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Patient and Family Advisory Council

Cuthbert Lab & Oncology Outcomes

Welcome

We are pleased to introduce two new postdoctoral fellows, Dr. Vagner Deuel Tavares and Dr. Laís R. A. Cezário Santos, starting with Cuthbert Lab this month. Join us in extending both of them a warm welcome to the team!

Learn more about them on the next two pages.

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New Team Members

Dr. Vagner Deuel Tavares is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Faculty of Nursing. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education, a Master's degree in Health Sciences, and a Ph.D. in Psychobiology from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN), Brazil. His extensive research background involves investigating the impact of physical activity, behavioral changes in lifestyle, multimorbidity, and cognitive and physiological responses in individuals with addiction and mental disorders. As a health researcher, Dr. Tavares carefully examines multimorbidity as a distinct aspect of cancer care, recognizing its significant implications for personalized treatment strategies. He has applied his expertise in clinical and epidemiological studies and data analysis to enhance qualitative and quantitative research. Dr. Tavares aims to elucidate how the increase in multimorbidity among cancer patients represents a unique phenomenon, necessitating a different approach to care compared to patients without multimorbidity.



New Team Members

Dr. Laís R. A. Cezário Santos, DDS, MSc, PhD, is a health researcher with extensive experience in conducting community and experimental studies using multiple research methods, including quantitative, qualitative, and literature reviews, across various fields such as public health, epidemiology, complementary and integrative practices, dentistry, mental health, social determinants of health, chronic diseases, patient-oriented research, and health services. Dr. Cezário Santos earned her PhD in Public Health from the Faculdade de Odontologia de Piracicaba, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil, in 2023. Her doctoral research evaluated the effectiveness of mind-body practices in reducing stress and anxiety, as well as enhancing well-being across diverse age groups and health conditions. As part of her PhD, she also completed a research internship at the Department of Psychiatry at McGill University in Montreal, QC, Canada. With a foundation in dentistry, coupled with experience in primary health care and a master's in health research, Dr. Cezário Santos has also explored the links between oral health, social determinants of health and chronic diseases. She is passionate about empowering patients to embrace healthy habits and behaviors, ultimately enhancing their overall health and quality of life.



Research Highlights

STUDY RECRUITMENT:

Division of Psychosocial Oncology

University of Calgary & Tom Baker Cancer Centre

Our colleagues in the Division of Psychosocial Oncology are recruiting participants for their study:

**Digital Storytelling Group for Pre-menopausal Women with Breast Cancer:
A pilot study to evaluate the therapeutic potential**

If you or someone you know is interested, please use the contact information below to get more information.

Who:

- Women with pre-menopausal breast cancer

Aim:

- To gain a better understanding of the therapeutic effects of the digital storytelling program and to help researchers and clinicians improve support for pre-menopausal women with breast cancer

Benefits:

- Receive guidance and support to create a digital story (short personal video)
- Allows women to share their experiences with pre-menopausal breast cancer and treatment with facilitators and other participants

What to expect:

- Meet virtually 1x per week for 6 weeks
- Up to 2 hours per session
- No technical/computer skills needed! A facilitator will be there to support you through the entire process.

Contact the Research Assistant at 403-991-8459 or jessame.gamboa@ucalgary.ca for more information!

Study

Recruitment



We continue to actively recruit participants for several studies right now, including:

- ▶ Remote Assessment of Physical Fitness Measures: Reliability and Validity Study
[Poster Link to Share](#)
- ▶ Patients Perspectives of Value Frameworks Used to Guide Oncology Treatment Decisions
[Poster Link to Share](#)

If you think the studies might be relevant to your contacts, please feel free to share the website or poster links. For the additional details on each study click [here](#).

Coming Up

The next newsletter will release in October 2024.

The next PFAC meeting will be on September 25 from 4-5:30 pm via zoom

Previous issues of the PFAC newsletter have been posted online:
<https://www.cuthbertlab.com/advisory-council>

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