ANNOUNCING 2017 STTR GRANT WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 STTR grants! We received many high quality proposals which spanned several exciting new technologies and precision medicine approaches. While we unfortunately cannot fund all proposals, we will provide suggestions for publicly available granting mechanisms for unfunded projects. In addition, please see the second page for more ways we can help get your research funded.

Precision Medicine Awards - $100K

LEUKEMIA: Expression of CD33ΔE2 in Human Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Correlation with CD33ΔE2/CD3-directed Bispecific Antibody-induced Cytotoxicity
Drs. Roland Walter and Brent Wood

BLADDER: DNA repair deficiency in localized and metastatic bladder cancer
Drs. Bruce Montgomery and Andrew Hsieh

OVARY: Identification of Subtype-specific Therapeutic Targets in Ovarian Cancer through High-throughput Small Interference RNA (siRNA) Screens with Characterized Patient-derived Tumor Cells
Drs. Chris Kemp, Liz Swisher, and Barbara Goff

PROSTATE: Combinatorial Drug Therapy to Exploit Precision Diagnostics
Drs. Pete Nelson, Eva Corey, and Ruth Etzioni

BREAST: Rapid propagation of tumor organoids from image guided breast biopsies
Drs. Kevin Cheung, Savannah Partridge, Habib Rhabar, and Peggy Porter

CCSG Early Phase Clinical Research Support Award - $35K

PROSTATE: Phase I Trial of Haploidentical iC9 Donor Lymphocyte Immunotherapy to Treat Persistence or Relapse of Hematologic Malignancies After Matched Related or Unrelated Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation
Dr. Tia Higano

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In response to the needs of our members, STTR has been working with stakeholders across the cancer consortium to map out and implement a data flow pipeline that will allow for the merging of clinical, molecular, specimen and lab data for downstream use. Our goal is to improve the ability of faculty to conduct precision medicine research by identifying tools and processes which will simplify data management and improve data standardization.

LabMatrix and REDCap are currently being explored as tools to streamline the merging of clinical data with biospecimen–associated and molecular/laboratory data. We recommend these tools for data and specimen management which will easily work with both upstream clinical data and downstream analysis tools.

Data Quality & Standardization

To make the data pipeline run as efficiently as possible, we are also working to curate and standardize data. STTR is working CDS to build REDCap templates which will help standardize fields and organize data for easy use by downstream analysis tools, such as Oncoscape. We are working CIT and HDC to evaluate a biospecimen management tool, which involves establishing standardized field names and evaluating best practices in specimen management. If you are interested in learning more about this work, please contact us at STTRCancer@fredhutch.org.
Casis Clinical Data Update

Death Date Feeds are Live

As of June 30th, CasisMAIN and CasisGU began receiving a new death date feed via HIDRA from Epic Clarity/ADT [Admit Transfer Discharge clinical feed]. Updates in Casis run twice weekly. The initial mass update resulted in death information for approximately 33K patients.

Data Visualization in Tableau

Finding patterns or outliers in clinical data can be a difficult task. Combing through thousands of rows of multi-dimensional patient data can yield some insights, however it is often more useful to take a step back and see the data in aggregate form. Tableau, a popular analytics tool, provides a self-service platform with a focus on in-depth data visualization. Tableau allows users to easily discover patterns, inconsistencies, and outliers in their data.

HDC partnered with the STTR Lung program to a visualization of clinical data residing in Casis. The group was interested in seeing many components of their data clinical data including age at diagnosis, tumor mutation status, smoking status, etc. After data cleaning process, HDC was able to create several visualizations quickly and efficiently.

Researchers can now view, filter, and drill down within the workbook. HDC built out the initial framework, but the goal is for the researchers to have control over how they view the data and have the ability to do analysis without outside assistance.

This project has laid the foundation for other groups to build similar interfaces. If you are interested in viewing Casis data in this way, please contact us at STTRCancer@fredhutch.org.
New NWBT Cost Structure Announced!

Over the last 12 months, the STTR team has been negotiating with the NW BioTrust to lower the prices of their biospecimen collection services. The purpose was to lower costs to researchers through an initial subsidization that would lower costs and increase utilization. This program is designed to make it easier for researchers to get access to the specimens most appropriate and useful for their research.

STTR Faculty Retreat - October, 12th

We are excited to present the 2017 STTR Retreat on Biospecimen Management being held on Tues. Oct. 12, 2017 at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center. This retreat only occurs once every other year and brings together STTR members to discuss the future of cancer research across our institutions and in the broader Seattle community. In response to the many requests from members of the research community, we will be focusing this event on best practices in biospecimen collection, processing, storage and management. Our goal to provide a strong foundation on which to build the future of precision medicine.

Join us this fall to weigh in on best practices and participate in developing new standards for biospecimen research.

RSVP Now!
ONCOSCAPE UPDATE

Oncoscape is a collaborative platform and community that unites the clinical, genetic and computational fields in an effort to advance the understanding of cancer biology and improve patient care. [https://oncoscape.sttrcancer.org](https://oncoscape.sttrcancer.org)

Launch Party

On February 16th Oncoscape celebrated its official launch. Attendees were encouraged to try hands on demos, meet the developers, submit feature requests and mingle with other translational researchers. During the party attendees viewed a demonstration led by Dr. Eric Holland utilizing the Markers + Patients tool to categorize glioma clusters. By incorporating the color options to visually separate cohorts, he was able to quickly compare different clinical factors such as survival, tumor grade and age. Dr. Holland also showcased how to connect patient tumors to associated genes using the edges selection, quickly revealing patterns in mutation or copy number variation. Couldn’t make it? Watch the demo [here](https://oncoscape.sttrcancer.org).

“[The Oncoscape user interface is so intuitive and transparent that I kept asking questions about patterns in the data instead of about the tool itself. When scientists are free to focus on discovery instead of tool wrangling, you’ve built outstanding software. Congrats to the Oncoscape team.]

~Elizabeth Nelson, PhD

In Print

In a [BioMed Central article](https://oncoscape.sttrcancer.org), Dr. Cimino explains, “Working in close collaboration with Dr. Holland, we recently used Oncoscape as a platform to visualize gliomas according to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) classification scheme, which is the standard classification by which brain tumors are diagnosed. Importantly, we were able to go beyond standard WHO classifications, and derive a new molecular classification scheme based on relatively few genetic markers that predicted clinical outcome [see Figure 6 for a visual summary in link below]. We further validated the prognostic utility of this molecular classification in a large independent cohort of glioblastomas. This classification system has the potential basis to be incorporated into routine clinical practice, with the hopes that it would improve the quality of life of an individual patient with brain cancer through accurate diagnostics and risk-stratification.” Link to the blog post [here](https://oncoscape.sttrcancer.org).
Official National Data Portal for SARC

This March Oncoscape became the official national data portal for Sarcoma Alliance for Research Through Collaboration (SARC). SARC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and support of clinical trial research for the prevention, treatment and cure of sarcomas. To better support the sharing and exploration of Sarcoma data the STTR will migrate and host all GEO datasets from their existing website into Oncoscape. This project is projected to be the first of a three phase initiative. The later phases of the initiative include the development of custom visualizations and/or data transformations and finally integration with the Broad Institutes Fire Cloud platform. The end goal will provide researchers with easy access to many high content datasets and resources for understanding and treating Sarcomas.

Revamp of HICOR IQ

Leveraging the flexibility of Oncoscape’s platform the team was able to deliver a quick turn around on a new version of HICOR-IQ for their yearly conference. HICOR IQ is a cancer registry-health insurance claims linked database that offers updated reporting on quality of care and cost trends. To derive these measures, HICOR links enrollment and claims files from health insurance plans in Washington State with cancer registry records from the Cancer Surveillance System and the Washington State Cancer Registry. The ultimate goal of HICOR-IQ to to provide payers, researcher and clinicians with better information on what matters in cancer care: quality and cost. To learn more or to register visit:

https://hicoriq.org

Have additional feedback or questions? Please email us at: contact@oncoscape.org
NEW RESOURCES FROM STTR

Mouse Methylation Arrays available to order Now

480 Infinium Mouse Methylation Arrays will be available at beginning in early 2018. STTR has pre-ordered chips from Illumina at their consortium rates ($150 per chip) to offer to our investigators. Reserve yours before stock runs out!

If you are interested in purchasing chips for your research, please contact STTRCancer@fredhutch.org.

Macrophage Interest Group

STTR has organized a monthly working group bringing together anyone interested in macrophages. The goal of the meeting is to provide investigators an opportunity talk about their research projects, develop new collaborations based on local expertise, and discuss grant opportunities as they arise. If you would like to be added to our meeting distribution list, click here.

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. To request a road map, please click here.