



CDI Newsletter Issue #2

August 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

CDI Expands World-Class Faculty with Three New Members

CDI is thrilled to announce the addition of three distinguished researchers to its world-class faculty. Dr. Shin joins CDI with a research focus on the cellular functions of nuclear envelope proteins, exploring their roles in development, metabolism, and cancer progression. Dr. Dalerba brings his expertise in identifying biomarkers that predict tumor response to anti-cancer drugs, aiming to refine therapeutic guidelines and decision-making



Ji-Yeon Shin, Ph.D.



Piero Dalerba, M.D.



Ilona Fridman, Ph.D.

for oncology. Dr. Fridman will enhance CDI's capabilities by applying digital technologies to improve medical decision-making for cancer patients. The integration of these experts is set to advance CDI's mission and impact in the field of cancer research and treatment.

Editorial Board

David Perlin, PhD
Alla Rabinovich, MBA

Editor-in-chief
Madhuvika Murugan, PhD

**Associate Editors for this
issue**
Alejandrina Montano

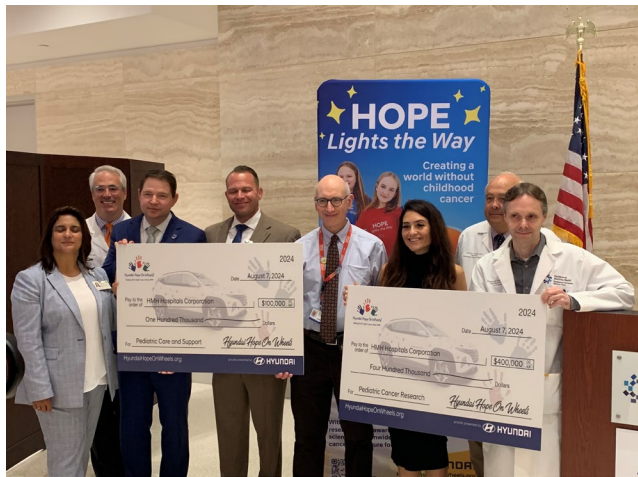
JOIN THE EDITORIAL TEAM

If you are interested in
being a part of the
Editorial Committee,
please email us.

Empowering Future Scientists: Colby College Students Showcase Research at CDI's Annual Pulver Science Scholars Presentation



CDI is committed not only to pioneering research but also to nurturing the next generation of scientists. This summer, CDI celebrated the culmination of its fourth annual presentation by Colby College students participating in the David and Carol Pulver Science Scholars program. Over ten weeks, rising juniors conducted remarkable research on microbial drug resistance, pathogen detection, and breast cancer. Caroline Hayter, Ava Oseback, and Catherine Santos each showcased their impressive findings, demonstrating their high-level contributions to CDI's work. Dr. David Perlin praised their exceptional performance and adaptability, highlighting the program's role in training future scientists. The event, attended by the Pulvers and Colby College's STEM leaders, underscored CDI's rapid growth and its dedication to advancing scientific discovery through mentoring young talent.



Hyundai Supports for Pediatric Cancer Research by CDI faculty

Hyundai hosted a special event to showcase its recent grants to Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH), including a significant \$400,000 Hyundai Hope on Wheels Scholar Award for Dr. Johannes Zakrzewski's pediatric cancer research. The event also featured a \$100,000 Regional Impact Grant to the Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital (JMSCH). Dr. Zakrzewski, representing HMH's research initiatives, addressed the impact of these funds on advancing pediatric cancer treatments. In a heartwarming touch, several pediatric patients from JMSCH participated by placing their handprints on a Hyundai vehicle as part of the Hope on Wheels campaign, symbolizing their personal connection to the fight against cancer.

Hackensack Meridian Health Named Top Research Center in State by NJBIZ

Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH) was named the top research center in New Jersey by NJBIZ, rising from second place last year. This accolade highlights the health network's significant achievements, particularly the comprehensive research efforts conducted within CDI and the HMH network of 18 hospitals spanning novel therapies, diagnostics, and clinical trials.

Support Pioneering Breast Cancer Research: Join CDI's Fundraising Efforts with The Cannata Report

CDI is thrilled to announce a new fundraising initiative in collaboration with The Cannata Report and the Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation (HMHF). This campaign was launched with a \$5,000 donation in memory of Sandy Lowery, made by John Lowery of Applied Innovation. The focus of this year's fundraising is breast cancer research, specifically supporting the work of Dr. Rena Feinman, who is conducting groundbreaking research into the effects of neoadjuvant chemotherapy on the gut and intratumoral microbiome in triple-negative breast cancer. This important research, funded by the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF), aims to enhance therapeutic responses for this aggressive cancer.



David Perlin Achieves Top 10 Ranking Among NIH-Funded Investigators

Dr. David Perlin has been ranked #10 among top NIH-funded investigators among over 43,000 NIH individual principal investigators, as announced in the latest BRIMR Rankings of NIH Funding in 2023.

RESOURCE UPDATES



Exciting Expansion at CDI Facilities

CDI is thrilled to announce the expansion of its core facilities and opening of newly renovated spaces for the Cancer Prevention Precision Control Institute and new Biosafety Level 3 laboratories, significantly enhancing our research capabilities. These upgrades are designed to support cutting-edge scientific work and foster innovation across various fields. For the latest updates and detailed information about our expanded facilities and their new capabilities, please visit the CDI website.

New eResearch Modules to Streamline Contracts and Grants Processes- Coming Soon.

The Research Contracts Office and the Office of Sponsored Programs will be implementing new modules in eResearch. Beginning 9/27, the new modules will be utilized for the contracts and grants processes. Stay tuned.

Valentine's Day Celebrations



2024 Solar Eclipse



Culture and Wellbeing: Back to the 80s

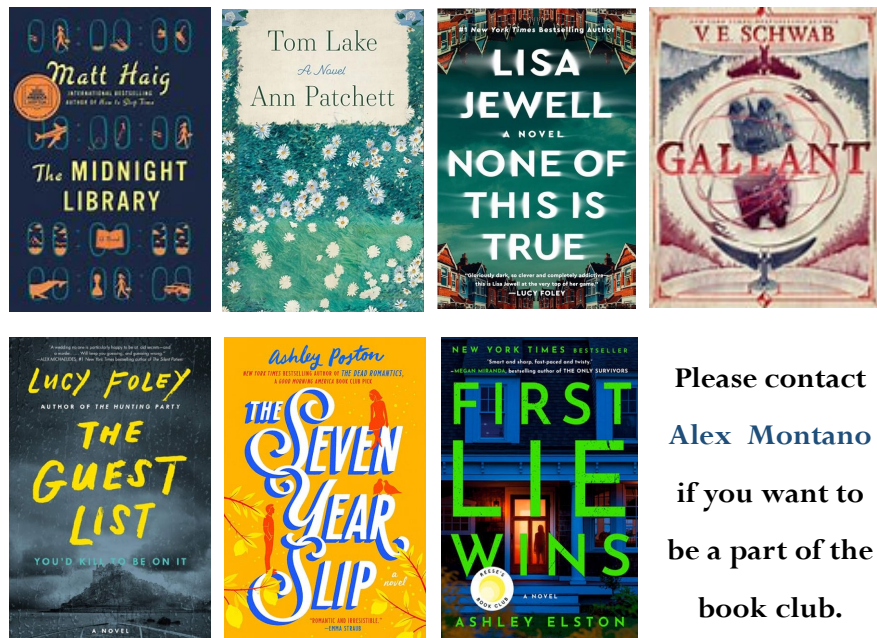


CDI Summer BBQ



In what can only be described as a blazing display of culinary heroism, three BBQ aficionados – David Perlin, Steve Park and Olivier Loudig, stepped up to the grill on one of the hottest days of the year, serving up a sizzling feast for the CDI community. Armed with tongs, aprons, and a weather-beaten resolve, these BBQ heroes braved the heat to cook over 200 patties and sausages, ensuring no one left hungry—or too overheated.

CDI Book Club Picks



Please contact
Alex Montano
if you want to
be a part of the
book club.

Ice Cream Social



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT
Welcome Day 2024 (Township of Nutley)

Date: September 18, 2024

Time: 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

Location: Nichols Park



Please contact Madhuvika.Murugan@hmh-cdi.org for additional information on topics included in this newsletter and if you would like to share content or ideas for future publications.

CDI EVENTS



CDI hosts the Metropolitan Antiviral Drug Accelerator 2nd Annual Retreat



The Institute for Immunologic Intervention (3i) at CDI hosts inaugural Applied Immunological Research Symposium



The Cancer Prevention Precision Control Institute at CDI, in collaboration with the JTCC CCOE, hosts Caribbean Latino Block Party and Health Fair on campus. The event drew over 130 community members and was supported by 46 volunteers and 25 vendors. The fair proved to be a significant success, with 19 public service announcements completed, 83 A1C/cholesterol screenings conducted, and 32 FIT kits distributed. This impactful and engaging event not only fostered community spirit but also made strides in cancer prevention and health education.



Upcoming Events



CDI Research Day

Thursday September 19, 2024
9:30 am- 4:00 pm

Register Now!



JTCC CCOE Town Hall: Prostate Cancer

Date: September 9, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Location: Virtual via Zoom



Men's 3rd Annual Health Fair

Date: September 21, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Location: 116 Holt St Hackensack, NJ 07601



111 Ideation Way, Nutley, NJ 07110 | 201-800-3100 | HMH-CDI.org