



## **Congratulations to Awardees of the 2023 Fall LRCP Catalyst Research Grant Competition**

The London Regional Cancer Program Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research review panel recently recommended funding for eleven research projects submitted to the 2023 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. Samuel Asfaha** (Depts of Medicine, Pathology & Lab Medicine, Oncology).  
Role of ALOX5+ immune cells in colitis associated cancer  
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Keith Samitt Translational Cancer Research Grant, Undesignated)

**Dr. Richard Kim** (Depts. of Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology, Physiology & Pharmacology, and Oncology)  
Organic Anion Transporter SLC22A7 is a Major Determinant of 5-Flourouracil Disposition  
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Breast Cancer Research Grant)

**Dr. Paula Foster** (Depts. of Medical Biophysics, Oncology).  
**Co-Applicant: Dr. Armen Parsyan** (Depts. of Surgery, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology)  
Development of MPI Lymphography  
Amount Funded: \$24,900 (Translational Cancer Metastasis Research focus)

**Dr. Matthew Hebb** (Depts of Medical Biophysics, Microbiology & Immunology, Oncology).

**Co-Applicants: Dr. Susanne Schmid** (Dept. of Anatomy & Cell Biology), **Dr. John Ronald** (Dept. of Medical Biophysics), **Dr. Eugene Wong** (Dept. of Physics and Astronomy)

Preclinical in vivo evaluation of a novel low energy electrotherapy for glioblastoma  
Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Keith Samitt Translational Cancer Research Grant, Undesignated)

**Dr. Mansour Haeryfar** (Depts. of Microbiology & Immunology, Oncology, Medicine, Surgery).

**Co-Applicants: Nicole Ilayda Wang** (Ph.D. candidate, Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology), **Xuejin (Bella) Ou** (Ph.D. candidate, Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology)

MR1-restricted T cells in ovarian cancer

Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Immuno-oncology Research Grant)

**Dr. Lina Dagnino** (Depts. of Physiology & Pharmacology, Oncology)

Mechanical signalling in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

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

**Dr. John Di Guglielmo** (Depts. of Physiology & Pharmacology, Oncology)

Assessing TGF $\beta$  pathway specificity in PDAC organoid EMT

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

**Dr. Fred Dick** (Depts. of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Oncology)

Targeting epithelial to mesenchymal transition in ovarian cancer

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

**Dr. Eugene Wong** (Depts. of Physics and Astronomy, Oncology).

**Co-Applicants: Dr. Emilie Jaune-Pons** (Baker Centre for Pancreatic Cancer), **Dr. Timothy Nguyen** (Dept. of Oncology)

The role of Cancer Associated Fibroblasts in Pancreatic Cancer Radiation Resistance

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

**Dr. Donna Murrell** (Depts. of Oncology, Medical Biophysics).

**Co-Applicants: Dr. Lucas Mendez** (Dept. of Oncology), **Dr. Douglas Hoover** (Dept. of Oncology), **Dr. Sherif Ramadan** (Dept. of Oncology, radiation oncology resident)

Design, development, and evaluation of a training simulator for gynecological brachytherapy

Amount Funded: \$19,655 (Keith Samitt Translational Cancer Research Grant, Undesignated)

**Dr. Saman Maleki** (Depts. of Oncology, Pathology & Lab Medicine, Medical Biophysics)

**Co-Applicants: Megan M Y Hong** (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)

The effect of mismatch repair deficiency in tumours on dendritic cell activation and function

Amount Funded: \$25,000 (Translational Immuno-oncology Research Grant)

We graciously acknowledge the generous support of Mr. Keith Samitt, Breast Cancer Canada, The London Run for Ovarian Cancer, The Baker Centre for Pancreatic Cancer, 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: **Dr. Chris Pin (Chair of the Review Panel), and the reviewers: Drs. Trevor Shepherd, Alison Allan, Stephen Welch, Tallulah Andrews, Rohann Correa, Rod DeKoter, Matthew Cecchini, and Pencilla Lang.**

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

Congratulations and well done!

Chris Pin Ph.D., Chair-2023 Catalyst Grant Review Panel  
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