

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CP RTP?



Pictured above are 2014 CP RTP Summer Research Experience students.

2014 Summer Research Experience in Cancer Prevention

17 undergraduate, graduate and health professional students joined CP RTP for the 2014 CP RTP Summer Program as part of the MD Anderson Summer Experience, on Tuesday, June 3rd. Through our NCI-funded R25E "Cancer Prevention Education: Student Research Experiences" grant (R25E CA056452), we were able to create this program to bring in students for a 10-week short-term research experience during the summer. This experience concluded on Friday, August 8th with the MD Anderson Summer Final Event: Poster Session and Elevator Speech Competition (see below).

Trainee Accolades

- **Trainee Research Day 2014** poster competition finalists in the MD Anderson Alumni and Faculty Associate Award in Population Science category:
 - **Jeanne Pierzynski**, R25T Predoctoral Fellow, Epidemiology
Genetic and Social Determinants of Quality of Life in Lung Cancer Patients; Mentor: Xifeng Wu, MD, PhD
 - **Calandra Whitted**, R25T Predoctoral Fellow, Health Disparities Research
Examination of Eligibility Criteria and Participation in a Physical Activity Study; Mentor: Lorna Haughton McNeill, PhD
- **Nicholas Whiting, Ph.D.**, R25T Postdoctoral Fellow, Experimental Diagnostic Imaging, has been selected a finalist in the MD Anderson Trainee Research Day Elevator Speech Competition. In addition, Dr. Whiting was also awarded a Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program Exploration-Hypothesis Development Award as Principal Investigator, *Development of Silicon-Coated Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide Nanoparticles for Targeted Molecular Imaging and*

Hyperthermic Therapy of Prostate Cancer. Dr. Whiting along with five other finalists competed in the Trainee Research Day 2014 Elevator Speech competition:

- **Srikanth Appikonda**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- **Vida Chitsazadeh**, Immunology
- **Isabella Glitza**, Fellow, Cancer Medicine
- **Shyyam Moorthy**, Graduate Research Assistant, Head & Neck Surgery
- **Zahra Timsah**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- **Nicholas Whiting**, CP RTP R25T Postdoctoral Fellow, Experimental Diagnostic Imaging
- **Corbin Ester** (former *Clinical Cancer Prevention, R25E GRA, Summer 2013*), was recently awarded the 2014 Goldwater Scholarship at Appalachian State University. In addition, Corbin is currently working for the National Cancer Institution (NCI) this summer under Dr. Miriam Poirier, a pioneer in biochemical dosimetry and molecular epidemiology.
- **Miguel Cano, Ph.D.**, has accepted a tenured faculty position with Florida International University in the Department of Epidemiology, effective August 19th!
- **Rachel Atkinson, Ph.D.** (former *Clinical Cancer Prevention, R25T Postdoctoral Fellow, 2011-2013*), is now the Director of Medical Affairs at Merck Worldwide.
- Former Behavioral Science, R25T Postdoctoral Fellow (2012-2013), **Faith Fletcher, Ph.D.**, was awarded the 2014-2015 Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRPP) Faculty Fellowship at University of Illinois - Chicago, which gives her the opportunity to further examine cancer disparities among HIV-positive women through a public policy lens. Dr. Fletcher was also awarded the Kaiser Permanente Burch Minority Leadership Development Award. Faith is currently an Assistant Professor in the Division of Community Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health (UIC-SPH).

MD Anderson Summer Final Event: Poster Session and Elevator Speech Competition



MDACC Summer Program Elevator Speech Finalists (L to R): Catherine Cage,

Sapan Shah, Emilyn Banfield, Shyam Popat, Samantha Holt, and Katrina Polivka

The MD Anderson Summer Final Event: Poster Session and Elevator Speech Competition took place on Friday, August 8, 2014. 185 students from the following MD Anderson programs participated in the final event:

- Academic Affairs (including 1st yr Medical Students)
- High School Research Program - Smithville
- Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
- The King Foundation program within the School of Health Professionals
- Cancer Prevention Research Training Program (CP RTP)

Students formally presented a scientific poster of their summer research and six finalists competed in the elevator speech competition. Close to 20 registered contestants submitted videos to enter the competition, and the following six summer students were selected as finalists:

1. Emilyn Banfield - *Children's Healthy Eating*
2. Catherine Cage - *LGBT Smoking Cessation*
3. **Samantha Holt - *Biomarkers for Lung Cancer***
WINNER
4. Katrina Polivka - *"Marketing" Cancer Prevention Behaviors*
5. Shyam Popat - *Merlin and Malignant Mesothelioma*
6. Sapan Shah - *Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation*

The *Best Speech* and *People's Choice* winner of the elevator speech competition was our own **Samantha Holt** (*CP RTP Summer Research Experience, College Student, Mentor: Dr. Samir Hanash, Clinical Cancer Prevention*)! Congratulations to Samantha and the finalists!