



Congratulations to Awardees of the 2018 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 funding for projects submitted in the 2018 Fall 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 and 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:

Breast (Breast Cancer Society of Canada)

Ovarian (The London Run for Ovarian Cancer)

Prostate (Lexus of London Golf Classic/Donors)

Keith Samitt Translational Research Grant (Initiated 2018 Fall Competition)

Division of Surgical Oncology Grant available to members of the Division of Surgical Oncology

The Awardees for the 2018 Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research are:

Alison Allan Ph.D. (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology) ; **Co-Applicants:**

Stephen Hearn (Electron Microscopy Specialist, Dept. of Biology)

Influence of breast cancer-derived exosomes on pre-metastatic priming of lung stroma

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

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

Applicants: Saman Maleki Ph.D. (Depts. of Oncology, Pathology & Lab Medicine, Medical Biophysics) , Michael Lock MD, CCFP, FRCPC (Dept. of Oncology), Alison Allan Ph.D.

(Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology), Stewart Gaede Ph.D., MCCPM (Depts. of Medical Biophysics, Oncology)

Evaluating impact of preoperative radiation dosage and fractionation on serial immune priming markers in breast cancer

Amount Funded: \$29,362 (Division of Surgical Oncology Award)

Fred Dick Ph.D. (Depts. of Biochemistry, Oncology)

Systemic evaluation of genes required for ovarian cancer cell dormancy and survival

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

Matthew Hebb MD, Ph.D., FAANS, FRCSC (Depts. of Clinical Neurological Sciences, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Oncology, Otolaryngology); **Co-Applicants:** John Ronald Ph.D. (Dept of Medical Biophysics, Microbiology and Immunology, Oncology); Terry Peters Ph.D., FCCPM (Depts. of Medical Imaging, Medical Biophysics, Biomedical Engineering); Robert Bartha Ph.D. (Depts. of Medical Biophysics, Medical Imaging, Psychiatry); Susanne Schmid Ph.D. (Dept. of Anatomy & Cell Biology); Eugene Wong Ph.D., FCCPM, MCCPM (Depts. of Physics and Astronomy, Medical Biophysics, Oncology)

Evaluating advanced IMT systems in patient-derived glioblastoma organoids and xenografts

Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Keith Samitt Translational Research Grant)

Jim Koropatnick Ph.D. (Depts. of Pharmacology & Physiology, Oncology); **Co-Applicants:** Ross Feldman Ph.D. (Depts of Pharmacology & Physiology), Rob Gros Ph.D. (Depts. of Pharmacology & Physiology, Medicine), Nick Power MD, FRCSC (Depts. of Surgery, Urology, Oncology)

Aldosterone-mediated GPER/MR signaling in prostate cancer: can therapeutic reduction of aldosterone and its effects reduce metastasis and progression to treatment resistance?

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

Shawn Li Ph.D. (Depts of Biochemistry, Oncology), **Co-Applicant:** Dr. Qi Zhang (Dept. of Pathology & Lab Medicine)

Novel biomarkers for predicting breast cancer metastasis potential

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

Richard Malthaner MD, M.Sc., FRCSC, FACS (Depts of Surgery, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Oncology); **Co-Applicants:** Robin Ralph-Edwards MD (Dept. of Surgery), Michael Naish Ph.D., P. Eng. (Dept. of Mechanical and Materials Engineering), Rajni Patel Ph.D. (Depts. of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Clinical Neurological Sciences, Biomedical Engineering)

Evaluation of the Young's Elastic Modulus of human lung cancers

Amount Funded: \$18,876 (Division of Surgical Oncology Award)

Anthony Nichols MD, FRCS(C), FACS (Depts. of Otolaryngology, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology); **Co-Applicant:** Sumit Agrawal MD, FRCS(C) (Dept. of Otolaryngology)
Intratympanic N-Acetylcysteine (NAC) injections for prevention of cisplatin-induced ototoxicity in head and neck cancer patients: Double-blinded phase II randomized controlled trial

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

Christopher Pin Ph.D. (Dept. of Paediatrics, Pharmacology & Physiology, Oncology)
Role of ATF3 in pancreatic cancer

Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Keith Samitt Translational Research Grant)

Eugene Wong Ph.D., FCCPM, MCCPM (Depts. of Physics & Astronomy, Oncology); **Co-Applicants:** Alison Allan Ph.D. (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology), Tamie Poepping Ph.D. (Depts. of Physics and Astronomy, Medical Biophysics), Geoffrey Pickering MD, Ph.D., FRCPC (Depts. of Medicine, Biochemistry, and Medical Biophysics)

Toward modeling breast cancer metastases in microfluidic devices

Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Keith Samitt Translational Research Grant)

We graciously acknowledge the generous support of the Breast Cancer Society of Canada, The London Run for Ovarian Cancer, Lexus of London Golf Classic, Mr. Keith Samitt 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. Nawar Alkhamesi, Phillip Blanchette, James Lacefield, Jacob McGee, Stephen Pautler, Silvia Penuela, James Petrik, Trevor Shepherd, Joseph Torchia, Stephen Welch, Eric Winquist; Gabriel DiMattia as Scientific Officer along with Gail Howard as Recorder.**

Joe Mymryk, PhD, Chair, Catalyst Grant Review Panel
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