

UC Riverside Retirees' and Emeriti Associations  
with additional sponsorship by UCR Osher and UCR's Office of Gift Planning  
Present

**The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorship Lecture Series**

# **THE WAR ON CANCER: EVOLUTION AND OUR MODERN ENVIRONMENT**

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. with Reception to follow

In-person at University Extension Building 1101 in the  
University Village

Livestreamed via Zoom



**Featuring**

Leonard Nunney, PhD

UCR Professor Emeritus of the Graduate Division

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**Description**

Cancer is primarily a disease of old age, so an increase in cancer risk is an unwelcome side-effect of the benefit of living longer. But beyond this trade-off, an important but largely unanswered question is how much of our cancer risk earlier in life is due to our environment, our genes, or simply bad luck. I have been looking at this problem from the perspective of an evolutionary biologist, by first arguing (and then demonstrating) that the ability of animals to reduce the risk of cancer is an evolving trait, and then using this knowledge to identify specific human cancers that appear to have become markedly more common because of our modern way of life.

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**Register**

Priority seating is given to members of the UCR Emeriti and Retirees' Associations who must register by February 2, 2026 on the [Retirement Center webpage](#).

Registration will open to UCR and the public on February 3, 2026.