

Cancer Biology Research Pilot Awards

The Cancer Biology Research (CBR) pilot awards are designed to utilize tissue banks of cancerous and normal tissues at MU and WVU for the genomic study of cancers from Appalachian patients. Applicants can use a CBR pilot grant to study mechanisms of cancer development, the role of the epigenetic modifications in cancer development, and mechanisms of cancer drug action. Projects can utilize these tissue banks to investigate cancer biology in the Appalachian population, along with available human cancer cell lines. Studies also have the potential to identify new targets for cancer chemotherapeutic agents. The program is Co-directed by Dr. Lori Hazlehurst (WVU), Dr. Piyali Dasgupta (MU), and Dr. Donald Primerano (Genomics Core Director).

WV-INBRE provides up to \$120,000 each year to fund two-year CBR pilot awards of a maximum of \$30,000 per award each year. Applicants must use the most recent NIH PHS 398 forms and complete all sections using the PHS 398 instructions. As with other developmental awards, each applicant is paired with a mentor to help application and project development. Mentors are selected by Drs. Hazlehurst and Dasgupta in concert with the Mentoring Coordinator, Dr. Drew Shiemke (WVU). Each project investigator must submit a progress report at the end of the award documenting publications, presentations, progress toward each aim and student involvement. Requests for Proposals are released as needed to fulfill the number of available awards.

2019 Awards

Recipient	Institution	Project Title	Award
Dr. Ruhul Amin	Marshall University	Genetic profiling of HNC cell lines resistant to apoptosis induced by EGFR and P13K co-targeting	\$30,000
Dr. Steven M. Frisch	West Virginia University	Grainyhead-like-2 molecular and tumor biology	\$30,000
Dr. Sarah L. Miles	Marshall University	Defining molecular mechanisms of paraneoplastic uveal melanocytic proliferation	\$30,000
Dr. Vincent E. Sollars	Marshall University	Preventing Molecular Evolution in Cancer by Inhibition of HSP90	\$30,000
Dr. Scott Weed	West Virginia University	Novel Drivers of Smoking-associated Head and Neck Cancer	\$30,000
Dr. Melinda Varney	Marshall University	Genetic- and obesity-induced chronic inflammation in hematologic malignancies	\$30,000

2020 Awards

Recipient	Institution	Project Title	Award
Dr. Jeremy McAleer	Marshall University	Exploring the role of GPR68 in head and neck carcinogenesis and treatment	\$30,000
Dr. Nalini Santanam	Marshall University	Role of Fusin axis in endometriosis-associated cancers	\$30,000