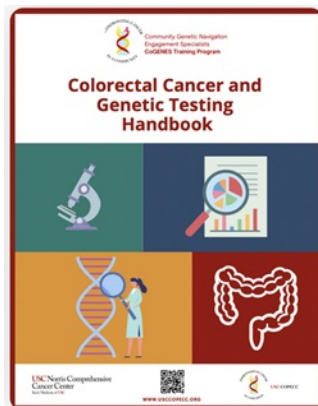
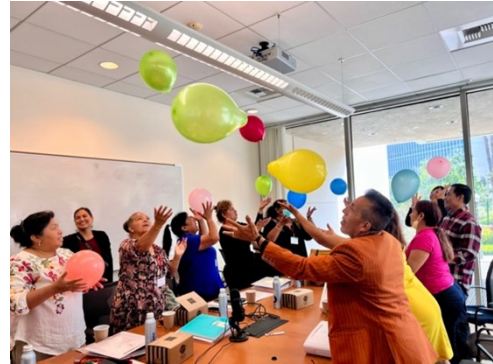


Network News

Research Center Spotlight: USC COPECC

At the USC Center for Optimization of Participant Engagement for Cancer Characterization (COPECC) we propose to address the gap of knowledge about the genomic characteristics of Hispanic/Latinx colorectal cancer patients and their tumors and have developed optimized approaches for engagement and education for this understudied population. Our ENLACE study has recruited 152 patients to date, and our preliminary analyses show that knowledge about genetics and genomic testing has increased among our patients from the time of recruitment until after return of genetic results. The Engagement Optimization Unit has completed focus groups among Hispanic colorectal cancer patients, and those findings are helping us inform the optimization of our recruitment materials for ENLACE.



In 2023 we launched the CoGENES (Community Genetic Navigation Engagement Specialists) program, which utilizes a train-the-trainer model to train community health educators to serve as liaisons in the community disseminating information about colorectal cancer prevention and genetic testing. We trained a total of 42 CoGENES and developed a toolkit for them to use in the community, which includes a bilingual colorectal cancer and genetic testing handbook, which was tested with focus groups and rated by our community health workers. Training evaluation shows that all CoGENES acquired critical knowledge and confidence to train others and disseminate information in their communities. [Click here to download the handbook.](#)

Join us for the June 4 Health Equity Subcommittee Meeting

All Network members are invited to join the Health Equity subcommittee Meeting on **June 4 at 11 am ET** to learn about the harmonization process used for the social determinants of health (SDoH) in Population-based Research to Optimize the Screening Process (PROSPR) Consortium. [Use this Zoom link to join.](#) The presenter will be Dr. Andrea Burnett-Harman, PhD, MPH, Program Director, Clinical and Translational Epidemiology Branch, Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, NCI. [Learn more about Dr. Burnett-Harman.](#)



Ways to Collaborate

Subcommittee Updates

We invite all members of the PE-CGS Network to consider joining our scientific subcommittees; please discuss this opportunity with your team and contact the Coordinating Center to be added: pe-cgs@osumc.edu.

- **Health Equity:** (5/7)
 - The subcommittee transitioned leadership. We thank John Carpten (COPECC) and Bettina Drake (WU-PE-CGS) for establishing and leading this subcommittee. We welcome Enrique Velazquez Villarreal (COPECC) and Hyoshin Kim (CC) as new co-chairs of the subcommittee.
 - The subcommittee is: 1) reviewing the common data elements catalog to pinpoint specific questions that can be addressed using our current data set; 2) reviewing the [census tract tool](#) to consider if it could be used to investigate questions related to the social determinants of health (SDOH) across the centers; 3) collecting details on research centers' intentions to carry out subsequent participant surveys that will include assessments related to the SDOH; 4) coordinating a discussion with genomic characterization unit representatives from the centers to exchange insights on their somatic analyses and approaches to genetic ancestry.
- **Participant Engagement:** (4/19)
 - Dr. Matthew DeCamp (OPTIMUM) from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus led a rich discussion on "Ethics, Engagement, and Consent: A Facilitated Discussion of Practical Solutions." The recording of the meeting is in the repository under the Participant Engagement Subcommittee folder.
 - The subcommittee is finalizing the research paper on characterizing engagement and engagement optimization approaches across the Network.
- **Return of Results:** (5/8)
 - Dr. Anastasia Wise from the All of Us Program presented the program's approaches to the responsible return of genomic results to participants. The recording of the meeting is in the repository under the Return of Results Subcommittee folder.
 - The CC led a survey and received results from each research center on their approaches to returning results for germline and somatic testing. The return of somatic results, cascade testing, and integrative reporting projects continue to meet separately and report back to the subcommittee.

Ways to Communicate

Upcoming conference deadlines

Consider submitting to the following conferences that could be of relevance to your PE-CGS research.

- 2024 ASHG Annual Meeting (November 5-9, 2024 in Denver, Colorado): Wednesday, **June 5, 2024, 5 pm ET**. [Learn more](#).
- 17th AACR Conference on Cancer Health Disparities (September 21-24, 2024 in Los Angeles, CA): Thursday, **June 6, 2024, 1 pm ET**. [Learn more](#).

Webinar: Returning to Work after Glioma

The International Low-Grade Glioma Registry (OPTIMUM) recently organized and moderated a webinar titled "Returning to Work after Glioma". [View the recording of this webinar](#).

Upcoming Events

Workshop: Toward a Framework to Improve Diversity and Inclusion in Clinical Trials

A planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will organize a [public workshop](#) to explore opportunities to improve racial and ethnic diversity in clinical trials with a focus on system-level change and collective efforts across organizations and sectors that no one entity can effectively take on alone. The workshop will be held on **Monday, May 30, 2024, from 8:30 am to 5 pm ET** at the **National Academy of Sciences Building, 2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington DC 20418**. Virtual meeting link will be shared via email once you [register for the event](#).

Cancer Moonshot Conversation

Please join us for the Cancer Moonshot [Seminar Series](#) on **May 23 from 12 pm ET - 1 pm ET**. Dr. Kai Tan from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Liz Salmi from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center will present on the topic: Advancing Data Sharing through the Cancer Moonshot. [Click here to register now](#).

Population Descriptors for Legacy Genomic Data: Challenges and Future Directions (NIH Two-Day Virtual Workshop)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutes, Offices, and Centers are partnering to host a two-day virtual workshop on **Tuesday, May 28 (1 pm ET to 5 pm ET) and Wednesday, May 29 (11 am ET - 3 pm ET), 2024**, to explore the recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) 2023 report, [Using Population Descriptors in Genetics and Genomics Research: A New Framework for an Evolving Field](#), with regards to legacy genomic data. This workshop aims to provide recommendations regarding the application of population descriptors to existing data. [Click here to register now.](#)

Upcoming PE-CGS Network Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting
5/17, 6/4	12pm ET	Annual Meeting Planning
5/28	3 pm ET	Communications
5/30	3 pm ET	Network Managers
6/4	11 am ET	Health Equity
6/6	3 pm ET	Steering Committee
6/12	1 pm ET	Return of Results
6/13	1 pm ET	Participant Engagement

Funding and Opportunities

NINR Invites Letters of Interest for Social Determinants of Health Summer Research Institute

The National Institute of Nursing Research invites prospective participants to submit letters of interest for their first Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Summer Research Institute, a new event designed to provide early and mid-career investigators the opportunity to learn more about and apply the principles of high-quality SDOH research. Submit all requested materials to NINR_SDOHInstitute@mail.nih.gov by **May 28, 2024**. [Learn more about this opportunity here.](#)

AIM-AHEAD Research and Fellowship opportunities in AI/ML and Health Equity

The Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity (AIM-AHEAD) program seeks to increase the participation and engagement of the researchers and communities currently underrepresented in AI/ML modeling and applications through mutually beneficial partnerships. The Program launched several open funding and fellowship opportunities at the intersections of AI/ML and health disparities. Find application deadlines for these opportunities on the [website](#).

RFI on NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for SGM Health Research FY 2026-2030

The Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO) is requesting input on topics to consider for the Fiscal Years (FYs) 2026 – 2030 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Sexual and Gender Minority Health (SGM) Research. All responses should be submitted electronically by **5 pm ET on July 15, 2024**. [Learn more about this opportunity here.](#)

JNCI Cancer Spectrum Call for Papers on Social Determinants of Health

The Journal of the National Cancer Institute (JNCI) Cancer Spectrum invites [submissions](#) investigating how social determinants of health impact cancer care and outcomes. They are particularly encouraging studies that involve clinical trials or prospective data collection, or provide novel insights that go beyond the identification of disparity but instead describe potential

actions and interventions that will improve health outcomes for cancer patients. The deadline for submission is **August 1, 2024**.

Multi-Sectoral Preventive Interventions Research Network to Address Social Determinants of Health in Populations that Experience Health Disparities

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) and participating Institutes, Centers, and Offices are seeking applications for a new collaborative research network -- [UG3/UH3 research projects](#) and a [U24 Coordinating Center](#) -- to test multi-sectoral preventive interventions for health conditions in populations that experience health disparities. Applications are due **August 5**.

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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[Join the Slack PE-CGS Workspace](#)

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