# **SPEED SCIENCE 2024**

Session Two



#### Longling (Silvia) Shui in Westcott Lab @CSHL



#### ENTJ 🔷 Commander aka Strategist, Mobilizer,

The CEO

Role: Analyst / Rational

Happiness Lies in the Joy of Achievement





#### Adopted Cell Transfer (ACT) Treatment



Adoptive cell therapy has limitations on short-lived responses and limited efficacy in solid tumors
 The fate of T cells can be determined in the first division after T cell priming.

Met et al. Semin Immunopathol (2019).

## Need strategies to manipulate T cells before priming

- Directly manipulate naive T cells
- Allow flexible priming and activation of manipulated naive T cells in vivo, with therapies that enhance priming.



# Determinants of the Tuft Cell Lineage in Small Cell Carcinomas

Kamil Taneja

Vakoc Lab

Cold Spring Harbor Lab

**Genetics Speed Science 2024** 

# Small Cell Carcinomas



- 1. Neuroendocrine
- 2. Tuft
- 3. Triple Negative/Inflammatory

Goal: Genetic and Epigenetic Requirements of the Tuft Cell Lineage



### Cell of Origin





Cell of Origin Model In Vivo Tuft Cell Specific Universal Mutations (p53 and rb1) + Subtype Specific Alterations (myc, PTEN)



#### **Transdifferentiation Model**

Xenograft Basal Cells Oncogenic Alterations Transdifferentiation Specific Alterations Lineage Tracing Speed Science Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory / SBU Onur Eskiocak-Beyaz LAB 09/04/2024

### Mechanisms of intestinal regeneration?



1. Homeostasis

Cheng and Leblond 1974, Potten et al. 1977, Barker et al. 2007, Buczacki et al. 2013, Nusse et al. 2018, Ayyaz et al. 2019, Murata et al. 2020, Cheng et al. 2019, Beyaz et al. 2016



Develop probabilistic and mathematical models to address questions in evolutionary biology, human health, agriculture, and the environment

Luiz Machado



### Cancer Evolution



### Gene expression





### **Population Genetics**









### **Population Genetics**





Cancer Evolution

#### Development of neural network-based methods to infer Adaptive introgression in Ancestral Recombination Graphs



**Population Genetics** 









### Mechanisms of human regeneration?











#### Harriet Wu X)





Rahme Lab













CEDAR CREST COLLEGE Dynamics of DNA Replication in *Yarrowia lipolytica* 

> Kim Hane Speed Science 2024 Stillman Laboratory



## Initiation of DNA Replication in Eukaryotes



Costa A, Diffley JFX. 2022 Annu. Rev. Biochem. 91:107–31

# The Regulation of ORC in the Cell Cycle Differs Between Eukaryotes



# *Yarrowia lipolytica* is Evolutionarily Far from *cerevisiae*



Shen*, et al.* 2018. PMID: 30415838



T Cell Exclusion in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDA)

- 1. T cells are unable to enter cancer cell nests
- 2. The cancer is able to grow and thrive

How?



## Gene-Specific Antisense Oligonucleotide Therapy for Diffuse Midline Glioma



Lucia Yang Speed Science 2024 PI: Adrian Krainer



The Krainer Lab is interested in:

- 1. Mechanisms of RNA processing, including splicing
- 2. Applying the above to therapy development for genetic diseases





# ...as potential therapies for different diseases

 ASOs have shown potential in many diseases (e.g. spinal muscular atrophy, cystic fibrosis, and now a variety of cancer types)

My project then aims to...

 Design and apply ASOs to target the causative mutation for a class of pediatric high-grade gliomas

krainerlab.cshl.edu

















### Colognato Lab 🏏 Oligodendrocytes



Maryam (Minnie) Azmi 5<sup>th</sup> year candidate Advisor: Dr. Holly Colognato

Created with BioRender.com

# Oligodendrocytes (OLs) extend and wrap their processes (arms) around multiple axons



OLs myelinate axons and aid neuronal survival, differentiation, and plasticity (refinement of neurites)



## Adaptive myelination continues throughout life!





Legend of Zelda 🎮 💔





Improving cognition

Embarrassing amount of anime  $\overline{0}$ 



# Contemporary evolution in three-spined stickleback in Alaska

(How does **rapid** local adaptation happen?)

Alexander Kwakye Advisor: Krishna Veeramah

## Veeramah Lab

Whole genome sequencing reveals stepping-stone dispersal

 Analyses of temporal genomic data to answer specific evolutionary questions







#### OLECULAR ECOLOGY WILEY

#### SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Predicting future from past: The genomic basis of recurrent and rapid stickleback evolution





# How does rapid local adaptation happen?

• Understand rapid adaptation in a forward-in-time manner



# Model of rapid freshwater adaptation



# Speed Science Sam Chiappone

9/4/24

Ceramide, a bioactive sphingolipid (SL), is known to cause apoptosis, but the particulars of how such ceramide-induced apoptosis is mediated remain elusive



#### Biorender

Two major questions about sphingolipids (SL):

# What regulates SL levels?

>What does ceramide regulate in order to cause cell cycle arrest and/or apoptosis?

# So far, I have discovered that FOXA1 controls the steady-state levels of SL in breast cancer





# What does ceramide regulate?

Preliminary results indicate that there are a number of PP2A-dependent dephosphorylation events in response to ceramide, including cell-cycle and apoptosis related ones

# Nelson Gautier van der Velden Lab



Kite

# I scream... You scream

led in a ...a 224,000

Laks in: Ground beef, onions,

CDC warns not to 'kiss or cuddle your turtle' as salmonella outbreak hits II states *monella enterica* serovars are responsible for a combined global toll of approximately 1 million deaths annually.

Recalled cucumbers in salmonella outbreak sickened 449, CDC says

## Model of how Inflammatory Monocytes may promote nitrate-dependent STm growth



 Specifically, I am interested in how IMs contribute both *directly* and *indirectly* to the generation of hostderived nitrate and the subsequent expansion of salmonella in the lumen of the inflamed intestine.

Adapted from McLaughlin *et al. PLoS Pathogens* 2019

### Interpreting Bone Morphogenetic Protein Gradients in Vertebrate Development Courtney Tello



### Vertebrate development consists of complex cell signal coordination



Utilizing transplantation techniques we can get a better understanding of how progenitor cells interpret Bone Morphogenetic Protein signal gradients *in vivo* 



Row, R., et al., 2016





## Microbial Regulation of Anti-tumor Immunity in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

Charlie Chung Beyaz lab

#### Concerning facts about colorectal cancer (CRC)



SEER stage	5-year relative survival rate
Localized	91%
Regional	73%
Distant	13%

#### Knowledge gaps:

- What makes metastatic CRC an incurable disease?
  Immune evasion?
- □ Lack of models that recapitulate human disease?
- > What causes the rise of CRC in young adults?
- Diet?
- □ Obesity?
- □ Stress? Pollution? Microbiome dysbiosis?

CA A Cancer J Clinicians, First published: 17 January 2024, DOI: (10.3322/caac.21820)

#### Microbial regulation of anti-tumor immunity in metastatic CRC

A pro-obesity HFD dampens MHC-II expression in ISCs



A pro-obesity HFD depletes helicobacter species in the gut



Helicobacter species in the gut restricts tumorigenesis



*HFD* leads to depletion of Helicobacter species (H. mastomyrinus or H. typhlonius)
 *Helicobacter colonization correlates with MHC-II expression*

#### Beyaz et al. Cell Stem Cell 2021b

#### Cancer MHC-II expression is critical for regulating immune response against CRC

H+ H-, CIITA OE

50

100

Dave

150

200



#### Cancer MHC-II is critical for *immune response in human*



Caspase 3/7 Immune cells Organoid





How does helicobacter species in the gut enhance cancer MHC expression?



# Speed Science

Abhay Kanodia

Canals Lab

09/04/2024

## Cancer Lipidomics lab



## Compartmentalization of Ceramide: Many Ceramide Hypothesis





Identifying novel NRF2 functional binding partners in NSCLC

Speed Science session 2024 Santiago Espinosa | Vakoc Lab

# The Vakoc Laboratory



Select Key Publications:

RNAi screen identifies Brd4 as a therapeutic target in acute myeloid leukemia. Nature 478, 524-528 (2011).

Discovery of cancer drug targets by CRISPR-Cas9 screening of protein domains. Nature Biotechnology. 33(6):661-7 (2015).

Enhancer Reprogramming Promotes Pancreatic Cancer Metastasis. Cell. 170(5):875-888 (2017).

<u>A TFIID-SAGA Perturbation that Targets MYB and Suppresses Acute Myeloid Leukemia.</u> *Cancer Cell*. 33(1):13-28 (2018). <u>POU2F3 is a master regulator of a tuft cell-like variant of small cell lung cancer. *Genes Dev*. 32(13-14):915-928 (2018).</u>

# **Our goal:** to reveal novel mechanisms of NRF2 function in *KEAP1*-mutant NSCLC



**1. Mapping of cancer-relevant domains of** 

2. To identify and biochemically characterize cancer-related NRF2 regulators



PDB:7X5F

Acknowledgements

Vakoc Lab:

Chris Vakoc, MD/PhD Aktan Alpsoy, PhD Damianos Skopelitis, PhD Joe Milazzo Larissa Nogueira de Almeida Patrick Cunniff Connor Fitzpatrick Yuan Gao, PhD Vahag Kechejian Olaf Klingbeil, PhD **Benan Nalbant** Cristian Lopez-Cleary, PhD

#### **Stony Brook MSTP**

Michael Frohman, MD/PhD Danielle Mauro-Hernandez

#### Stony Brook Graduate Genetics

Martha Furie, PhD Jennifer Jokinen

CSHL MS Shared resource: Paolo Cifani, Ph.D

Hillside Facilities Amy Brady Julie Cheong



Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory



School of Medicine Stony Brook University



#### **Disha Aggarwal**

Spector Lab, CSHL

Speed Science 2024





Based on GENCODE Data from Release 44



# Role of IncRNA MALAT1 in breast cancer

- Overexpressed in 20 cancer types
- Important in metastases of breast cancer