopher Carlisle, Elizabeth Rivera, Yan Feng Li and Tatisa C. Joiner

A guest has a comment at the town hall discussion;



Breast cancer survivor and ABC7's Roz Varon giving the Keynote Speech;

Dr. Karriem Watson leading one of the breakout sessions;

the Public Health and Policy Panel: Dr. Terry Mason; Dr. Alison Arwady; Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, and Dr. Karriem Watson

Dr. Linda Rae Murray also giving the Keynote Speech;



the ChicagoCHEC PI's : Dr. Melissa Simon; Dr. Moira Stuart; Dr. Christine Ciecierski and Dr. Robert Winn with ABC7's Roz Varon



## CANCER BIOLOGY RETREAT REVIEW

By Dr. Elizaveta Benevolenskya

A new event this year was the Chicago Cancer Biology Retreat, held on November 18th and 19th. It was a city-wide event, including UIC, University of Chicago and Northwestern, and held at the Hamburger University Conference Center on the McDonald's Campus in Oak Brook. The initiative originally came from the students in the Cancer Biology Program at the University of Chicago, who have the retreat as their annual event. This year they invited UIC and Northwestern University to join them.

The retreat was planned as an educational event for cancer research trainees, i.e. graduate students, MSTP students and post docs. The goal of the retreat was to attain sustainable growth through a combination of reflection, learning from each other, and through developing new ideas in research and education. The UI Health Cancer Center, along with our faculty and students helped organize the retreat. The UIC Graduate College and UICC provided sponsorship resources to facilitate participation of UIC graduate students. Researchers across four different colleges, the UIC Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Engineering, respectively, were invited and participated. Since the focus was on the broad field of cancer biology, rather than on a particular area or technique, this allowed researchers from different fields to network and gain new insights.

What made this retreat unique is the opportunity of sharing experiences between scientists from Chicago's three main institutions. Presentations from the UIC faculty included **Drs. Ankur Saxena** and **John O'Bryan**, and from UIC trainees **Xinyu Chen**, **Jenny Klomp**, **Akshay Pandey**, **Darren Wozniak**, **Alexandria Young** and **Maria Paula Zappia**, all of whom were selected for talks. As well, about 30 poster presentations were UIC graduate students and post docs. Graduate student **Russell Spencer-Smith**, from Dr. John O'Bryan's lab, won the first prize for poster presentation. All participants agreed that it was a great inaugural event, with outstanding science and opportunities for networking. We are hoping to make this an annual occasion as an opportunity to interact with cancer biologists at nearby institutions and forge new interactions and collaborations.

## UIC GOT MUSTACHE? MOVEMBER MEMORIES

November marked the annual [Movember](#) prostate cancer, testicular cancer and men's mental health awareness month, marked by the growth of mustaches and beards around campus. This year the Cancer Center and UIC Department of Urology honored the event with a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament on east campus, to bring additional awareness to the cause. With an inaugural 17 teams from UIC and the community, the tournament also featured **Coach Tyler Jones** of the Triton College Basketball Team, himself a prostate cancer survivor. Jones spoke of being the eighth male in his family to have the disease and to be diagnosed at the age of 48. To a crowd of over 50 young men and women, he explained the importance of cancer screening and regularly seeing a physician. The event also presented a resource fair from the [Jesse Brown VA](#), [Imerman Angels](#), [the Diet and Behavior Shared Resource](#), [the UI Health Cancer Center](#), and [Mile Square](#). One of the community teams took home the winning trophy, and all of the teams requested to return as participants in the future, which speaks to the importance of what has been developed as an outstanding event and as an informational resource here at UIC. Thank you to all of our UIC Urology, UI Health Cancer Center and Jesse Brown VA participants!



Above: The winning tournament team

Top Right: The UIC Got Mustache Movember Team and UIC Department of Urology at celebrating the end of Movember.



Above: The second place winning team

Bottom left: Kevin Hull from the Jesse Brown VA and Coach Taylor Jones from the Triton College Basketball Team and a prostate cancer survivor. Coach Jones spoke at the tournament.

## IN DEPTH WITH THE *All of Us*<sup>™</sup> RESEARCH PROGRAM

Previously known as the Precision Medicine Initiative, the *All of Us*<sup>™</sup> Research Program is the re-branded version, with a renewed intention to be more inclusive of our tremendously diverse nation and to reflect on the very nature of this project, an effort of patients, clinicians, researchers, technicians and care providers all coming together towards one goal. As we unite towards the concept of individualized care, we must take a few steps back and investigate what it will take to get there. There will be more than one million patient volunteers throughout our country, who will be donating their time, biospecimens, and medical records, for the greater good of understanding not just the potential origins of disease, but how their genetics and lifestyle might contribute to disease. Likewise, there will be just as many individuals assisting in collecting and delving into the data, and those whose task it is to keep all of this data secure. This is no easy feat.

The *All of Us*<sup>™</sup> Research Program is integral to the future of medicine. From this initiative, we hope to discover new biomarkers, more accurately estimate disease risk, understand and develop solutions to health disparities, further the construct of targeted therapies, and inspire and educate study participants by providing them with the tools and technologies to advance their own health.

The initial data collected will include questionnaires, electronic health records, a baseline physical exam, blood and urine samples, mobile wearable technologies, and geospatial/environmental data. It has been determined that as the science and technology develop, so will data collection, provided that security systems are in place to manage the wealth of data supplied within.

UIC stands to be a stronghold in this initiative, but we must credit our partners, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago, as well as the other institutions and medical centers that will be facilitating this initiative. The Mayo Clinic will be shepherding the Biobank responsibilities. Vanderbilt University Medical Center, with the Broad Institute and Verily, will be the Data and Research Center. Scripps Research Institute with Vibrant Health will navigate the Patient Technologies Center, which is the participant portal that will reach and enroll direct volunteers, such as Walgreens, WebMD and other similar outlets. Finally, there are the Health Care Provider Organizations (HCPOs), and **this is where UIC plays a significant role.** As an HPCO, we will be recruiting patients as volunteers to participate in this research. UIC is part of the Illinois Precision Medicine Consortium (IPMC) with Northwestern University and the University of Chicago, and the IPMC is one of eight Regional Medical Centers (RMCs) throughout the United States. Please [click here](#) for more information about the RMCs.

Also included within the HCPOs are Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. As a member of the IPMC, UIC will be an active partner in recruitment with an outstretched arm to our regional affiliates at Southern Illinois University Healthcare; Mount Sinai Hospital, Chicago; Order of St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria; Memorial Medical Center, Springfield; Blessing Health System, Quincy; Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Mattoon; our Mile Square FQHC System, and the Jesse Brown VA Facility.

Finally, the IPMC has developed a community participatory advisory committee to engage those community stakeholders, partners and participants that will be critical to this initiative and to ensure that all voices are at the table. We are so proud to stand alongside our partner institutions in the Illinois Precision Medicine Consortium and as part of *All of Us*<sup>™</sup> Research Program to help lead this charge. Even as fractions of it continue to be crafted, we look forward to taking the hand of our community and leading them down our path, to connect them to this game-changing project.

**Dr. Robert Winn** from UIC, **Dr. Philip Greenland** from Northwestern University and **Dr. Habibul Ahsan** from University of Chicago are the Principal Investigators for the IPMC. Also representing UIC are **Drs. Martha Daviglus** and **Denise Hynes** from the UIC College of Medicine, both of whom are co-principal investigators on the grant. **Drs. Jerry Krishnan, Maria Argos, Frederick Behm, Ben Gerber, Timothy Johnson, Robin Mermelstein, Terry Vanden Hoek** and **Karriem Watson** from the UIC College of Medicine and **Dr. Marcelo Bento Soares** from the University of Illinois at Peoria College of Medicine and **Dr. Wiley Jenkins** from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine are co-investigators on the grant.

Sources: Parmet, Sharon. "UIC to Enroll Participants in President's Precision Medicine Initiative." *UIC to Enroll Participants in President's Precision Medicine Initiative | UIC News Center*. The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, 7 July 2016. Web. 21 Dec. 2016. <<https://news.uic.edu/uic-to-enroll-participants-in-presidents-precision-medicine-initiative>>.

United States. National Institutes of Health. *An Introduction to the All of Us Research Program*. N.p.: n.p., 2016. Print. Updated December 1, 2016.

"Healthcare Provider Organizations." *National Institutes of Health*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 16 Nov. 2016. Web. 21 Dec. 2016. <<https://www.nih.gov/AllofUs-research-program/healthcare-provider-organizations>>.

**RESEARCH AND RECOGNITION HIGHLIGHTS:** The following publications were submitted to the Cancer Center in the past months

[Roles of eukaryotic topoisomerases in transcription, replication and genomic stability.](#) From CCT member **John Nitiss, PhD**, Leader of the CTT Program and Professor of Pharmacology, Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences

[Reprogramming glucose metabolism in cancer: can it be exploited for cancer therapy?](#) From CB member **Nissim Hay, PhD**, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics

[Restriction of Aerobic Metabolism by Acquired or Innate Arylsulfatase B Deficiency: A New Approach to the Warburg Effect.](#) From CB member **Joanne Tobacman, MD**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine

[Decline in arylsulfatase B leads to increased invasiveness of melanoma cells.](#) From CB member **Joanne Tobacman, MD**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and CTT member **Arek Dudek, MD**, Professor, Hematology/Oncology

[Inhibition of Phosphatase Activity Follows Decline in Sulfatase Activity and Leads to Transcriptional Effects through Sustained Phosphorylation of Transcription Factor MTF](#) From CB member **Joanne Tobacman, MD**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine

[Inhibition of RAS function through targeting an allosteric regulatory site](#) From CB member **John O'Bryan, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology

[Society of Behavioral Medicine supports implementation of high quality lung cancer screening in high-risk populations](#) From **Karriem Watson, DHSc, MS, MPH**; Director of Cancer Center Community Engaged Research; and PHBO members **Joanna Buscemi, PhD**, Research Scientist, IHRP; **Yamile Molina, PhD, MPH, MS**; Assistant Professor, Community Health Sciences; **Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD**, Professor, Co-Leader Associate Director, Cancer Center Population Health Behavior Outcomes Program; and CB member **Robert Winn, MD**, Director, Cancer Center and Associate Vice President for Health Affairs

[Adjuvant chemotherapy is associated with improved survival in patients with stage II colon cancer.](#) From CTT member **Ajay Maker, MD**, Associate Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology

[Gene-expression profiling to predict responsiveness to immunotherapy](#) From CTT member **Ajay Maker, MD**, Associate Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology

[Implantable chemotherapy-loaded silk protein materials for neuroblastoma treatment.](#) From CB member **Naohiko Ikegaki, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology; CCP member **Andre Kajdacsy-Balla, MD, PhD**, Professor and Director of Transdisciplinary Pathology, Department of Pathology; and CTT members **Aleksander Lyubimov, MD, PhD**, Director of the Toxicology Research Lab, Department of Pharmacology; **Bill Chiu, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery/Surgical Oncology

**Congratulations to the following UI Health Clinicians, as nominated by their peers, who were named as Chicago's Top Cancer Doctors by Chicago Magazine:**

**Rajul Kothari, MD** (Gynecologic Oncology)

**Sergey Neckrysh, MD** (Neurologic Surgery)

**Damiano Rondelli, MD** (Hematology)

**William Mieler, MD** (Ophthalmology)

**Lawrence Feldman, MD** (Medical Oncology)

**Mary Lou Schmidt, MD** (Pediatric Hematology/Oncology)

**Dominic Ho, MD** (Medical Oncology)

**Mimis Cohen, MD** (Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery)

**Howard Ozer, MD, PhD** (Medical Oncology)

**Andrew Howard, MD** (Radiation Oncology)

**David Peace, MD** (Medical Oncology)

**Matthew Koshy, MD** (Radiation Oncology)

**Neeta Venepalli, MD** (Medical Oncology)

**Mike Spiotto, MD, PHD** (Radiation Oncology)

**Fady Charbel, MD** (Neurologic Surgery)

**James Bui, MD** (Radiology)

**Herb Engelhard, III, MD, PhD** (Neurologic Surgery)

**Michael Warso, MD** (Surgery)



**WELCOME TO OUR NEW EMPLOYEES ...**

**Jackie Kanoon, MPH**, Research Project Manager ChicagoCHEC

**Ifeanyi Beverly Chukwudozie, MPH**, GUIDE Project Manager

**Suzanne Hambright**, Illinois Precision Medicine Initiative Manager

**Tonya Haynes**, Regulatory Manager, Clinical Trials Office

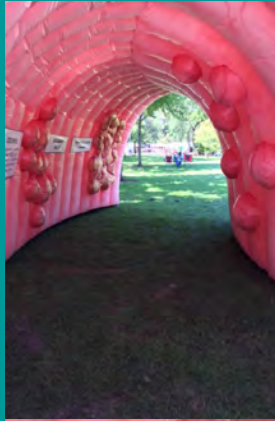
**OANA DANCIU, MD, NAMED INTERIM CANCER CENTER CLINICAL TRIALS DIRECTOR**

The UI Cancer Center is happy to announce its new Interim Director of the Clinical Trials Office, Oana Danciu, M.D.

Dr. Danciu is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine. After receiving her Medical Degree at Carol Davila University in Bucharest, Romania, she completed a post-doctoral fellowship in cancer biology at Northwestern University in Chicago. Dr. Danciu completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, before moving on to complete a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Danciu specializes in the treatment of breast cancer patients. Her research interests include development of clinical trials using experimental therapeutics. She is working on identifying molecular pathways and predictive biomarkers for different subtypes of breast cancer. Dr. Danciu is currently an active member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and will represent UI Cancer Center on the BTCRC Steering Committee.

Dr. Dudek will continue as a Professor of Hematology/Oncology in the Department of Medicine. We thank Dr. Dudek for his service to the UI Cancer Center and wish him much success at UIC and Regions Hospital in Minnesota.





Right: The UIC Moonshot Summit participants

Large Group Shot: The Movember 3v3 Basketball Tournament Group Shot

Below: Best Movember Mustache Winner

Below Right: Pancreatic Lab Open House



Top row left: The Inflatable Colon; Top row Middle: The All of Us/ PMI Kickoff meeting at Northwestern;

Middle row left: Inside the Inflatable Colon; Middle row middle: the Movember trophy and Best Mustache Hat;

2nd to Bottom row, left: CPD Outside the Inflatable Colon; UIC Cancer Center goodies on display at BGroomed

Bottom row left: Cancer Center 5K Lung Run with A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation; Cancer Research Forum participants

