

You are invited to attend the IDeA (Institutional Development Award) State Cancer Trainee Research Conference, a first-of-its-kind, cancer-focused conference supported by a National Cancer Institute R13 conference grant. **Travel, registration, and lodging for trainees will be covered** by the WVU Cancer Institute with support from the NCI; eligible trainees must be currently training at an IDeA State-eligible institution and be either a graduate student currently enrolled in a PhD or MS degree granting program or a postdoctoral fellow. The first 25 postdoctoral fellows to register will be stipend eligible; other postdoctoral fellows are welcome to attend but will not be stipend-eligible. All trainees must submit an abstract. Trainees with a new or developing interest in cancer research are welcomed and strongly encouraged to submit their current research as an abstract.

Hosted by the WVU Cancer Institute, the symposium will be held April 13–15, 2026, at the Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place in Morgantown, West Virginia. The 2.5-day conference will bring together graduate trainees and faculty from IDeA states to explore the 2026 theme, **The Intersection of Cancer and Metabolism**. There is no registration fee for trainees, faculty, or other attendees.

Programming includes a plenary lecture by Danny Welch, Ph.D. (University of Kansas School of Medicine) focused on metabolism and cancer metastasis, along with research presentations and networking opportunities with faculty experts from multiple IDeA State research institutions.

## **[Register Here](#)**

### **HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS:**

A room block has been secured at the Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place, adjacent to the scenic Monongahela River and rail trail. The venue will house all attendees, including trainees. The nightly rate is \$165.00 per night for non-trainee attendees, with check-in on April 12, 2026, and check-out on April 15, 2026.

Lodging for trainees will be fully covered by the WVU Cancer Institute and arranged directly by the conference coordinator. The trainee meeting registration also serves as a lodging reservation, so trainees should NOT book their own hotel accommodation. Faculty or non-trainees who will cover their own lodging costs can call for reservations at the number and mention the IDeA Conference for the rate, or use the booking link below.

#### Hotel Details:

- Name: Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place
- Phone Number: (304) 296-1700
- Nightly Rate: 165.00 USD per night
- Last Day to Book: Thursday, March 12, 2026
- Booking Link:

[Group rate lodging for WVU IDeA State Cancer Trainee Conference](#)

Meals will be provided during conference hours, including an evening reception, for all registered attendees.

#### **ABSTRACT INFORMATION:**

## [Abstract Submission: Here](#)

All abstracts need to be submitted by March 2, 2026.

You are invited to submit a 250-word abstract to the 2026 IDeA (Institutional Development Award) State Cancer Trainee Research Conference. **Travel, registration, and lodging for trainees will be covered** by the WVU Cancer Institute with support from the NCI; trainees must submit an abstract to be eligible.

Posters and Oral Presentations will showcase and highlight the research and interests of biomedical science, clinical science, population health, behavioral science, data science, engineering, community-engaged research, or similar areas. Trainee oral presentations will be selected from the submitted abstracts by members of the Organizing Committee. Please use the link above to submit an abstract.

#### **Submission Eligibility:**

1. Must be a currently enrolled graduate student or currently employed postdoctoral fellow at an institution located in an IDeA-eligible state.
2. Work should be cancer-focused or very broadly cancer-relevant research including biomedical, clinical, population health, behavioral science, data

science, engineering, community-engaged research, or similar. Trainees with a new or developing interest in cancer research are welcomed and are encouraged to submit their current research as an abstract.

3. Projects may be in-progress or completed. Trainees may be at any stage in their graduate or postdoctoral education and can be full or part-time.

**Abstract requirements:**

1. Title, Name & Institutional Affiliation for all co-authors (also may include Program or Center Affiliation if relevant).
2. The body of the abstract (not including title, co-authors or affiliations) is limited to maximum length of 250 words.
3. A confirmation email will be sent to students whose abstract is successfully submitted.

**All abstracts need to be submitted by March 2, 2026.** Once abstracts are submitted, guidelines around poster and oral presentations will be sent to the trainees.

If you have any questions, please email Kelcie Sturgeon at [ksturgeo@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:ksturgeo@hsc.wvu.edu). We look forward to welcoming you to Morgantown for an engaging and collaborative scientific meeting.