

Pilot Studies in Translational Research Awarded to Six Groups

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Pilot Studies in translational research were awarded to 6 groups of faculty researchers from Buffalo Translational Consortium institutions. The awards, totaling ~\$200,000, were made possible by broad-based contributions from the following offices:

- Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences
- Office of the Vice President for Research
- Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- Dean, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Dean, School of Dental Medicine
- Dean, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Dean, School of Public Health and Health Professions
- Dean, School of Nursing

A total of 51 applications were received and underwent a rigorous 2-tiered review process. The first round of scientific review was coordinated by Dr. Kenneth Tramosch, Associate Vice President for Research, who convened 6 expert review panels. The [Pilot Studies Oversight Committee](#), co chaired by Drs. Steven Fliesler and Leonard Epstein conducted a second level of review and made final decisions on funding (committee members with proposals under consideration did not participate). An important review criterion was that the pilot awards will lead to larger extramural awards to grow our portfolio of translational research.

The following 6 proposals were awarded:

Biomarkers for detection of treatment response and disease recurrence in pancreatic cancer

- Robert Straubinger PhD, Jun Qu PhD, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Wen Wee Ma MBBS, Department of Medicine, Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- Elizabeth Repasky PhD, Department of Immunology, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Senescence as a stimulus for inflammation

- Thomas Cimato MD PhD, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Andrei Gudkov PhD Dsci, Department of Cell Stress Biology, Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- Paul Wallace PhD, Department of Flow and Image Cytometry, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Vibration powered leadless cardiac pacemaker

- Amin Karami PhD, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, UB School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Vijay Iyer MD, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Human fibrotic microtissue chips for screening of anti-fibrotic therapies

- Ruogang Zhao PhD, Stelios Andreadis PhD, Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Use of cardiac MRI and tissue characterization to identify the morphology of myocardial scar and high-risk peri-infarct region

- Umesh Sharma MD PhD, John Canty MD, Gen Suzuki MD PhD, Department of Medicine, School

of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

- Leslie Ying PhD, Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Expression-based biomarkers in cystic fibrosis

- James Jarvis MD, Drucy Borowitz MD, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Yijun Sun PhD, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Pilot Studies award winners will present their work at the Clinical and Translational Research Colloquium to be held in 2015 at the Clinical and Translational Research Center.

Click this link for [past colloquia](#).

