$1M STTR Grant Opportunity

Please consider applying to a new grant opportunity offering three $333,333 (direct) Programmatic Investment Grants. This new $1,000,000 opportunity is supported by generous donors from the 2014 Hutch Holiday Gala. Each team science award will be divided evenly over three years for collaborative, translational research projects with current or clear plans to begin clinical trials, screenings or guidelines within the next five years.

This month, STTR hosted two coffee hours to answer questions about the grant [LOI deadline: September 25, 2015] and allowed investigators to meet and discuss collaborations and projects. If you have any specific questions about this grant, please email STTRCancer@fredhutch.org and we can connect you with faculty who attended and expressed interest in collaborations.

Grant Road Maps

Do you have a funding strategy for the next 3 years? Has your research taken a new direction and you are uncertain of the possible funding sources available to you? STTR is able to work with you to identify NIH and foundation grant opportunities to help fund your research. We will create a timeline of milestones and deadlines to help you achieve your grant writing goals.

Mouse Model Database

Partnering with Fred Hutch Comparative Medicine Shared Resources, we are compiling a shared list of existing mouse models across the Consortium which is now available on our SharePoint site. The vision is to make research more efficient by: 1) Saving researchers time by doing a quick online search to know what mouse strains are available and 2) Saving money by using a mouse line generated internally vs. shipping mice across the country or ordering from a private company.

If you would like to contribute mouse model information to our password-protected database, please email STTRCancer@fredhutch.org.
Data Entry & Visualization

**STTR Biotool**

TCGA (publicly) as well as clinically annotated data provided by investigators (by permission) is available in Oncoscape to provide a robust platform for exploration and hypothesis generation. Data by type:

- **TCGA** - 6,000 tumor samples
- **Brain** >900 primary brain tumor samples
- **Lung** >700 Stage IV lung cancer samples including Oncoplex data
- **Head & Neck** >100 squamous cell carcinoma banked specimen
- **Colorectal** - 137 samples with OncoPlex testing
- **Prostate** >500 tumors [STTR abstractor] + large volume of historic data

**How is data being stored and provided to faculty?**

Clinical data from Caisis, TCGA, and other data sources are organized into event tables to provide a flexible and extensible structure for referencing patient information. During this data processing, fields are checked for misspellings, inconsistent terminology, and inaccurate or missing data (e.g. post-mortem treatments, synonymous or abbreviated drug names). Molecular profiles are linked through a unique patient/sample barcode and stored in gene-level matrices. Our current data processing pipeline incorporates copy number variation, structural variation, gene fusions, mutations, expression levels, methylation, and protein abundance measures originating from TCGA, UW Oncoplex, and other high-throughput technologies. TCGA datasets are available for anyone to explore within Oncoscape. Now, it is time for the STTR community [you] to begin to ask the research questions and generate new, exciting hypotheses.

*www.Oncoscape.STTRcancer.org*

**Natural Language Processing**

Currently ~65-80% of data elements needed for clinical and translational research are in unstructured, narrative form. STTR is working with CIT Informatics to minimize manual clinical data abstraction across the Consortium. NLP pilots are ongoing to assess the feasibility of automated clinical data extraction.

**Project Focus:** The aim is to automatically extract vital data elements (i.e. histology, TNM staging...etc.) and allow data to be manually verified by abstractors.

**Data Source:** For the pilot, data will be pulled from pathology reports for lung cancer.

Contact Emily Silgard for more information.
2016 Oncology Recognition Day

We Want to Celebrate You

Last year, STTR hosted the first Oncology Recognition Day. On that day, we honored staff from UW Medicine, Fred Hutch and Seattle Cancer Care Alliance who work tirelessly to support the work being conducted at each of these institutions.

Teams came together to share projects they created to improve their work flow, clinical care or work systems.

Process/Systems Improvement Competition

With the support of leadership at all three institutions, we will be hosting a second Oncology Recognition Day and will be announcing another round of our Process/Systems Improvement Awards. It is time to begin to identify opportunities to problem solve, build community and share best practices that may be useful to other groups. Email with details to come fall 2015.

STTR Faculty Retreat

On June 26th, 2015 over 200 STTR members attended our first Faculty Retreat and participated in sessions on immunotherapy, genomics, public health and computational oncology. The day was filled with opportunities for faculty to engage with one another, including a poster session highlighting our 2014 STTR Grant Winners, as well as representatives from Development, Communications and HIDRA. Afternoon breakout sessions included topics such as Jr. Investigators Taking Big Risks, Novel Therapeutics and Computational Oncology: Analysis and Design.

We were honored to have Dr. José Baselga, Physician-in-Chief and Chief Medical Officer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, participate throughout the day and close our event with his keynote address. We are grateful to all who presented and attended this event, thrilled with the new collaborations sparked through the sessions, and excited by the new technologies, services and funding opportunities announced at the retreat.

STTR Faculty Retreat

Chad Toledo discussing his work with Dr. Maciej Mrugala during the Poster Session and coffee break.

Dr. Stan Riddell presenting on the use of engineered CAR-T cells for solid tumors.
CONGRATULATIONS 2015 GRANT WINNERS!

EARLY PHASE CLINICAL RESEARCH SUPPORT ($35,000) AWARDS


A Neoadjuvant Clinical Trial to Assess the Effectiveness of Intense Combinational Targeting of AR Signaling to Eradicate Prostate Carcinoma - Drs. Michael Schweizer and Peter Nelson


TRANSFORMATIVE TEAM ($50,000) AWARDS

Developing TIL Therapy for Localized Urothelial Bladder Cancer - Drs. A. McGarry Houghton, Sylvia Lee, Evan Yu, and Jonathan Wright

Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes and Survival from Oral Cancer - Drs. Chu Chen, Harlan Robins, and Pawadee Lohavincbutr

Interrogating Chemoresistance in Small Cell Lung Cancer through Study of Circulating Tumor Cells - Drs. David MacPherson and Keith Eaton

Bioassay for Pancreas Cancer Circulating Tumor Cells [CTC] - Drs. Sunil Hingorani and Daniel Chiu


ONCOSCAPE BIOSPECIMEN UTILIZATION ($100,000) AWARDS

Small Nuclear RNAs in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Progression - Drs. Robert Bradley, Peggy Porter, and Heidi Dvinge

Integration of a Prognostic Gene Signature and UW Oncoplex Test to Define the Mutational Landscape of Head and Neck Cancer [HNC] with Poor Survival - Drs. Eduardo Mendez, Chu Chen, and Justin Guinney

Mutational Profiles Dictate Immune Responses in NSCLC - Drs. A. McGarry Houghton and Martin McIntosh

Minimally-Invasive Assessments of Tumor Molecular Composition for Precision Diagnostics and Monitoring Treatment Responses - Drs. Peter Nelson, Michael Schweizer, Robert [Bruce] Montgomery, Hamid Bolouri, and Colin Pritchard

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH TEAM MEETING ($12,000) STIPEND

NWBioTrust specimen collection: Colorectal, Head and Neck, and Pancreas

Data abstraction support: Lung, Prostate, and Sarcoma

Rapid autopsy development: Bladder
Advocating for Precision Medicine

In July, STTR leaders, Dr. Eric Holland and Desert Horse-Grant met with Dr. Jo Handelsman, the Associate Director of Science at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to discuss the future of precision medicine, Fred Hutch developments in cancer research, the new biotool, Oncoscape, and ways to reduce the cost of cancer treatments. They were accompanied by Fred Hutch consultant, Jennifer Giffith [Senior Vice President, Petrizzo Group] and Rhonda Curry [Director, Communication and Government Relations, Fred Hutch].

Media Mentions


Congratulations to the phenomenal Doctors and Nurse Practitioners from UW Medicine, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and Fred Hutch who made Seattle Met Magazine’s Top Doctors and Nurses of 2015. Read more > http://www.seattlemet.com/articles/2015/8/4/top-doctors-and-nurses-2015-how-we-made-the-list

Weight loss + vitamin D = Reduced inflammation? A recent study by Dr. Catherine Duggan of the Public Health Sciences Division at Fred Hutch found weight loss plus vitamin D supplementation reduces inflammatory markers related to cancer and chronic disease in overweight postmenopausal women. Read more > http://www.fredhutch.org/en/news/releases/2015/06/weight-loss-plus-vitamin-d-reduces-inflammation.html


Fertility after cancer: are all cancer patients receiving counseling on preserving fertility? Read more > http://bit.ly/1N8Q66f


Ongoing Translational Research Meetings

- **Bladder**: 3rd Thursday, 4pm
- **Colorectal**: 4th Tuesday, 3pm
- **Glioma Working Group**: Quarterly [Next - Sept. 29, 3pm]
- **Head & Neck**: 3rd Monday, 4pm
- **Lung**: 3rd Thursday every other month, 4pm [Next - Nov]
- **Pancreas**: 4th Monday, 5pm
- **Prostate**: Thursdays, 4pm [research meeting], 5pm [lecture]
- **Sarcoma**: TBA - Mid October

Email us at STTRCancer@fredhutch.org for further information.

Join STTR Obliteride Team in 2016

Join us next year! The STTR-HB All Stars continues to grow in number of participants and miles ridden. This year, our team tripled in size with members participating in the Kid’s Ride, 10-mile and 50-mile races. The team included members of STTR, Human Biology Division and their family and friends. In order to reach [and exceed] their fundraising goals, team members conducted multiple bake sales, a barbeque, a raffle with items donated from Patagonia and advertised using social media outlets. We’ve had a blast and are already looking forward to the fun next year will bring.

Questions? Email us at STTRCancer@fredhutch.org.