

## Network News

### OPTIMUM: A PE-CGS Research Center Spotlighted by NCI

We are excited to announce that **OPTIMUM**, one of the five PE-CGS Research Centers, was recently featured on the NCI Cancer Currents Blog. The blog post showcases OPTIMUM's work on improving the care and outcomes of people with low-grade glioma, an understudied type of brain tumor. The post also describes how OPTIMUM engages people with low-grade glioma in genomic research, and what projects they are currently working on or planning for the future. You can read the full blog post by [clicking here](#).

### Engaging People with Low-Grade Glioma in Cancer Research

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August 24, 2023, by Edward Winstead

Some people with low-grade glioma, a type of brain tumor, can live for years, even decades, without the disease worsening. But eventually these cancers start to grow, and little is known about why—or how—this happens.

An NCI-supported study called OPTIMUM (Optimizing Engagement in Discovery of Molecular Evolution of Low-Grade Glioma) could provide some answers.

The study, which is part of the Cancer Moonshot initiative, aims to improve the care of people with low-grade glioma by understanding more about the biology of the disease. To achieve this goal, the study is exploring new ways to involve participants in cancer research.

"We are attempting to engage and recruit participants to the study through a wide variety of approaches," said OPTIMUM co-leader Elizabeth Claus, M.D., Ph.D., a neurosurgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and a professor in the Yale School of Public Health.



Since her low-grade glioma diagnosis at age 29, Liz Salmi has become a researcher who studies communication among scientists, physicians, and patients. She is a co-investigator on the OPTIMUM study. Credit: Richard O'Leary/Liz Salmi

### Network's Progress Highlighted in a New Infographic

To showcase the Network's progress, the Coordinating Center and the Dashboard task force have created a "By the Numbers" infographic that displays aggregate enrollment data from all the Research Centers. The infographic shows how many participants have been enrolled by cancer type, age, gender identity, race, and ethnicity. The infographic also summarizes the population and cancer type focus of each Research Center.

The "By the Numbers" infographic will be updated quarterly and is available on the Network's website under "About Us." We encourage you to [click here](#) to view it directly.



### Reminders for the 2023 Annual Meeting

The registration deadline has been extended to **Friday, September 22** for the 2023 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and there will also be an option to join virtually. The meeting will start at 12 pm MT on Tuesday, October 24th and end at 12 pm MT on Thursday, October 26th, 2023. Register via the link sent to your email or by [clicking here](#).

## Ways to Collaborate

### Share Your Questions on Genes, Genetics, and Genomics for the 2023 Annual Meeting

We invite you to participate in a survey that will help us prepare for a session at the 2023 Annual Meeting, titled 'Genes, Genetics, and Genomics 101: Knowledge-building session and "Ask Me Anything" with PE-CGS Genetic Counselors.' The session, will be held on October 24, Day 1 of the meeting. The session will provide an overview of the basic concepts and terminology of genes, genetics, and genomics, and how they apply to the PE-CGS Network's goals and projects. The session will also include a Q&A segment where you can ask any questions you have regarding these topics.

To make the session more interactive and relevant to the Network's interests and needs, we want to hear from you in advance. Please fill out [this survey](#) and submit your questions on

genes, genetics, and genomics by **Monday, October 9, 2023**. Your questions will help us shape the content and format of the session, and ensure that we address the most common and important issues.

### Subcommittee Updates

- **Health Equity:** No meetings
- **Participant Engagement:** No meetings
- **Return of Results:**
  - (9/13/23) The **subcommittee met** and plans to meet at the Annual Meeting (during dinner on **Tuesday, October 24, 6:30-8:30 pm MT**). This session can also be streamed for virtual participants. They discussed next steps for a collaborative paper about managing return of results of somatic data and disclosure issues.
  - (9/15/23) The subcommittee's **working group on cascade testing** have moved forward with a funded collaborative project.

## Ways to Communicate

### PE-CGS-Related Materials for Your Presentations and Documents

If you are looking for PE-CGS-related materials to use in your presentations, communication materials, and other documents, you can find them in the Network file repository on the [pecgs.org](http://pecgs.org) website. The file repository is a secure online space where you can access various documents and resources related to the Network, such as logos, flyers, infographics, and more.

To access the file repository, you need to log into the [pecgs.org](http://pecgs.org) website with your username and password. Then, click on the 'Repository' link under the 'Resources' tab and click on the **'Media Assets' folder --> 'PE-CGS figures' folder**.

To join the file repository, just click the button below and follow the instructions. If you have any questions or suggestions about the file repository, please contact us at [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

[Join the PE-CGS File Repository](#)

### PE-CGS Publication Tracker

A tracker has been created to document the status of PE-CGS-related publications. Please share information in the Tracker about work you plan to publish from your Research Center. If you have any questions about the purpose or use of the Tracker, please reach out to the Coordinating Center ([pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu)).

[PE-CGS Publication Tracker](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming PE-CGS Network Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting
9/26	3 pm ET	Communications
9/28	3 pm ET	Network Manager Meeting
10/5	1 pm ET	Steering Committee
10/9	1 pm ET	Engagement Catalog Task Force
10/11	1 pm ET	Return of Results
10/11	3 pm ET	Annual Meeting Planning
10/12	3 pm ET	Participant Engagement

10/19	3 pm ET	All Hands
10/24	12 - 8:30 pm MT	2023 Annual Meeting
10/25	8 am - 8 pm MT	
10/26	8 am -12 pm MT	



## SEMINAR SERIES

### Cancer Moonshot Seminar Series

The Cancer Moonshot Seminar series is a monthly series that showcases research from different Cancer Moonshot initiatives. The next upcoming seminar is on **September 28** held from **12-1 PM EST**: Cancer Center Cessation Initiative: Integrating Tobacco Treatment into Clinical Care for Cancer Patients at NCI-Designated Cancer Centers. [Click here to register here.](#)

### 2023 Consortium for Cancer Implementation Science Annual Meeting

Registration is open for the 2023 Consortium for Cancer Implementation Science (CCIS) Annual Meeting, taking place on **October 4-5**. During the meeting, attendees can expect to: discover the latest advancements and trends in implementation science; explore strategies for developing and nurturing partnerships that promote health equity and foster collaboration; and collaborate with colleagues through interactive sessions and networking opportunities. [Learn more here](#)

### The National Cancer Institute Cancer Health Equity Visioning Workshops

The NCI will hold a series of workshops with a focus on cancer health disparities. A series of five 4-hour virtual ideation minilabs (interactive workshops) will take place in **January 2024** and are designed to coalesce, focus, and refine the ideas from the first stage into strong themes and opportunities that can serve as the foundation for new research directions in the science of cancer health disparities (CHD). This stage will involve additional cross-discipline discussions and conclude with a series of white papers summarizing the themes and opportunities for broad dissemination. The application deadline is **November 8**. [Click here to apply](#)

## Funding and Opportunities

### Investigator-Initiated Research in Genomics and Health Equity

The purpose of this initiative is to support investigator-initiated research in genomics and health equity, with the ultimate goal of developing approaches, generating and disseminating data, and implementing metrics or interventions that will advance the equitable use of genomics to improve health in US populations. Awardees will conduct innovative and generalizable research in genomics and health equity spanning across genomic research areas and will incorporate a plan for enhancing diverse perspectives.

- **R01 Research Project Grant**
  - The first upcoming application due date is **November 8 (5 pm local time)**. [Learn more here](#)
- **R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant**
  - This R21 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will support small research projects that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources. The R21 grant mechanism supports different types of projects including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology. The first upcoming application due date is **November 8 (5 pm local time)**. [Learn more here](#)

### NIH Build UP Trust Challenge

The NIH Build UP Trust Challenge will award a total of up to \$1.25 million for solutions that increase research participation and the adoption of existing and new tools and approaches to

detect, treat, and monitor diseases, conditions, and disorders by improving engagement with minority health populations and populations with health disparities. Review the [Readiness Tool](#) to help determine your eligibility. [Register here](#) no later than **November 14 (5 pm ET)**.

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### **PE-CGS SHORT READS submissions**

Have news to share with the PE-CGS Network community?  
For consideration, send your news to [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

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