

# Genetics Working Group

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Monica Gramatges

Yadav Sapkota

**CCSS**

Childhood Cancer  
Survivor Study



St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital

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# Thank you!

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- Thank you, Smita, for your valuable contributions and support of CCSS as Chair of the Genetics Working Group!



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# Scope of Research

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The Genetics Working Group, in collaboration with the Second Neoplasm, Chronic Disease, Psychology, and Epidemiology/ Biostatistics Working Groups, is charged with understanding the role of **genetic susceptibility** in understanding the **pathogenesis of treatment-related adverse events** and explaining the **inter-individual variability** in the association between treatment and adverse events.

# Working Group Membership

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Adam Green

Lindsay Morton

Seth Rotz

Cindy Im

Lisa Mirabello

Zhaoming Wang

Eileen Dolan

Yadav Sapkota

Monica Gramatges

# Working Group Progress

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- 14 Published/In Press Manuscripts (since 1/1/2023)
- 6 Currently Submitted Manuscripts
- 9 Analysis/Manuscript in Process
- 8 Ancillary Studies (with active NIH funding)
- 7 Concepts in development
- 14 New AOs (total, since 1/1/2023)

# Published/In Press Manuscripts (n=14)

CCSS

Year	Concept #	Title	Investigator
2023	21-09	Polygenic risk and chemotherapy-related subsequent malignancies in childhood cancer survivors: A Childhood Cancer Survivor Study and St. Jude Lifetime Cohort Study report ( <a href="#">JCO</a> )	Im/University of Minnesota
2024	21-09	Trans-ancestral genetic risk factors for treatment-related type 2 diabetes mellitus in survivors of childhood cancer ( <a href="#">JCO</a> )	Im/University of Minnesota
2023	20-24	Development and validation of age-specific risk prediction models for primary ovarian insufficiency in long-term survivors of childhood cancer: a report from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study and St. Jude Lifetime Cohort ( <a href="#">Lancet Oncology</a> )	Yuan/University of Alberta
2025	22-09	Contributions of cancer treatment and genetic predisposition to risk of subsequent neoplasms in long-term survivors of childhood cancer: a report from the St. Jude Lifetime Cohort and the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study ( <a href="#">Lancet Oncology</a> )	Sapkota/SJCRH
2025	18-02	DNA damage response and repair genes and anthracycline-induced cardiomyopathy in childhood cancer survivors: a report from the Children's Oncology Group and the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study ( <a href="#">Circulation: Genomic and Precision Medicine</a> )	Bhatia/UAB

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CCSS

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2025	18-02	Gene-level analysis of anthracycline-induced cardiomyopathy in cancer survivors: a report from COG-ALTE03N1, BMTSS and CCSS ( <i>JACC: CardioOncology</i> )	Bhatia/UAB
2025	Ancillary study	The role of TTN and BAG3 in cancer therapy-related cardiomyopathy among long-term survivors of childhood cancer ( <i>JAMA Network Open</i> )	Sapkota/SJCRH
2025	Ancillary study	Predicting the 10-year risk of cardiomyopathy in long-term survivors of childhood cancer ( <i>Annals of Oncology</i> )	Sapkota/SJCRH
2024	17-20	Comparison of GWAS results between de novo tinnitus and cancer treatment-related tinnitus suggests distinctive roles for genetic risk factors ( <i>Scientific Reports</i> )	Dolan/University of Chicago
2024	Ancillary study	The ENGAGE study: a 3-arm randomized hybrid type 1 effectiveness and implementation study of an in-home, collaborative PCP model of remote telegenetic services to increase update of cancer genetic services in childhood cancer survivors ( <i>BMC Health Services Res</i> )	Henderson/University of Chicago

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# Published/In Press Manuscripts (n=14)

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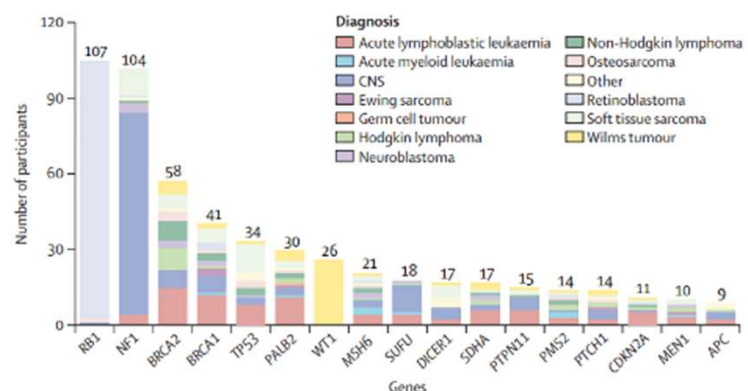
Year	Concept #	Title	Investigator
2023	15-06	Targeted long-read sequencing of the Ewing sarcoma 6q25.1 susceptibility locus identified germline-somatic interactions with EWSR1-FL1 binding ( <a href="#">AJHG</a> )	Morton/NCI
2024	15-06	Frequency of pathogenic germline variants in pediatric medulloblastoma survivors ( <a href="#">Frontiers in Oncology</a> )	Morton/NCI
2024	No concept/used public data	Polygenic risk scores, radiation treatment exposures and subsequent cancer risk in childhood cancer survivors ( <a href="#">Nature Medicine</a> )	Gibson/NCI
2023	No concept/used public data	Cancer germline predisposing variants and late mortality from subsequent malignant neoplasms among long-term childhood cancer survivors: a report from the St. Jude Lifetime Cohort and the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study ( <a href="#">Lancet Oncology</a> )	Wang/SJCRH



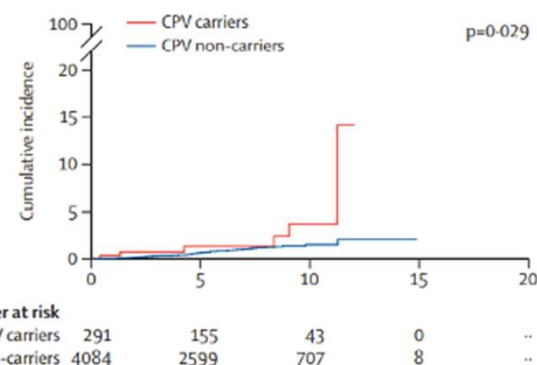
# Highlights of Recently Completed Research

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## Chen et al. (Wang) Cancer Germline Predisposing Variants & Late Mortality from SMN (*Lancet Oncology*, 2023)



SJLIFE



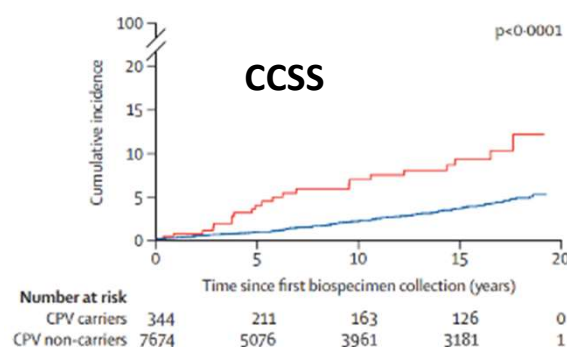
10-yrs

3.7%

1.5%

Cohort	SMN-related mortality		
	subHR	95% CI	P-value
<b>SJLIFE (4,402)</b>	3.40	1.37-8.43	0.0082
<b>CCSS (8,067)</b>	3.58	2.27-5.63	<.0001
<b>Combined (12,469)</b>	3.54	2.36-5.32	<.0001

CCSS



10-yrs

6.9%

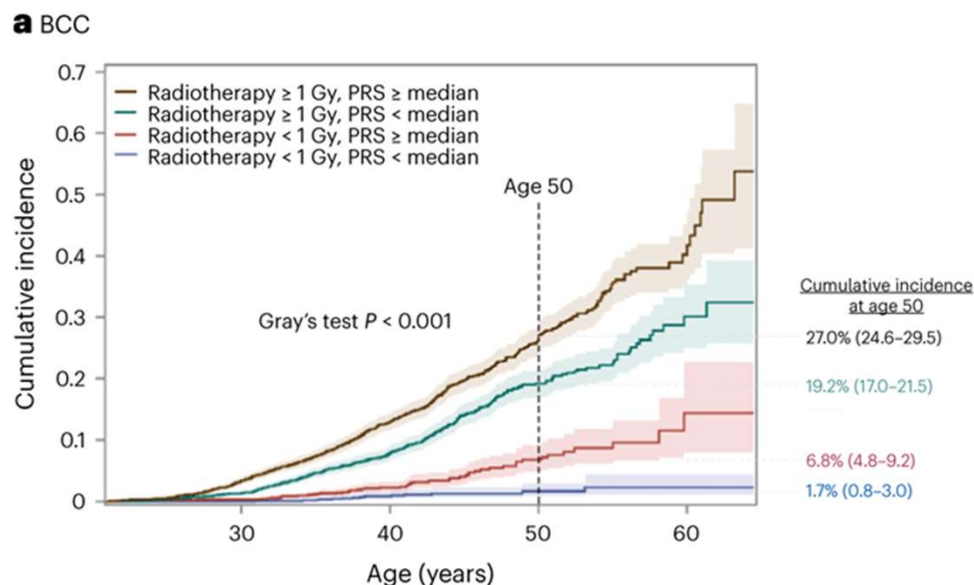
2.1%

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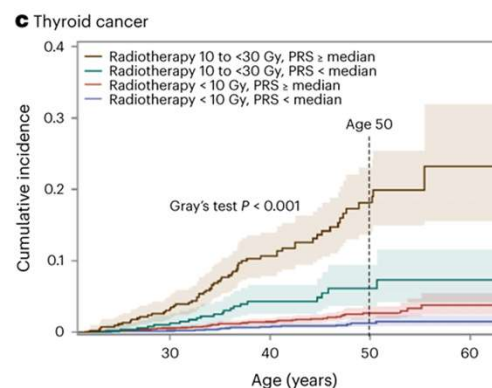
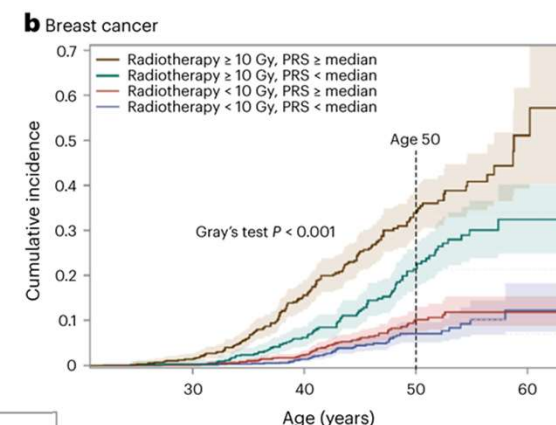
# Highlights of Recently Completed Research

CCSS

**Gibson et al. (Morton) Polygenic risk scores, radiation treatment exposures and subsequent cancer risk in survivors (*Nature Medicine*, 2024)**



**In joint effects analysis, the combination of high PRS and radiation exposure resulted in more-than-additive increased risk for BCC, breast cancer and thyroid cancer**



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# Highlights of Recently Completed Research

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## Matt et al. (Zhou) St. Jude Survivorship Portal: Sharing and Analyzing Large Clinical and Genomic Datasets from Pediatric Cancer Survivors (*Cancer Discovery*, 2024)

### Data content

#### COHORTS

St. Jude Lifetime Study (SJLIFE), n = 5,053  
Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS), n = 25,735



#### PHENOTYPIC DATA

Demographics, 36 variables  
Cancer diagnosis and treatment, 99 variables  
Clinical assessments, 350 variables  
Chronic health conditions, 400 variables  
Self-reported and questionnaire, 776 variables  
Over 8.6M data points

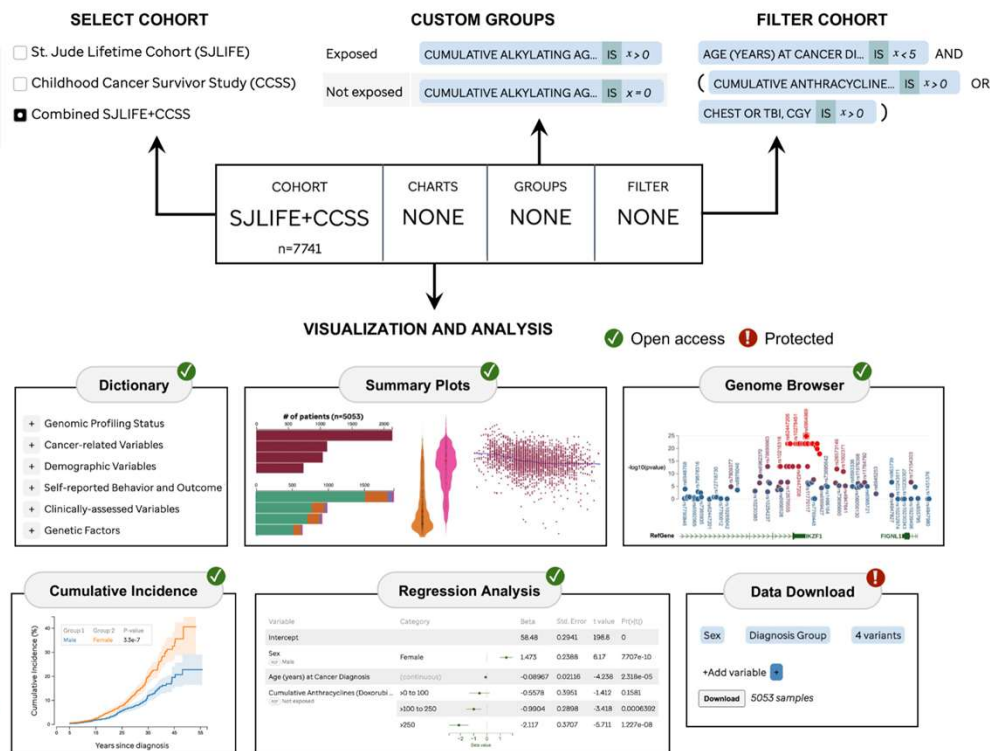


#### GENETIC DATA

Whole-genome sequencing  
>400M genotyped variants  
>81M polygenic risk scores for >500 traits  
Genetically defined ancestries  
Ancestry-specific PCs and LD  
~1.5TB genotype data



### Features



### In collaboration with Zhou lab



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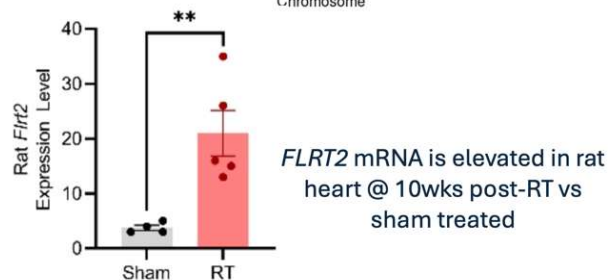
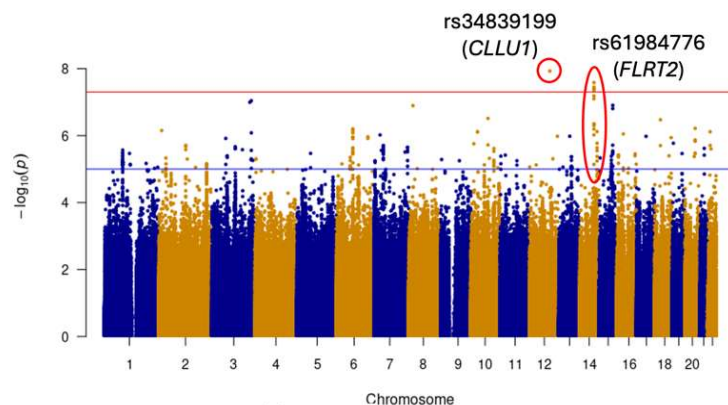
# Highlights of Recently Completed Research

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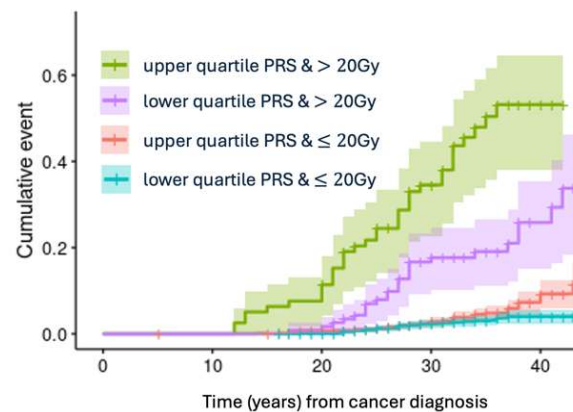
Kerns et al. GWAS of radiation-associated cardiac disease (abstract, presented at RPS, 2024)

## GWAS of time to grade 3+ cardiac disease

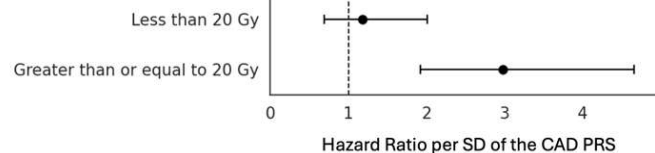
adjusted for age at cancer diagnosis, sex, heart radiation exposure, PCs



## Association of a coronary artery disease PRS with RT-related grade 3+ cardiac disease



Radiation dose to the coronary artery:

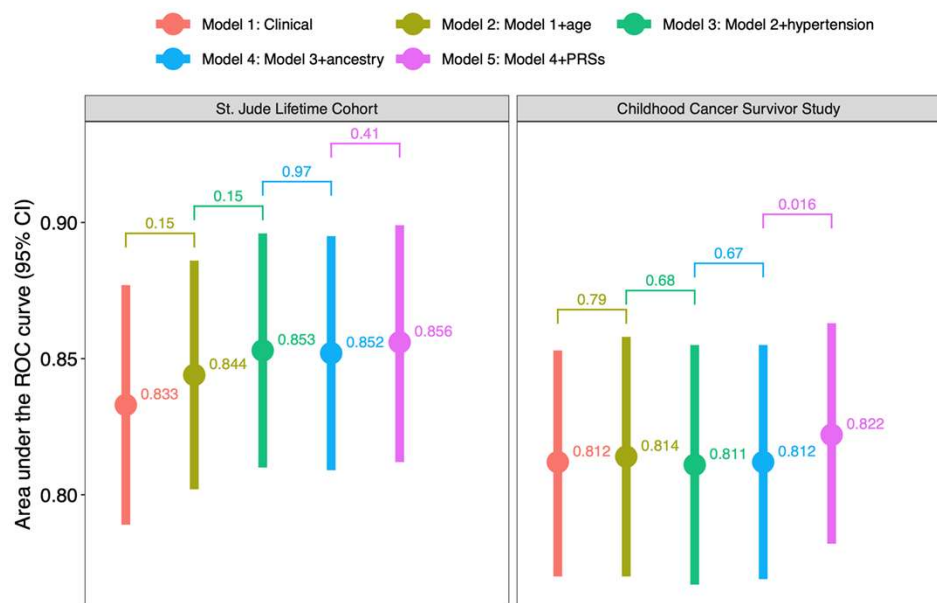


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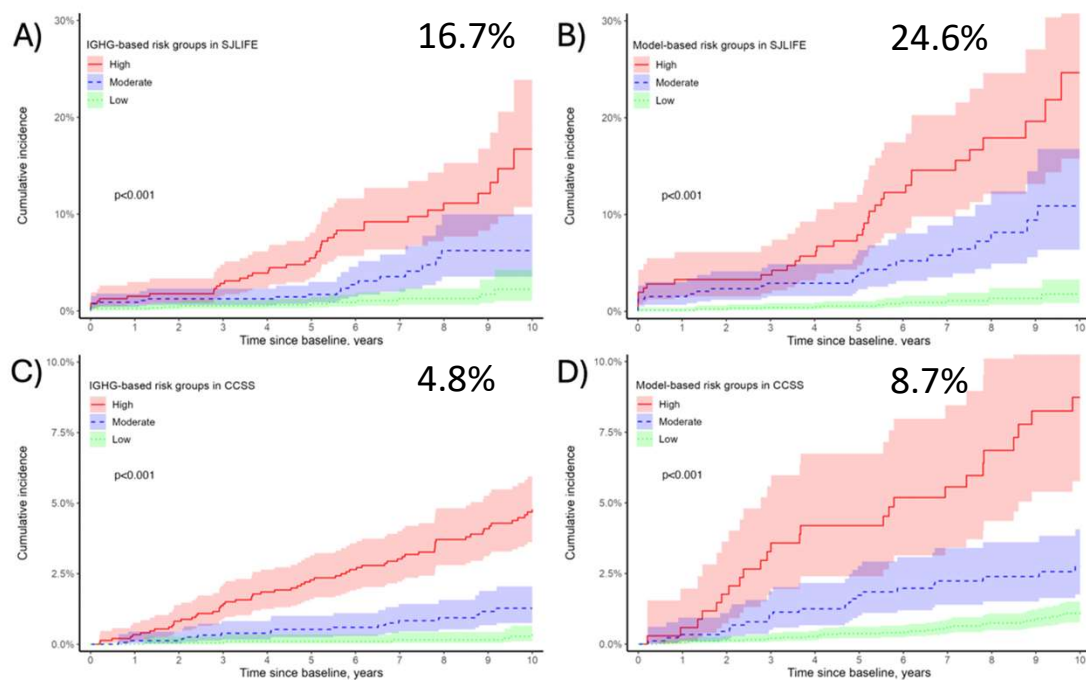
# Highlights of Recently Completed Research

CCSS

## Petrykey et al. (Sapkota) Predicting the 10-year risk of cardiomyopathy in long-term survivors of childhood cancer (*Annals of Oncology*, 2025, In Press)



Developed/validated models with highest-to-date performance for estimating 10yr risk of cardiomyopathy in survivors



IGHG-based

Model-based

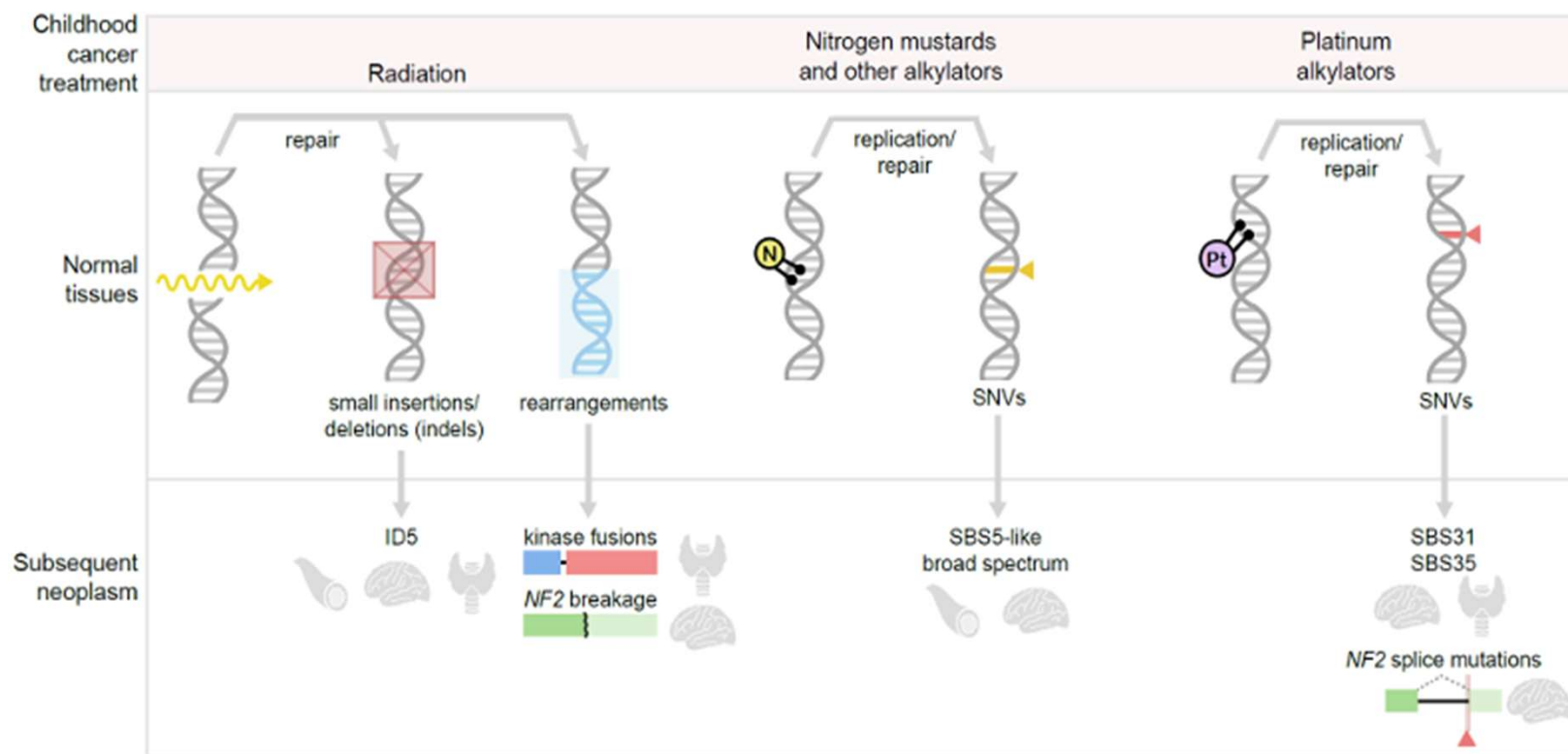
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# Highlights of Recently Completed Research

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**Brady et al. (Armstrong) Impact of therapy-induced mutational signatures of SNs (manuscript in revision)**



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# Currently Submitted Manuscripts (n=6)

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Year	Concept #	Title	Investigator
2025	Ancillary study	Genetic Risk for Pediatric ALL: Harnessing Data from SJLIFE and CCSS for Discovery of Etiology	Wang/SJCRH, Im
2022	23-15	Communication of Skin Cancer Risk Profiles to Childhood Cancer Survivors	Im/University of Minnesota
2021	21-20	The Genomic Landscape of Second Malignant Neoplasms from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study	Brady/SJCRH*
2020	20-05	Genetic Contribution to Treatment-Related Dyslipidemia in Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer: Findings from the CCSS, SJLIFE, and DCCSS-LATER Cohorts	Pluimakers/Princess Maxima
2020	Ancillary study	Improving delivery of genetic services to high-risk childhood cancer survivors (ENGAGE study)	Henderson/Univ of Chicago
2018	18-02	Genetic Susceptibility to Anthracycline-Related Congestive Heart Failure	Bhatia/UAB

# Analysis/Manuscript in Process (n=9)

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Concept #	Title	Investigator	Status
24-05	Rare and common variation associated with primary ovarian insufficiency risk in survivors of childhood cancer	Im/University of Minnesota, SAPKOTA	In progress: analysis underway
24-04	Actionable genetic variants and their associations with late effects risks and mortality among long-term survivors of childhood cancer	Im/University of Minnesota, SAPKOTA	In progress: analysis underway
22-11	Whole-genome sequencing of the youngest osteosarcoma cases using our current dataset plus in-house CCSS cases.	Mirabello/NCI	In progress: structural variant calling and analyses
22-08	Genetic Modification of Chemotherapy-Associated Subsequent Malignant Neoplasms	Watt/MSK	In progress: expansion analysis with SJLIFE
20-08	Genetic Association Study of Cardiac Toxicity Following Chest Radiotherapy	Kerns/MCW	In progress: SJLIFE validation underway
20-17	Long-Term Cost-Effectiveness of the Identification of Cancer Predisposition Syndromes in Survivors of Pediatric Leukemia, Brain Tumors and Bone/Soft-Tissue Sarcomas	Goudie/McGill University	In progress: PI notes issues with data access/analysis
19-17	A Genome-Wide Association Study for Frailty in Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Gramatges/BCM	In progress: working with Dutch cohort
19-05	Genetic Susceptibility to Neurocognitive Impairment Secondary to Childhood Cancer Treatment	Scheurer/BCM	In progress: manuscript in draft
18-19	iPSC-Cardiomyocyte and RNAseq Identified Genes and Cardiomyopathy (via GWAS RFP Process)	Reyes/Hildebrandt/MD Anderson	In progress: revisiting the analysis and updating manuscript

resource



# Ancillary Studies with active funding

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## Cardiomyopathy/Cardiovascular Outcomes

- **Wang:** Epigenetic Approach in Understanding the Risk of Cardiometabolic Conditions
  - R01CA290112\*
- **Im/Sapkota,** Leveraging clinical, genetic, and social determinants of health-related risk information to predict cardiomyopathy risk in African American survivors
  - R01HL173881\*
- **Yeh,** Cardiomyopathy Simulation Model Utilizing GWAS Data
  - R01CA227576

\* **Awarded since 01/01/2023**

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# Ancillary Studies with active funding

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## Novel Approaches and Uses of Genetic Data

- **Wang/Im:** Genetic pleiotropy across pediatric cancers, and cancer-related outcomes
  - R01CA283333\*
- **Wang:** Trajectories of Epigenetic Aging & Health Outcomes in Survivors
  - R01CA279520\*
- **Im:** Treatment-specific genetic risk scores for late effects prediction in survivors
  - R21CA261833

## Understanding and Communicating Genetic Risk

- **Green:** Investigation of Germline Predisposition to Pediatric Treatment-Induced HG Glioma
  - R01NS133339\*
- **Henderson/Kim:** Improving delivery of genetic services to high-risk survivors
  - R01CA255269

\* **Awarded since 01/01/2023**

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# Concepts in development (n=7)

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## Outcomes



*Cardiovascular disease/cardiomyopathy (1)*



*Radiation-related late effects (1)*



*Mortality (2)*



*Colorectal SMN (1)*

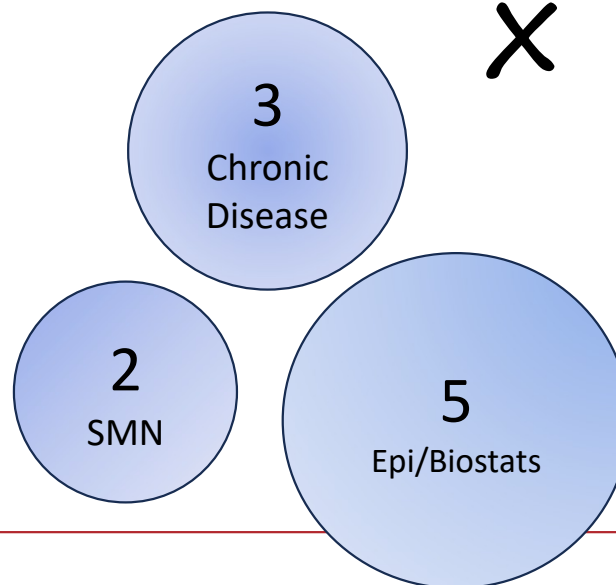
## Approaches



*Pharmacogenomics (1)*



*X chromosome PheWAS (1)*



# Career Development Award

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Han-Wei Wu, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Mentor: Chaya Moskowitz, PhD

Aim 1: To characterize and compare the prevalence and distribution of P/LP variants in survivors with subsequent colorectal cancer, compare it with those in the general population, and explore if results differ by treatments

Aim 2: To estimate the associations of P/LP variants with subsequent colorectal cancer risk and explore how results differ by treatment exposures

# Plan to Utilize FU7 Newly Frozen Data

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- Assess if FU7 the number of survivors affected by health outcomes increased, if necessary to revisit previously conducted genetic analyses
  - e.g., mortality and number of death events
- New genetic analyses on outcomes previously not feasible due to limited sample size
  - e.g., aging-related outcomes, subsequent neoplasms

# Plan for Concept Development Using FU8 Survey Data Focused on Aging

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- Genetic associations with aging outcomes
- Utilize DNA methylation and clonal hematopoiesis data ~2,300 CCSS survivors (NCI supplemental funding, data availability pending)

# Opportunities for Collaboration with Other Working Groups

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- Chronic disease (aging-related outcomes)
- SMN (as sample size increases)
- Funding opportunities that connect those with clinical and genomic expertise (e.g., an RFA that supports/requires clinical and basic/statistical collaboration)

# As CCSS Engages with Participants This Year What Would You Like to Learn From Them?

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- New SMNs, aging-related conditions
- Return of results: do participants wish to know their genetic risk?
  - What if results are clinically actionable?
  - Would survivors be interested in a lay language CCSS portal describing results (access to general results available, but not personal results)?



# Value Added to Your Working Group by a 2000-2025 Cohort Expansion (Top 5)

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- Genetic contributions to late effects associated with more contemporary approaches to treatment
- Novel therapeutics data
- Larger sample size
- Sample heterogeneity (with respect to background)
- Geographic representation
- Added late effects granularity from automated disease and treatment data extraction

# Special Considerations for a Cohort Expansion Specific to Your Working Group

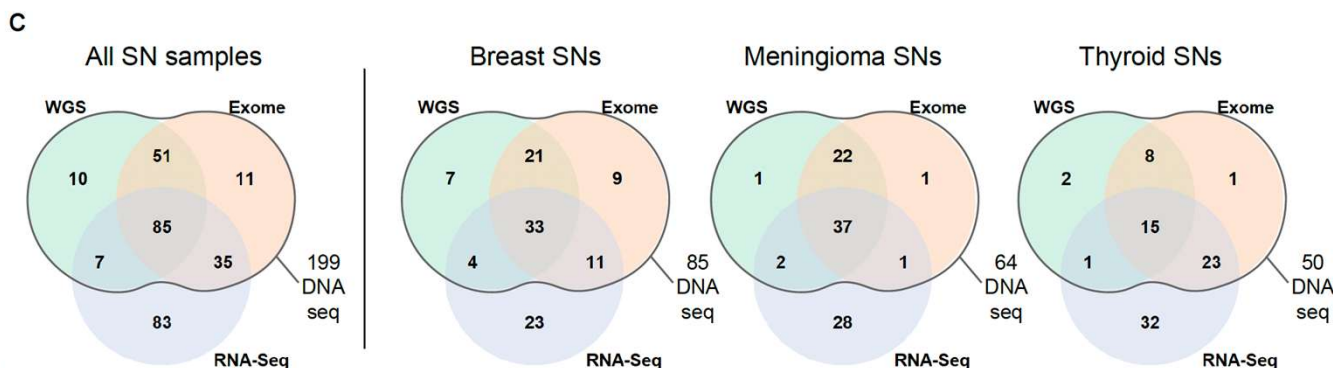
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- Focus on recruiting heterogeneous survivors, representative of the US general population
- Prioritize collecting blood samples for biomarkers studies
  - Consider obtaining longitudinal samples
  - Explore novel approaches to collect biospecimens
- Extraction of family history and disease-based genetics data

# Five Year Plan: Progress Update

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- Conduct hypothesis-driven research (*prior stated goal*)
  - Understand mechanistic pathways for treatment-related complications, develop integrated risk-prediction models for precision prevention & identify druggable targets
- Enhance resources (*prior stated goal*)
  - WGS/WES/RNAseq of 199 SNs (breast, meningioma, thyroid) from 159 CCS + germline
  - DNA, RNA, plasma from 1,350 survivors with Grade 3+ CHCs (ongoing)
  - DNA methylation & clonal hematopoiesis data (underway)



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# Current Top Priorities: One-Year Deliverables

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- Develop guidance for when/under what circumstances an AOI, or concept is needed
- Develop criteria for inclusion of risk calculators developed using CCSS data as a tool on the CCSS website
- Consider publishing GWAS summary statistics on the CCSS website (in addition to required data deposition)
- Continue to investigate genetic/molecular associations with late effects as well as novel approaches to using the genomic data

# Discussion: Opportunities and Threats

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## Threats:

- Limited dissemination of risk scores/tools developed using genetic data
- Lack of available information to guide investigators regarding benefits/pitfalls to access/use of the public data vs. use of the CCSS concept submission pathway
  - Need for transparency regarding data strengths and limitations

## Opportunities:

- Develop strategies to augment clinical utility and dissemination of risk scores/tools
- Develop resources to guide investigators seeking genomic data for survivor research
  - Encourage investigators to reach out to team that collected the data to understand data elements
- Collaboration with other survivor cohorts – need for an international consortium?
  - Augment representation of heterogeneous populations and include sites that represent new geographic areas/rural regions of the country (and their biospecimens)
  - Harmonize phenotype and molecular data