CANCER GRAND CHALLENGES

Team: CANCAN

The Cancer Cachexia Action Network presents a seminar by:

Matthew Vander Heiden

Relationship between muscle wasting and pancreatic cancer growth

Abstract: Peripheral tissue wasting is an early event in pancreatic cancer. We have found that pancreatic exocrine insufficiency induces a starvation response that contributes to tissue wasting. Furthermore, tissue wasting can provide amino acids to support pancreatic cancer growth.

Date: Friday, February 17, 2023

Time: 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. (ET)

For a meeting invite please email:
Sean Parnell at
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Dr. Matthew Vander Heiden is a practicing oncologist and instructor in medicine at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Harvard Medical School. He earned his doctoral and medical degrees from the University of Chicago, where he worked in the laboratory of Craig Thompson. Dr. Vander Heiden then completed a residency in internal medicine at Boston's Brigham & Women's Hospital and a hematology-oncology fellowship at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2010, Dr. Vander Heiden joined the MIT faculty. His work has been recognized by many awards including the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award for Medical Sciences, the AACR Gertrude B. Elion Award, the HHMI Faculty Scholar Award, and an NCI Outstanding Investigator Award. The long-term goal of the Vander Heiden Laboratory is to understand how mammalian cell metabolism is adapted to support cancer initiation and progression. Current research interests of his laboratory include: 1) identifying which metabolic processes create bottlenecks for cell proliferation; 2) determining how metabolism is different in different cancers, examining in detail the influence of tissue type, tumor genetics, and tumor microenvironment; and 3) understanding how diet and whole-body metabolism influence cell metabolism in tissues to modify cancer and other disease phenotypes. Together, these studies will broaden the understanding of cancer cell metabolism and identify approaches to target metabolism for cancer therapy.

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