

# WCX Quarterly



## In this issue



Upcoming Events



Your recent achievements



Spotlight: Dr. Laure Bindels, PhD



DEI in the news

## Upcoming Events

### Women in Cachexia 'Community Meeting'



A networking meeting to identify interests and needs in the WCX community

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
12pm EST

Via ZOOM

Please join us for our **inaugural networking event**, where we hope to get to have candid conversations about what WCX can offer our community and get to know one another!

**A registration link will be sent by email to WCX members.**  
**Not a member? [Register here.](#)**

### "The Art and Science of the Diversity Statement"



Learn to prepare an effective diversity statement for career advancement

**Brenda Martinez, PhD**  
OHSU Office of Education Improvement and Innovation  
Mentorship Specialist  
Assistant Professor

September  
11<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
2pm EST

Via Zoom

Dr. Brenda Martinez is a mentorship specialist and Assistant Professor at Oregon Health Sciences University. She is passionate about creating inclusive learning environments and has extensive experience creating education programs for first generation, low-income, and BIPOC undergraduate and graduate students in public and private institutions. Importantly, she is deeply invested in the retention and success of diverse students in higher ed.

**This event is open to all CCS members.**  
**[Register to attend here.](#)**

Stay tuned for our December seminar flyer and registration link!

Dr. Carla Prado, PhD RD, University of Alberta  
Formal flyer and zoom invite to follow



## Celebrating your recent achievements



### Publications

- **Megan Bowers**, PhD candidate, King's College, London, UK: *'Patient and carer experiences of cancer cachexia and its management'*
- **Irfana Muqbil**, Assistant Professor, Lawrence Technological University, USA: *'Role of noncoding RNAs in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma associated cachexia'* and editorial *'Cancer cachexia research: coming of age'*
- **Liva Costa de Oliveira**, Researcher, National Cancer Institute, Brazil: *'Clinical usefulness of the patient-generated subjective global assessment and modified Glasgow Prognostic Score in decision making concerning the indication of enteral nutritional therapy in patients with incurable cancer receiving palliative care'*
- **Francielly Morena**, Post-doctoral fellow, University of Florida, USA: *'Exploring heterogeneity: a dive into preclinical models of cancer cachexia'*
- **Savannah Epstein**, PhD student, IU School of Medicine, USA: *'KLF10: a point of convergence in cancer cachexia'*
- **Yan Sun**, PhD student and Oncologist, Maastricht University, Netherlands: *'Tumor metabolic activity is associated with subcutaneous adipose tissue radiodensity and survival in non-small cell lung cancer'*

### Awards & other announcements

- **Michelle Law**, Assistant Prof. at Baylor College of Medicine, TX, USA, who received a **pilot award through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics**: "Multimodal intervention to improve cancer cachexia outcomes in obese mice". Congratulations, Michelle!
- **Francielly Morena** defended her dissertation in July 2024 at the University of Arkansas under the mentorship of Dr. Nic Greene and **will begin her post-doctoral training with Drs. Karyn Esser and Andy Judge with a prestigious National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases F32**, *'Muscle circadian clock disruption as a cancer cachexia modifier'*. Way to go, Fran!
- **Aneesha Dasgupta**, Assistant Scientist, IU School of Medicine, USA was awarded a **National Cancer Institute K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award**: *"Targeting Perp in PDAC tumor and cancer cachexia"*. Amazing work, Aneesha!
- **Liva Costa de Oliveira**, Researcher, National Cancer Institute, Brazil received two (!! ) awards: the **Young Scientist from Our State award from the Foundation for Research Support of the State of Rio de Janeiro** and a **Research Productivity Scholarship from the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development**. A round of applause for Liva!
- **Yan Sun**, PhD student and Oncologist at Maastricht University, Netherlands is approaching the completion of her PhD and is **seeking out post-doctoral opportunities**. For inquiries: [yansun.dr@gmail.com](mailto:yansun.dr@gmail.com)
- **Paige Arneson-Wissink**, Postdoc at the Oregon Health Sciences University, was awarded a **National Cancer Institute Early K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award**: *"Elucidating the role of hepatic ketogenesis in pancreatic cancer cachexia and recovery"*. The future is looking bright for Paige!

## Spotlight: Dr. Laure Bindels

### Some highlights from our interview with Dr. Bindels:



Dr. Bindels is an Associate Professor at Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium

Her full interview is jam-packed with insight. [Read it here.](#)

Her inspiration is her PhD mentor, Dr. Nathalie Denzenne. *"She taught me that women are much more likely than men to limit their ambitions and what they can achieve, and that women should support each other on the international scene when they have the chance to do so to increase the visibility of women/gender minorities in science."*

To Laure, increasing equity, inclusion, and diversity in science means many things. She believes that *"By increasing equity, inclusion and diversity, the cachexia field creates an opportunity to keep and attract creative and successful scientists, where what matters are your vision and accomplishments. This is essential to think outside the box and create new solutions"*.

She also mentions tangible ways for established investigators to practice increasing DEI: *"When you are evaluating grant applications and fellowships: which measures are taken by the funding body to ensure equity, inclusion, and diversity?"*

When we asked Laure what she wished she had known as an early-career trainee: *"If you want to fully invest yourself in your scientific career while being in a relationship and raising a family, benefitting from the full support of your partner can quickly become a much-needed asset"*

## DEI in the news



Image: freepik.com

### Gender equity: toward redefining values

Women and gender minorities make defining contributions to science. **Despite increased representation of women** across the scientific career ladder, **institutions routinely fail to support their career advancement** or value their input. For an equitable and intersectional future faculty, definitions of excellence must evolve to better value women's contributions.

**Starbird et al. *Nat Cell Biol* 2024**

## Important links & resources

**Upcoming meeting:** [Society for Cachexia and Wasting Disorders](#), December 6-8 in Washington, DC, USA. Stay tuned for info about a WCX meetup.

**WCX members:** [Submit your recent achievements to be highlighted in our next newsletter](#)

**Know someone with wisdom to share?**  
[Nominate a speaker for a WCX-sponsored event](#)

**Not a part of the WCX community?**  
[Register here to join!](#)

**Looking for a job or mentorship opportunity?**  
[Access the WCX network](#) (network members only; access request required).