

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

The London Regional Cancer Program (LRCP) Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research review panel recently recommended funding for eight research projects submitted to the 2022 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 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 – Departments of Otolaryngology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Oncology
Co-Applicant: Dr. David Palma – Department 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 – Departments of Microbiology and 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 – Departments of Surgery, Oncology
Co-Applicant: Dr. Jeremy Burton – Departments of Microbiology and 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 – Departments of Medical Biophysics, Microbiology and Immunology, Oncology
Co-Applicants: Dr. Paula Foster – Department of Medical Biophysics, Dr. TianDuo Wang - Department of Medical Biophysics
Prime-and-kill cell-based cancer immunotherapy
Amount Funded: \$25,000 - Translational Breast Cancer Research focus

Dr. Matt Cecchini – Departments of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Oncology
Co-PI: Dr. Muriel Brackstone – Departments of Surgery, Oncology
Co-Applicants: Dr. Ana Lohmann – Department of Oncology
Next generation digital biomarker assessment in breast cancer
Amount Funded: \$25,000 – Translational Breast Cancer Research focus

Dr. Jeremy Burton – Departments of Microbiology and Immunology, Surgery, Urology
Co-Applicant: Dr. Saman Maleki – Departments of Pathology and 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 – Departments of Medicine, Oncology

Co-PIs: Drs. Martha Louzada – Departments of Medicine, Oncology, Matthew Nichols – Departments 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 – Departments of Medicine, Oncology

Co-Applicant: Dr. Chia W. Phua – Departments of Medicine, Oncology

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

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 Winquist, 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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