

2025 Cancer Research Retreat, Honoring “Together For A Cure”

Friday, July 25, 2025

Location: SAVANNAH DLR & Zoom

Zoom meeting ID: 953 4820 9738

Zoom meeting Passcode: 985586

8:45 AM

Welcome

8:50 AM – 9:50 AM

**MUSM Landings Women’s Golf Association Cancer Research
Lecture**

Virtual

“CAR T Cells: Synthetic Biology Transforming Medicine”

Edmund Waller, MD. PhD

Rein Saral, MD, Professorship in Cancer Medicine

Winship Cancer Institute, Emory University School of Medicine

9:50 AM – 12:30 PM

**Oral Presentations from “2025 MUSM Landings Women’s Golf
Association Cancer Research Scholars”**

(Each presenter: 8 min. presentation +2 min. discussion)

1. Anjali Patel: “How Obesity Fuels Melanoma”

Mentor: Dr. Mohammed Abdelsaid, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

**2. Bhumi Patel: “Modulation of Cancer-Associated Cell Adhesion Genes by the
Unfolded Protein Response”**

Mentor: Dr. Jinoh Kim, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

**3. Celia Sada: “Improving Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates at a Family Medicine
Clinic: QI initiative”**

Mentors: Drs. Kimberly Roth and Eric Shaw, Community Medicine, MUSM

**4. Dallas Hunt: “Mechanism of Action of Human Gut Derived Mesenchymal Stem
Cells: Implications for Mitigating Gastrointestinal Cancer Onset”**

Mentor: Dr. Raghavan Chinnadurai, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

**5. Daniel Rivera: “Understanding Low Follow-Up Rates in a Hospital-Based
Hereditary Cancer Screening Program: A Retrospective Analysis of
Demographic and Geographic Predictors”**

Mentors: Drs. William Burak, Katie Bennett, Zoe Siegel, CGC, Anderson Cancer
Institute, Memorial Health, Savannah.

**6. Emily Birnbaum: “Testing the Effects of NAD+ Against Mercury Induced Kidney
Damage”**

Mentor: Dr. Jong-Hyuk Lee, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

7. **Jacob Miller: “Investigating p53 Interaction Differences Between Human and Elephantine MDM2”**

Mentor: Dr. Jong-Hyuk Lee, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

8. **Joseph Pham: “Diagnostic Accuracy of CT and/or PET/CT in Assessment of Lymph node Metastasis in Head and Neck Cancer”**

Mentor: Dr. Dhruv Patel, Nuclear medicine, Memorial Health, Savannah

9. **JT Belflower: “Cardiovascular Toxicity of PARP Inhibitors”**

Mentor: Dr. Mohammed Abdelsaid, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

10. **Kenzington Deal: “Improving Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates at a Family Medicine Clinic: Patient Perspectives”**

Mentors: Drs. Kimberly Roth and Eric Shaw, Community Medicine, MUSM

11. **Lauren Kogan: “Stress Enhances AIPB Expression and Reduces Estradiol in Triple Negative Breast Cancer”**

Mentor: Dr. Himangshu Bose, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

12. **Omeka Bhatia: “Exploring the Genomic Intersections of Autism and Cancer: Insights into Dual Pathogenesis and Clinical Care”**

Mentor: Dr. Sarah Rotschafer, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

13. **Stephanie Girle: “Endometriosis Induced Immune Imbalance and its Potential Role in Ovarian Cancer”**

Mentor: Dr. Ron Garner, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

14. **Sudhanva Rao: “Examining the Link Between Gestational Tobacco Exposure and Neoplastic Outcomes in the Female Reproductive System”**

Mentor: Dr. Anthony J. Kondracki Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

15. **William Ian Meeks: “FOXD3-Mediated Restoration of p53 Tumor Suppressor Function”**

Mentor: Dr. Wei-Hsiung Yang, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

16. **Zachary Franklin: “Investigation of Immunological Mechanisms of Extracorporeal Photopheresis Cancer Therapy”**

Dr. Raghavan Chinnadurai, Biomedical Sciences, MUSM

12:30 PM

Conclusion