



Congratulations to Awardees of the 2020 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 2020 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 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:

Breast (Breast Cancer Society of Canada)
Leukemia (Donors)
Myeloma (Donors)
Ovarian (The London Run for Ovarian Cancer)
Pancreatic (The Baker Centre for Pancreatic Cancer)
Prostate (Lexus of London Golf Classic/Donors)
Keith Samitt Translational Research Grant (Initiated 2018 Fall Competition)
Cancer Research Laboratory Program

The Awardees for the 2020 Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research are:

Alison Allan Ph.D. (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology), Co-Applicant: Vasudeva Bhat Ph.D. (Post-Doctoral Fellow)

Role of novel lung-derived soluble factors in breast cancer stem cell activity and metastatic behavior
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Breast Cancer Research focus)

Rodney DeKoter Ph.D. (Depts. of Microbiology & Immunology, Oncology)

Mechanism of Ikzf3 driver mutations in Ph-like precursor B-ALL
Amount Funded: \$24,000 (Translational Leukemia Cancer Research focus)

Fred Dick Ph.D. (Depts. of Pathology & Lab Medicine, Oncology)

A screening approach for therapeutics that antagonize ovarian cancer cell dormancy

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

Ricardo Fernandes MD (Dept. of Oncology); Co-Applicant: Saman Maleki Ph.D. (Depts of Oncology, Pathology & Lab Medicine, Medical Biophysics)

Association between androgen receptor axis-targeted therapies and gastro-intestinal microbiota in patients with prostate cancer

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

Douglas Hoover Ph.D., MCCPM (Dept. of Oncology, Medical Biophysics); Co-Applicants: Drs. Lucas Mendez MD M.Sc. DRCPSC (Dept. of Oncology), Aaron Fenster Ph.D. FCCPM (Depts. of Medical Biophysics, Oncology, Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Engineering)

Development and implementation of an accurate and efficient MRI-to-Ultrasound registration framework for focal dose escalation in prostate cancer

Amount Funded: \$10,574 (Translational Prostate Cancer Research focus)

Richard Kim MD, FRCPC (Depts. of Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology, Physiology & Pharmacology, and Oncology; Wolfe Medical Research Chair in Pharmacogenomics)

Drug uptake and efflux transporters and Tamoxifen therapy for breast cancer

Amount Funded: \$24,970 (Translational Breast Cancer Research focus)

Ana Lohmann MD, Ph.D. (Dept. of Oncology); Co-Applicant: Dr. Scott Ernst MD, FRCPC (Dept. of Oncology)

Body composition and melanoma outcomes in patients on immunotherapy

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

Dr. Len Luyt Ph.D. (Depts of Chemistry, Oncology, Medical Imaging); Co-Applicant: Christopher Pin Ph.D. (Depts of Paediatrics, Oncology, Pharmacology & Physiology)

Development of NUPR1 PET probes for pancreatic cancer

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

Sarah Mattonen Ph.D. (Depts. of Medical Biophysics, Oncology); Co-Applicant: Andrew Arifin, MD (Radiation Oncology resident, Dept. of Oncology)

Radiomics and machine learning for outcome prediction following bone stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT)

Amount Funded: \$25,000 (CRLP Translational Cancer Research Grant)

Anthony Nichols MD, FRCS(C), FACS (Depts. of Otolaryngology, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology); Co-Applicant: Dr. Mohammed Imran Khan (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Cancer Research Laboratory Program, LRCP)

Functional assessment of OMG and SPATA13 gene knockout to study anaplastic thyroid cancer progression

Amount Funded: \$24,314 (Keith Samitt Translational Research Grant)

Jim Petrik Ph.D. (Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, Univ of Guelph); Co-Applicant: Trevor Shepherd Ph.D. (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology, Ob/Gyn)

Use of patient-derived xenograft models to develop novel therapeutics in ovarian cancer

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

Andrew Simpson MD, FRCSC (Dept. Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery, Oncology); Co-Applicant: Eva Turley Ph.D. (Depts. of Oncology, Biochemistry, Surgery)

Hyaluronan-phosphatidylethanolamine polymers in the treatment and prevention of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

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, Blood, Sweat and Spin, 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. Glenn Bauman, Lina Dagnino, Paula Foster, John Di Guglielmo, Shawn Li, David Litchfield, Silvia Penuela, Caroline Schild-Poulter, Tracy Sexton, Trevor Shepherd, Stephen Welch, Eric Winqvist, Anarygros Xenocostas and Matthew Cecchini as Scientific Officer along with Gail Howard as Recorder.**

Congratulations and well done!

James Lacefield, PhD, P.Eng, Chair, Catalyst Grant Review Panel
Professor, Depts. of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Medical Biophysics
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