



UT Health ~~MDAnderson~~
San Antonio ~~Cancer Center~~

FUTURE FOCUS

SHARING CANCER CENTER NEWS AS WE CHAMPION HEALTH TOGETHER.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please take this [short survey](#) about Future Focus Newsletter so we can make sure we are providing you with the best experience to receive timely Mays Cancer Center and campus-related news.

NEWSLETTER

9.19.2019

CPRIT OPENS FOUR REQUESTS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH



The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) has recently released several new Research Request for Applications (RFA) that include:

- High Impact/High Risk Research Award (RFA R-20.2 – HIHR): **Limited Submission**
- Early Clinical Investigator Award (RFA R20.2 – ECI): **Limited Submission**
- Collaborative Action Program to Reduce Liver Cancer Mortality in Texas: Investigator-Initiated Research Award (RFA R-20.2 – CAP:RA)

To comply with institutional policy, and in some cases, the CPRIT requirement to pre-review applications and to select the applicants for our institution, a **Letter of Intent is required prior to submission for all applications to CPRIT**. Letters of Intent will be reviewed by a panel of senior scientists and the Mays Cancer Center Research Executive Committee. The most promising applications will be selected for full submission to CPRIT. **Deadline to submit Letter of Intent is on Friday, October 11, 2019.** The Letter of Intent and instructions may be found on the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) website, or you may contact Lori Moctezuma at varnerl@uthscsa.edu.

The published CPRIT RFAs offer clear guidance on how proposals will be judged by CPRIT. [Visit their website](#) for additional details for these RFAs.

Registration open for the 2019 Women's Comprehensive Health Conference

Saturday, November 16, 2019

The Witte Museum

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$25

Breakfast is served at 8 a.m.



Join UT Health San Antonio for the 5th annual Women's Comprehensive Health Conference - Heart, Health & Happiness. This year's conference is bigger and better than ever with a gourmet catered breakfast, empowering patient stories, expert health information, free health screenings, a walk-thru inflatable heart, door prizes, swag bags and so much more.

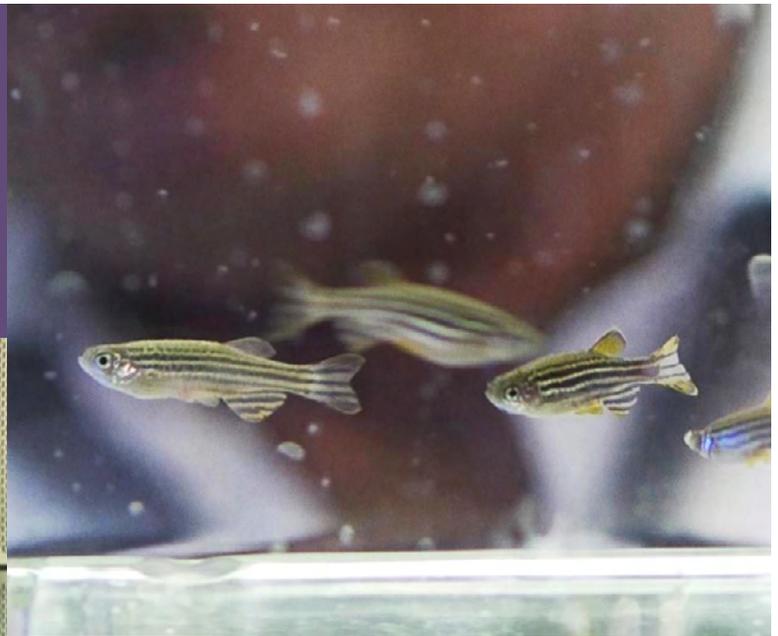
[Register today!](#)



TINY FISH IN SAN ANTONIO LAB MAY HOLD CURE FOR RARE CANCER

By Courtney Friedman - VJ, Reporter
Luis Cienfuegos – Photojournalist

KSAT



Tiny, see-through fish might be the key to treating children with the rare muscle cancer, rhabdomyosarcoma.

Local 13-year-old Kennedy Bailey, who just beat that cancer, saw the little zebrafish that may lead to a new treatment for other kids and prevent tumors from returning.

It was Mother's Day 2017, when Kennedy's mom Lindsey found a big bump underneath Kennedy's right ear.

"It started with an ear infection," Kennedy said.

She had developed a rare muscle cancer they'd never heard of.

"I couldn't even pronounce it," Kennedy said.

It was Kennedy's upbeat attitude that got her through a tough year of treatment for rhabdomyosarcoma.

"The radiation burned the inside of my throat. I couldn't go to school all 6th grade, so I was homebound. I had two teachers come to my house. They were the best teachers," Kennedy said.

She's now been in remission for a year.

As well as she knows her way around a doctor's office, she's never been in a research lab and the first one she saw was extremely special to her.

It houses the very animals that are helping scientists find a treatment for the cancer she survived.



"We are so excited that we get to see it in person," Lindsey said before they stepped into the lab at UT Health San Antonio's Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute.

The lab is filled with rows of tanks from floor to ceiling that house tiny zebrafish.

"They're really tiny, so we can inject 1000 fish embryos a day and make tumors," said UT Health San Antonio researcher Dr. Myron Ignatius.

Ignatius works with the zebrafish every day.

"We take a human gene that causes the cancer and put it in the fish, it looks exactly like the human disease," he said. "So, the questions we want to know is, how do these tumors form? What drives them? Are they stem cells and can we treat them? Can we find a drug that can limit tumor growth or reduce tumor growth?"

He said the small clear fish offer the extremely rare ability to watch tumors grow in real time.

"That's a tumor in the belly," he said, showing Kennedy the fish with swollen bellies.

(Continued on next page)

“If you put it under the microscope it will actually glow green,” Dr. Ignatius explained.

The fish injected with florescent color light up when put under a blacklight, so the tumor can be seen more clearly.

“We’ve identified critical genes that drive this disease. And one of the genes we study is a gene involving relapse,” Dr. Ignatius said.

He said 20-30 percent of the time, rhabdomyosarcoma tumors come back.

“If the tumor comes back there is no treatment,” he said. “So we’re going to find out one gene at a time, how do these genes cause cancer? Do they get mutated? And can we treat them?”

The goal is to shrink or eliminate the tumor with treatments they have in the lab, and if that works they could try the treatment in a clinic setting.

It’s a goal Kennedy and Lindsey hope the research team can reach.

“For other kids who get it there’s more research, more treatments more options,” Lindsey said.

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As for Kennedy, she’s wasting no time. She has packed her 8th grade schedule with all AP classes, National Honors Society, PALS mentoring, basketball, and she wants to add year-round swim.
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She has more energy than ever and takes nothing for granted.

Kennedie is currently getting scans every 3 months to make sure she stays cancer free. Eventually she’ll only have to get those scans every six months.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.



FLU SHOT VACCINATIONS

Friday, September 20, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Mays Cancer Center

Mabee Conference Room, 4th floor



Please bring a photocopy of your insurance card and ID Badge with you. We accept BCBS UT Select, any PPO health insurance plan and Tricare standard. Please contact the Wellness 360 with any questions or concerns. Phone: 210-567 2788 Fax: 210-567 2779

LYMPHOMA EDUCATION PROGRAM



November 7, 2019

Korbell Conference Room, U631

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Registration: 11:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Announcements: 12 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Chelsea Hart, Manager, Patient & Community Outreach, from Leukemia Lymphoma Society will provide updates on new resources available for patients.

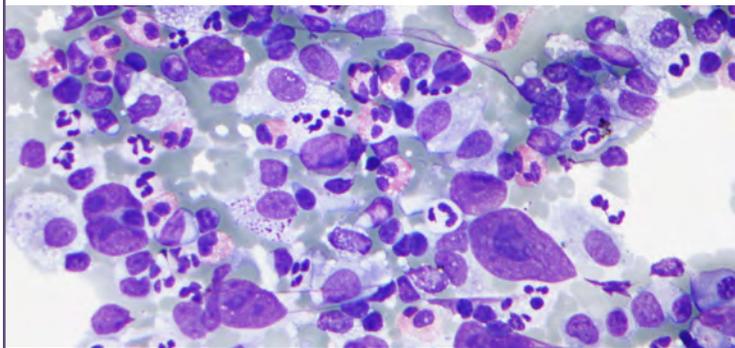
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WebEx: 12:25 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Hodgkin Lymphoma: Diagnosis, Treatment and Side Effects

Presenter: Enrique Diaz, M.D.

RSVP to Chelsea.Hart@lls.org

CEU's available for Nursing Staff. All staff and faculty are invited.



10/1/2019

2019 ACS CAN TEXAS

CANCER POLICY FORUM-SAN ANTONIO

**Texas' Leadership in the Fight
Against Childhood Cancer**

Featuring:

Dr. Greg Aune, Greehey Children's

Dr. Ruben Mesa, Mays Cancer Center

Dr. Roberto Villarreal, University Health System

Jaime Wesolowski, Methodist Healthcare Ministries

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1
8:00 - 9:30 AM**

Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute

8403 Floyd Curl Dr

San Antonio, TX 78229

Event includes breakfast.

**WWW.FIGHTCANCER.ORG/
TXFORUMS**

Contributions or membership payments to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc. are not tax-deductible

