



# **Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN) Scholars Kick-Off Meeting**

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**Monday, January 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM EST**

**Zoom: [HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/93683679180](https://zoom.us/j/93683679180)**

# Agenda

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1. Welcome and introductions
2. Welcome from Coordinating Center – Dr. Stephanie Wheeler
3. Program Leads and CPCR Staff
4. Overview of program aims and requirements
5. Q&A
6. Trello demonstration

WELCOME

A 3D rendered illustration of the word "WELCOME" in large, colorful, block letters. Each letter is held by a small, white, stylized character. The characters are arranged in a line, holding the letters from left to right. The letters are colored: W (red), E (orange), L (yellow), C (yellow), O (yellow), M (yellow-green), and E (green). The characters are standing on a white surface, and their reflections are visible below them. The background is plain white.

# Welcome from Coordinating Center –

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Stephanie Wheeler, PhD  
University of North Carolina

# The Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN)



# Overview of CPCRNR

## CPCRNR Mission

- Accelerate the adoption and implementation of evidence-based cancer prevention and control strategies in communities
- Enhance large-scale efforts to reach underserved populations and reduce their burden of cancer
- Deepen our understanding of the predictable processes that achieve those goals
- Develop the D&I workforce in cancer prevention and control

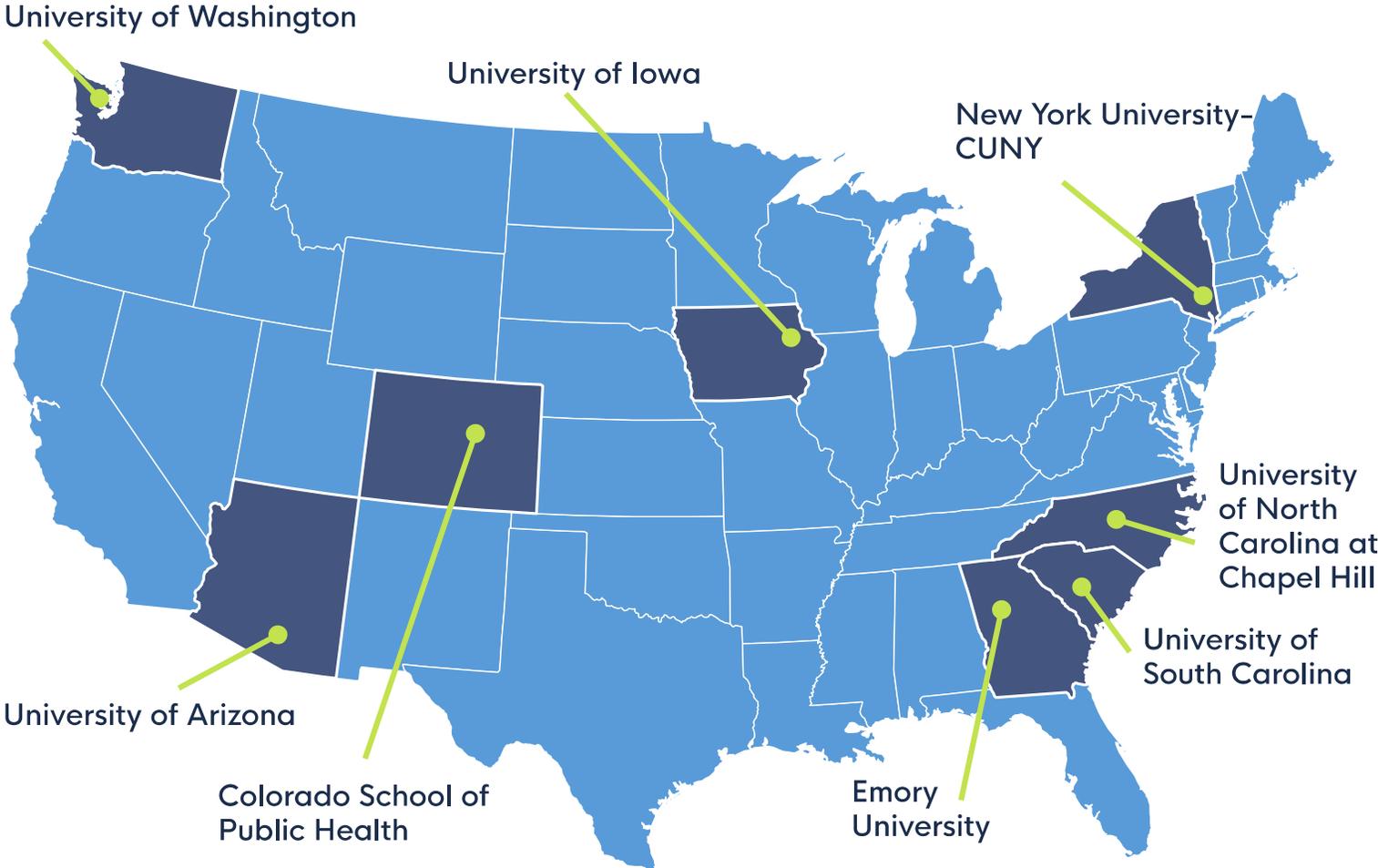
## CPCRNR Vision

Reduce the burden of cancer in U.S. populations and eliminate cancer disparities

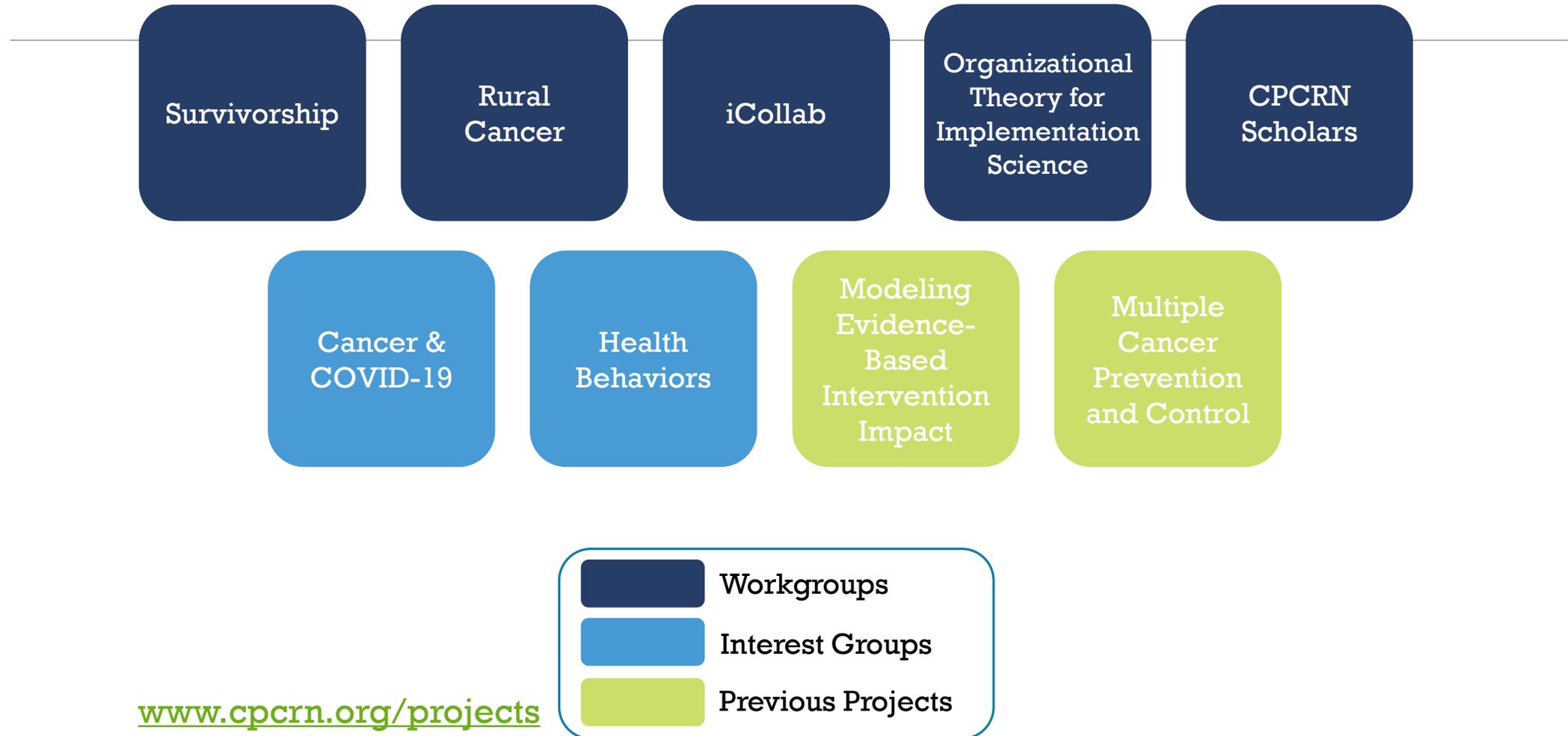
## Quick Facts

- Initiated in 2002, CPCRNR is the largest and oldest thematic research network of the CDC-funded Prevention Research Centers
- Collaboration with federal agency partners at the CDC and NCI
- 175 current Network members

# Funded CPCRN Centers (2019-2024)



# Overview of Current Cross-Center Projects



# Impact of the CPCRn

## By the Numbers

**1791**

**Publications**

**\$669 million**

**in Funded Grants**

**2000**

**Presentations**

**54**

**Trainings\***  
(\*past 3 years)

## Beyond the Numbers

Disseminating  
Science

CPCRn  
Supplemental  
Issue of  
*Preventive  
Medicine*

[https://www.cpcrn.org/news?  
open\\_id=73](https://www.cpcrn.org/news?open_id=73)

Creating  
Awareness

Putting Public  
Health  
Evidence Into  
Action  
Training

<https://www.cpcrn.org/training>

Catalyzing  
Action

UW Local  
Project – Point  
of Care  
Changes

Effecting  
Change

Kentucky  
Senate Bill 101  
Pharmacist-  
Administered  
HPV Vaccine

# CPCRN Scholars Workgroup Leadership Team

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- Dr. Daniela Friedman, PhD, University of South Carolina, Co-Chair
- Dr. Cam Escoffery, PhD, MPH, CHES, Emory University, Co-Chair
- Sam Noblet, MPH, University of South Carolina, Project Director
- Christine Agnone, MPH, Emory University, Project Director



# Scholars Introductions

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# Amy Ballou, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC

## University of South Carolina

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Dr. Ballou holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of South Carolina. She holds a master's degree in Nursing with board certification as an acute care nurse practitioner from the University of South Carolina. She has also received her bachelor's degrees in Nursing and Experimental Psychology from the University of South Carolina. She has over 14 years of nursing experience and specializes in oncology and hematology. Dr. Ballou's passion is to increase patient-provider communication to improve health outcomes. She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American Nurses Association and the Oncology Nursing Society. She enjoys spending time with her family, nature, hiking and travel.

# Lauren Bates, MA, BS

## University of North Carolina

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Lauren Bates is a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill studying Human Movement Science in the department of Allied Health Sciences. She completed her Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science and Biology at SUNY Brockport and her Master's Degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Exercise and Sport Science. Lauren's primary research focus is exercise oncology, especially improving quality of life and reducing sedentary behavior in oncology populations. She also examines how the immune system responds to acute and chronic exercise as a potential therapy in oncology populations. Lauren is interested in the interactions of lifestyle behavioral factors and cancer risk, and the translation of basic and applied science into public health outcomes.

# Caitlin Biddell, MSPH, BS

## University of North Carolina

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Caitlin Biddell is a PhD student in the Department of Health Policy and Management at UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health. Her research focuses on improving cancer care access and quality, particularly by understanding and addressing patient financial hardship, as a means to promoting health equity. Using a range of methodologies - including systems thinking, decision science, and implementation science - she aims to leverage available data and resources to support equitable policy development and program implementation.

# Emily Bilenduke, BA

## University of Colorado Denver

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Emily Bilenduke is a Clinical Health Psychology doctoral student at the University of Colorado Denver. She graduated from the University of Redlands with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. After, she worked at the Summit Community Care Clinic, a primary care clinic in rural Colorado, as the grant coordinator. Her time at the clinic inspired her to evaluate how people interact with their health. Emily defended her Master's thesis on the association of microbiome and mood changes in women diagnosed with breast cancer receiving chemotherapy treatment. Her current research interests include, interventions improving mental and behavioral health in cancer patients and caregivers, barriers to psychosocial care, health disparities, and integrated care.

# Wesley Burkett, MD

## University of North Carolina

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Dr. Burkett is an obstetrician-gynecologist in Chapel Hill, NC and is currently a first-year gynecologic oncology fellow at the University of North Carolina. Wesley graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Alabama. He then obtained his medical degree at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham, AL. During medical school, he developed an interest in women's health and oncology, and applied for residency in obstetrics and gynecology. He completed his obstetrics and gynecology residency at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, OK. While in residency, he received numerous research and teaching awards and was selected to serve as an Administrative Chief Resident. One of his areas of interest in research is trying to better understand and improve care for incarcerated women with gynecologic cancers.

# Perla Chebli, PhD, MPH

## New York University CUNY

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Perla Chebli, PhD, MPH is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Section for Health Equity at the NYU Department of Population Health. Perla holds a Master of Public Health from New York University and a PhD in Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her primary areas of focus are community engaged research, cancer disparities, intervention development, and implementation science. Perla's current research projects examine: the multilevel factors influencing HPV vaccine hesitancy in immigrant communities in Brooklyn to develop responsive interventions; the community engagement strategies leveraged in the implementation of community-based cancer interventions in NYC. In past research projects, she engaged diverse Arab American community stakeholders to explore cancer-related needs in Chicago and identify priorities for acceptable, culturally congruent cancer interventions; analyzed interviews with Latina breast cancer survivors and providers to understand multilevel determinants of financial toxicity; and conducted a process evaluation of community-based breast cancer interventions with Latina women in Chicago.

# David Garcia, PhD, FACSM

## University of Arizona

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Dr. Garcia is an Assistant Professor in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. He has extensive experience in short and long-term intervention trials in the areas of physical activity, diet, and weight management. He received his training from leading institutions and mentors in the field. Since 2006, Dr. Garcia has worked on numerous funded research projects, including research funded by industry, National Institutes of Health (NIH) and foundations. This includes working as a lifestyle interventionist/exercise physiologist in several clinical trials with overweight and obese adults, morbidly obese adults (Class II and III obesity), and individuals with type 2 diabetes.

Since arriving at the University of Arizona, his research has focused on the development of gender and culturally-sensitive weight loss interventions for Hispanic males. To support this effort, Dr. Garcia established “Nosotros Comprometidos a Su Salud -Committed to Your Health”, a program developed to support research through community service and partnering with underserved Tucson residents.

# Yue Guan, PhD, ScM, CGC

## Emory University

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Dr. Guan is a board-certified genetic counselor and social behavioral scientist. She holds a Masters of Science in Genetic Counseling and a PhD in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. Her research work has focused on translational research in precision public health: Communication research to develop and evaluate effective communications of genomic information; Implementation and dissemination research to promote the adoption of evidence-based genomic applications in public health; Community engagement research to expand the reach of genomic screening programs to underserved minority populations.

# Soohyun Hwang, MPH

## University of North Carolina

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Soohyun Hwang is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health. She graduated from Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea, and completed her Master of Public Health degree at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Prior to pursuing her doctoral degree, she worked at the Ann Arbor VA Center for Clinical Management Research. Soohyun's research interests focus on Implementation Science, organizational behavior, quality of cancer care, care coordination, shared decision-making, health disparities, and mixed methods. Her dissertation focuses on multilevel determinants of guideline-adherent active surveillance follow-up care for low-risk prostate cancer.

# Jessica Islam, PhD, MPH

## University of North Carolina

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Dr. Jessica Y. Islam is a cancer epidemiologist and health services researcher focused on addressing disparities across the cancer continuum at the intersection of infections and cancer. Currently, she is a Post-doctoral fellow on the NCI-funded T32 Cancer Care Quality Training Program (CCQTP) at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. In late March 2021, Dr. Islam will transition to a tenure-track faculty position as an Assistant Member in the Cancer Epidemiology Program at Moffitt Cancer Center. Her research interests include the prevention of cancers caused by infections, disparities in treatment and outcomes among gynecological cancer patients, and cancer treatment disparities among people living with HIV. More recently, Dr. Islam has also focused her research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer survivors, including their continuity of care, mental health, and financial hardship.

# Victoria Krauss, MPH

## Emory University

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Mrs. Krauss earned her Master of Public Health degree from Emory University in 2019. Upon graduation, she became the Program Coordinator for the Ventanilla de Salud (Window to Health) Atlanta, a preventative community health program for individuals visiting the Consulate General of Mexico in Atlanta. There, she implemented a personalized behavioral health intervention which increased healthy behaviors among participants, and improved the quality of health services provided by the program. Before Emory, she served in the Peace Corps in Guatemala as a Maternal and Child Health Facilitator collaborating with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance of Guatemala. She is a Project Coordinator for SurvivorLink, a patient-controlled digital health platform that was created to increase follow-up care among pediatric cancer survivors. Currently, she coordinates the dissemination and implementation of the SurvivorLink project with cancer clinics across the nation.

# Karen Lutrick, PhD

## University of Arizona

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Dr. Karen Lutrick is an assistant professor in the department of family & community medicine in the college of medicine at the University of Arizona and the Director of the National Foundation of Emergency Medicine. She has research expertise in disaster response research, clinical trials and research operations, Latinx health disparities, and is building expertise in dissemination and implementation science. In addition to research experience, she is an experienced educator and education researcher, working in the community and within higher education, and recently translating that experience into assisting emergency medicine physicians in the development of research skills.

# Clare Meernik, MPH

## University of North Carolina

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Clare Meernik, MPH, is a doctoral student in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health. Her research interest is in cancer survivorship and outcomes, specifically among adolescents and young adults. Ms. Meernik intends to focus her career on identifying and addressing barriers to equitable, evidence-based survivorship care and optimizing long-term cancer outcomes related to survivors' physical, cognitive, and psychosocial needs. Her dissertation examines fertility preservation among adolescent and young adult females with cancer in North Carolina, including the impact of fertility preservation on delay to cancer treatment and reproductive success after use of assisted reproductive technology.

# Sean Mikles, PhD, MPH

## University of North Carolina

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Sean Mikles is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center who studies health system data interoperability and interprofessional collaboration. His career spans nearly 15 years of both academic and industry experience, including 5 years working at electronic record vendor Epic, the pursuit of an MPH in Epidemiology from Columbia University, and obtaining a PhD in Biomedical and Health Informatics from the University of Washington. His research aims to support collaboration within a patient's care team and the integration of health-related data from the patient and community into clinical practice and research. Utilizing user-centered design and implementation science approaches, his current research aims to design and implement systems to improve care coordination for post-treatment cancer survivors, and build connections between oncology practices and support services in the community.

# Meghan O'Leary, MA

## University of North Carolina

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Meghan O'Leary is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health where she minors in Decision Sciences and Outcomes Research. She is also a trainee in the Cancer Care Quality Training Program at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. For her dissertation, she is exploring the use of systems science tools for informing decision-making about the implementation of colorectal cancer screening interventions. Meghan previously completed her BA in Anthropology and American Studies at Northwestern University, and her MA in Anthropology at the University of New Mexico.

# Radhika Ranganathan

## University of South Carolina

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Radhika Ranganathan is a first year MSPH student majoring in Epidemiology. Trying to help medically distressed, who eventually died due to lack of research on prevention and treatment of dreadful chronic ailments has been critical and career-defining in my nine years as a Physician Assistant in perioperative cardiac care. Her interests in health services research is that it can be foundational to my profession dedicated to bringing new methods and technologies in helping rid mankind of dreaded diseases and to overcome health inequalities. She is interested in applying the skills learnt from this program towards cancer health disparities research and rural cancer control across the care continuum.

# Mayank Sakhuja, MHA

## University of South Carolina

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Mayank Sakhuja is a second-year doctoral student in the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior in Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina. He completed his graduate degree in Health Administration from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India. During and after completing his graduate degree, he gained experience of managing health programs while working in public health department of state governments and non-profit organizations such as CARE India. He is currently engaged as a graduate research assistant on a Duke Endowment funded grant aimed to enhance quality of care by improving health literacy through implementation of an evidence-based intervention that improves patient-provider interaction in South Carolina. He is interested in using evidence-based practices for health and risk communication, health literacy, tobacco cessation, and physical activity.

# Jingxi Sheng, BSN, RN

## University of South Carolina

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Jingxi Sheng is a third year PhD student in the College of Nursing at the University of South Carolina. Her long-term research focuses are healthy behaviors and cancer prevention and control among Asian Americans. Her doctoral research is interested in understanding attitudes and beliefs about the role of physical activity in breast cancer prevention and investigating physical activity factors among Asian Americans. She is interested in inventions other than surgical or pharmaceutical treatments that can help reduce breast cancer risk, such as engaging in regular physical activity. Previously Jingxi worked as a research assistant with her faculty mentor, Dr. Sue P. Heiney, on her breast cancer study, which involves developing a mobile application to improve treatment adherence. Through her doctoral research, she expects to disclose cultural context on Asian American women's physical activity experience and better understand the physical activity determinants from a cultural perspective.

# Lisa Spees, PhD

## University of North Carolina

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Lisa Spees is an Assistant Professor in the Health Policy and Management Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a health services researcher interested in examining and reducing health disparities by improving cancer care quality and access among minority and rural populations. To date, her research in this area has focused on identifying multi-level (patient, provider, and organizational) barriers across the cancer care continuum using both qualitative and quantitative methods. As a CPRN Scholar, Lisa hopes to learn how to use implementation science methods to design, evaluate, and implement real-world interventions focused increasing access to high-quality, guideline-concordant care in medically underserved cancer populations.

# Samantha Werts, MPH

## University of Arizona

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Samantha Werts is currently a PhD student studying Public Health at the University of Arizona. She completed a MPH degree in May of 2020 at the University of Arizona concentrating on Health Behavior and Health Promotion. Like her mentor, Dr. Cynthia Thomson, her areas of interest span cancer prevention and control. She is primarily interested in developing and implementing lifestyle interventions to improve health outcomes for cancer survivors. Samantha has been and is currently involved in a wide breadth of research within the area of cancer prevention and control including work on colorectal and ovarian cancer screening, Mexican American cancer survivorship, and lifestyle interventions for cancer survivors. After receiving her doctorate, she plans to continue in academia and work towards implementing improved methods for cancer survivorship in the community.

# Program Aims

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- Create a network of cancer prevention and control professionals consisting of CPCRN-affiliated scholars (students, postdocs, junior faculty, and public health and state agency practitioners) in dissemination and implementation science
- Build knowledge and skills of Scholars to conduct dissemination and/or implementation research or embed it into their practice

# Program Leads – Undergraduate/ Graduate/Postdoctoral Tracks

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Daniela Friedman  
University of South Carolina



Cyndi Thomson  
University of Arizona

# Program Leads – Faculty Member/Researcher Track

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Cam Escoffery  
Emory University



Elaine Morrato  
Colorado School of Public  
Health

# Program Leads – Practitioner/Clinician

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Jennifer Leeman  
University of North Carolina



Swann Adams  
University of South Carolina

# Program Requirements

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- CPCRN connection – Either as a mentor/advisor or participation in a CPCRN workgroup
- Completion of a D&I Curriculum and readings
- Attendance of webinars and discussions
- Completion of your own D&I project

### CPCRN Scholar Training Components

This table describes training components for the new CPCRN Scholars program. Each training component has activities that may be unique to a CPCRN member center or common across all CPCRN member centers. All CPCRN Scholars will identify and be matched with a mentor(s) and establish a regular meeting schedule with that mentor(s). Specific activities to be completed will be mutually determined by each CPCRN mentor(s)-scholar team. All CPCRN Scholars have opportunities to participate in webinar meetings to meet other Scholars at other CPCRN centers. Each will complete online surveys distributed by CPCRN Scholars Workgroup upon applying for and completing the Scholars program.

	Training Components	Activities by Scholar Track*			
		Undergraduate Scholar (Leads: Daniela Friedman and Cyndi Thomson)	Graduate/ Postdoctoral Scholar (Leads: Daniela Friedman and Cyndi Thomson)	Faculty Member / Researcher (Leads: Cam Escoffery and Elain Morrato)	Practitioner / Clinician (Leads: Jennifer Leeman and Swann Adams)
1	Human subjects training ( <b>Optional for all groups</b> ; will depend on the project/workgroup/topic)	Complete CITI training or a more population-specific training if institution has this available	Complete CITI training or a more population-specific training if institution has this available	Complete CITI training or a more population-specific training if institution has this available	Complete CITI training or a more population-specific training if institution/organization has this available
2	Obtain knowledge/familiarity with the CPCRN network  <b>Minimum requirements for all tracks: Review materials and one article [UG Students: Review</b>	Review CPCRN website and materials, including CPCRN Overview and Impact Slides/Video by the Coordinating Center	Review CPCRN website and materials, including CPCRN Overview and Impact Slides/Video by the Coordinating Center  Read Fernandez et al., 2014 OR Ko et al., 2019  Attend network meetings either	Review CPCRN website and materials, including CPCRN Overview and Impact Slides/Video by the Coordinating Center  Read Fernandez et al., 2014 OR Ko et al., 2019  Attend network meetings	CPCRN Overview and Impact Slides/Video by the Coordinating Center (include practice examples and partners)  Read Fernandez et al., 2014 OR Ko et al., 2019  Attend network meetings either in-person or virtually

# CPCRN Workgroups

 SEARCH 🔍

## PROJECTS

CPCRN's Network Centers regularly form cross-center workgroups to investigate areas of research interest to the Network. Below is a listing and description of the Network's current projects as well as a listing of some of those the Network has undertaken in the past, any of which may be revived if renewed interest, projects, and resources become available. The Network's current projects can be broken down into two categories: workgroups, which are comprised of investigators from two or more centers who collaborate on a well-defined set of deliverables to meet goals around a common theme; and interest groups, which are less formal and semi-permanent collaborative efforts that dissolve once work is complete, or evolve to function permanently within the Network as a Workgroup.

- CPCRN Scholars Workgroup [+](#)  
copy link
- iCollab Workgroup [+](#)  
copy link
- Organizational Theory for Implementation Science (OTIS) Workgroup [+](#)  
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- Rural Cancer Workgroup [+](#)  
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- Survivorship Workgroup [+](#)  
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# Q & A

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# Trello Demonstration

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