

Network News

Research Center Spotlight: OPTIMUM

The International Low-Grade Glioma Registry's OPTIMUM (Optimizing Engagement in Discovery of Molecular Evolution of Low-Grade Glioma) project seeks to understand glioma evolution, treatment responses, and quality of life. Throughout May, in honor of Brain Tumor Awareness Month, OPTIMUM introduced several educational opportunities -in both English and Spanish- for members of the glioma community. OPTIMUM Principal Investigator Dr. Elizabeth Claus and co-investigator Ms. Liz Salmi spoke at the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Annual Meeting on "[Living Well with Diffuse Lower Grade Glioma](#)".

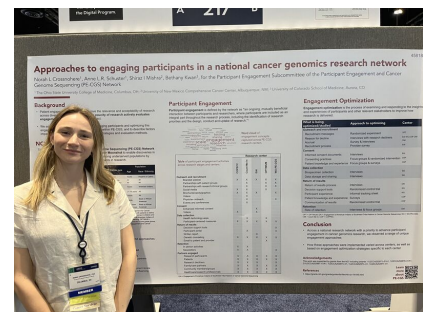


In Partnership with the Yale Cancer Center and New Haven-based Radio Amor 690 AM station, we aired a Spanish broadcast on brain tumor awareness in the Hispanic/Latino community, featuring our Research Advisory Council (RAC) member Tony Rentas's journey and advocacy efforts as a person living with low grade glioma.

As a part of our triannual webinar series, we hosted a webinar on "[Returning to Work after Glioma](#)" with guest speaker UCSF neuropsychologist Dr. Christina Weyer Jamora. OPTIMUM Co-Principal Investigator Dr. Bethany Kwan partnered with Salud America! on a tweet chat and series of patient-centered [blog posts](#) focused on Brain Tumor Awareness and Support. Our entire webinar series is available to view on our [YouTube channel](#) and [website](#). For information on more events, please follow us on [X@gliomaregistry](#), [Facebook@gliomaregistry](#), [Instagram@gliomaregistry](#), [YouTube@gliomaregistry](#) or visit [www.gliomaregistry.org](#)

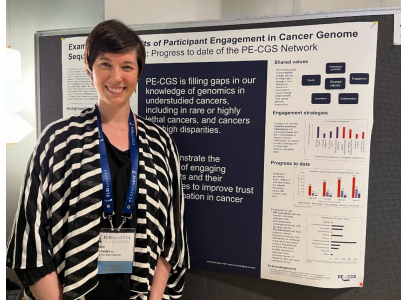
PE-CGS on the Road 2024 ASCO Annual Meeting

On June 3, Norah Crossnohere from the OSU Coordinating Center presented a poster titled 'Approaches to engaging participants in a national cancer genomics research network' on behalf of the Participant Engagement subcommittee. The poster detailed strategies for engaging and evaluating participant engagement processes across research centers within the pE-CGS network, highlighting the factors influencing each center's unique engagement and evaluation methods. [Learn more from the published abstract.](#)



ELSIcon 2024 - Reimagining the Benefits of Genomic Sciences

On June 10, Anne Schuster from the OSU Coordinating Center presented a poster titled 'Examining the benefits of Participant



Engagement in Cancer Genome Sequencing (PE-CGS): Progress to date of the PE-CGS Network' on behalf of the Network. The poster aligned with the conference's theme of demonstrating innovative, integrative research on the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) of genomics, highlighting the importance of community engagement.

Cancer Moonshot Seminar Series

On May 23, Ms. Liz Salmi from OPTIMUM and Dr. Kai Tan from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia jointly presented on the topic "Advancing Data Sharing through the Cancer Moonshot" during the Cancer Moonshot Seminar Series organized by the National Cancer Institute. [Learn more from the recorded seminar.](#)



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: (6/4)

- Guest speaker Dr. Andrea Burnett-Hartman led a discussion on the harmonization process used for the social determinants of health (SDoH) in Population-based Research to Optimize the Screening Process (PROSPR) Consortium. The recording is available in the [repository](#).
- Discussed potential projects the subcommittee could pursue with more ideas to be discussed at the meeting in August. Shared goals of talking with the Genome Characterization Units (GCU) in context of analyses they are doing or planning to do and how they are dealing with issues such as genetic ancestry, reference genomes, and social determinants of health data. Presentation and discussion with GCU leads scheduled for July meeting.

Participant Engagement: (6/13)

- Guest speaker Dr. Daniel Chavez-Yenter presented a talk titled, "Estamos Perdidos [We are Lost] – Stewarding and Engaging Communication Efforts for Latino/e Populations in Germline Cancer Testing." The recording is available in the [repository](#).
- Provided update on engagement catalog paper, including that Steering Committee determined it would be a signature paper with banner authorship, definitions related to engagement will be discussed at the June 20 All Hands meeting, and paper will be circulated for review and input from task force members and principal investigators.

Return of Results: (6/12)

- Dr. Sarah Kalia from NCI was introduced to the team. She will be involved in the Return of Results and Participant Engagement subcommittees and help develop a data-sharing plan for PE-CGS.
- The abstract titled "Approaches to returning germline and somatic test results across the Participant Engagement and Cancer Genome Sequencing (PE-CGS) Network" has been submitted to the 2024 ASHG meeting by the CC on behalf of the Network. Notifications will be sent in early August.
- The return of somatic results, cascade testing, and integrative reporting projects continue to meet separately and report back to the subcommittee.

Ways to Communicate

PE-CGS Conference Tracker

We have a dedicated [Conference tracker](#) for our network to monitor the progress of PE-CGS-related abstract submissions for scientific meetings and conferences. We encourage you to

update this Tracker with information about abstracts that you plan to submit or have already submitted to conferences. The OSU Coordinating Center is responsible for managing access to the Tracker. When you first use the Tracker, please enter your email address. Afterward, send a confirmation email to pe-cgs@osumc.edu to let the Coordinating Center know that you have requested access.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming PE-CGS Network Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting
6/21	12 pm ET	Annual Meeting Planning
6/27	3 pm ET	Network Managers
7/2	3 pm ET	Annual Meeting Planning
7/9	11 am ET	Health Equity
7/10	1 pm ET	Return of Results

Funding and Opportunities

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**.

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

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