

UVA Tissue Bank News

UVA CANCER CENTER An NCI-Designated Cancer Center

UVA Cancer Center Marks Fourth Year of Participation in the ORIEN Program

The Oncology Research Information Exchange Network (ORIEN) program at UVA Cancer Center has grown substantially this past year thanks to your participation. We are in our fourth year of participation in the ORIEN program, which currently has 19 member sites. We hit two major milestones in 2019: we enrolled our 5,000th participant and submitted our 500th cancer sample for genetic sequencing. We also initiated our first project to share clinical and molecular data from ORIEN member sites (see Genomic Determinants of Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer project highlights). This project, just like all

the other projects that involve ORIEN member sites, does not share patient identifiers. UVA Cancer Center also hosted the annual retreat for the ORIEN member sites at the Boar's Head Resort in March 2019. It was a great opportunity to discuss how the ORIEN member sites can learn from their individual experiences with their patients and their clinical data and specimen collections. Member sites are increasing the number and type of research projects using this vast resource of data and specimens. We highlight a few projects in this newsletter to give you a sense of the type of research being done.

We thank everyone (participants, nurses, doctors, phlebotomists, research coordinators, etc.) that make our program successful.

4th
YEAR





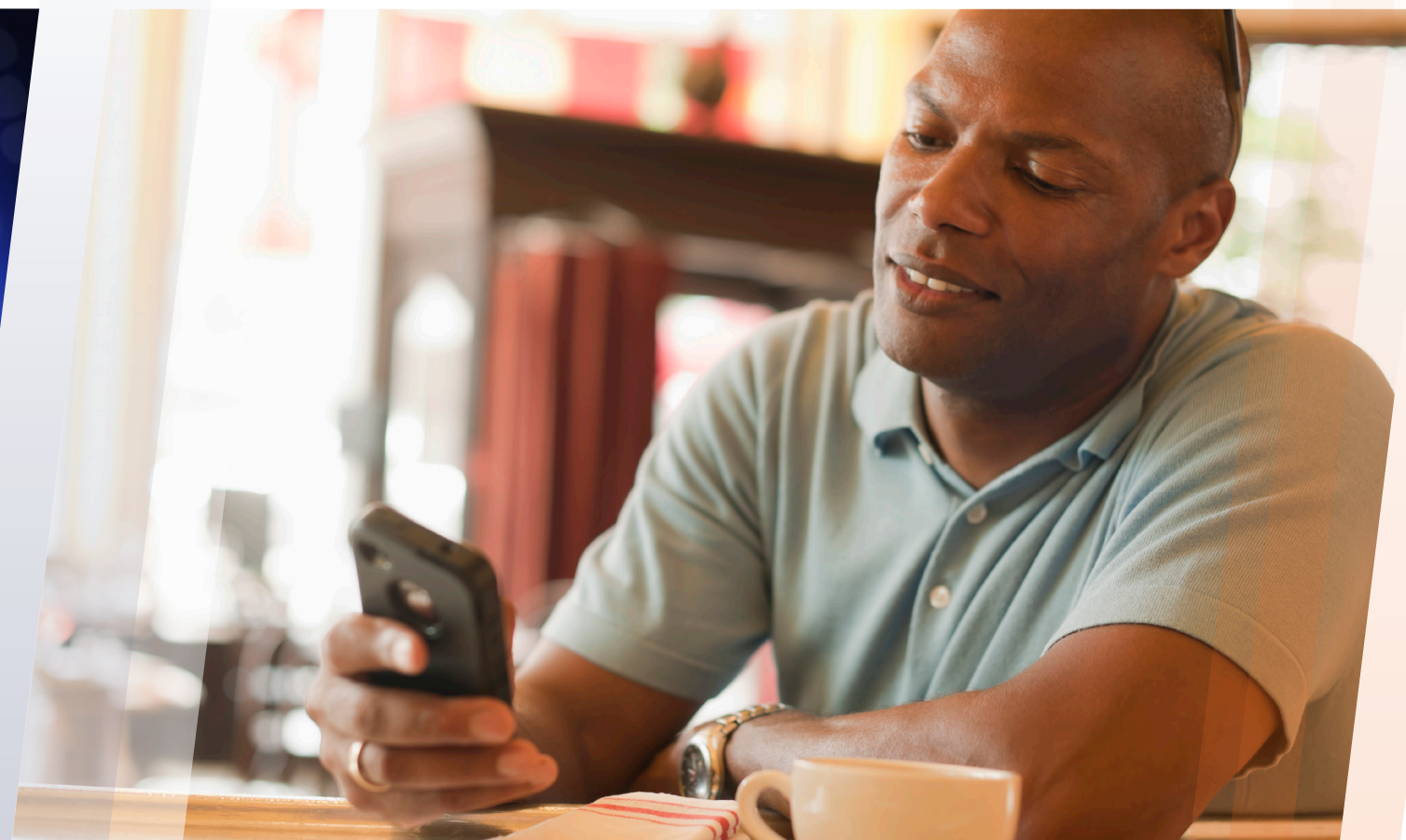
Genomic Determinants of Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer

This study proposes to test the idea that colorectal cancers that arise in young individuals have a unique set of cancer-causing mutations. This project focuses on young patients without a family history or known hereditary cancer syndrome and uses an approach of integrating genetic and clinical data analysis to understand if there are currently unknown patterns of genetic mutation that cause young-onset, sporadic colorectal cancer. ORIEN is designed precisely to support such studies, and it is hoped that this pilot study will ultimately lead to large-scale studies across ORIEN, with the goal of identifying better therapies to treat early-onset sporadic colorectal cancer. This is a collaborative project between UVA Cancer Center, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, Moffitt Cancer Center, University of Colorado Cancer Center, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center. Mathew Reilley, MD, of UVA Cancer Center is a researcher on this project. This is the first project to share clinical and molecular data from ORIEN member sites.



Mechanistic Analysis of the Impact of Disordered Sleep in Cancer Patients

An innovative study has begun to help researchers understand the biological mechanisms that link insomnia with the growth of pancreatic tumors and responses to cancer treatment. This interdisciplinary study bridges the fields of psychology, cancer biology, engineering, and medical oncology at UVA. The researchers are looking to see if circulating hormones associated with insomnia are found to directly alter pancreatic tumor growth and treatment response. If so, it would suggest that treating insomnia may directly improve cancer treatment. The researchers on this study are Phil Chow, PhD; Dan Gioeli, PhD; Kelly Schaffer, PhD; Lee Ritterband, PhD; Paul Kunk, MD; Todd Bauer, MD; Matthew Reilley, MD; and Tri Le, MD.



Stress and Cancer Care

By Phil Chow, PhD

Life with cancer can be stressful and challenging. Stress often occurs both during and after cancer treatment. Recently, UVA researchers conducted two studies to learn how smartphones can be used to address stress in people dealing with cancer. In one study, people who were receiving cancer treatment at UVA received regular text messages asking about their stress levels. The study found that stress changes from week to week, and that many participants undergoing cancer treatment experience stress levels that are much higher than normal. In addition, the study participants found it easy to complete the text message questions,

which took about one minute on average. Because most people carry their smartphones with them wherever they go, the study found that many of the text messages were completed up and down the U.S. East Coast and in the Midwest. Findings from the study indicated that regular stress screenings through smartphones could help get people the care they desperately need. In a separate study, people that had completed their active cancer treatment at UVA tried a new smartphone app called iCanThrive that targets the causes of stress, like worry and negative thoughts. All participants received phone calls that walked them through how to

install and use iCanThrive. The study found that at the end of the 7-week study, there was a noticeable drop in depressive symptoms and sleep disturbance among people that used the app. In addition, people found the app easy to use and had high levels of user satisfaction. Together, these studies highlight the exciting and new ways that UVA researchers are trying to use mobile technology to better serve cancer patients and survivors. This research would not be possible without help from the most important people: the cancer patients and cancer survivors that volunteered their valuable time and energy to these studies.

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Electronic Newsletter

If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of the newsletter, please send an email with your request and full name to orien@virginia.edu.

Opt Out of the Newsletter

To opt out of receiving newsletter altogether, please send an email with your request and full name to orien@virginia.edu.

Withdrawal from the Program

If you decide that you would like to withdraw from the program, you may do so at any time without any effect on your care at UVA Cancer Center. Please send an email to orien@virginia.edu or a written letter to:

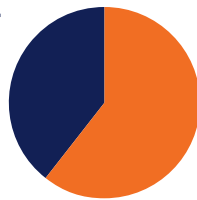
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UVA CANCER CENTER

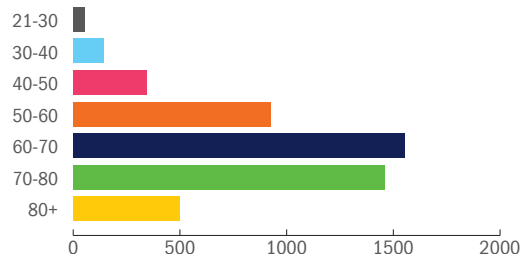


Enrollment by Gender

Female 3029
Male 1952



Enrollment by Age Group



Enrollment by Disease Site

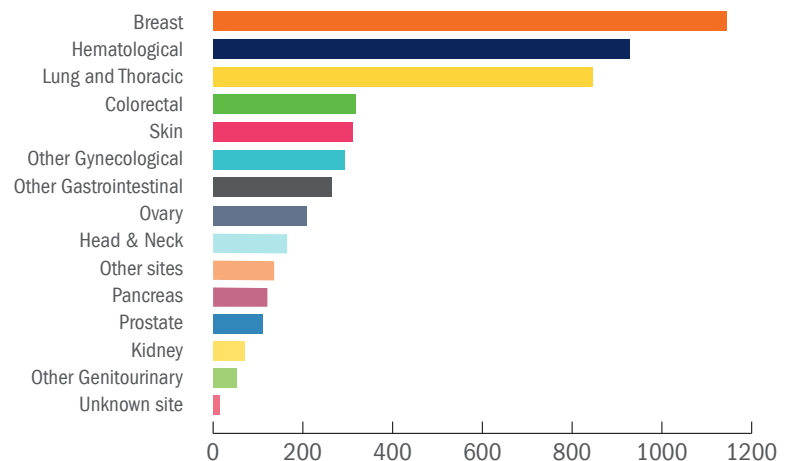


Chart Sources: UVA Cancer Center