

## The Utah Grand Challenges

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Presented at ELAM® IAP  
 Poster Symposium

### BACKGROUND

- A gift from Intermountain to Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) established a partnership to form the “Utah Cancer Outcomes, Outreach and Policy Cooperative” (Utah Cancer CoOp) (\$10MM over 5 years)
- Goal of the Utah Cancer CoOp is to improve community health through community-based research initiatives
- The **Utah Grand Challenges** funding mechanism was initiated by the ELAM fellow (in consultation with a Steering Committee) to form research partnerships between the two organizations and address **major cancer challenges** of Utah

### GOALS

The **Utah Grand Challenges** will:

- Give Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI)/University of Utah (UofU) researchers opportunities to eradicate cancer in innovative ways with access to resources beyond our own
- Provide the basis for broader research collaborations between the two organizations
- Result in a favorable view of HCI and UofU by the state legislature and other key stakeholders in Utah, because of demonstrated effort to address cancer in Utah statewide in a collaborative manner
- Foster unique collaborations between HCI and Intermountain to develop community-based research initiatives
- Advance the health, wellness, and/or cancer-related health outcomes of the population through: cancer screening, preventive care, and development of best practice common clinical pathways

### OBJECTIVES & METHODS

1. To develop and issue a Request for Applications (RFA) for the **Utah Grand Challenges** ✓
2. To implement review of applications, award mechanisms, and evaluation of the processes ✓
3. To evaluate the processes associated with the RFA through metrics and surveys ✓
4. To review the success of the program by progress of each collaborative research award (in process)
5. To develop a business model for year 2 of the **Utah Grand Challenges** (in process)

All steps were implemented jointly by Dr. Ulrich and her Intermountain partner, Dr. Mark Lewis, Medical Oncology, with guidance by the Huntsman Intermountain Cancer Care Program Steering Committee. A timeline of the implementation steps is presented in **Figure 1**.

### RESULTS

Figure 1. Timeline

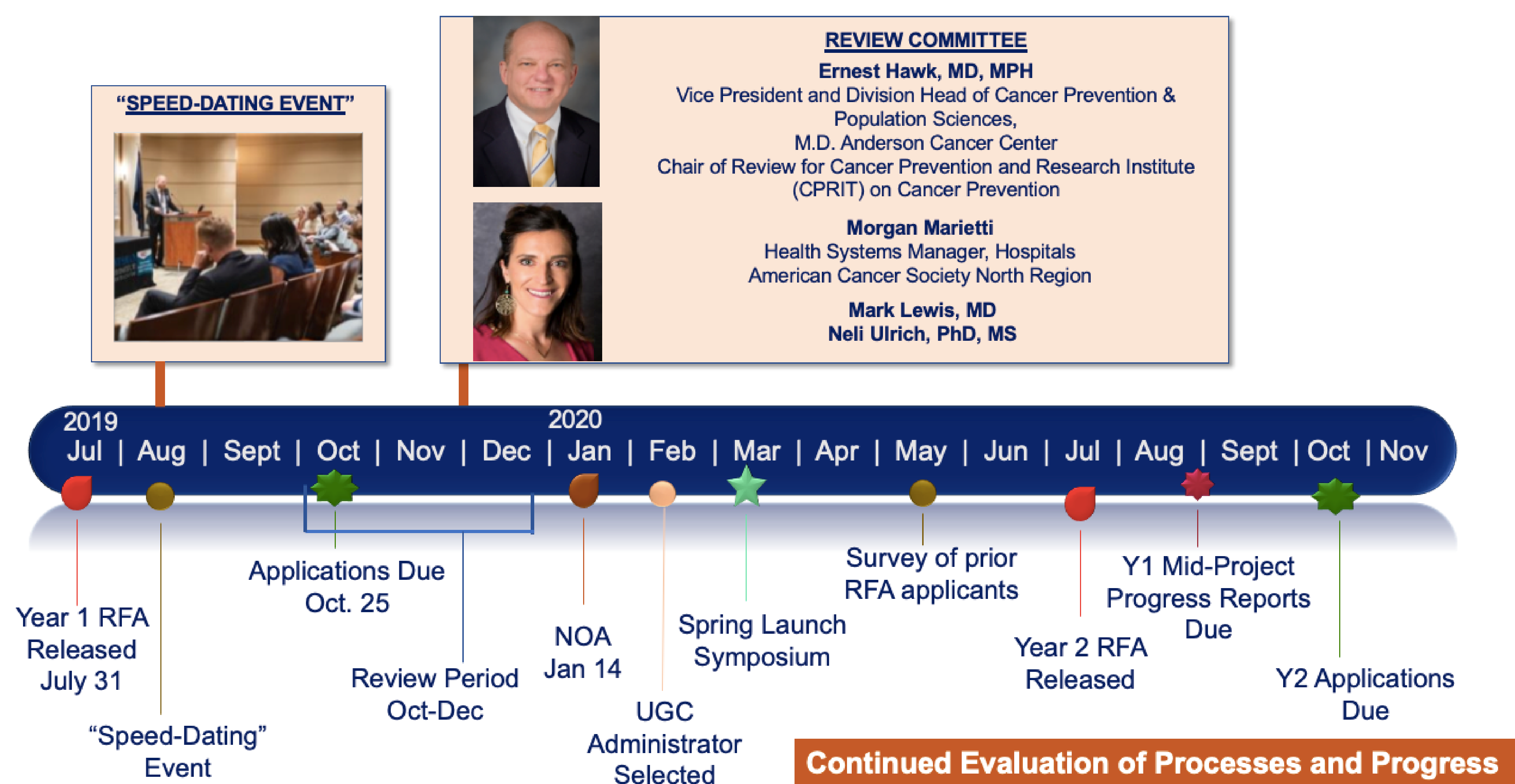


Table 1. Ongoing Utah Grand Challenge Projects

PIs	Project title
Tward/Barney	Identification of Incidence and Toxicity of Prostate Cancer Overtreatment in Utah and Multi-Disciplinary Plan for Reduction
Kohlmann/Sutherland	Cancer Genetic Testing in Families Across Utah: Evaluating Access and Impact on Cancer Prevention
Wetter/Low	Population-Level Scale Up of Evidence-Based Tobacco Cessation Treatment at Intermountain Healthcare
Johnson/Evans	Exposure and Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicines by Adult Cancer Patients: A Multi-Institutional Study
Grossmann/Bowles (Pilot)	Improving Early Detection of Melanoma Recurrence with Circulating Tumor DNA (ctDNA)



**Mark Lewis, MD**  
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### DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

- The **Utah Grand Challenges** funding mechanism was successfully implemented, evaluated, and optimized
- The RFA brought together new research teams from the participating organizations that address diverse cancer challenges
- The COVID-19 pandemic has affected both organizations and slowed progress. Drs. Ulrich and Lewis worked with the organizations to address impediments
- Impact of this initiative will continue to be measured and evaluated by the Steering Committee of the Huntsman-Intermountain Cancer Care Program

Milestones of the Utah Grand Challenges are shown in Figure 1.

- 20+ investigators from both organizations attended the 1<sup>st</sup> “**Grand Challenges** Speed-Dating Event”
- 8 applications received, reviewed by expert reviewers
- 4 **Grand Challenges** and 1 Pilot Award awarded (\$1MM)
- Project Manager hired to support awardees
- **Utah Grand Challenges** Symposium highlighted all projects
- Survey on the RFA process administered
- 2<sup>nd</sup> RFA (\$2MM) modified to address survey responses on process
- 30+ investigators attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Grand Challenges** Speed-Dating Event