Phyllodes Tumor Research (PHYTR) Laboratory

Happy Summer from the PHYTR Lab!

We hope this note finds you well and enjoying all the best of the summer season!

Thanks to your continued generosity, the *PHYTR Lab* is growing! **We're thrilled to welcome Beth Bronson**, our new clinical research coordinator. With extensive experience in oncology clinical trials, data integrity, and operations management, Beth has already made a tremendous impact on our productivity and research capabilities.

Over the past six months, we've completed several exciting projects that we're proud to share with you below. **A special highlight**: ***Elle Reason*** delivered multiple oral presentations this spring, including results from our circulating-tumor DNA pilot study at the American Society of Breast Surgeons' annual meeting in April. **This study was 100% funded by your generosity and would not have happened without you.**

As you may know, early 2025 brought widespread research funding cuts and Duke was not immune. Fortunately, we've been able to continue our U-01 (2024-2027) multi-center, FDA-partnered study on the genomic profiles of malignant phyllodes tumors. Still, our institution—and our lab—have felt the ripple effects of these reductions. With government funding and indirect cost support shrinking, ***your private support is more vital than ever.***

We're excited to share our recent publications, ongoing projects, and new collaborations on the horizon. As always, please feel free to reach out if you'd like to connect—we'd love to hear from you! Warmly,



Laura Rosenberger,
on behalf of the *PHYTR Lab*

In this newsletter:

Greetings

Our team

Lab Updates

Recent Publications

Looking ahead

Staying Connected

Our Team



Laura H. Rosenberger, MD, MS
Principal Investigator
Associate Professor of Surgery



Samantha M. Thomas, MS
Senior Biostatistician



Rachel Factor, MD
Associate Professor of Pathology



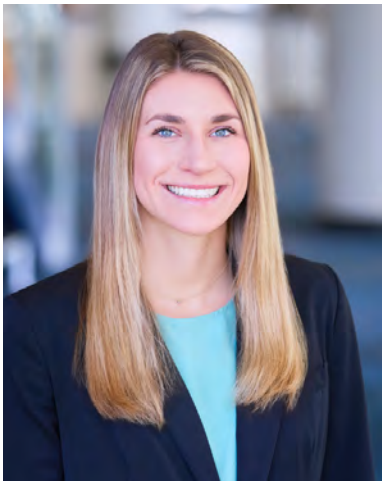
Amanda L. Nash, MD
Resident Physician



Anna D. Louie, MD
Resident Physician



Michael D, Aiduk, BS
MD / PhD Student



Ellery H. Reason, BS
MD Student



Felecia Walton, BS (HH)
Clinical Research Coordinator



Beth Bronson, BA
Clinical Research Coordinator

2025 PHYTR Lab Updates



Pathology slides of malignant phyllodes tumors from our multi-center collaboration

U-01 Progress: Defining Actionable Opportunities in Malignant Phyllodes via Genomic Profiling

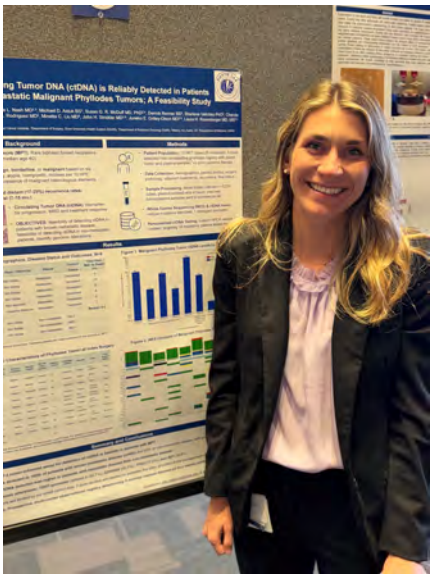
In collaboration with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) and Brigham Cancer Center (BCC), PHYTR Principal Investigator Dr. Laura Rosenberger continues her work to identify potential therapeutic targets and develop a predictive model of recurrence events.

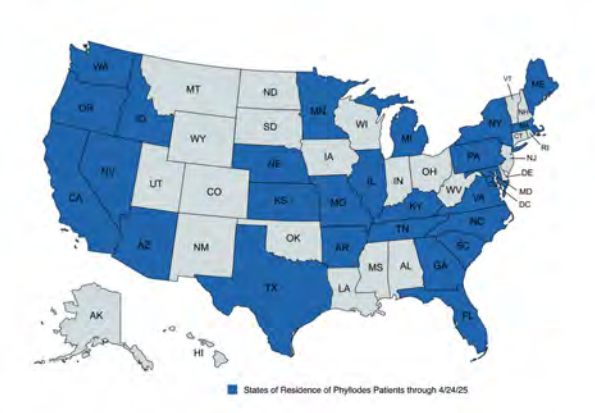
Grant Details:

i. Grant Number: 1U01FD007909-01A1
ii. Budget Period: 09/05/2024 - 08/31/2027
iii. Principal Investigator: Rosenberger, Laura
iv. Project title: Defining Actionable Opportunities in Malignant Phyllodes via Genomic Profiling

Circulating Tumor DNA as a Biomarker for Malignant Phyllodes

On May 2nd 2025 in Las Vegas, Elle Reason presented the results from our circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) study at the *American Society of Breast Surgeons* annual meeting. In this study, ctDNA was detected in 100% (6/6) of the blood samples of patients with known metastatic disease, suggesting that ctDNA could be a reliable biomarker for disease surveillance and treatment response for malignant phyllodes.





Expanding our reach

Our prospective phyllodes tumor registry has seen significant growth in 2025, with patient enrollment now spanning 28 U.S. states and several countries. This expanding reach enables us to continue advancing the study of these rare tumors.

2025 PHYTR Lab Updates



Elle Reason and Dr. Laura Rosenberger at the ASC meeting, February 2025

Validating a Predictive Nomogram for Phyllodes Tumor Recurrence

With the data from our phyllodes tumor registry, we were able to test a predictive model for phyllodes tumor recurrence developed by a high volume center in Singapore. In our cohort, with a larger proportion of higher grade tumors, we found the model to be less accurate. We are *in the process of publishing* these results and exploring ways to refine this predictive model. Elle Reason presented these results in February at the Academic Surgical Congress (ASC) 20th Annual Meeting.

Dutch Phyllodes Group Visits Duke University

We have continued to collaborate with Marcos and Marloes van Esterik from the Netherlands. In collaboration with our colleagues in Europe, we are planning a forthcoming ***1st Annual International Phyllodes Tumor Symposium.***





Recent Publications

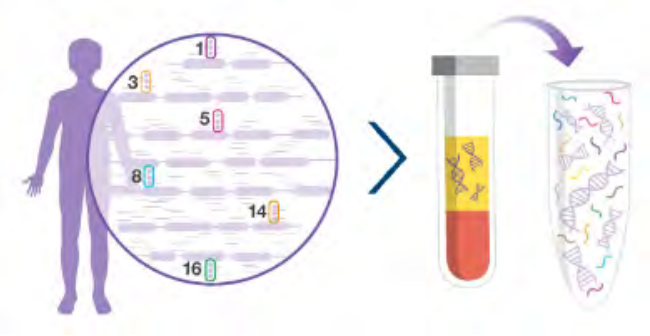
Circulating Tumor DNA (ctDNA) is Reliably Detected in Patients with Metastatic Malignant Phyllodes Tumors, A Feasibility Study.
Reason EH, Aiduk MD, Nash AL, McDuff SGR, Renner D, Kollipara RK, Satta S, Velichko S, Kalashnikova E, Rodriguez AA, Liu MC, Strickler JH, Grilley-Olson JE, Rosenberger LH. Accepted to *Annals of Surgical Oncology* 6/27/25.

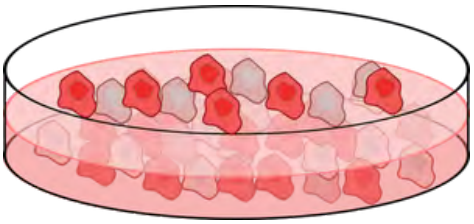
Wide Margins are Still Relevant: A Case of a Well-Circumscribed Borderline Phyllodes Tumor With a Satellite Nodule in a Re-excision Margin.
Reason EH, Sotolongo G, Bentley RC, Factor RE, Jeck WR, Rosenberger LH. *Cureus*. Accepted for publication, March, 2025. In press.

Looking ahead....

PHYTR (Phyllodes Tumor Registry) TRIAL: A Prospective, Multi-Center Observational Study to Evaluate the Association of Molecular Residual Disease with Metastatic Progression

Based on the results from our recent study showing that ctDNA is a reliable marker of metastatic disease, we are developing an observational study investigating whether ctDNA is predictive of future metastatic progression. This study will have the potential to better identify those at highest risk for progression and develop future systemic therapy interventional trials.





Development of a Phyllodes Tumor Cell Line

We are currently in the process of developing a pre-clinical model with the ultimate goal of identifying targetable opportunities and testing existing or novel therapeutics to treat phyllodes tumors.

Stay Connected!

- Website: https://surgery.duke.edu/divisions/surgical-oncology/research/research-laboratories/phyllodes-tumor-research-phytr
- Twitter/X: @RosenbergerMD

Thank you for reading!

Scan here to make a charitable gift to the PHYTR Lab. For more info using retirement accounts, charitable gift annuities or other giving vehicles, please contact **Catherine Cross** at catherine.cross@duke.edu or 919-385-1585.