CANCER CONSORTIUM AWARDS $1.34M IN RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Each year, through a highly competitive process, the Fred Hutch/University of Washington Cancer Consortium awards research grants to fuel new scientific pursuits and interdisciplinary collaborations. Awards provide up to $80,000 in direct costs and support innovative proposals which are reviewed by Consortium experts and leaders. This year, a special focus has been placed on projects targeting cross-disciplinary research in health disparities (*), catchment area needs (‡), and early career scientists (^). More than $1.34M in cancer-focused research funding has been awarded to 15 Consortium faculty since April 2019.

2019 Pilot Grant Awardees

Fred Hutch
Rachel Ceballos, PhD * (Cancer Epidemiology, Prevention & Control): Adaptation and evaluation of an in-person and eHealth diet and physical activity program for rural Latino cancer survivors
Eric Chow, MD, MPH ‡ (Hematologic Malignancies): Improving cancer survivorship care delivery: telehealth & lay health educators

University of Washington
Shreeram Akilesh, MD, PhD ‡ (Cancer Basic Biology): T cell mediated killing of kidney cancer in a microphysiological system

2019 Safeway Pilot Grant Awardees

Fred Hutch
Taran Gujral, PhD ‡ (GI Cancer/Prostate Cancer): Wnt signaling pathway in anti-tumor immunity
Salene Jones, PhD ‡ (Cancer, Epidemiology, Prevention & Control): Pilot of precision patient-reported outcomes for clinical trials and clinical care
John Lee, MD, PhD ‡ (Prostate Cancer): Targeting prostate cancer with STEAP1 chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapy
Parth Shah, ParmD, PhD * ‡ (Cancer, Epidemiology, Prevention & Control): The role of community pharmacy in colorectal cancer screening

University of Washington
Anna Halpern, MD ‡ (Hematologic Malignancies): A Phase 2 trial investigating decitabine in combination with Ruxolitinib as a bridge to allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant in patients with accelerated phase myeloproliferative neoplasms
Scott Kennedy, PhD ‡ (Cancer Basic Biology): Accumulation of age-associated cancer-like mutations in normal tissues and the effects of aging interventions
Kathryn Lowry, MD ‡ (Cancer, Epidemiology, Prevention & Control): Utilization of decision analysis to inform design of a clinical trial for management of high-risk breast lesions
David Shechner, PhD ‡ (Cancer Basic Biology): Dissecting the RNA structures that drive nucleolar assembly as novel chemotherapeutic targets

2019 New Investigator Awardees

Fred Hutch
Susan Bullman, PhD * (Pathogen Associated Malignancies): Genomic and functional analysis of intra-tumoral microbiota in colorectal cancer: moving from correlation to causation
Gavin Ha, PhD * (Biostatistics & Computational Biology): Characterizing molecular signatures in advanced prostate cancer using liquid biopsies

Seattle Children’s
Heather Gustafson, PhD * (Cancer Immunology): Innate immune transcriptional regulation as a predictor of patient-specific safety in CAR-T immunotherapy
The Cancer Consortium’s mission is to eliminate cancer through more effective prevention, diagnostics and treatment, and fundamental insights into the biology of the disease. In a time where NIH funding is dwindling, the Cancer Consortium, via the NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (P30 CA015704), provides an important mechanism to stimulate innovative, first-in-kind research that will launch next-generation discoveries.

Congratulations to all of this year’s award recipients!