

“The search for static security – in the law and elsewhere – is misguided. The fact is security can only be achieved through constant change, adapting old ideas that have outlived their usefulness to current facts.”

- Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

For those of us in our academic community actively engaged in research, we are well aware of how competitive, and indeed brutal, the operational funding environment is currently.

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Janusz Rak** who was successful in the most recent CIHR Operating Grant competition held last Fall.

Janusz currently holds the Jack Cole Chair in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. Originally from Poland, Janusz holds both an MD and PhD degree. He was recruited to the MCH and McGill in 2006 and was appointed a Full Professor in our Department in 2011. A bench researcher, Janusz's work focuses on basic mechanisms of tumour spread. Indeed Janusz is responsible for the discovery of oncosomes, which are discrete vesicles of cancer inducing proteins that are released by a tumour cell and can spread to, and be taken up, by a normal cell. This discovery was noted by Quebec Science as one of the top ten discoveries of 2008 and holds the potential for offering additional therapeutic avenues for more effective treatment of these often devastating disorders.

Janusz's current successful grant application is for 5 years at a funding level in excess of \$700,000. It looks at coagulation factors as effectors of tumour dormancy and potential therapeutic targets in a mice animal model of brain tumours. This is based on the observation that production of tissue factor activates both inflammation and blood vessel growth (ie angiogenesis) around the tumour which can induce even further DNA mutations. It is these mutations that lie at the root of a cancer cell's aberrant processes.

In addition to his bench research, Janusz is an active member of our research community and is currently responsible for the largely thankless organization of the weekly Research Institute seminars held most every Monday at noon.

In addition to Janusz, other members of our MCH community successful in the recent CIHR competition include Annette Majnemer as PI (School of Physical and Occupational Therapy) and Aimee Ryan was successful as a Co-PI in a Program Grant

Please join me in congratulating all of these individuals on their recent personal success in a highly competitive environment.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

ADDENDUM:

Hi Everyone

In last week's Departmental Acknowledgment I omitted an important local success.

Pia Wintermark was also successful in the recent CIHR operating grant competition as a co-PI together with Pierre Lachapelle.

My apologies for this oversight. Entirely "my bad" as the kids say.

Regards

Michael