****

Welcome to the Channing J. Der Annual Career Symposium, moderated by Justin Milner, PhD, featuring career focused talks representing two different career paths: industry, and academic research.

Tuesday, August 15th, 2023, 12pm-4pm - UNC Lineberger - Pagano Conference Room

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 12:00-12:50pm | Lunch: In-Person Attendees |
| 12:50-1:00pm | Welcome: Channing J. Der, PhD, Sarah Graham Kenan Distinguished Professor, Pharmacology, Member Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center |
| 1:00-1:45pm | Kirsten Bryant, PhD, Assistant Professor, Pharmacology, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Member Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center |
| 1:45-2:30pm | Hui-Chia Yu-Kemp, PhD., Scientist II, Technology Development, Life Edit Therapeutics |
| 2:30-3:00pm | Questions & Discussion |
| 3:00-3:15pm | Break  |
| 3:15-4:00pm | Breakout Sessions: In-Person Attendees Kirsten Bryant, PhD - Pagano Conference RoomHui-Chia Yu-Kemp, PhD - Henningsen Board Room |

 **Kirsten Bryant, PhD, Assistant Professor, Pharmacology, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Member Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Kirsten L. Bryant is an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill. She received her PhD from Cornell University and completed postdoctoral studies at UNC Chapel Hill in the laboratory of Channing Der. During her postdoctoral studies, she and colleagues found that the genetic suppression of *KRAS* increased autophagic flux, as did pharmacological inhibition of its effector, ERK MAPK. This finding led to the conclusion that concurrent inhibition of ERK and autophagy may be an effective PDAC treatment. Additionally, this study, along with a similar, co-published study from the University of Utah, invigorated interest in targeting autophagy for PDAC treatment and led to the initiation of clinical trials at MD Anderson Cancer Center (NCT04132505), UNC-Chapel Hill and Harvard/DFCI (NCT04386057). Kirsten established an independent laboratory in 2020 that is focused on understanding and therapeutically targeting nutrient scavenging processes in RAS-mutant cancers. She has been awarded an R37 MERIT award from the NCI, an Idea Award from the Department of Defense, and multiple foundational awards to support these studies, and is excited to build a team of passionate scientists who study new therapeutic approaches for pancreatic cancer.

**Hui-Chia Yu-Kemp, PhD., Scientist II, Technology Development, Life Edit Therapeutics**

Hui-Chia Yu-Kemp is a scientist at Life Edit Therapeutics (Durham, NC). She initiated and leads RNA-engineering project in Life Edit, to explore different approaches to improve RNA function and thus improve the editing of RNA-guided nucleases and base editors. Prior to Life Edit, she was a post-doc researcher at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where she studied the mechanism, the epithelial cells use to maintain integrity. Hui-Chia received her B.S. in Life Science and MS in Structural Biology in Taiwan, and her PhD in Cell and Developmental Biology from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, where she applied different biochemical assays to characterize protein function, and her postdoc training at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill where she studied the mechanisms of epithelial junctions.