



September 2013

IUSCC funds 12 shared resource pilot projects

The IU Simon Cancer Center has funded 12 shared resource pilot projects, totaling \$196,669.

The 12 projects, PIs, and the cores used are:

- “Synthesis of Compounds that Inhibit the HPV E6 Protein,” **Elliott Androphy, MD**, Chemical Genomics
- “LAMP-2C Inhibition of Autophagy and Solid Tumor Progression,” **Janice Blum, PhD**, Immunohistochemistry & In Vivo Therapeutics
- “Understanding Sleep Disorders in African American Breast Cancer Survivors: Feasibility and Acceptability of Study Procedures,” **Julie Otte, PhD, RN**, Behavioral and Cancer Control Recruitment Core
- “Analysis of Human Glioblastoma Stem-like Cells by Multi-parametric Flow Cytometry,” **Karen Pollok, PhD**, Angiogenesis, Endothelial & Pro-Angiogenic Cell Core
- “In Vivo Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of the Combination of the PI3K Inhibitor, BKM120, and the Wnt Pathway Inhibitor, LGK974, as Effective Targeted Therapy for Triple-negative Breast Cancer,” **Milan Radovich, PhD**, Clinical Pharmacology Analytical Core & In Vivo Therapeutics
- “Mechanisms of Telomerase Regulation in Normal and Malignant Human Breast Cell Subpopulations,” **David Gilley, PhD**, Tissue Procurement and Distribution & Biological Microscopy
- “Restart of Stalled Replication Fork in Human,” **Suk-Hee Lee, PhD**, Biological Microscopy
- “Vincristine Optimization for Kenyan Children with Cancer,” **Jodi Skiles, MD, MS**, Clinical Pharmacology Analytical Core
- “Systemic Factors Responsible for Cancer and Cancer Therapy-Induced Ryanodine Receptor 1 Remodeling and Muscle Weakness,” **David Waning, PhD**, Bio-Plex
- “MCAK,” **Claire Walczak, PhD**, Chemical Genomics & Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics
- “Cooperation of the Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase, Shp2, and PI3K in FLT3-ITD-Induced Leukemia,” **Rebecca Chan, MD, PhD**, Chemical Genomics & In Vivo Therapeutics & Flow Cytometry
- “Alpha Screen Based High Throughput Screening for Inhibitors of the TG2/fibronectin Interaction,” **Daniela Matei, MD**, Chemical Genomics

A total of 23 proposals, representing the cancer center's [research programs](#), were submitted for funding consideration through this internal pilot funding mechanism. This is the first time that the IUSCC has issued a call for pilot proposals that specifically incorporate one or more shared resources to generate preliminary data that will lead to extramural funding.

The IU Simon Cancer Center shared resource pilot funding program is intended for

research projects that can take advantage of assistance from any of the [shared resources/cores](#) for obtaining preliminary data for a new or new extension of an existing project.

A primary goal of the IU Simon Cancer is to stimulate multi-disciplinary and translational research. The aim of each of the IUSCC shared resources is to provide state-of-the-art shared facilities that support the research of IUSCC members. Thus, this pilot funding mechanism leverages the use of these shared resources to aid in obtaining preliminary data for multi-disciplinary, translational research projects that will ultimately lead to extramural funding.

Based on the interest and popularity of this particular pilot funding mechanism, it is anticipated that another call will be issued this fall for proposals utilizing IUSCC shared resources.

Questions? Contact [Mark R. Kelley](#) or [Crystal Munson](#).



September 2013

News briefs

Cancer Center Support Grant update

The IU Simon Cancer Center recently submitted its Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) to the National Cancer Institute. The CCSG is an important source of funding for the cancer center's [shared facilities](#). This support, along with IU Simon Cancer Center funding, assures that cancer center members have access to the highest quality technology for their research. Next, the cancer center will be reviewed during a site visit on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014.



A Cancer Center Designated by the National Cancer Institute

Re-designed cancer center Web site launches soon

A re-designed IU Simon Cancer Center [Web site](#) will soon launch. The re-designed site focuses on the cancer center's research and education missions, while making it seamless for Web visitors to navigate to IU Health for patient care information.

In late 2012, the cancer center engaged Indiana University Communications to develop a re-designed site. Through a series of stakeholder interviews and an online survey to all of the cancer center's researchers and one to the public, a plan emerged that drove the re-designed site's architecture. Based on those findings, the re-designed site's main navigation points are "research," "patient care," (which takes visitors to IU Health) and "giving."

The research tab features the cancer center's research programs, membership information, shared facilities, funding opportunities, clinical trials, and more.

The homepage features the latest news about our researchers and their accomplishments – accomplishments that lead to better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

The re-designed site makes its debut in a few weeks.





Mark Kelley, PhD (far left), and colleagues **Sandeep Batra**, MD, and Angelo Cardoso, MD, PhD, are recipients of a \$250,000 Hyundai Hope Grant for pediatric cancer research. Their research seeks a new therapeutic strategy to treat T-cell leukemia, namely for children with relapsed acute lymphocytic leukemia or ALL. [Hyundai Hope on Wheels](#) and Indianapolis-area Hyundai dealers presented the award Sept. 26. Also at the presentation, Indianapolis-area children with cancer placed their handprints dipped in colorful paint on white canvases and the researchers' lab coats to commemorate their brave battles.

Josh Nichols earns campus award

Josh Nichols, IT application developer, was a recent distinguished recipient of the 2012-13 IUPUI Gerald L. Bepko Staff Council Spirit Award. The award recognizes Josh's contributions to campus and his positive attitude. Congrats, Josh!

AACR Cancer Progress Report 2013: Continued advances made against cancer, sustained research funding needed

Significant progress has been made against cancer due to the dedicated work of researchers throughout the biomedical research enterprise, according to the American Association for Cancer Research's (AACR) Cancer Progress Report. Still because a growing number of Americans over the age of 65 will live longer, develop cancer, and need treatment in the next 20 years, the AACR warns that if the United States does not increase its investments in the scientific research needed to develop more effective interventions, the increased economic burden will cost lives and harm the economy. [Read more.](#)

Reminders

- **Researchers: Share your news**

Is your research about to be published in a journal? Are you about to present your research at a professional meeting? Have you received national funding for your research? Share your news with [Michael Schug](#), IUSCC communications manager.

- **Funding opportunities**

For the latest funding opportunities, visit [here](#).

Cancer center members in the news

- **Rafat Abonour**, MD, completed his ninth annual Miles for Myeloma cycling tour on Saturday, Sept. 28. This year's 225-mile trek began the day before in Niles, Mich. Through Miles for Myeloma, Dr. Abonour raises awareness and research funds for multiple myeloma, an incurable blood cancer. To date, Dr. Abonour has raised more than \$2 million for multiple myeloma research at the IU Simon Cancer Center.
- **Melissa Kacena**, PhD, has been named an August M. Watanabe Translational Scholar. Under the program, Dr. Kacena will benefit from the mentorship of Tadataka "Tachi" Yamada, MD, past president of the Global Health Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Yamada is the recipient of the [August M. Watanabe Prize](#), a \$100,000 award presented by the IU School of Medicine to a scientist who has made a significant contribution to the field of translational science. A basic scientist, Dr. Kacena's work focuses on improving bone health, including a study on the potential of thrombopoietin to re-grow broken bone with fewer side effects. Drugs currently on the market frequently regrow too much bone -- pinching nerves, inflaming surrounding tissue and inhibiting motion -- and have been linked to an increased risk of developing cancer. Her research suggests the compound, which has been used for the treatment of blood disorders, is unique in its ability to stimulate both osteoblasts, which create bone, and osteoclasts, which destroy bone, reducing unregulated bone growth. The late [August M. Watanabe](#) is an IU School of Medicine alumnus whose illustrious career spanned academia and the pharmaceutical and life sciences industries.
 

Kacena
- **Daniela Matei**, MD, and **Kenneth Nephew**, PhD, are recipients of a V Foundation 2013 Translational Grant for "An Epigenetic Strategy for Restoring Carboplatin Sensitivity in Ovarian Cancer." The grant program strives to bridge the gap between the laboratory and patient bedside, bringing the benefits of new basic-level understandings to patients more quickly and efficiently.
- **Victoria Champion**, PhD, RN, is a recipient of the Henry R. Besch Jr. Promotion of Excellence Award, which is conferred upon an individual who has exhibited unusual distinction in promoting and encouraging the growth of excellence at Indiana University, by facilitating the achievement of scholarly excellence in others, by creating mechanisms at Indiana University that enable others to pursue scholarly excellence, and/or by moving forward an organization unit at Indiana University to achieve an outstanding reputation.

- **Hari Nakshatri**, PhD, **Sunil Badve**, MBBS, MD, and colleagues wrote “Identification of FDA-approved Drugs Targeting Breast Cancer Stem Cells Along with Biomarkers of Sensitivity.” It appeared Aug. 28 in [Scientific Reports](#).
- As a result of multiple, long-range studies by **Rudolph Navari**, MD, PhD, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network has endorsed olanzapine as a first-line therapy to assuage the effects of nausea and vomiting induced by chemotherapy, and its use when nausea and vomiting occur days after treatment. Over a 10-year period, a clinical research team led by Dr. Navari demonstrated the superior effectiveness of olanzapine compared to other approved antiemetics in lessening the debilitating side effects of chemotherapy. Later, Dr. Navari demonstrated the effectiveness of olanzapine to treat nausea and vomiting that occurs some four to five days after chemotherapy. Earlier this year, Dr. Navari received a \$2.1 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to conduct further tests on the effectiveness of olanzapine as a precursor for instituting the treatment as an NCI-recommended therapy.
- **Catherine Mosher**, PhD, will apply nearly \$1 million in recently approved grants to study how a telephone-based treatment process can help ease stress and anxiety issues experienced by advanced-stage lung cancer patients and the family members who care for them.

New grants

G. David Roodman, MD, PhD

“Hypersensitivity of Multiple Myeloma Bone Disease to Vitamin D”

NCI