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**University of Hawaii Cancer Center  
Researcher Receives Jimmy V. Foundation Grant**

*Assistant Professor Unhee Lim one of only 17 researchers nationwide to receive award*

**HONOLULU, HI** – The Jimmy V. Foundation for Cancer Research has awarded University of Hawaii Cancer Center researcher and assistant professor of cancer epidemiology, Unhee Lim a two-year \$200,000 grant. Lim is one of only 17 researchers selected nationwide to receive this grant after completing a highly competitive review process.

The funding will assist Lim in determining whether the amount of methyl-groups attached on DNA in people's blood cells indicate a higher risk of subsequently developing cancer in the large intestine, more often referred to as colorectal cancer. In Hawaii, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in males and the third leading cause of cancer death in females.

"I am very grateful to be the recipient of this prestigious grant," said Unhee Lim, PhD. "It is the critical support needed in our efforts to better diagnose and prevent colorectal cancer, especially in high-risk groups in Hawaii."

The novel aspect of Lim's study is that it tests easily obtainable blood samples to measure epigenetic markers in people before they develop cancer in the colon or rectum. An equal number of cancer patients and healthy people will be studied from the Multiethnic Cohort (MEC), one of the largest ongoing population studies in the world with health information on over 215,000 Native Hawaiians, Japanese Americans, African Americans, Latinos and whites. The study may also contribute to the understanding if epigenetic changes are responsible for the different rates of colon cancer observed across different ethnic groups.

The V Foundation for Cancer Research is one of the nation's leading cancer research funding organizations. The V Scholar Grants Program typically awards two-year, \$200,000 grants to outstanding young researchers across the nation. The \$3.4 million initiative, which funds "rising star" physicians and scientists as they begin their careers in cancer research, is an important and compelling component of The V Foundation's overall grant objective.

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*The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center is one of 67 research institutions designated by the National Cancer Institute. A unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the Center is dedicated to eliminating cancer through research, education, and improved patient care. Construction is under way on a new state-of-the-art research center, opening in 2013 to better serve the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific. Learn more about the Center's work at [www.uhcancercenter.org](http://www.uhcancercenter.org).*

**About The V Foundation for Cancer Research:**

The V Foundation for Cancer Research was founded in 1993 by ESPN and the late Jim Valvano, legendary North Carolina State basketball coach and ESPN commentator.

Since 1993, The Foundation has funded more than \$100 million in cancer research grants nationwide. It awards 100 percent of all direct cash donations and net proceeds of events directly to cancer research and related programs. Administrative and fundraising expenses are paid by their endowment. The Foundation awards grants through a competitive awards process strictly supervised by a Scientific Advisory Board. For more information on The V Foundation or to make a donation, please visit [www.jimmyv.org](http://www.jimmyv.org).

**2012 V Foundation grant recipient:**

Unhee Lim, PhD

University of Hawaii Cancer Center

Honolulu, HI

*Investigating global leukocyte DNA methylation for predicting colorectal cancer risk in a multiethnic population*

More information about Professor Unhee Lim and her research can be found at:

[www.uhcancercenter.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&catid=16&id=111](http://www.uhcancercenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=16&id=111)