

GEORGIA CAMPUS - PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

## MEDICAL STUDENTS SUPPORT CLASSMATE *and* CANCER RESEARCH



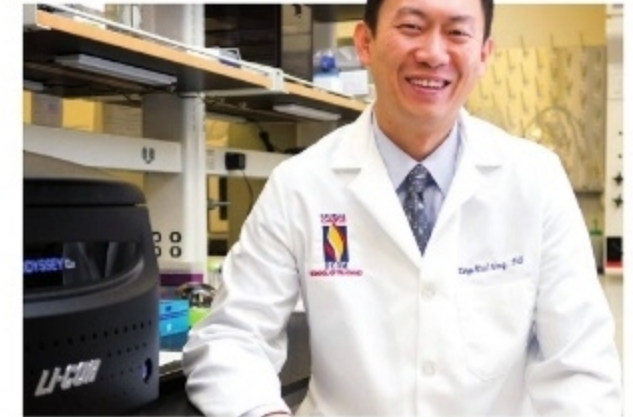
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Every two minutes, a woman in the U.S. is diagnosed with breast cancer. While doctors and scientists look for a cure, medical students at Georgia Campus - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA-PCOM) came together recently to support breast cancer research in memory of their classmate's mom.

The mother of second-year osteopathic medical student, Denaya Edwards, was diagnosed in 2012 with Stage I breast cancer which slowly progressed to Stage IV despite treatments. Edwards lost her mother in January, and returned to school a week later. "I thought I would feel isolated upon my return, but my medical school family—peers, faculty and staff—made me feel so welcome and included," she said.

To demonstrate their care and concern for Edwards, the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2018 decided to raise money for breast cancer research. The student doctors chose to fundraise for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF), a nonprofit organization committed to achieving prevention and a cure for breast cancer. In less than 24 hours, the students raised over \$1,000.

In addition, class members planned a "Pink Out" in which students, faculty and staff wore pink to show support for Edwards and those affected by breast cancer. Edwards said, "I have never experienced so much support from a school I've attended. I now feel more capable of getting back on track and in tune with accomplishing my medical school studies."



### GA-PCOM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DR. ERIC WANG NAMED AACP NEW INVESTIGATOR

A founding faculty member of the PCOM School of Pharmacy, Dr. Eric Wang, was recently named a recipient of one of 14 New Investigator Awards by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Dr. Wang's research focuses on the discovery and development of new therapeutic agents with the potential to treat multiple myeloma, a plasma cell cancer. He hopes to identify potential drug candidates from natural sources with anti-myeloma effects.

Wang said, "Despite recent advances in myeloma treatment with chemotherapy and transplantation, this disease remains incurable due to drug resistance." He added, "There is a great need to identify new therapeutic strategies that inhibit the progression of multiple myeloma disease without significant drug resistance and eventually increase the quality of life and survival of multiple myeloma patients."



### DR. ABIGAIL HIELSCHER PLANS BREAST HEALTH FAIR

Assistant Professor of Anatomy Abigail Hielscher, PhD, whose area of research is breast cancer, is in the midst of planning a May 11 breast health fair at GA-PCOM where participants can learn about the disease. Her goal is for community members "to be able to apply this knowledge to their personal health and to take the information to friends and family," she said.

Dr. Hielscher's research is focused on determining how

the environment in which a tumor cell resides promotes breast cancer. "The best way to think about this is to picture a tumor cell as a weed and the environment as the surrounding soil. We're trying to determine how the soil [environment] promotes growth of the weed [tumor]," she explained.

For more information about the health fair, visit [www.pcom.edu](http://www.pcom.edu).

