



Weekly Update – February 7, 2019

[www.livercenter.pitt.edu](http://www.livercenter.pitt.edu)

Featured Faculty - [Dr. Bokai Zhu](#)

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## Upcoming Seminars

For a complete list of upcoming PLRC events, please visit our website: [www.livercenter.pitt.edu/events](http://www.livercenter.pitt.edu/events)

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### **Liver Seminar**

Monday, February 11, 2019

10:00-11:00 am

W995 BST (DDI conference room)

[Ashutosh Agarwal, PhD](#)

Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering Department  
University of Miami College of Engineering

Expertise: Cardiovascular Tissue engineering, Microfluidics, Hydrogels, Organs on Chips

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### **PLRC Seminar Series**

Monday, February 18, 2019

10:00-11:00 am

S100A BST

#### **Mo Ebrahimkhani, PhD**

Assistant Professor, School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering  
Arizona State University

#### **Title TBA**

*This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit. #6242 Liver Center Seminars.*

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### **PLRC Seminar Series**

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

12:00-1:00 pm

S123 BST

#### **Kirsten Sadler, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of Biology  
New York University in Abu Dhabi

#### **Title TBA**

*This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit. #6242 Liver Center Seminars.*

*Pizza will be provided.*

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**Registration URL:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6607572696840938499>

For those viewing thru the webinar, please follow the directions below:

- Please Register for the live Webinar ASAP
- After registering, you will receive the confirmation email
- You will be prompt to download the CitrixOnline application and install on your PC or Laptop
- Please contact your local PC Support if you need help installing the application

- Feel free to email Ishtiaque Ahmed ([ahmedi@upmc.edu](mailto:ahmedi@upmc.edu)) if you have any questions

NOTE Webinar attendees -- use Telephone/Speakerphone and dial-in instead of using desktop/laptop speakers for better audio quality.

Telephone/Speakerphone Audio option is shown right at the Click to Join Webinar prompt.

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## Liver Seminar

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

12:00-1:00 pm

1104 Scaife

[Bin Gao, MD, PhD](#)

National Institute of Health

**"Interleukin-22: A Magic Potion for Epithelial Cell Repair from Bench to Bedside"**

Liver Cancer Conference

## Community Liver Alliance

### Liver Cancer Conference

Saturday, March 9, 2019 | 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wyndham Grand Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

*CME Accredited (see flyer for details)*

For schedule, speakers, and details, please visit the PLRC website: <http://www.livercenter.pitt.edu/liver-cancer-conference>

To register, please visit the CLA website: <http://www.communityliveralliance.org/liver-cancer-conference>

Liver-Themed Gut Club May 2, 2019

**Dr. Fasiha Kanwal**, the division chief at Baylor, will speak at the May 2, 2019 Pittsburgh Gut Club accredited dinner/lecture series on “The Changing Epidemiology of Liver Cancer.”

Liver-related clinical and research trainees are invited to attend the lecture with fee-waived registration. All faculty are invited to attend as well but are required to pay to attend. But, they welcome your trainees as fee-waived participants.

To register for this event, please complete the registration form found in the brochure available on the [here](#) (trainees mark “fee waived” in the payment section), and scan ([joj2@pitt.edu](mailto:joj2@pitt.edu)) or fax (412-578-9537) it to Joy Merusi by April 15th.

## Faculty Highlights – Grants, Publications, Awards

[mTORC1 Activation Ameliorates Liver Cancers Driven by  \$\beta\$ -Catenin Mutations](#) reveals a notable correlation between beta-catenin mutations in HCC and activation of mTOR signaling, making such tumors susceptible to mTOR inhibitors already in clinical use. The study was published online on January 31, 2019. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30713111>

Full text of the article is available here: <https://www.livercenter.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/mmc4.pdf>

The UPMC press release on the article is available here: <https://www.upmc.com/media/news/013119-liver-cancer-rapamycin>

Additional press releases at:

<https://www.fiercebiotech.com/research/anti-rejection-drug-rapamycin-shows-promise-liver-cancer>

<https://ecancer.org/news/15371-commonly-used-anti-rejection-drug-could-be-repurposed-to-treat-some-liver-cancers.php>

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-01-commonly-anti-rejection-drug-repurposed-liver.html>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/01/190131113904.htm>

<https://www.technologynetworks.com/tn/news/repurposing-anti-rejection-drug-to-treat-liver-cancer-314831>

## Funding Opportunities

### [PLRC Pilot & Feasibility Grants](#)

The Pittsburgh Liver Research Center is pleased to announce the 2019 Request for Applications for Pilot/Feasibility Grants. The grants will fund new initiatives and/or support new investigators who are pursuing liver-related research that should lead to R01-type funding or other extramural support at a later date. **LOI deadline - February 15, 2019.**

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### [Coulter - PLRC Joint Award](#)

The University of Pittsburgh & UPMC Pittsburgh Liver Research Center (PLRC) is pleased to announce a new translational grant program in collaboration with the Coulter TPII Program (Coulter) at the University of Pittsburgh. In September of 2019, the PLRC/Coulter will award up to one \$50,000 grant, aimed at developing the commercial potential of healthcare solutions that are based on innovative technologies related to liver health, including disease diagnosis, surgery, treatment, and public health. **One-Page LOI Submission: Deadline - 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 15, 2019**



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