

WCX Quarterly



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at CCS 2025



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Upcoming Events

We can't wait to see you in Turin in just over one month at the 8th Cancer Cachexia Conference! [The final program for the meeting can be found here.](#)

The 4th Friday of September is officially **Cancer Cachexia Awareness Day!**

Spread the word that the inaugural awareness day is
Friday September 26th, 2025



Cancer Cachexia Society @CancerCachexia · Aug 20



📢 We have launched a new symbol for **Cancer Cachexia!!** 📢 Our call to unite, act, and raise awareness. Join our movement. [#CCAD2025](#)
[#CachexiaWastingMatters](#) ❤️🧡💙 Help us spread the word! September 26th, 2025 - First-ever **Cancer Cachexia Awareness Day!!**



Celebrating your recent achievements



Publications

- **Dr. Young-Mee Kim**, a Research Assistant Professor at University of Illinois Chicago, is first and corresponding author on a new publication in *Nature Cancer*: [Skeletal muscle endothelial dysfunction through the activin A-PGC1α axis drives progression of cancer cachexia.](#)
- **Dr. Aliesha Garrett**, a Postdoc at Terasaki Institute for Biological Innovation, is first author on a paper published in *Cell*: [Vagal blockade of the brain-liver axis deters cancer-associated cachexia.](#)
- First author **Dr. Regina Cabrera-Ayuso**, a postdoc at the University of Arkansas, along with co-authors Drs. **Nic Greene** and **Deena Snoke**, published a review article in *BMC Cancer's* special collection on cancer-associated cachexia: [Landscape of clinical trials in cancer cachexia: assessment of trends from 1995-2004.](#)
- First author **Ms. Marina de Castro Coêlho**, a PhD student and Faculty of Medicine at University of São Paulo, along with senior author **Dr. Marilia Seelaender**, published a review article in *Current Opinion in Clinical Nutrition and Metabolic Care*: [Circulating factors in cancer cachexia: recent opportunities for translational research.](#)

- **Dr. Aneesha Dasgupta**, Assistant Professor at UNC Charlotte, is first and corresponding author on a paper published along with coauthors **Ms. Savannah Epstein** and **Dr. Jason Doles** in *Journal of Experimental Medicine*: [Histidine decarboxylase inhibition attenuates cancer-associated muscle wasting](#).

Grants & Fellowships

- **Dr. Yan Sun**, a Postdoc at Maastricht University, received a travel grant to attend the European Society for Medical Oncology meeting, where she was selected to give an oral presentation in a session on CNS tumors, '*DNA methylation-based epigenetic signatures for classification and non-invasive diagnosis of gliomas*'. Congratulations!
- **Ms. Bruna Sottili**, a PhD student at University of São Paulo was awarded a PhD fellowship from the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa de São Paulo (FAPESP) research foundation, one of Brazil's most prestigious funding agencies. FAPESP is a public, independent foundation funded by a fixed percentage of São Paulo State's tax revenues, as guaranteed by the state constitution. Amazing work!
- **Ms. Marina de Castro Coêlho**, a PhD student and Faculty of Medicine at University of São Paulo, was also awarded a prestigious PhD fellowship from FAPESP. Cheers!
- **Dr. Deena Snoke**, a Postdoc at University of Vermont College of Medicine, was awarded a *National Cancer Institute K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award* to study cancer cachexia as she transitions to becoming an independent investigator. Phenomenal!

Spotlight: Cancer Cachexia Conference Edition



Gender minority presenters were selected for '**WCX Recognition of Outstanding Work**' awards.

Below, we highlight awardees' presentation information, accomplishments, and some insightful conversation.

Over the next month, we will be sharing the full details of their interviews on social media platforms.

Please be sure to check out these talented scientists' presentations in Turin!



**Ms. DeBruine is PhD Student at
The University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center Graduate
School of Biomedical Sciences**

Anna DeBruine, BASc

Poster Presentation:

Targeting estrogen-related receptors to prevent cachexia-induced muscle wasting

A recent accomplishment:

This year, Ms. DeBruine received a competitive Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)- funded Cancer Prevention Research Innovation Training Fellowship.

How do you define your success?

"Success, for me, is helping people; in this case, helping to ease the burden of living with cancer for patients and their families. If something I create or contribute to has an impact on patient lives, then I consider it successful. I want my work to be highly translational so that patients can directly benefit from my research."



Dr. Mukherjee is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute at The University of Cambridge

Debasmita Mukherjee, PhD

Poster Presentation:

Dissecting the role of fibroblasts in PDAC-associated cachexia

A recent accomplishment:

This year, Dr. Mukherjee was awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowship by the European Union. In this grant, she proposes to dissect the malignant-fibroblast crosstalk in pancreatic cancer cachexia.

How has CCS helped you achieve your goals?

"I appreciate that [CCS] has open seminars, making cachexia awareness accessible. I find CCS extremely trainee friendly and inclusive, providing a welcoming and encouraging environment for researchers new to the field. I am excited to meet more of my peers and researchers at the upcoming conference."



Dr. Park is an Applied Scientist in the Depts. of Gastrointestinal Oncology, and Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute

Margaret Amy Park, PhD

Oral Presentation: Session F, Friday 9/26, 9:52am

Race and sex-based differences in serum biomarkers for cancer-associated cachexia in a diverse cohort of patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma

A recent accomplishment:

Dr. Park and colleagues have a [new pre-print](#) detailing the work she will be presenting in Turin. Her work highlights the dire need for targeted inclusion of minoritized groups in studies of cancer cachexia.

What inspires you about the cancer cachexia research community?

"The research community for Cancer Cachexia has been very welcoming for someone fairly new to the field. Everyone I have met is excited to share their expertise. My colleagues' passion for both doing great science and sharing their knowledge is inspiring and I am delighted to call myself a part of this community."



Ms. Stassen is a PhD Student in the Department of Surgery, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Maastricht University

Lara Stassen, MSc

Oral Presentation: Next Gen Session I, Thursday 9/25, 2:40pm

Pancreatic tumor organoid factors induce lipid accumulation in skeletal muscle cells from individuals with Type 2 Diabetes and alter mitochondrial function in cachexia

A recent accomplishment:

Ms. Stassen's PhD project is supported by a Cancer Research Fund Limburg grant. Her aims are to improve understanding of the etiology of cancer cachexia through accurate patient screening, to identify factors driving this disorder, and to assess the consequences of cachexia for personalized chemotherapy approaches.

How has CCS helped you achieve your goals?

"Since I started my PhD in September last year, this will be my first time attending a CCS conference. Being selected for the Next Generation Talks gives me the exciting opportunity to present my work to other researchers in the field for the first time... This recognition, along with the increased visibility of my research, is both rewarding and incredibly motivating, and will contribute to my scientific and professional growth"



Erin Talbert, PhD

Poster Presentation:

Myosteatorsis is not associated with muscle wasting in patients with PDAC

A recent accomplishment:

'I'm most proud of the new science coming out of my lab. Nothing can prepare you for how difficult walking into an empty room and producing a functioning laboratory is, and a global pandemic didn't make it any easier. It would have been very easy for PIs who started between 2019-2022 to walk away from academia, and I'm very proud that we've survived and are starting to thrive under what have been incredibly difficult conditions.'

How do you define your success?

"How I define success has certainly changed as my responsibilities have changed. I think my current definition of success is being able to see ways in which I've left things better than I found them. Whether it's a trainee having a breakthrough, a student getting a tough concept, or through many service activities, I've learned to value the impact I've had on my corner of the world"

Dr. Talbert is an Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa Department of Health, Sport, and Human Physiology and Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center

Did You Know?



Esther Lederberg was an American microbiologist and a major pioneer of bacterial genetics. She discovered the bacteriophage lambda which has since become widely used as a tool in microbiology. Her discovery of the lambda phage in 1950 revolutionized our understanding of viruses. Unlike anything known at the time, lambda is able to integrate its DNA harmlessly into that of the bacterial genome.

Source: Natural History Museum, University of Oxford

Important Links & Resources

Upcoming meetings:

8th Cancer Cachexia Conference, September 25-27

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)