

Congratulations to Awardees of the 2016 Fall Catalyst Grant Competition

The London Regional Cancer Program Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research review panel recently recommended to the Executive Council of the LRCP and the Division of Surgical Oncology, funding for projects submitted in the Fall 2016 Competition. This program, open to all primary and cross-appointees in the Department of Oncology at Western University (and their collaborators), supports translational cancer research with potential to attract and retain external funding and to lead to clinical applications that reduce the burden of cancer. In addition to funds raised to support translational research projects in the specific areas of Breast, Ovarian and Prostate cancer, the Division of Surgical Oncology sponsored 3 Catalyst awards to eligible principal investigators.

The Executive Council of the LRCP and the Division of Surgical Oncology has approved funding for the following seven awards. Please join me in congratulating the successful applicants to the London Regional Cancer Program Catalyst Grants Program for Translational Cancer Research:

Dr. Alison Allan; Dynamic influence of epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition on circulating tumor cell (CTC) generation, phenotype and progression to metastasis in prostate cancer.
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Prostate Cancer Research focus)

Dr. Fred Dick; A CRISPR screen to discover Palbociclib resistance mechanisms in breast cancer.
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Breast Cancer Research focus)

Dr. Gabriel DiMattia, Co-Applicant: Dr. Fred Dick; The role of p57^{KIP2} in survival of ovarian cancer spheroids.
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Ovarian Cancer Research focus)

Dr. Jonathan Izawa, Co-Applicants: Drs. Eric Winquist, Nicholas Power, Joseph Chin, Victor McPherson; Neoadjuvant Metformin and Simvastatin in invasive bladder cancer.
Amount Funded: \$27,436.41 (Division of Surgical Oncology Award)

Dr. David Litchfield, Co-Applicants: Drs. Ann Chambers, Alison Allan, Alan Tuck; Kinome profiling of triple negative breast cancer cells to reveal predictors of response to targeted therapy.
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Breast Cancer Research focus)

Dr. Anthony Nichols, Co-Applicants: Drs. Joe Mymryk, John Barrett, MD/PHD Candidate: Kara Ruicci; HRAS G12V as a potential biomarker for response to standard and targeted therapeutics used to treat head and neck squamous cell cancer.
Amount Funded: \$29,000 (Division of Surgical Oncology Award)

Dr. Nicholas Power, Co-Applicant: Dr. Brian Allman; Development of surgical nerve-sparing techniques during RPLND for testis cancer using a novel pig model.
Amount Funded: \$29,697 (Division of Surgical Oncology Award)

We graciously acknowledge the generous support of Breast Cancer Society of Canada, The London Run for Ovarian Cancer, Lexus of London Golf Classic and our other generous supporters of cancer research in London and the greater Southwestern Ontario region. We also thank the members of the peer-review committee for their time, effort and diligence in conducting the reviews, which is essential for ensuring that these funds support the highest quality translational cancer research. These include: **Drs. Glenn Bauman, Moshmi Bhattacharya, Ann Chambers, Scott Ernst, Karin Hahn, Matthew Hebb, Alexander Louie, Leonard Luyt, Christopher Pin, Nicholas Power, Trevor Shepherd and Eugene Wong.**

Congratulations and well done!
Joe Mymryk, PhD, Chair, Grant Review Panel
LRCP Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research and Training

Glenn Bauman, MD, Chair/Chief
Department of Oncology

Gabriel DiMattia, PhD, Interim Director
Cancer Research Laboratory Program