New Funding $$

1. Dr. Rafi Fridman, along with colleagues Drs. Daniel Bonfil (Urology) and Dongping Shi (Pathology) received a new three year grant from the Department of Defense, Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, for their proposal titled "Targeting Discoidin Domain Receptors in Prostate Cancer."

2. Dr. Jian Wang with colleague Dr. Todd Leff received a new one year award from the Michigan Diabetes Research Center for his proposal titled "Regulation of glycine metabolism in diabetes."

3. Dr. Alexander Gow received a new three year grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) for his proposal titled "Neurodegeneration associated with metabolic stress in oligodendrocytes."

Accolades and Newsworthy Notes

1. Under the mentorship of Dr. Gali Hillman, our Cancer Biology graduate student, Ms. Lisa Abernathy received the First Place Wayne State University Graduate School Award given at the WSU graduate exhibition on March 2, 2015.

2. Our Program Member, Dr. Melissa Runge-Morris is working toward a healthier Detroit

"The main idea behind CURES is for researchers and community partners to work together for a healthier Detroit," said Dr. Runge-Morris. The CURES Center facilitates the development of transdisciplinary research teams by supporting an Administrative Core, a Community Outreach and Engagement Core, a Career Development Program, a Pilot Project Program, and two state-of-the-art Facility Cores. Our Program Member, Melissa Runge-Morris, M.D., (director of IEHS and CURES and professor of Medicine in the Department of Oncology at Karmanos and WSU School of Medicine (WSU SOM)), along with colleague Bengt Ametz, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., MScEpi, (deputy director of IEHS and professor in the department of family medicine) are leading the CURES Center. Within WSU’s Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (IEHS), the "Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors (CURES)" is focusing on understanding how exposures to chemical and non-chemical stressors prevalent in urban, post-industrialized environments like Detroit, impact human health. "As environmental health scientists, our whole goal is disease prevention," said Melissa Runge-Morris, M.D. These cores work together to promote translational, environmental health sciences research and allow scientists to examine gene environment interactions that are precursors to environmentally-linked disease.


3. Wayne State has released a video of Dr. Ivory Dean, a recent graduate of our Cancer Biology Program and who mentored under Drs. Shijie Sheng and Margarida Bernardo.


4. Just before semester break, Wayne State University announced these awards to our members:
   (Dr. Sheng noted all awards and recipients at our November 2014 Program meeting)

   2014 College Teaching Awards:
   Kezhong Zhang, Ph.D. - Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics
   Sokol Todi, Ph.D. - Pharmacology
   Judith Abrams, Ph.D. - Oncology
   Ulka Vaishampayan, M.D., - Oncology

   RESEARCH EXCELLENCE – Basic Science
   Izabela Podgorski, Ph.D., - Pharmacology

   2014 Heroes of Breast Cancer Award
   Dr. Karin List is named one of 12 inspirational individuals and organizations to receive Karmanos Cancer Institute's 2014 Heroes of Breast Cancer Awards

Recent National and International presentations, abstracts and posters

2nd Windsor Biennial Cancer Research Conference, Windsor, Ontario. November 22, 2014; presentation Authors Yuning Hou, Xiaoqing Guan, Zhe Yang, Fei Sun and Chunying Li
Title: Functional CFTR suppresses lung cancer tumorigenesis and progression via modulating EGFR signaling.

249th ACS National Meeting and Exposition, Denver, CO, 2015
Authors Haipeng Liu and Weidong Zhang
Title: Targeting lymph node for immune modulation

Submitted: United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology Conference, Boston, MA. March 2015
Authors Baraa Alosh, Sumi V Thomas, Michele L Cote, Sudeshna Bandyopadhyay, Haleema Saeed, Gregory Dyson, Aliccia Bollig-Fisher, Robert T Morris, Adnan R Munkarah and Rouba Ali-Fehmi
Title: Discriminating uterine serous carcinoma from uterine high grade endometroid carcinoma by whole genome expression analysis

Philadelphia, April 18-22, 2015
Authors: Diego Sbrissa, Louie Semaan, Li Yanfeng, Assia Shisheva, Sreenivasa R. Chinni
Title: Phosphatidylinositol 4-Kinase type IIIa (PI4KA) expression in prostate cancer

Presented at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology Conference, Boston, MA, March 24, 2015 at 1 PM
Authors: Suzanne M Jacques, Seema Sethi, William Kupsky and Faisal Qureshi
Title: Acute thymic involution in unexplained third trimester stillbirth: frequency, grade, and correlation with neuropathological injury.

And published here: Jacques S, Kupsky WJ, Qureshi F

Hot off the Press – SELECTION OF PUBLICATIONS

A new Chapter from Dr. Lavasani in collaboration with Dr. Shields (MI)

In Press collaborative work from Drs. Karin List and J Boerner (MT)

Submitted and under review
Abdo J. Najy, Gregory Dyson, Bhanu P. Jena, Chen-Yong Lin, Hyeong-Reh Choi Kim
"Matriptase Activation and Shedding through PDGF D-mediated Extracellular Acidosis” Revised manuscript submitted (minor revision) to American Journal of Physiology-Cell Physiology

Chunying Li
Deregulated Chemokine Signaling in Cystic Fibrosis Airway Inflammation: A Potential Therapeutic Target (invited thematic review) Current Drug Targets (Special Issue: Emerging Molecular Targets for the Treatment of Cystic Fibrosis) Collaborators and affiliation: Zhe Yang (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, WSU); Fei Sun (Physiology, WSU)

Abstract forthcoming…
Zhang K.
Endoplasmic reticulum stress response and transcriptional reprogramming

…Our feline friends are helping us to understand T-cell response in the tumor microenvironment

Gibson HM, Veenstra J, Jones RF, Vaishampayan UN, Sauerbrey M, Bepler G, Lum LG, Reyes JD, Weise A, Wei WZ.
…and more studies with a focus on vaccine development and inflammation


Reply to previous work in Hum Reprod Update 2015


….and a number of clinical studies reaching our patients


Gynecol Oncol. 2015 Feb 10. The prognostic significance of histologic type in early stage cervical cancer - A multi-institutional study. PMID: 25677061

Impact of adjuvant chemotherapy and pelvic radiation on pattern of recurrence and outcome in stage I non-invasive uterine papillary serous carcinoma. A multi-institution study. Gynecol Oncol. 2015 Jan 29. PMID: 25641568

Lee HK, Finniss S, Cazacu S, Xiang C, Poisson LM, Blumberg PM, Brodie C
RasGRP3 regulates the migration of glioma cells via interaction with Arp3. Oncotarget. 2015 Jan 30;6(3):1850-64. PMID: 25682201


Bhatt K, Wei Q, Pabla N, Dong G, Mi QS, Liang M, Mei C, Dong Z

Zhou L, Shi YL, Li K, Hamzavi I, Gao TW, Huggins RH, Lim HW, Mi QS
Increased circulating Th17 cells and elevated serum levels of TGF-beta and IL-21 are correlated with human non-segmental vitiligo development. Pigment Cell Melanoma Res. 2015 Jan 21. PMID: 25604047


Farooqi AA, Sarkar FH
Overview on the complexity of androgen receptor-targeted therapy for prostate cancer. Cancer Cell Int. 2015 Feb 4;15:7. PMID: 25705125

...and Streptococcus participates in our studies

Rowe HM, Hanson BR, Runft DL, Lin Q, Firestone SM, Neely MN
Modification of the CpsA Protein Reveals a Role in Alteration of the Streptococcus agalactiae Cell Envelope. Infect Immun. 2015 Apr;83(4):1497-506. PMID: 25644003

Mondal PK, Liao G, Mondal MA, Guo Z

...Dr. Faz Sarkar again offers us perspectives on the use of nutraceuticals and the emerging field of naturopathy

Ahmad A, Ginnebaugh KR, Li Y, Padhye SB, Sarkar F
...and two papers offer educational perspectives

**Chandrasekar PH**  
**PMID:** 25632009

**Hendrickson TL**  
**Integrating responsible conduct of research education into undergraduate biochemistry and molecular biology laboratory curricula.** Biochem Mol Biol Educ. 2015 Feb 25.  
**PMID:** 25727192

... and a new case letter with Dr. Deol as senior author along with our resident Dr. Modi – (nice mentorship Dr. Deol!).

**Modi D, Mamdani H, Deol A**  
**PMID:** 25437127

**Comment in Cell Cycle. 2014 and the paper**  
**Lubanska D, Porter LA.**  
**Comment on The atypical cell cycle regulator Spy1 suppresses differentiation of the neuroblastoma stem cell population.** Oncoscience. 2014.  
**PMID:** 25486555

**Lubanska D, Porter LA**  
**Oncoscience. 2014 May 6;1(5):336-48.**  
**PMID:** 25594028

The atypical cell cycle regulator Spy1 suppresses differentiation of the neuroblastoma stem cell population.

...and Cancer Warriors across our campus are working to understand tumor biology and its microenvironment

**Diedrich J, Gusky HC, Podgorski I**  
**Adipose tissue dysfunction and its effects on tumor metabolism.** Horm Mol Clin Investig. 2015 Jan 1;21(1):17-41.  
**PMID:** 25781550

**PMID:** 25366163

**PMID:** 25551360

**Proteomics analysis of rough endoplasmic reticulum in pancreatic beta cells.** Proteomics. 2014 Dec 24. [Epub ahead of print]  
**PMID:** 25546123
**Ubiquitin-binding site 2 of ataxin-3 prevents its proteasomal degradation by interacting with Rad23.** Nat Commun. 2014 Aug 21;5:4638. PMID: 25144244

Ristic G, Tsou WL, Todi SV

Sekhri P, Tao T, Kaplan F, Zhang XD
**Characterization of amino acid residues within the N-terminal region of Ubc9 that play a role in Ubc9 nuclear localization.** Biochem Biophys Res Commun. 2015 Jan 27. [Epub ahead of print]. PMID: 25637535

**Chinni S**, Powell K, Louie S, Conley-LaComb MK, Asangani I, Ginsburg KB, Yi-Mi W, Williams JL, Squire JA, Maddipati K, Cher ML