



## **Congratulations to Awardees of the 2022 Fall LRCP Catalyst Research Grant Competition**

The London Regional Cancer Program Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research review panel recently recommended funding for eight research projects submitted to the 2022 Competition. This program supports translational cancer research with potential to attract external funding and to lead to clinical applications that reduce the burden of cancer. We gratefully acknowledge our community fundraisers, generous donors and the diligent efforts of the London Health Sciences Foundation for the support required to offer these Catalyst Grants to our cancer researchers.

The Review Panel has approved funding for the following awards. Please join me in congratulating the successful applicants to the LRCP Catalyst Grants Program for Translational Cancer Research:

**Dr. Anthony Nichols** (Depts of Otolaryngology, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology).

**Co-Applicant: Dr. David Palma** (Dept. of Oncology)

Definitive biomarker validation using patient samples from large randomized controlled trials

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

**Dr. Rod DeKoter** (Depts. of Microbiology & Immunology, Oncology).

Probing the Function of IKZF3 in Multiple Myeloma using Lenalidomide

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

**Dr. Melissa Huynh** (Depts. of Surgery, Oncology).

**Co-Applicant: Dr. Jeremy Burton** (Depts. of Microbiology & Immunology, Surgery, Urology)

Exploring the role of Akkermansia muciniphila in combating the metabolic effects of androgen deprivation therapy in men with metastatic prostate cancer

Amount Funded: \$22,500 (Translational Prostate Cancer Research focus)

**Dr. John Ronald** (Depts of Medical Biophysics, Microbiology & Immunology, Oncology).

**Co-Applicants: Dr. Paula Foster** (Dept. of Medical Biophysics), **Dr. TianDuo Wang** (Dept. of Medical Biophysics)

Prime-and-kill cell-based cancer immunotherapy

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

**Dr. Matt Cecchini** (Depts. of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Oncology).

**Co-PI: Dr. Muriel Brackstone** (Depts. of Surgery, Oncology)

**Co-Applicants: Dr. Ana Lohmann** (Dept. Oncology),

Next generation digital biomarker assessment in breast cancer

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

**Dr. Jeremy Burton** (Depts. of Microbiology & Immunology, Surgery, Urology)

**Co-Applicant: Dr. Saman Maleki** (Depts. of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Medical Biophysics, Oncology)

Analysing the gut microbiome from immunotherapy responder animals with immunomodulatory properties

Amount Funded: \$24,675 (Immuno-oncology Research focus)

**Dr. Chia W Phua** (Depts. of Medicine, Oncology)

**Co-PIs: Drs. Martha Louzada** (Depts. of Medicine, Oncology), **Matthew Nichols** (Dept. of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine)

The impact of the addition of daratumumab to the upfront treatment of transplant-ineligible multiple myeloma patients evaluated through mass spectrometry for both routine monitoring and minimal residual disease detection

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

**Dr. Joy Mangel** (Depts. of Medicine, Oncology)

Assessment of Sarcopenia as a Measure of Frailty in Older Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma

**Co-Applicant: Dr. Chia W. Phua** (Depts. of Medicine, Oncology)

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

We graciously acknowledge the generous support of Breast Cancer Canada, The London Run for Ovarian Cancer, Lexus of London Golf Classic, Myeloma Walk of Champions, The Baker Centre for Pancreatic Cancer, Mr. Keith Samitt 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.

We appreciate the work of our 2021 Catalyst Grants Review Panel Members from the LRCP and Western: **Dr. Chris Pin (Chair of the Review Panel)**, **Dr. Parisa Shooshtari (Scientific Officer)**, and the reviewers: **Drs. Trevor Shepherd, Alison**

**Allan, Eric Winqvist, Caroline Schild-Poulter, Rohann Correa, Saman Maleki, Armen Parsyan, and Sarah Mattonen.**

We are grateful to Gail McConnell (Cancer Research Laboratory Program, LRCP & LAWSON) for providing essential administrative support!

Congratulations and well done!

Dr. Chris Pin, Chair-2022 Catalyst Grant Review Panel  
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