In this issue:

• Updates from SDDRC Cores
• Center News
• Upcoming Center Events
• SDDRC P&F Awards
• Recent Center Publications

Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to present the latest edition of the SDDRC Newsletter.

In this newsletter, you will find a wealth of information, including updates on our services and center events, announcement of the 2023 Pilot and Feasibility awardees, and remarkable achievements of our members as illustrated by the list of recent publications.

Furthermore, we are excited to share that we have recently submitted our renewal application to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This significant milestone demonstrates our commitment to the pursuit of excellence in digestive diseases research.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We hope that this newsletter serves as a source of inspiration, connection, and valuable information for all our Center members.

Best wishes,

Bernd Schnabl and Lars Eckmann
SDDRC Co-Directors
Core Service and Updates

Human Translational Core
The Core provides access to well-characterized human biospecimens for patients with Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

The Core is now offering access to archival clinical (GI/liver) tissue samples (stained or unstained slides) from the Pathology Department. This service can be obtained by submitting the sample request form located on the Center website, or via email to the Center.

If you are not sure how to get started, we can provide consultation in pathology, biostatistics, protocol design, and training. Contact us with any questions: sddrc@health.ucsd.edu.

Preclinical Model Core
The Core provides histological support through an arrangement with the Histology Core at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology. A wide range of technologies and services are available, including tissue preparation, fixation, routine and specialized staining, and state-of-the-art microscopy.

The Core also provides routine access to germ-free and gnotobiotic mice, and to various murine models of liver and gastrointestinal disease.

Direct any questions on the logistics of histological sample submission or the use of murine models to the Center administration: sddrc@health.ucsd.edu.

Microbiomics and Genomics Services
The Center would like to welcome David Pride, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine as the new Director for the Microbiomics and Functional Genomics Core.

The Core provides access to all common sequencing-based assays, including 16S rRNA and metagenomic shotgun sequencing of microbial communities, and RNA-seq (including single-cell transcriptomics), ChIP-seq, miRNA-Seq, GRO-Seq, Ribo-Seq, ATAC-Seq, Whole Genome Sequencing, and Exome sequencing.

If you plan to use these services for the first time, we encourage you to contact Dr. Kristen Jepsen (kjepsen@health.ucsd.edu) for guidance on preparation and sample submission.

The Core also provides bioinformatics support, including analysis of sequencing-based assays and consultation and training in specific experimental and analytical techniques related to microbiomics and functional genomics.

Please contact Dr. Sara Brin Rosenthal (sbrosenthal@health.ucsd.edu) with any questions about the bioinformatics services of the Core.
Congratulations to the SDDRC members on the following achievements and recognitions:

**Kathleen “Kit” Curtius, PhD**
Received an AGA Scholar award in July 2022 and a VA Data Science Merit Review award in 2023.

**Cristina Llorente, PhD**
Awarded an R01 grant for Goblet cells and intestinal immune response in alcohol-associated liver disease.

**David “Brent” Polk, MD**
Received the 2022 Provider of the Year Honoree by the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation.

**Manuela Raffatellu, MD**
Awarded an NIH grant for Antimicrobial activity of Escherichia coli Nissle 1917 microcin M in February 2023.

**David Gonzalez, PhD**
Awarded an R01 grant for Microbiome driven proteolysis as a contributing factor to severity of ulcerative colitis disease activity.

**Jesus Rivera-Nieves, MD**
Awarded a grant from the VA for Control by Beta 7 integrins of the bacterial triggers of IBD in January 2023.

**Rena Yadlapati, MD**
Awarded an R03 grant for the Role of Psychological Processes on Symptom Burden in Laryngopharyngeal Reflux.
Congratulations to the 2022-23 Pilot & Feasibility Awardees

The Pilot & Feasibility program has awarded a total of $160,000 to the following investigators with promising research projects in digestive diseases:

Innovative Awards

Hartmann, Phillipp, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, UC San Diego
Project Title: "Novel microbiota-humanized mouse model to investigate the pathophysiology of primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC)"

Lee, Jin, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, UC San Diego
Project Title: "Mechanistic analysis of Zfp791 functions in hepatocellular carcinoma"

Oh, Tae Gyu, PhD, Bioinformatics Scientist, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Project Title: "Single-cell transcriptome and chromatin profiling of FXR agonism against non-alcoholic steatohepatitis and hepatocellular carcinoma"

Jon I. Isenberg Fellowship Award

Wettersten, Hiromi, PhD, DVM, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, UC San Diego
Project Title: "Integrin αβ3: A double edged sword in pancreatitis"

The next round of Pilot & Feasibility grants for the academic year 2023-24 will be announced in summer/fall of 2023.
Upcoming Center Events

2023 Upcoming SDDRC Seminar Series

The Center invites nationally and internationally renowned speakers to facilitate and promote interactions among investigators in the San Diego area committed to digestive diseases research.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/31/23</td>
<td>Leichtag– 107</td>
<td>12:00 - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Don Rockey, MD</td>
<td>Medical University of South Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/28/23</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>4:00 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Jun Yu, MD, PhD</td>
<td>The Chinese University of Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/25/23</td>
<td>Leichtag– 107</td>
<td>12:00 - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Robert F. Schwabe, MD</td>
<td>Colombia University</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/31/23</td>
<td>MET– 141</td>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 AM</td>
<td>David Weinberg, MD, MSc</td>
<td>Temple University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/29/23</td>
<td>MET Lower Auditorium</td>
<td>5:00 - 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Barbara, Jung, MD, AGAF</td>
<td>University of Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11/23</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>10:00 - 11:00 AM</td>
<td>Barbara Stecher-Letsch, PhD</td>
<td>Ludwig Maximilian University Munich</td>
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2023 Upcoming SDDRC Workshop:

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<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/13/23</td>
<td>2:00 - 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Frank Anania, MD, FACP, AGAF, FAAASLD</td>
<td>Leichtag– 107</td>
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Citing the Center

Have you used the services offered by the center? Please remember to acknowledge the Center grant in your publication:

“The study was supported by the NIDDK-funded San Diego Digestive Diseases Research Center (P30 DK120515).”

Thank you!

Letters of Support

We are here to help you conduct digestive diseases research projects. The Center can provide you with support for your grant application. If you need a letter of support, please contact us:

sddrc@health.ucsd.edu
Recent 2023 Publications by Center Members acknowledging SDDRC

To recognize the excellence and breadth of research done by our members, we highlight a number of representative papers (members are shown in bold). Reprints of these papers can be provided upon request.


