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TITLE: The Ovarian Cancer Academy 2020-2025: A Data-Driven Learning Community

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Ronny Drapkin

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

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# REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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<b>13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</b>					
<b>14. ABSTRACT</b> Over the course of this program, the Ovarian Cancer Academy has been dedicated to fulfilling its core mission of providing a comprehensive virtual training program for early-career investigators. This program encompasses a wide range of initiatives that aim to facilitate research progress, promote career development, and foster collaboration among members. These initiatives include: a) providing mentorship and guidance for research projects, b) promoting cooperative research efforts, c) hosting monthly webinars that cover topics such as research progress, career development, leadership training, and team science project planning, d) maintaining the Academy website, e) facilitating connections between Academy members and the advocacy community, f) providing opportunities for networking g) organizing an annual workshop, and h) conducting ongoing program evaluation and data analysis. This progress report showcases the Academy's achievements and the impact of its training program on the broader research community.					
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Cancer research has made tremendous progress in understanding the complex and heterogeneous nature of tumors. However, despite advances in early detection and treatment for some types of cancer, ovarian cancer remains a particularly challenging disease to diagnose and treat effectively. In recognition of this ongoing challenge, the Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Academy brings together early career investigators (ECIs) to adopt a collaborative and team-based approach to ovarian cancer research. Members of this training program develop the skills and knowledge necessary to tackle this difficult disease from multiple angles and to become leaders in the field. By fostering mentor-mentee relationships, facilitating networking opportunities, and honing grant-writing skills, this program seeks to equip the next generation of scientists with the tools they need to succeed in the fight against ovarian cancer. This report examines the progress made by the ECIs participating in this training program and highlights the potential for this approach to yield promising new insights and treatments for ovarian cancer.

## 2. KEYWORDS

**Provide a brief list of keywords (limit to 20 words).**

Ovarian cancer; early-career investigator; Scholars, career development; mentorship; research training; communication; leadership training; patient advocate; professional development; webinars; zoom; team-based science.

## 3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**What were the major goals of the project?**

Specific Aim 1: Foster the growth and development of Ovarian Cancer Academy Early Career Investigators' research and career paths, including connecting with patient advocacy communities.

Major Task 1: Provide constructive feedback on ongoing and new research and exposure to research outside their lab.

Subtask 1: Supervise ongoing and new research for current and new ECIs through constructive feedback, including assessment on grant applications for future funding, manuscripts, presentations, and overall research aims.

Subtask 2: Support the development and design of a collaborative research project between mentors and scholars, if desired, and present findings during the monthly virtual meetings.

Subtask 3: Host monthly virtual meetings and an annual workshop through Zoom. Trainees present on a rotation basis, approximately once a year. The Program Coordinator, Dean, and Assistant Dean collaborate to design the monthly agenda schedule and moderate the discussions.

Milestone #1: The monthly meetings have been running smoothly, providing a valuable forum for trainees to discuss their research progress, receive feedback from their peers and Academy leaders, and engage in actionable discussions. Trainees have found these discussions to be particularly helpful in shaping their research goals and gaining insights into new directions for their work.

Major Task 2: Encourage external communication and collaboration through exposure on the Academy website, a dedicated platform for the program in coordination with the DoD OCRP.

Subtask 1: Update and maintain the Academy website.

Subtask 2: Initiate the Academy members to serve on review committees, as speakers at national conferences, and to contribute to national research initiatives.

Milestone #2: Website is publicly available and undergoes periodic updates.

Milestone #3: ECIs have been actively engaged in national roles within the field and have formed partnerships with advocacy groups.

Specific Aim 2: Plan an annual developmental workshop to help hone their professional skills as future leaders in the field.

Major Task 3: Develop an agenda for the annual retreat

Subtask 1: Handle logistics of a virtual workshop

Subtask 2: Organize agenda and materials for the workshops.

Subtask 3: Equip ECIs with leadership development skills, providing a valuable foundation they can build upon throughout their careers from the start of their award cycle.

Milestone #4: Annual workshop successfully conducted in Sept. 2022

Specific Aim 3: Assess the success of the training program through survey evaluation studies of previously developed metrics.

Major Task 4: Perform ongoing program evaluations.

Subtask 1: Evaluate ECI progress in their research development.

Subtask 2: Evaluate efficacy of the Academy as a training program.

Milestone #5: Data collection is ongoing and running smoothly.

### **What was accomplished under these goals?**

**AIM 1/TASK 1/Subtask 1:** Supervise ongoing and new research for current and new ECIs through constructive feedback, including assessment on grant applications for future funding, manuscripts, presentations, and overall research aims. This task is accomplished through monthly webinar meetings and ongoing evaluation of the trainee's research progress. Trainees receive feedback from their peers, mentors, and Academy leaders during these sessions as well as during the Annual Workshop. Prior to retirement (see staff change), Dr. Maihle met with 1-2 Scholars virtually and as needed. Scholars receive written feedback on their presentations, manuscripts, grant submissions, and other aspects of scientific communication as well as individualized guidance for any regional/national meetings (such as AACR, Bassett Symposium, Syndicate Talks, etc).

**AIM 1/TASK 1/Subtask 2:** Support the development and design of collaborative research projects or reviews between mentors and scholars and present findings during the monthly virtual meetings.

A collaborative review paper involving an OCA Scholar and mentor, Drs. Condello and Matei on tissue transglutaminase was published in Cells (see Appendix E for more information).

A collaborative paper involving OCA alumni, Drs Zamarin, Pepin, and Cubillos-Ruiz on tumor-derived lysophosphatidic acid and type-I IFN response in ovarian cancer was published in Cancer Discovery (see Appendix E for more information)

**AIM 1/TASK 1/Subtask 3:** Arrange and host monthly virtual meetings and an annual workshop via Zoom or Webex.

Monthly meetings are hosted throughout the year for professional development (see table in appendix A for list of talks and speakers). The current format of the webinar does not require ECIs to submit their presenter slides ahead of time, although they have the option to do so. This open format has several benefits, including giving ECIs more time to refine their presentations, allowing for last-minute adaptations, and making more efficient use of time for both ECIs and mentors. It also reduces redundancy, as mentors still provide written feedback to Scholars on their slides and research ideas, and ECIs receive oral feedback from their peers and mentors during the session. While there may be occasional technical challenges, everyone is comfortable with the technology and format of the talks. Following each presentation, the Dean and Assistant Dean provide constructive written feedback to the presenter.

**AIM 1/TASK 2/Subtask 1:** Update and maintain the Academy website.

The Ovarian Cancer Academy's current website, located at [www.ovariancanceracademy.org](http://www.ovariancanceracademy.org), has been in use since September 2016 and is hosted by Blender under an ongoing contract until October 2023. The website is regularly updated to feature new publications, highlights, and awards from our Scholars. Our goal for the future is to transition to a different webhost that provides easier maintenance and more website control. We are also interested in creating a more centralized portal as a hub for Scholars to access updated news as their own leisure.

**Subtask 2:** Provide opportunities for Scholars to engage with the advocacy community . The main advocacy event during the year is at the Annual retreat, where there is a panel discussion led by advocacy groups. Additionally, many members attend the 2022 AACR Annual Symposium (virtual), which also features presentations by Advocates. The Bassett symposium, which also has presentations by Advocates was also promoted during the year.

**Subtask 3:** Initiate the Academy members to serve on review committees, as speakers at national conferences, and to contribute to national research initiatives.

Academy leadership provides many networking opportunities for trainees to help promote and position them on review panels, speaker panels, and on how to build their own networks. In addition to those activities mentioned in previous progress reports such as the AACR/Rivkin symposium on Ovarian Cancer, Scholars are also invited to participate in Ovarian Cancer Research Syndicate. The Syndicate emerged at the beginning of the pandemic to keep the ovarian cancer community connected and is an international forum for over three hundred researchers to share their cutting-edge research.

**AIM 2/TASK 3/Subtask 1:** Handle logistics of a virtual workshop

The virtual workshop was held on Sep 8- Sep 9, 2022. Because of COVID-19 concerns, the retreat was held virtually. All attendees reported satisfaction with the agenda and format of the workshop, though many await in-person events. See Appendix B.

**Subtask 2:** Organize agenda and materials for the annual OCA Workshop.

The 2022 Annual Academy Workshop Agenda (Appendix C) was developed by the OCA leadership, in consultation with the Science Officer, to focus on 1) Research Opportunities and priorities based on Patient Advocates 2) Mock study sessions to assist scholars with Grantsmanship, 3) Introduce new ECIs and welcome them to the program, and 4) Opportunities for collaboration between ECIs and their mentors. The keynote address was given by Dr. Dennis Slamon, who presented on “Past, Present, and Future directions in the Era of Targeted Therapy in Oncology: One person’s story.” Dr. Slamon is a renowned oncologist and cancer researcher who had made significant contributions to breast cancer treatment with groundbreaking work on Herceptin development to treat HER2-positive breast cancer patients.

**Subtask 3:** Equip ECIs with leadership development skills, providing a valuable foundation they can build upon throughout their careers from the start of their award cycle.

The program involves coaching ECIs in various areas of leadership, including effective communication, project management, team building, and conflict resolution. The Academy also emphasized the importance of self-care and coping mechanisms, especially in the face of the ongoing pandemic, providing ECIs with resources to maintain their mental and emotional well-being while navigating the challenges of their research. Through this program, the Academy strives to produce well-rounded, capable leaders who are equipped to make meaningful contributions to the field of ovarian cancer research.

**AIM 3/TASK 4/Subtask 1:** Evaluate ECI progress in their research development.

The team of evaluators who were previously responsible for conducting performance evaluations, including Ms. Taylor Coleman and Dr. Tasha Wyatt, are still involved in this process. We are continuing to collect data from evaluations of the mentors and mentees, and Dr. Maihle has remained on board as a consultant to review the data and assist with planning future evaluations as needed. A brief summary of activities is provided in Appendix G.

**Subtask 2:** Evaluate efficacy of the Academy as a training program and amend any instruments for evaluation as needed.

As mentioned in the previous report, data collection is taken 3 times a year, at the point of entry, 6 months in, and 12 months in. Additional qualitative data has been incorporated into the evaluations to compensate for the already self-selecting bias of high performing Scholars in the program. There have been no changes in the evaluation instruments since its approval by the IRB in 2021.

**What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?**

The training program is designed to foster the development of skills and knowledge necessary for success in the field of ovarian cancer research. All components of the program are tailored to provide opportunities for professional growth and development.

**How were the results disseminated to communities of interest?**

Results are shared among communities of interest via the publicly available OCA website.

**What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?**

Dr. Maihle will remain involved with the program evaluators. Otherwise, please see the aforementioned aims above for completed and ongoing tasks.

**4. IMPACT**

**What was the impact on the development of the principal discipline(s) of the project?**

The Ovarian Cancer Academy fosters a supportive and collaborative research environment that inspires Scholars to pursue their research aims. Through a culture that emphasizes cooperation over competition, the program has facilitated the publication of research in high-impact journals and the acquisition of federal funding. This has resulted in increased visibility for both the ECIs and the program, leading to novel projects and advancements in the field.

In Major Task 1, we supervised communication and interdisciplinary work of Academy members. Monthly webinars and an annual workshop provided opportunities for ECIs to gain new insights, tools, and techniques for future research and practice. Major Task 3 focused on the sixth annual workshop, which played a critical role in promoting effective science communication. These efforts have improved the range of research questions asked and positively influenced the managerial style of the principal investigators, leading to improved collaboration and problem-solving skills.

Through these initiatives, the OCA has helped Scholars raise their research standards, positioning them competitively for research funding (see Appendix E and F). We believe that the benefits of investing in the OCA will result in significant advances in ovarian cancer research and ultimately lead to better outcomes for patients.

**What was the impact on other disciplines?**

In addition to the OCA, various granting agencies such as the DoD, NIH, AACR, and others are sponsoring training programs for disease-focused research. As previously mentioned, the organizational template of the OCA is being used to inform these programs, highlighting the effectiveness of our approach in supporting ECIs and their research.

Data from the American Cancer Society reveals that there are currently 43 ovarian cancer grants. The NIH report for 2021-2022 indicates that \$178,000,000 in funds were allocated for ovarian cancer research, and this number is estimated to increase in 2023. For 2023, a new ovarian cancer in clinical trial leadership award is also expected. This underscores the success of the program beyond its own discipline.

**What was the impact on technology transfer?**

Not applicable.

**What was the impact on society beyond science and technology?**

Our program has a wide-reaching impact on society beyond the scientific community. By engaging with patient advocacy groups and the public, together we raise awareness about ovarian cancer and the need for continued research. Our program values collaboration and understanding across a wide range of scientific disciplines to tackle specific problems of ovarian cancer, leading to innovative approaches to research and treatment. Through our conflict resolution training, Scholars are equipped to better manage their own labs, creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all members of the scientific community. Additionally, our curriculum and constructive criticisms from Academy Leaders and peers on presentations and manuscript preparation improves science literacy and trust in science, at a time when it is sorely needed. We envision that the impact of our program will lead to breakthroughs in ovarian cancer research, improved patient outcomes, and a more collaborative and impactful community of researchers focused on addressing the needs of ovarian cancer patients.

**5. CHANGES/PROBLEMS****Changes in approach and reasons for change**

**Change in leadership:** In late 2022, the Dean, Dr. Nita J. Maihle, retired. To facilitate a seamless transition, Dr. Maihle has been employed as a consultant by the new Dean, Dr. Kenneth Nephew. In her consultant role, she will continue to evaluate the program's success. To ensure preparedness for the transition, Mr. Ronny Drapkin, the new Assistant Dean, has been attending webinars and providing assistance since August 2021. His official assumption of the role is scheduled for December 2022.

**COVID-19 Pandemic:**

Due to COVID-19 concerns, we had to modify our original plan of hosting an in-person retreat and instead opt for a virtual retreat. After the success of our previous virtual format, we carefully considered the feedback received over the first two years and made improvements to enhance the virtual retreat experience. To foster stronger connections and networking opportunities among Early Career Investigators (ECIs), we introduced icebreaker activities that allowed them to connect and learn more about one another. Moreover, we maintained our tradition of assigning each Scholar a peer mentor who possesses more program experience, ensuring guidance and leadership opportunities. Going forward, we will continuously assess the program's performance and implement necessary adjustments to ensure that all Scholars derive maximum benefits from the OCA program, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.

**Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them**

We do not anticipate any problems or delays in enacting the plans of the OCA.

**Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, biohazards, and/or select agents**

None.

**6. PRODUCTS**

**Publications, conference papers, and presentations (see Appendix E for publications/manuscripts published by ECIs)**

Not applicable

**Website(s) or other Internet site(s)**

The ovarian cancer academy can be found at [www.ovariancanceracademy.org](http://www.ovariancanceracademy.org). The website plays a crucial role in fulfilling the Academy's mission by serving multiple purposes. Firstly, it acts as a central hub for communication between Academy members, providing them with a platform to connect and collaborate on. Additionally, the website serves as a source of information for the public, providing details on the Academy's goals, members, and their accomplishments, as well as information on how to apply for the program. The website is regularly updated to ensure that the latest information is available to users.

**Technologies or techniques**

Not applicable.

**Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses**

Not applicable.

**Other Products**

Not applicable.

**7. PARTICIPANTS AND OTHER COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS**

**What individuals have worked on the project?**

The leadership of the Academy during half of the first year of this award was Dr. Nita Maihle, Academy Dean, and Dr. Ronny Drapkin, Assistant Academy Dean. They have been supported in their activities by Dr. Leslie Robinson, Program Coordinator (UMMC).

The table, below, summarizes the participating early career investigators, as well as their primary and secondary mentors:

	<b>ECI</b>	<b>Primary Mentor</b>	<b>Secondary Mentor</b>
2022	Alexander Melamed	Robert Coleman	Cesar Castro
	Denarda Dangaj	Jose Conejo-Garcia	George Coukos
2021	Naoko Sasamoto	Kathryn Terry	John Quakenbush
	Marion Curtis	Scott Kaufman	Diane Jelinek

	Alexander Gasper-Maia	Fergus Couch	John Weroha
	Melissa Merritt	Shelly Tworoger	Anne Cust
2020	Oladapo Yeku	David Spriggs	
	Katherine Chiappinelli	Daniel Powell	Catherine Bollard
2019	Salvatore Condello	Daniela Matei	
	Rachel Vogel	Melissa Geller	Heather Nelson
	Jogender Tushir-Singh	Sharon Stack	
2018	Rebecca Arend*	Mike Birrer	
	Sophia George*	Matthew Schlumbrecht	

\* “graduated” during the 2022 Annual Retreat

### **Changes in active other support of the PI’s or key personnel?**

Dr. Leslie Robinson left the position together with Dr. Maihle in late December. A new program manager, Dr. Yelena Zhuravlev, was hired by Dr. Drapkin to take on Dr. Robinson’s role. She is working closely with the Dean, Dr. Nephew, and Assistant Dean, Dr. Drapkin, to ensure the program runs smoothly and achieves its goals.

**Partner’s contribution to the project:** During the period of this award, the OCA collaborated with

**Name:** N/A

**Address:** N/A

### **8. SPECIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Not applicable.

### **9. APPENDICES**

In support of this Annual Report, the Appendix includes the following items:

- A. Listing of Monthly Webinars Dates, Speakers, and Topics (2021-22)
- B. Annual OCA Retreat Evaluation Report (Sept., 2022)
- C. Annual Ovarian Cancer Academy Workshop Agenda (Sept., 2022)
- D. Notes from OCA combined ECI and Mentor Feedback Sessions during the OCA Retreat (Sept., 2022)
- E. List of publications by ECIs over the course of this year’s cycle
- F. List of grants awarded to ECIs over the course of this year’s cycle
- G. Summary of Evaluation Team’s Annual Activities (2021-2022)

Appendix A: List of Monthly Webinar Dates, Speakers, and Topics (FY2021)

October 2021

ECI Research Presentations- Marion Curtis and Alex Maia

November 2021

Presentation- Jennifer Doherty “Racial Disparities in Ovarian Cancer”

December 2021

ECI Research Presentations- Naoko Sasamoto and Melissa Merritt

January 2022

ECI Research Presentations- Rachel Vogel and Kate Chiappinelli

February 2022

Presentation- Patrick Smith “The Essence of Vitality: Wellness and Self-Management”

March 2022

ECI Research Presentations- Sophia George and Rebecca Arend

April 2022

Canceled due to AACR meeting

May 2022

ECI Research Presentations- Oladapu Yeku and Salvatore Condello

June 2022

Presentation- Doug Levine

July 2022

Presentation- Ronny Drapkin

August 2022

Summer Break


September 2022

Annual retreat (see agenda attached, Appendix C)

## Appendix B: Annual OCA Retreat Evaluation Report (September, 2022)

In September, the OCA evaluation team distributed a survey to gather data on attendees' experiences at the 2022 OCA Annual Retreat. Session I: "Keynote Address" with Dennis Slamon received an overall rating of 4.67/5.00 for content and 4.47/5.00 (SD=0.35) for practical to their needs and interests. Session II: "Team Building," received an overall rating of 4.62/5.00 for organization and 4.36/5.00 for content/covering useful material. Session III: "Focus on the patient: Patient Advocacy Panel" received an overall rating of 4.86/5.00 for organization and 4.79/5.00 for content and personal relevance. Session IV: "ORCP Q&A" with Karen Wylie received an overall rating of 4.69/5.00 for content and 4.69/5.00 for effectiveness. Session V: "Professional Development I: Mock Study Section and Debrief" led by received an overall rating of 4.87/5.00 for content and 5.00/5.00 for effectiveness. The final session, Session VI: "Professional Development II: Networking" received an overall rating of 4.93/5.00 for content, and 4.86/5.00 for effectiveness. Many respondents requested to return to in-person workshops, the average rating for the retreat was 3.31/4.00 (SD=0.46), higher than the previous year (M=3.06). We attribute this score largely to the virtual format over in-person. Even so, 31.2% rated the retreat as excellent and the remaining 68.8% as good. Along with the rating questions, participants were also asked to provide qualitative feedback about their experience. Participants found the Grantsmanship seminar and opportunities to get to know other ECIs valuable. Many reported enjoying the keynote and mock study session. While many noted they preferred in-person workshops and it was the most common suggestion made by respondents, one participant said, "I liked having the retreat virtually. I thought it was well done within the virtual format."

Appendix C: Annual Ovarian Cancer Academy Workshop Agenda (September 8 and 9, 2022)



**Thursday**  
**September 8, 2022**

*Please mute your microphone when not speaking.*

Use of webcams is required during all sessions, especially small group sessions.

For questions or logistic issues that arise during the meeting, please call Leslie Robinson at 601-826-8030 or email at [lrobinson11@umc.edu](mailto:lrobinson11@umc.edu).

OCA Alumni in Attendance  
Jeremy Chien  
Geeta Mehta  
Anirban Mitra  
Erinn Rankin  
Yang Yang-Hartwich  
Dmitriy Zamarin

**Day 1**

**2022 Ovarian Cancer Academy Annual Workshop**

*Leadership: Nita J. Maihle, Ph.D., Dean and  
Ronny Drapkin, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Dean*

*OCRP Science Officer: Karen Wylie, Ph.D.*

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**I. Introductions and Keynote**

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12:00-12:15*	Welcome Remarks by Academy Leadership
<i>*Note that all times listed are in EDT</i>	Introduction to Alumni
	Moment of Silence led by Rebecca Arend, M.D.
12:15-1:45	Keynote Address by Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D. <a href="#">Dr. Slamon's bio</a> "Past, Present, and Future Directions in the Era of Targeted Therapy in Oncology: One Person's Story"

1:45-2:00 Break

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**II. Team Building**

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2:00-3:30	Test Your Wit Get to know you questions Jeopardy
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3:30-3:45 Break

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**III. Focus on the Patient**

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3:45-4:45	<b>Patient Advocacy in Ovarian Cancer: Panel Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hope Krebill: PIVOT at the University of Kansas Cancer Center (<a href="#">PIVOT</a>)</li> <li>• Kristine Greer: Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (<a href="#">MOCA</a>)</li> <li>• Jackie Lang and Molly O'Connor: Rivkin Center (<a href="#">Rivkin</a>)</li> <li>• Sarah DeFeo: Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (<a href="#">OCRA</a>)</li> </ul>
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4:45-5:00 Closing Remarks  
Adjourn

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## Day 2

### 2022 Ovarian Cancer Academy Annual Workshop

*Leadership: Nita J. Maihle, Ph.D., Dean and  
Ronny Drapkin, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Dean  
OCRP Science Officer: Karen Wylie, Ph.D.*

**Friday**

**September 9, 2022**

Consumer Advocate  
Dee Sparacio: Women of Teal

*Please mute your microphone when not speaking.*

Use of webcams is required during all sessions, especially small group sessions.

For questions or logistic issues that arise during the meeting, please call Leslie Robinson at 601-826-8030 or email at [robinson11@umc.edu](mailto:robinson11@umc.edu).

OCA Alumni in Attendance  
Jeremy Chien  
Geeta Mehta  
Anirban Mitra  
Erinn Rankin  
Yang Yang-Hartwich  
Dmitriy Zamarin

---

#### IV: CDMRP, OCRP Q&A

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12:00-12:15 Introduction to Today's Session

12:15-1:15 Dr. Karen Wylie, OCRP Science Officer  
Presentation: *Title TBA*  
Q&A and Recognition

---

#### V: Professional Development I: Grantsmanship

---

1:15-3:15 Mock Study Section  
Programmatic Review  
Debrief

3:15-3:30 Break

---

#### VI: Professional Development II: OCA Recognitions and Networking

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3:30-3:45 Recognition of 2022 OCA Graduates

3:45-4:30 Breakout Groups

1) Peer mentor groups

Peer Mentor Group Assignments
Oladapo Yeku and Alex Melamed
Kate Chiappinelli and Marion Curtis
Salvatore Condello and Alex Maia
Rachel Vogel, Naoko Sasamoto, and Melissa Merritt
Jogender Tushir-Singh and Denarda Dangaj

2) Open forum: Leadership with Mentors and Alumni

4:30-5:00 Closing Remarks  
Adjourn

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### **Combined Feedback from Mentors and ECIs**

#### Suggestions

- Include content-specific breakout sessions led by experts in the field for one session at the next retreat
- More time for mentees to network with mentors
- Exclude mentors from those sessions targeted specifically to ECIs (grant review) to reduce time burden on mentors
- Incorporate more interaction among ECIs
- See more sessions on how to become an effective leader/manager of your own research group
- Guidance on how to negotiate the startup package for early career investigators
- Incorporate more one-to-one career mentoring with the secondary mentor
- Include more scientific content inclusive of other scientific disciplines than basic science
- have talks from successful OCA scientists who are now alumni
- Include a session on clinical trial design and interpretation
- A session on negotiating a startup package for ECIs and overall lab budget management
- Have the grant review session only for the ECIs, separately from mentors, so they feel more comfortable asking questions

#### Praise

- liked interactions with other attendees and learning more personal details about mentors and peers
  - the mock study section was excellent
- really enjoyed the talk by Dr. Slamon and the patient advocacy panel discussion
- all the agenda was valuable

Appendix E: List of publications by ECIs over the course of this year's cycle

**Sophia George**, Ayodele Omotoso, Andre Pinto, Aisha Mustapha, Alex Sanchez-Covarrubias, Usman Aliyu Umar, Ali Bala Umar, Timothy Abiola Oluwasola, Clement Abu Okolo, Umeh Uchenna Anthony, Francis Ikechukwu Ukekwe, Maisaratu A. Bakari, Aminu M.C Dahiru, Habiba Ibrahim Abdullahi, B.A Abimiku, Aisha Abdurrahman, Asmau Usman, Saad Aliyu Ahmed, Hadiza Abdullahi Usman, Abba Kabir, George Uchenna Eleje, Michael Emeka Chiemeka, Emily Nzeribe, Ikechukwu Nweke, Saidu Abubakar Kadas, Dauda E. Suleiman, Etim Ekanem, Umemmuo Maureen Uche, Jibrin Paul, Uzoma Maryrose Agwu, Felix O Edegbe, Rose I. Anorlu, Adekunbiola Banjo, Kayode Olusegun Ajenifuja, Adegboyega Adisa Fawole, Ibrahim O.O Kazeem, Francis Magaji, Olugbenga Silas, Boma Precious Athanasius, Nyengidiki Kennedy Tamunomie, Emem Bassey, Kunle Abudu, Ibrahim G. Ango, Kabiru Abdullahi, Ishak Lawal, Suleiman Aliyu Kabir, Victor Ekanem, Michael Ezeanochie, Usman Rahman Yahaya, Melissa Nicole Castillo, Vishal Bahall, Vikash Chatrani, Ian Brambury, Saida Bowe, Darron Halliday, George Bruney, Raleigh Butler, Camille Ragin, Folakemi Odedina, Srikar Chamala, Matthew Schlumbrecht, Bala Audu. An assessment of Ovarian Cancer Histotypes across the African Diaspora. *Front Oncol.* 2021 Nov 26;11:732443. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2021.732443. PMID: 34900682; PMCID: PMC8662547.

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Appendix F: List of grants awarded to ECIs for this year's cycle

PI: Sasamoto R03CA259659

Using biomarkers to elucidate the breastfeeding and ovarian cancer risk association

03/07/2022-02/29/2024

PI: Sasamoto R21HD107266

Metabolomic profiling of adolescent endometriosis

08/10/2022-07/31/2024

PI: Sasamoto Boston Center for Endometriosis Dick Marriott Endometriosis Research Grant Award

Oral microbiome profiling of adolescent endometriosis

08/01/2022-07/31/2023

PI: Chiappinelli The Bassett External Grants Program Innovation Award: The role of transposable elements in BRCA-mutant cancers

2022-2023.

PI: Chiappinelli The Gilead Research Scholars Program: Targeting RNA editing of transposable elements to reverse ovarian cancer immune evasion

2022-2024.

PI: Condello

Log:OC220373

DOD Teal Expansion Award W81XWH-22-OCRP-TEA

## Appendix G: Summary of Evaluation's Team Annual Activities (2021-2022)

In the past year, the evaluation team of the Ovarian Cancer Academy has been diligently collecting evaluations for various events and activities. Specifically, the team has conducted evaluations for the 2022 OCA Annual retreat and collected biannual evaluation data. It is important to note that two ECIs, Rebecca Arend and Sophia George, graduated from the program since the last report. However, two new Early Career Investigators and four new mentors have joined the program this year. The next expected graduation date is in 2023, where three ECIs will be completing their OCA participation. Overall, the evaluation team's efforts are helpful in ensuring the continued success of the Ovarian Cancer Academy.