



Congratulations to Awardees of the 2017 LRCP Catalyst Research 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 2017 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.

We graciously acknowledge the generous supporters of cancer research in London and the greater Southwestern Ontario region.

Funds were raised to support translational research projects for eligible principal investigators in the specific focus areas:

Metastasis Cancer Research (donors to the LHSF)

Leukemia (donors to the LHSF)

Breast (Breast Cancer Society of Canada)

Ovarian (The London Run for Ovarian Cancer)

Prostate (Lexus of London Golf Classic/Donors)

Division of Surgical Oncology Grants available to members of the Division of Surgical Oncology, Dept. of Oncology

The Awardees for the 2017 Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research are:

Sam Asfaha MD Ph.D. FRCPC (Depts. of Medicine, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Oncology)

Stem cell markers in metastasis.

Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Metastasis Cancer Research focus)

Muriel Brackstone MD, M.Sc., Ph.D., FRCSC (Depts. of Surgery, Oncology)

Oncoplastic breast cancer surgery in Ontario.

Amount Funded: \$30,000 (Division of Surgical Oncology Award)

Trevor Shepherd Ph.D. (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell biology, Oncology, Ob/Gyn); **Co-Applicant: James Petrik Ph.D.** (Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, University of Guelph)
Evaluation of dysregulated Mevalonate pathway activity in mutant p53 precursor lesions of ovarian high-grade serous cancer.
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Ovarian Cancer Research focus)

Rod DeKoter Ph.D. (Depts. of Microbiology & Immunology, Oncology)
Identification and characterization of driver mutations in precursor B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.
Amount Funded: \$22,500 (Translational Leukemia Cancer Research focus)

Richard Kim MD, FRCPC (Depts. of Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology, Physiology & Pharmacology, and Oncology; Wolfe Medical Research Chair in Pharmacogenomics)
Personalizing aromatase inhibitor therapy for breast cancer patients.
Amount Funded: \$24,982.50 (Translational Breast Cancer Research focus)

Peeyush Lala Ph.D. (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology); **Co-Applicants: Ted Vandenberg MD FRCPC** (Dept. of Oncology), **David Hess Ph.D.** (Dept. of Pharmacology & Physiology; Sheldon H. Weinstein Endowed Chair in Diabetes Research)
Validation of EP4 as a therapeutic target in triple negative human breast cancer.
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Breast Cancer Research focus)

Jonathan Izawa MD FRCPS (Depts. of Surgery, Oncology, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine); **Co-Applicants: Bekim Sadikovic Ph.D., DABMG, FACMG** (Dept. of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine), **Khalil Hetou MD** (Dept. of Urology), **Erfan Aref-Eshghi Ph.D.** (Molecular Diagnostics Program, London Health Sciences Centre)
Development of diagnostic and prognostic epigenomic tools in prostate cancer.
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Prostate Cancer Research focus)

Leonard Luyt Ph.D. (Depts. of Chemistry, Oncology); **Co-Applicant: Eva Turley Ph.D.** (Dept. of Oncology, Biochemistry, Surgery)
The development of drugs interfering with RHAMM-hyaluronan interactions as a novel targeted therapy for aggressive prostate cancer.
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Prostate Cancer Research focus)

Danielle MacNeil MD, M.Sc. FRCPS (Depts. of Otolaryngology, Oncology); **Co-Applicants: Amit Garg MD Ph.D.** (Depts. of Medicine, Epidemiology & Biostatistics), **Anthony Nichols MD, FRCS(C), FACS** (Depts. of Otolaryngology, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology); **Kevin Fung MD, FRCS(C), FACS** (Department of Otolaryngology), **John Yoo MD, FRCS(C), FACS** (Department of Otolaryngology, Oncology)
Geographic disparities head and neck cancer.
Amount Funded: \$29,468 (Division of Surgical Oncology Award)

Anthony Nichols MD, FRCS(C), FACS (Depts. of Otolaryngology, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology); **Co-Applicant: Shawn Shuncheng Li Ph.D.** (Depts. of Biochemistry, Oncology)

Informing targeted therapy and immune therapy for HNSCC by functional proteomics.
Amount Funded: \$30,000 (Division of Surgical Oncology Award)

We graciously acknowledge the generous support of the Breast Cancer Society of Canada, The London Run for Ovarian Cancer, Lexus of London Golf Classic, and our other generous organizations and supporters of cancer research in London and the greater Southwestern Ontario region.

We would also like to 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. Lina Dagnino, Fred Dick, Jim Lacefield, Alex Louie, Wei-Ping Min, David O’Gorman, Nick Power, Jacques Raphael, Stephen Welch, Scott Ernst, Matthew Hebb, David Rodenhiser and Dr. Gabriel DiMattia as Scientific Officer for the panel..**

Joe Mymryk, PhD, Chair, Catalyst Grant Review Panel
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