

# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Biology Research Retreat Program

8:30 am – 9:00 am Check-In and Continental Breakfast, and poster set-up

## Oral Session I: Leadership Hall

**Chair: Pavlos Anastasiadis, Ph.D.**

- 9:00 am **Kim Ye Jun**  
Molecules of the cellular unfolded protein response as novel therapeutic targets for AMLs
- 9:15 am Discussion
- 9:20 am **Emmanuel Asiedu**  
Angiopoietin-like 4 increases resistance of HNSCC to cisplatin through enhanced DNA damage response and HR-mediated DNA damage repair
- 9:35 am Discussion
- 9:40 am **Matt Eason**  
Pleckstrin Homology Domains Regulate PI3K/AKT to Block Breast Cancer Dissemination
- 10:00 am Discussion

## Poster Session I, Atrium

10:05 am – 11:30 am Poster presentations

## UMGCCC Cores - Leadership Hall

- 11:30 am – 11:45 am UMGCCC Cancer Biology Research Training and Education - CRTEC  
**Toni Antalis, Ph.D.**, Associate Director  
UMGCCC, Professor of Physiology
- 11:45 am - 12:00 pm Community Outreach and Engagement- COE  
**Laundette Jones, Ph.D.**, Cells 2 Communities Director  
UMGCCC, Professor
- 12:00 pm - 12:15 pm Inclusion, Diversity, Engagement and Accessibility- IDEA  
**Clement Adebamowo, Ph.D.**, Associate Director  
UMGCCC, Professor

12:15 am - 12:30 pm UMGCCC Shared Services  
**Rena Lapidus, Ph.D.**, Assistant Director for UMGCCC Shared Services

**Lunch, MSTF Atrium**

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch

**Message from the Director, Leadership Hall**

1:30 pm – 1:45 pm Activities and Updates from the University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCCC)  
**Taofeek Owonikoko M.D.,Ph.D.**, UMGCCC Director

1:45 pm – 1:50 pm Questions and General Discussion

**Keynote Lecture, Leadership Hall**

1:50 pm – 2:00 pm Keynote Introduction  
**Emmanuel Asiedu**, Predoctoral student, T32 Training Program in Cancer Biology

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm **Sadhana Jackson, M.D.**, NIH Distinguished Scholar  
Head, Developmental Therapeutics and Pharmacology Unit  
National Cancer Institute/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
“The Blood, The Brain, The Barriers: Intersectionality of Neurooncology and Advocacy”

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm Discussion

**Poster Session II, Atrium**

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Poster presentations

**Oral Session II: Leadership Hall**

**Chair: James Shamul, Ph.D.**

4:00 pm **Erik Nordquist**  
Physics- and machine-learning-based method for identifying druggable binding sites with SILCS-Hotspots

4:15 pm	Discussion
4:20 pm	<b>Julia Ju</b> Tubulin-based microtentacles aid in heterotypic neutrophil- tumor cell interactions
4:35 pm	Discussion
4:40 pm	<b>Peter Ikhane</b> Perspectives of donor community members on using immortalized anonymous cells for creating Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs)
4:45 pm	Discussion
4:50 pm	<b>Blair Ptak</b> The RNA Binding Protein, MBNL1, Safeguards Against Overstimulation of the Hypoxic Response in Glioblastoma
5:10 pm	Discussion

<b>Awards Ceremony for the Cancer Biology Retreat, MSTF Atrium</b>
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5:10 pm – 5:30 pm	Awards Ceremony and Reception with light refreshments  Awards will be given for the top oral and poster presentations, sponsored by University of Maryland BioPark and presented by Jim Hughes, MBA, Chief Enterprise and Economic Development Officer and president of the UMB Health Science Research Park Corporation.
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# Keynote Speaker

**Sadhana Jackson, M.D.**, received her B.S. in Molecular Biology from Hampton University, her M.D. from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA and her residency in Pediatrics at Orlando Health. In 2015, she began an independent faculty position as an Assistant Clinical Investigator in the Neuro-Oncology branch at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In 2019, she joined the Surgical Neurology Branch at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, where she serves as a tenure-track investigator with an adjunct appointment with the Pediatrics Oncology Branch at the NCI.

Dr. Jackson is a recipient of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Marie Brodie-Henderson Call to Service Award, the NIH Office of the Director Award, the NCI NIH Directors Award for Leading Diversity and the Presidential Early Career Awards for scientists and Engineers (PECASE) whose announcement was delayed due to COVID.



Dr. Sadhana Jackson utilizes her clinical expertise and research efforts to understand the intersection of the blood-brain barrier and malignant glioma. Her clinical practice focuses on drug delivery of systemic agents for pediatric malignant brain tumor patients. As a tenure-track Investigator in NINDS and NCI, Dr. Jackson ties her clinical practice to her research efforts focused on understanding the heterogeneous permeability of the blood-brain barrier amongst malignant gliomas.

One of the major obstacles to effectively treating central nervous system (CNS) tumors is the integrity of the blood-brain barrier (BBB). The journey as a clinician-scientist includes various barriers that result in stifling progress, inducing stagnation or encouraging advancement. This talk details various obstacles encountered along the way towards career success and what attributes are needed to achieve work, life harmony.

To learn more about Dr. Jackson and her research, visit  
[Sadhana Jackson, M.D. | Center for Cancer Research](#)