

# *Navigating an Independent Research Career at the NCI*

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*Earl Stadtman Investigator*

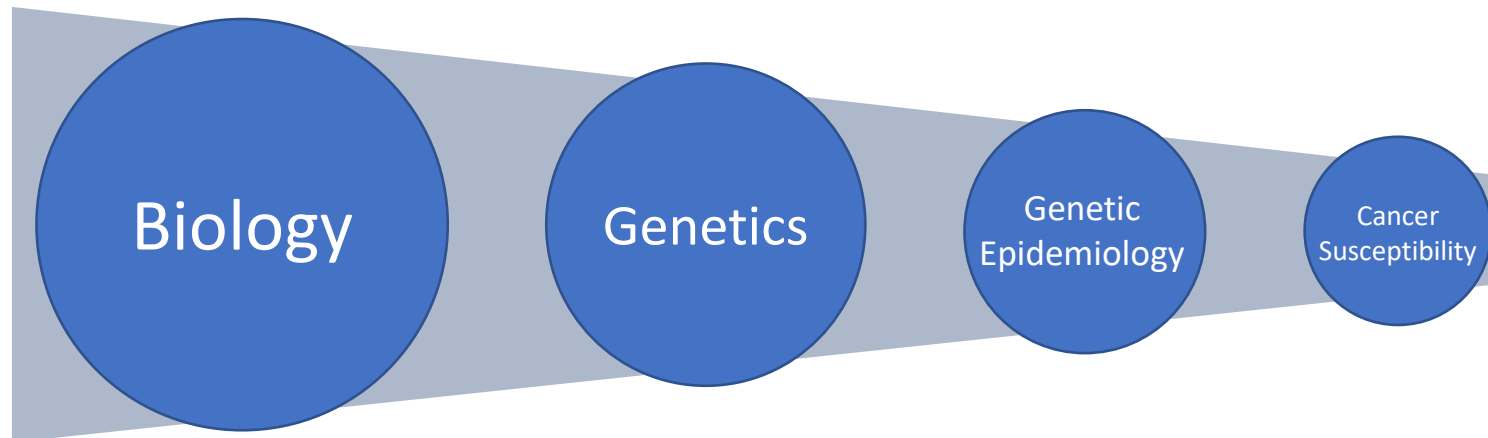
*Integrative Tumor Epidemiology Branch*

*Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics*

*National Cancer Institute*

# My Career Trajectory

- BA (Biology/Biochemistry) – Calvin University
- Research Technician – Van Andel Research Institute
- MPH (Epidemiology) – University of Michigan
- ScD (Epidemiology) – Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- CRTA Fellowship – DCGE Laboratory of Genetic Susceptibility
- Stadtman TT Investigator – DCEG Integrative Tumor Epidemiology Branch



# Earl Stadtman Program

- “We have an opening” versus “Create your own opening”
- Application materials:
  - CV (publications/leadership/mentoring/outreach)
  - Research Goals (3 pages)
  - Long-term Research Vision and Impact (2 pages)
  - Professional References (3 total)
- Field-specific search committees review applications
- Finalists are invited for interviews
- Open August 1-September 30, but start preparations early!!!

<https://tenuretrack.nih.gov/apply/faq/stadtman.html>

Roland Owens ([owensrol@mail.nih.gov](mailto:owensrol@mail.nih.gov))



Earl



Thressa



# Distinctive Research Program

- How is your research program unique from other investigators?
- What aspect(s) of your research program are truly innovative?
- Why is the NIH IRP the best place to perform your research?
- How does your research program advance knowledge in focused area(s) of interest?
- In what research area(s) will you be known as a leading world expert?



# The Match

1. Does your research program complement the mission of the division/branch you are applying to?
2. What area of research truly sparks your interest/inspires/excites you?
3. Where does your unique research training/skillset/experience best address a critical gap in knowledge?

match.♥



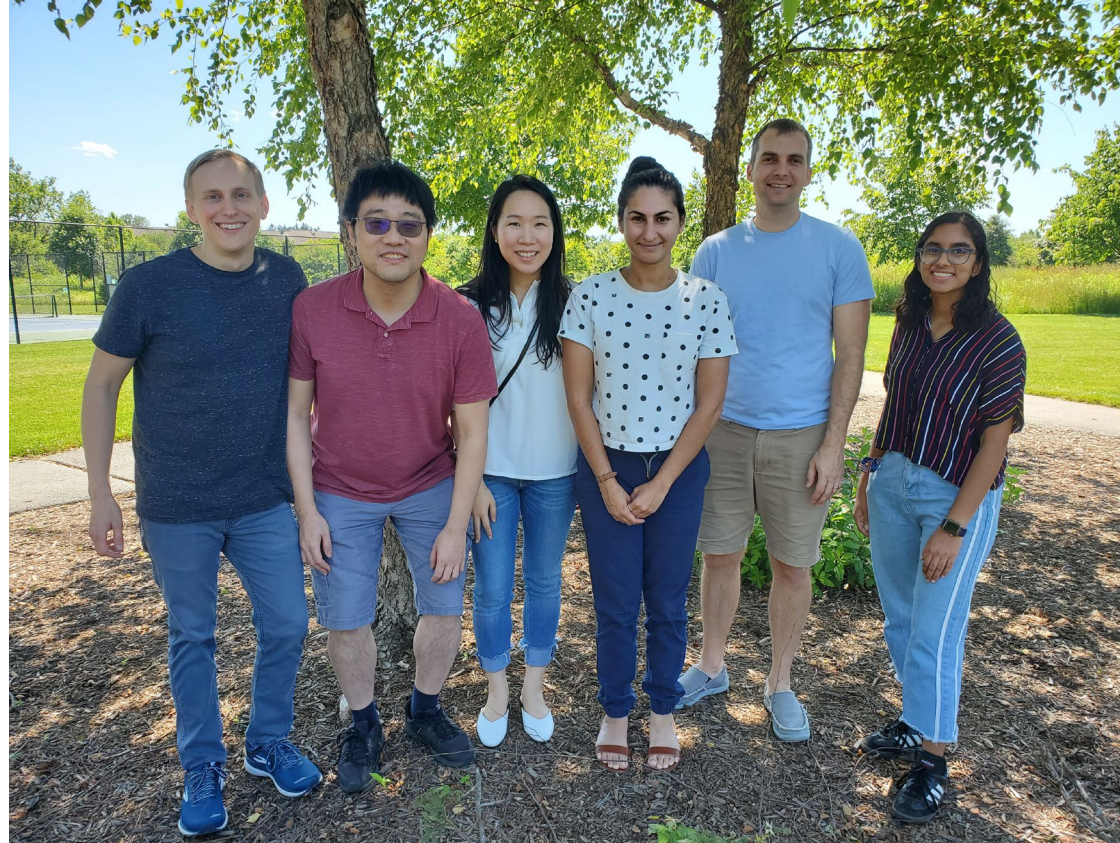
# Timeline (during NIH hiring freeze)



- **September 2016** – Submitted Stadtman Application
- **December 2016** – Notified of selection as Stadtman Finalist
- **February 2017** – Stadtman Seminar and Interview by DCEG
- **March 2017** – Request for DCEG-specific vision statement
- **April/May 2017** – Offered Stadtman TT position in DCEG
- **June 2017** – Appointed as Stadtman Investigator in LGS
- **October 2017** – Moved to ITEB (DCEG branch that hired me)



# Recruiting a Talented Research Group



**From left:** Derek Brown (CPFP Fellow, Fall 2019), Shu-Hong Lin (CRTA Fellow; Winter 2019), Olivia Lee (GPP Fellow; Winter 2020), Sairah Khan (Research Analyst; Spring 2020), Mitchell Machiela (me), Sruthi Srinivasan (Summer Intern; Summer 2021)

# Challenges and Benefits Working in the NCI IRP

## Challenges

- recruiting fellows/staff
- collecting clinical specimens
- contracts/acquisitions

## Benefits

- focus on research
- developed research infrastructure
- world-class resources
- sustained/committed funding







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