

Network News

PE-CGS 2023 Annual Meeting Highlights & Call for Feedback

We had a wonderful time at our Annual Meeting last week, where we shared our scientific progress and learned from each other's experiences. We were honored to have our keynote speakers, who shared their expertise on topics related to our work.



We are grateful for the participation of patient, participant, and community representatives, who gave us invaluable insights and perspectives on our work. It was a great opportunity to network with our peers, and enjoy the scenic beauty of New Mexico for those who attended in person.

We would love to hear your thoughts on the meeting, including what you liked, what you learned, and what we can do better next year. Please fill out this short survey and share your opinions and suggestions with us: [Click here to complete the evaluation](#) or click the button below.

[Annual Meeting Evaluation](#)

COPECC Spotlighted by NCI


The Center for Optimization of Participant Engagement for Cancer Characterization ([COPECC](#)), one of our PE-CGS Research Centers, was featured recently on the NCI Cancer Currents Blog. The blog post describes COPECC's genetic study [ENLACE](#), which aims to learn more about colorectal cancer in people who are Hispanic and Latino with the goal of improving treatment. The post also highlights the important role that their bilingual genetic counselors play in helping participants understand genetic testing for colorectal cancer as well as participants' own test results. We invite you to read the full blog post [here](#).

ENLACE Study Explores Colorectal Cancer in Hispanic and Latino People

Subscribe
October 18, 2023, by Edward Winstead

Colorectal cancer is a leading cause of cancer death among people of Hispanic and Latino descent in the United States. Adan Reinosa Rivera, a retired electrical engineer in Los Angeles, is doing his part to change that.

Mr. Reinosa has been living with metastatic colorectal cancer for more than a decade. The cancer was detected in his lungs a few months after a tumor was removed from his colon. He's been managing the disease with his doctor ever since.

Now, as the first participant in a genetic study called ENLACE , Mr. Reinosa is helping to build a body of knowledge about the molecular features of colorectal cancers in Hispanic and Latino people.

The study, supported by the Cancer MoonshotSM, aims to learn more about the disease in people of Hispanic and Latino descent, with the ultimate goal of improving treatments for this population group. And to achieve this aim, investigators are also testing ways to engage more people from this group in cancer research.

Mr. Reinosa, who is 65 years old and restores classic sports cars in his free time, is helping with both goals. He has provided blood and tumor samples for analysis with genomic tools such as DNA sequencers. And he is part of the study's patient advisory panel, which is developing ideas about how to engage potential participants and improve the



Adan Reinosa has been living with metastatic colorectal cancer for more than a decade. Mr. Reinosa, who was the first participant in the ENLACE

John D Carpten, PhD, Elected to National Academy of Medicine

Congratulations to Dr. John D Carpten of the PE-CGS Research Center COPECC for being elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). NAM recognized Carpten "for leading the genomics field in understanding how racial and ethnic backgrounds affect cancer predisposition," sharing that he is internationally recognized for research in functional genomics, health disparities and precision medicine. [Read the full article here](#)

Ways to Collaborate

Subcommittee Updates

- **Health Equity:** **No meetings**
- **Participant Engagement:** (10/12/23) Norah Crossnohere presented initial findings from the key informant interviews about the Research Centers' engagement and optimization activities. Members of the subcommittee discussed the initial findings and ways to synthesize the engagement and optimization components. They also discussed plans for the subcommittee's working session on **October 24** at the Annual Meeting.
- **Return of Results:** (10/11/23) The **subcommittee met** and project leaders shared progress and next steps for each project. A working group is forming for the Managing Return of Results of Somatic Data project. The Benefits of Paired Germline and Somatic Testing project is looking forward to an invitation to submit to Nature Medicine. The Cascade Testing project quantitative instrument will be shared for participant feedback during the Annual Meeting. They also discussed plans for the RoR breakout and subcommittee's working session on **October 24** at the Annual Meeting.

Ways to Communicate

PE-CGS-Related Educational Materials & Annual Meeting Materials

If you are looking for materials presented at the Annual Meeting, including slides, e-posters, scientific posters, pictures, recordings, and Research Centers' educational materials, you can find them in the Network file repository on the pecgs.org website. The file repository is a secure online space where you can access various documents and resources related to the Network, such as logos, flyers, infographics, and more.

To access the file repository, you need to log into the pecgs.org website with your username and password. Then, click on the 'Repository' link under the 'Resources' tab and click on the '**Annual Network Meeting**' folder --> '**2023**' folder.

To join the file repository, just click the button below and follow the instructions. If you have any questions or suggestions about the file repository, please contact us at pe-cgs@osumc.edu.

[Join the PE-CGS File Repository](#)

Upcoming Events

Upcoming PE-CGS Network Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting
11/2 (To be confirmed)	1 pm ET	Steering Committee
11/16	3 pm ET	All Hands
11/28	3 pm ET	Communications
11/30	3 pm ET	Network Managers Meeting

The National Cancer Institute Cancer Health Equity Visioning Workshops

The NCI will hold a series of workshops with a focus on cancer health disparities. A series of five 4-hour virtual ideation minilabs (interactive workshops) will take place in **January 2024** and are designed to coalesce, focus, and refine the ideas from the first stage into strong themes and opportunities that can serve as the foundation for new research directions in the science of cancer health disparities (CHD). This stage will involve additional cross-discipline discussions and conclude with a series of white papers summarizing the themes and opportunities for broad dissemination. The application deadline is **November 8**. [Click here to apply](#)

Funding and Opportunities

Investigator-Initiated Research in Genomics and Health Equity

The purpose of this initiative is to support investigator-initiated research in genomics and health equity, with the ultimate goal of developing approaches, generating and disseminating data, and implementing metrics or interventions that will advance the equitable use of genomics to improve health in US populations. Awardees will conduct innovative and generalizable research in genomics and health equity spanning across genomic research areas and will incorporate a plan for enhancing diverse perspectives.

- **R01 Research Project Grant**
 - The first upcoming application due date is **November 8 (5 pm local time)**. [Learn more here](#)
- **R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant**
 - This R21 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will support small research projects that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources. The R21 grant mechanism supports different types of projects including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology. The first upcoming application due date is **November 8 (5 pm local time)**. [Learn more here](#)

NIH Build UP Trust Challenge

The NIH Build UP Trust Challenge will award a total of up to \$1.25 million for solutions that increase research participation and the adoption of existing and new tools and approaches to detect, treat, and monitor diseases, conditions, and disorders by improving engagement with minority health populations and populations with health disparities. Review the [Readiness Tool](#) to help determine your eligibility. [Register here](#) no later than **November 14 (5 pm ET)**.

Roundtable on Genomics and Precision Health - Strategic Plan Reflection on the Roundtable's Work Since 2020

NATIONAL ACADEMIES *Sciences
Engineering
Medicine*

The National Academies [Roundtable on Genomics and Precision Health](#) will host a virtual event on **November 15 (12-1:15 pm ET)** to highlight the work of the roundtable since the adoption of its [strategic plan](#) in 2020. Speakers will provide their perspectives on the goals and key takeaways heard from workshop and event speakers. The event will be accessible via webcast. [Learn more here](#)

NIH HuBMAP Announces 2023 JumpStart Program

[HuBMAP](#) is an NIH-funded initiative that will generate 3D tissue maps and construct an atlas of the function and relationships among cells in the human body. These maps and atlas can lead us to a better understanding of how the relationships among our cells affects our health.

The purpose of the [JumpStart Program](#) is to offer junior investigators working on human atlasing projects the opportunity to take a leadership role in conducting synergistic, collaborative research projects within the HuBMAP consortium. These projects will build on work that already exists in HuBMAP by either extending aims of current awards or as a new but related research project. The goal of this program is two-fold: 1) create a mentored, career development opportunity for promising junior researchers, and 2) promote collaboration among HuBMAP and the atlas building community.

The deadline to indicate your interest in presenting at the December Pitch event is **November 28**. [Learn more here](#)

PE-CGS SHORT READS submissions

Have news to share with the PE-CGS Network community?
For consideration, send your news to pe-cgs@osumc.edu.

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