ANNUAL REPORT
2017 April – 2018 March

McGill Centre for Translational Research in Cancer (MCTRC)

Submitted by Gerald Batist, Director
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ABOUT THE MCGILL CENTRE FOR
TRANSATIONAL RESEARCH IN CANCER (MCTRC)

With the increasing need for novel cancer diagnostics and therapeutics, the translation of scientific knowledge from "bench to bedside" became ever more important. The McGill Centre for Translational Research in Cancer (MCTRC) was established in 1996 in efforts to promote the translation of the laboratory and clinical research data into real health improvements of cancer patients.

Based at the Segal Cancer Centre and the Lady Davis Research Institute of the Jewish General Hospital, the Centre brings together fundamental scientists and clinicians from across Quebec to generate novel approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The Centre's primary objectives are to foster collaborations among scientists from different areas of cancer research and to provide support and resources necessary for the laboratory discoveries to have real impact on patient care.

The MCTRC researchers are grouped into seven research themes based on their expertise, covering a large spectrum ranging from biochemistry & drug designing, immunotherapies to artificial intelligence & computer science applied to diagnostic methods.

In addition to fostering multidisciplinary and multi-institutional collaborations among researchers, the Centre provides access to 8 Core Facilities equipped with state-of-art technologies, thus enabling innovative discoveries to be made. The technologies offered include flow cytometry, cell imaging and proteomics services, to name a few.

The Centre also helps create strategic partnerships with governmental organizations, biotech companies and pharmaceutical industry. Among these diverse partners are Exactis and Q-CROC whose main mission is to make innovative therapies more accessible to patients in need.

In line with our main values on innovation, new knowledge generation and rapid translation of discoveries from lab to clinic, the MCTRC researchers publish an average of 150 papers every year in different aspects of cancer research and have more than 80 ongoing clinical trials led by our medical doctors. The current report outlines the achievements of the MCTRC members for the period 2017 April – 2018 March.
GOVERNANCE

**Director**

Gerald Batist  
MDCM, C.M., C.Q., FRCP (C), FACP, FCAHS

Dr. Gerald Batist is former Chair of the McGill University Department of Oncology and Director of the McGill Centre for Translational Research in Cancer. A major award from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation led to the expansion of the Centre and its integration into the Segal Cancer Centre at the Jewish General Hospital, which he also directs.

As a clinician-scientist trained in medical oncology and molecular pharmacology, Dr. Batist’s work, both in his lab and clinical research focuses on therapeutic resistance. This includes large consortia that run large-scale biopsy-based clinical trials to identify novel mechanisms of resistance to specific drugs. In 2014 he co-led a successful application that resulted in the establishment of the Canadian National Centre of Excellence in Personalized Medicine, Exactis Innovations. The core feature is a program to build a massive bio bank and database linked to a prospective longitudinal registry of cancer patients followed throughout the trajectory of their illness, a project called 'Personalize My Treatment'. In 2016, Dr Batist was appointed Member of the Order of Canada and Knight of the National Order of Quebec.

**Administrative Assistant**

Angela Fragomene

**Research Coordinator**

Miriam S. Dutra

**Advisory Board**

We are currently in the process of reconstructing the advisory board that can provide insight and expertise on the Centre’s activities.
I. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Publications
Members of the MCTRC published a total of 132 articles during the reporting period. Together, the publications cover a wide range of topics that involves various types of cancer. Among these topics are cancer prevention and screening, diagnosis, tumor biology and clinical trial results. For a complete list of the publications, please refer to the Appendix.

Papers of the month
The Lady Davis Institute (LDI) selects a paper each month from recently published articles of the researchers at the institute to highlight the significant contribution the findings made to the understanding and/or treatment of a disease.
(For more information: http://www.ladydavis.ca/en/papermonth)

This year, three articles of the MCTRC members were choosen:

- September 2017

- November 2017

- December 2017
  Knecht H, Johnson NA, Haliotis T, Lichtensztejn D, Mai S. Disruption of direct 3D telomere–TRF2 interaction through two molecularly disparate mechanisms is a hallmark of primary Hodgkin and Reed-Sternberg cells. *Laboratory Investigation*. 2017;97(7):772-781.
Grants

Our researchers received a total of 37 grants during the reporting period, roughly amounting to more than 34 million dollars in total. The projects supported by these grants span from investigating molecular mechanisms of various types of cancer in order to develop novel therapeutic targets, developing and validating more effective and less invasive diagnostic tools, to optimizing existing treatments for better clinical outcomes, and providing support for Segal Cancer Proteomics Centre, one of the most recent core facilities of the MCTRC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Funding Agency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>2018-2023</td>
<td>Investigating nPABP, a putative neural translational repressor</td>
<td>Marc Fabian</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$ 156,825/y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2020</td>
<td>Bioactive 3D scaffolds: innovative substrates for cancer drugs screening/discovery and personalized cancer therapy</td>
<td>Ivan Topisirovic</td>
<td>TransMedTech</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2020</td>
<td>The role of epitranscriptome and translational dysregulation in cancer</td>
<td>Ivan Topisirovic</td>
<td>CIHR/ISF/IDRC</td>
<td>$ 583,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>Modeling gene expression trajectories in the human developing brain: applications to pediatric brain tumors</td>
<td>Claudia Kleinman</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$ 753,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>Tackling Childhood Brain Cancer at the root to improve survival and quality of life</td>
<td>Claudia Kleinman</td>
<td>Genome Canada</td>
<td>$ 12,997,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>Novel biophotonic tools for understanding breast cancer metastasis signaling</td>
<td>Claudia Kleinman</td>
<td>CCSRI</td>
<td>$ 196,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>Characterization of the immunosuppressive local microenvironment and therapeutic targets in Glioblastoma</td>
<td>Siham Sabri</td>
<td>CRS</td>
<td>$ 120,000/2y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2021</td>
<td>Validation of highly potent substituted phenyl alkylureas as antipsoriatic agents</td>
<td>Rene Gaudreault</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$ 160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>COSMET - COllecting, analyzing, and screening Skin MElanoma for best combination Therapy</td>
<td>Alan Spatz</td>
<td>ICRF</td>
<td>$ 150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Glycomimetics as cancer vaccines</td>
<td>Uri Saragovi</td>
<td>GlycoNet NCE-CIHR</td>
<td>$ 250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2020</td>
<td>Targeting tyrosine kinase signalling networks to reverse STAT family–driven breast cancer immune suppression</td>
<td>Ursini-Siegel</td>
<td>CCSRI</td>
<td>$ 326,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Project title</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>Funding Agency</td>
<td>Amount</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>PARP3 inhibitors to improve the treatment of metastatic breast cancer</td>
<td>Lawrence Panasci</td>
<td>CRS</td>
<td>$60,000/y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Estimating the harms and benefits of cervical cancer screening</td>
<td>Walter Gotlieb</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$26,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>miRNA in ovarian cancer</td>
<td>Walter Gotlieb</td>
<td>Duchaine Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>Direct inhibition of mRNA translation for treatment of pancreatic cancer</td>
<td>Michael Pollak</td>
<td>CCSRI</td>
<td>$196,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Investigating the effect of IM188 on anti-tumour immunity</td>
<td>Michael Pollak</td>
<td>ImmunoMet Therapeutics Inc</td>
<td>$28,468 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2023</td>
<td>Targeting the Mnk/eIF4E axis in the tumor microenvironment of pregnancy associated breast cancers</td>
<td>Wilson Miller</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Liquid biopsies for breast cancer diagnosis</td>
<td>William Foulks</td>
<td>Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation</td>
<td>$130,000/y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Budget alloué dans le cadre du projet FRQS-Réseau de recherche sur le cancer - Axe de recherche et de banques de tissus et données en cancers solides (BTD)</td>
<td>William Foulks</td>
<td>FRQS</td>
<td>$30,000/y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2023</td>
<td>Modeling gene expression trajectories in the human developing brain: applications to pediatric brain tumors</td>
<td>Celia Greenwood</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$400,000/5y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>KDM5C mutations as determinants of sex-dependent therapy in renal cell carcinoma</td>
<td>Celia Greenwood</td>
<td>CRS</td>
<td>$120,000/2y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2023</td>
<td>Optimizing immunotherapy for high-risk lymphoma</td>
<td>Nathalie Johnson</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$525,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>Optimizing immunotherapy for high-risk adolescent and young adult lymphomas</td>
<td>Nathalie Johnson</td>
<td>CCSRI</td>
<td>$1,208,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2020</td>
<td>Cold Plasma Therapy as adjuvant to radiotherapy for breast cancer treatment</td>
<td>Tierry Muanza</td>
<td>MEDTEQ</td>
<td>$462,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Project title</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>Funding Agency</td>
<td>Amount</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-2021</td>
<td>Request for Proposal Neuro-Oncology Educational Course in The Developing World</td>
<td>Tierry Muanza</td>
<td>Society of Neuro-Oncology</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>Regulation of DNA double-strand break repair pathways in multiple myeloma</td>
<td>Alexander Orthwein</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$170,595/y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>Immunosuppression and cancer risk in kidney transplant recipients: A retrospective cohort study</td>
<td>Laurent Azoulay</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2021</td>
<td>Achieving hepatitis C elimination in Canada; addressing the needs of the diverse groups at risk</td>
<td>Laurent Azoulay</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$1,197,225</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>Principal Applicant Innovative pre-clinical models to overcome drug resistance in triple negative breast cancer</td>
<td>Mark Basik</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$951,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>Principal Applicant Strategies to overcome HER2 targeted therapy resistance in breast cancer</td>
<td>Mark Basik</td>
<td>Pfizer Canada Inc</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2023</td>
<td>Principal Applicant Mechanisms of action of antiestrogens: towards improved treatment of relapse in ER+ breast cancer</td>
<td>Sylvie Mader</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$596,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>Mechanisms controlling estrogen receptor alpha expression and activity in breast tumorigenesis</td>
<td>Sylvie Mader</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>$728,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>The Pan-Canadian Proteomics Centre: An Integrated Platform for Comprehensive, Innovative, Translational Proteomics Research in Canada</td>
<td>Christoph Borchers</td>
<td>Genome Canada Genome BC</td>
<td>$7,467,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>The Metabolomics Innovation Centre</td>
<td>Christoph Borchers</td>
<td>Genome Canada Genome BC</td>
<td>$1,782,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2022</td>
<td>The Metabolomics Innovation Centre</td>
<td>Christoph Borchers</td>
<td>CFI-MSI</td>
<td>$899,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2020</td>
<td>Innovative cleavable link strategy based on mass spectrometry for the elucidation of drug binding sites</td>
<td>Christoph Borchers</td>
<td>FRQNT</td>
<td>$298,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Project title</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>Funding Agency</td>
<td>Amount</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2020</td>
<td>Genetic susceptibility and signalling pathways in low-grade brain tumors</td>
<td>Rivera Barbara</td>
<td>Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation- Young Investigator award</td>
<td>$150,000 USD</td>
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Conferences

The Segal Cancer Centre is one of the academic founders of the Worldwide Innovative Networking (WIN) Consortium, a non-profit organization with an aim to promote translational research in personalized cancer medicine. In addition to the 9th WIN symposium, the MCTRC members organized or co-organized a number of symposiums and conferences during the reporting year.

   https://genetics17.mcgill-cihr-ig.ca/

   William Foulkes, participated as a speaker: “DICER1 – an update”.

   http://www.mcgillradiobiology.ca/mcrw-2017/
   **Scientific Organizing Committee**: Siham Sabri, PhD; Bassam Abdulkarim, MD, PhD, FRCPC; Jean-Claude Bertrand, PhD

   Organizing Committee: Gerald Batist participated as part of the organizing team and chaired with Dr. Thomas Tursz. Chaired Session 5: Predict: What and How?

   http://hupo2017.ie/
   Conference Organizer: Christoph Borchers with Karl Mechtler and Evgeniy Petrotchenko.

   Gerald Batist: Co-Chair of the 2017 Scientific Program Committee (SPC). November 4th, Welcome and Overview of the CCRC. November 6th, chaired with Dr. S Verma, Canadian Roundtable on Immune Therapy Combinations.  
   Claudia Kleinman: Member of the SPC.  
   Michael Pollak: Chaired the plenary session – Metabolism and Cancer. Nov. 7th.

   [http://www.aacr.org/Meetings/Pages/MeetingDetail.aspx?EventItemID=128&DetailItemID=718#.WrQAimrwapo](http://www.aacr.org/Meetings/Pages/MeetingDetail.aspx?EventItemID=128&DetailItemID=718#.WrQAimrwapo)  
   Michael Pollak: Member of the organizing committee, chaired the plenary session 2: ‘Insulin and Glycemia: Roles in Obesity and Cancer’ and speaker: ‘Insulin responsivity of cancer subsets’, Jan. 27th.

   [https://www.fusion-conferences.com/conference70.php](https://www.fusion-conferences.com/conference70.php)  
   Sylvie Mader: Co-Chaired with Eric Kalkhoven, session on Nuclear Receptors Crosstalk Feb. 28th.  
   Speaker: ‘Role of Chromatin remodeling in the suppression of estrogen-induced transcription by pure antiestrogens’.
Patents

Uri Saragovi:
1. **Title:** Neurotrophin mutants for treating hearing loss and other otic disorders.
   **US provisional patent application:** 26/01/2018 (62/451,570 USPTO).
2. **Title:** Neurotophin mutants and use thereof for treating neurodegenerative disease and disorders.
   **US provisional patent application:** 26/01/2018 (62/451,560 USPTO).

Christoph Borchers:
3. **Title:** Immuno-MALDI (iMALDI) Technology for Quantitation and Identification of Peptides and Proteins.
   **Inventors:** H Li and CH Borchers.
   **US provisional patent application:** 06/06/2017 (62/346,080).
4. **Title:** Panel of ACVS-Associated Proteins for Diagnosis and Prognosis.
   **Inventors:** A Penn and CH Borchers.
   **US provisional patent application:** 17/03/2017 (62/473,214).
5. **Title:** Immuno-MALDI to Measure AKT1 and AKT2 Phosphorylation.
   **Inventors:** R Popp, CH Borchers.
   **US provisional patent application:** 17/04/2017 (15/489,485).

Moulay Alaoui-Jamali:
6. **Title:** Selective dual inhibitors for cancer treatment, their pharmaceutical compositions and methods of use.
   **Inventors:** Alaoui-Jamali MA, Bijian K, and Wernik D.
   **Status:** Pending review by McGill OTT.
7. **Title:** Multi-kinase inhibitors for transcriptional reprogramming, their pharmaceutical compositions and methods of use.
   **Inventors:** Alaoui-Jamali MA, Bijian K, and Wernik D.
   **US provisional patent application:** 62/147,701.

Jian Hui Wu and Gerald Batist:
8. **Title:** Compounds, pharmaceutical compositions and use thereof as inhibitors of RAN GTPase
   **Inventors:** Jian Hui WU, Gerald BATIST, Xiaohong TIAN, Xiaolong LI, Anne-Marie MES-MASSON, Diane PROVENCHER and Euridice CARMONA.
   **US Provisional patent application:** 05/09/2017 (US 62/554,150).
Collaborations

Michael Witcher:
1. Dr. Chen Liang, McGill. Secured CIHR funding as Co-PIs, currently held.
3. Dr. Morag Park, Dr. Mark Basik + 5 others, McGill. Co-applicant on “Oncopole” team grant.
4. Dr. Sidong Huang, McGill. Co-authored two submitted manuscripts.

Michael Pollak:
5. Dr. Wes Beamer, Jackson Laboratory. “Lit” mutation.
6. Dr. Catharina Larsson, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm. MDGI gene.
7. Dr. Steven Narod, Chair, Breast Cancer Research, University of Toronto. Hormonal modifiers of penetrance of genetic risk factors for cancer.
8. Dr. Robert Bell, University of Toronto. IGFs and osteosarcoma.
9. Dr. Walter Willett, Chair, Dept. of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health. Nurses’ Health Study: markers of breast cancer risk.
10. Dr. Regina Ziegler, Division of Cancer Genetics and Epidemiology, NCI-NIH, USA. Breast cancer: genetic polymorphisms underlying hormonal risk factors.
11. Dr. Meir Stampfer, Harvard University. Risk factors for prostate and colon cancer.
13. Dr. Robert Kaplan, Albert Einstein University. IGFs and cardiovascular disease.
14. Dr. J. Brisson, Laval University. Hormonal influences on mammographic breast density.
15. Dr. Judy Hirst, Cambridge University. Molecular pharmacology of biguanides.

Ursini-Siegel:
16. Dr. Nicole Beauchemin, Biochemistry, Goodman Cancer Research Centre.
17. Dr. Claudia Kleinman, Human Genetics, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research.
18. Dr. Antonis Koromilas, Oncology, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research.
19. Dr. Koren Mann, Oncology, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research.
20. Dr. William Muller, Biochemistry and Oncology, Goodman Cancer Research Centre.
21. Dr. Michael Pollak, Oncology, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research.
22. Dr. Sidong Huang, Biochemistry, McGill University.
23. Dr. Christoph Borchers, McGill University.
24. Dr. Nicolas Bisson, Laval University.
Walter Gotlieb:

25. Dr. Robert Holloway, Univ of Orlando. Sentinel nodes and endometrial cancer.
26. Dr. Paul Hoskins, Univ of British Columbia. Improving testing rates for BRCA carriers.
27. Dr. Jessica McAlpine, Univ. British Columbia. PROMISE, Molecular markers of endometrial cancer.
28. Dr. Uri Saragovi, McGill University. Tumor Marker Gangliosides for gynecologic cancers.
29. Dr. Alexander Orthwein, McGill University. Mapping the landscape of genes involved in homologous recombination and ovarian cancer pathogenesis.
30. Dr. Anupama Rajanbabu, Amrita University, Kochi India. Sentinel nodes in endometrial cancer.

Wilson Miller:

31. Dr. Jun Guo, Peking Hospital University, Bejing, China.
32. Dr. David Dankort, Goodman Cancer Research Center.
33. Dr. Nahum Sonenberg, Goodman Cancer Research Center.
34. Dr. Sidong Huang, Goodman Cancer Research Center.
35. Dr. Jörg Fritz, Goodman Cancer Research Center.
36. Dr. Katherine Borden, IRIC, Montreal.
37. Dr. Johnathan Licht, Northwestern University, Chicago.
38. Dr. Prof. Ghanem G., LOCE, Brussels, Belgium.
39. Dr. Rotem Karni, the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada, Jerusalem, Israel.

Rivera Barbara:

40. Dr. William Foulkes, McGill University.
41. Dr. Rebecca Chernock, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Genomic Landscape of Pediatric Poorly differentiated Thyroid Carcinomas.
42. Dr. Yuri Nikiforov, University of Pittsburgh. Genomic Landscape of Pediatric Poorly differentiated Thyroid Carcinomas.
43. Dr. Jiannis Ragoussis, McGill University.
44. Dr. Christian Thomas, University of Munster, Munster, Germany. Funded by Alex's Stand Lemonade Foundation. Genomic Landscape of Choroid Plexus Tumors.
Awards and Distinctions

Ivan Topisirovic:
  Title: “Rôles de la synthèse protéique et du métabolisme énergétique dans le cancer”
  Total amount: $ 234,867
- 2017 LDI Basic Research Scientist of the Year.

Josie Ursini-Siegel:
- 2017-2019 Chercheurs Boursiers (Senior), FRSQ, McGill University. Senior Salary Support Award.
  Total amount: $ 120,000.

Michael Witcher:
- 2017–2021 Chercheur Boursier (Junior 2), FRSQ. Junior 2 Salary Support Award.
  Amount: $ 77,000 per year.

Alexandre Orthwein:

Laurent Azoulay:
- 2017– 2022 William Dawson Scholar Award, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University.
  Amount: $ 45,000.

Gerald Batist:

Siham Sabri:
- 2017 McGill University, Faculty of Medicine Merit Category 3 based on Performance Evaluation of the Chair of Oncology Department.
  Total amount: $ 1,610
II. CLINICAL RESEARCH

The MCTRC investigators take part in designing and conducting clinical studies to evaluate the safety and efficacy of new drugs or more effective ways to use existing drugs. Closely tied to the MCTRC, the Clinical Research Unit (CRU) of the Jewish General Hospital plays a key role in the Centre’s bench-to-bedside approach. There are currently more than 80 ongoing clinical trials involving the members of the MCTRC. For more information on these trials, please refer to the separate document entitled “2017-2018 Ongoing Clinical Trials”.

This year, we would like to highlight the success of the following phase I trial at the CRU:

A Phase 1b/2a Two-Part Open-Label Multicenter Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of LY2880070 as Monotherapy and in Combination with Gemcitabine in Patients with Advanced or Metastatic Cancer


This was launched in a Press Conference at the CHUM in 2017, after the licence for this molecule was purchased by TMV, a Quebec-based venture Capital firm, which established a start-up to manage this project. It was a first totally made and managed in Quebec phase I trial activated in more than one site.
III. TEACHING AND LEARNING

The members of the MCTRC are engaged in mentoring students enrolled at McGill University to obtain their Master’s and PhD degrees. They are also involved in training postdoctoral fellows. During the reporting year, in the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research (LDI) alone, the MCTRC researchers mentored 116 students. Of those, 29 are pursuing their Master’s degree and 56 are enrolled in the PhD program. A sum of 29 students started their degree (Master’s and PhD) during the current reporting year. In addition, the MCTRC members in the LDI advised 29 postdocs and 2 research fellows, 10 of which started their postdoctoral internship during the current reporting year.

**Alexandre Orthwein**

Student: Findlay, Stephen  
Funding Source: McGill University  
2nd cycle

Student: Dove, Christian  
Funding Source: Tomlinson Doctoral/Lloyd Carr-Harris Fellowship  
3rd cycle

Student: Luo, Mingyi Vincent  
Project title: The landscape of deubiquitinase in B cells.  
Funding Source: Fondation Cole  
3rd cycle

Student: Malina, Abba  
Project title: Importance of the deubiquitinase OTUB1 during lymphomagenesis.  
Funding Source: Fondation Cole  
Post doctoral fellow

**Student:** Xue, Alice  
Project title: CRISPR screen in a mouse model of deubiquitinases and hematopoietic differentiation.  
Funding Source: McGill University

**Ivan Topisirovic**

Student: Bou Petit, Elisabeth  
Project title: Study of new antitumoral therapy applications: Design synthesis and validation of inhibitors of EIF4E phosphorylation.  
Funding Source: Generalitat, Government of Catalonia  
3rd cycle

**Josie, Ursini-Siegel**

Student: Li, Guo Feng  
Funding Source: McGill University
**Micheal Witcher**
Student: Jangal, Maika  
Project title: Demonstrating the oncogenicity of PARG in breast cancer.  
Funding Source: McGill University  
Post doctoral fellow

Student: Levy, Asher  
Project title: Combination therapy using bromodomain inhibitors with a HER3 neutralizing antibody.  
Funding Source: McGill University

**Mark Trifiro**
Student: Nguyen, Nam  
Project title: Identification of target moieties for anaplastic and medullary thyroid cancer.  
Funding Source: McGill University

Student: Truong, Marianne  
Project title: Preclinical testing of TSHR-directed nanoparticles therapeutic platform for thyroid cancer.  
Funding Source: McGill University

**Moulay, Alaoui-Jamali**
Student: Luciana Fraga da Costa Diesel  
Project title: Characterization of FAK-RAF mechanism involved in the head and neck cancer progression to metasisis.  
Funding Source: Foundation for the Coordination of Higher Education and Graduate Training (CAPES Foundation) (Brazil)

**Nathalie Johnson**
Student: Edgar Pinedo Carpio  
Project title: Implications thérapeutiques de CD20 au-delà de rituximab  
Funding Source: Fonds de la Recherche en Santé du Québec (FRSQ)  
3rd cycle

**Mark Basik**
Student: Montes Rojas, Daniela  
Project title: Characterization of breast cancer patient derived xenografts and validation of drug response  
Funding Source: McGill University

**Christoph Borchers**
Student: Constance Sobsey  
Project title: Precision medicine using -omics to optimize cancer treatment with selected therapeutics.  
Funding Source: McGill University  
3rd cycle

**William Foulkes**
Student: Geoffrion, Dominique  
Project title: Optimizing therapy for relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.  
Funding Source: McGill University / Instituts de Recherche en Santé du Canada (IRSC)  
2nd cycle

Student: Rabinowicz, Simon  
Project title: Genetic susceptibilities to a mosaic form of gorlin nre syndrome.
Funding Source: McGill University

**Claudia Kleinman**

Student: Blanchet-Cohen, Alexis  
Project title: Time sense analysis of link between chromatin remodeling and gene expression.  
Funding Source: Sir Mortimer B. Davis - Hôpital Général Juif  
3rd cycle

Student: Di Iorio, Matthew  
Project title: Automation of cell type detection based on gene expression.  
Funding Source: McGill University  
3rd cycle

Student: Jessa, Selin Naheed  
Project title: Detecting epigenomic switches in the developing human brain.  
Funding Source: Instituts de Recherche en Santé du Canada (IRSC)  
3rd cycle

Student: Yang, Yang  
Project title: Signal cell transcriptomic analysis of breast cancer.

Funding Source: McGill University

2nd cycle

**Koren Mann**

Student: Le Blanc, Natasha  
Project title: Effects of tungsten in B-cell development - Tungsten induced changes in B lymphocytes. Define the gene expression changes that lead to increased B lymphocytes and determine whether tungsten alters function mature B lymphocytes.  
Funding Source: Conseil de Recherches en Sciences Naturelles et Génie du Canada (CRSNG)

Student: Makhani, Kiran  
Project title: Define functional pro-atherogenic changes induced by in utero argenic exposure.  
Funding Source: McGill University  
2nd cycle

Student: Roper, Joseph  
Project title: Arsenic (III) methyltransferase: A role in reactive oxygen specifies accumulation and cell proliferation.  
Funding Source: McGill University
Lectures and Seminars

Through the McGill Integrated Cancer Research Training Program (MICRTP) (in collaboration with the Goodman Cancer Centre at McGill – Directors: W. Miller and M. Tremblay), our trainees participate in a comprehensive curriculum consisting of research opportunities, courses and workshops on cancer, rounded off by supporting activities that shape trainees for their future careers in the field of cancer research. The trainees participating in the MCTRC have access to different series of lectures and seminars offered by the Segal Cancer Centre (SCC) and the Lady Davis Institute (LDI), including Cancer Seminars, Postdoctoral Seminars and Distinguished Lecture Series. In addition, LDI Trainee Committee, formed by graduate students at the LDI, offers to trainees a monthly journal club and various workshops covering a wide range of topics, from research techniques to job interview skills. Trainees also have access to the Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer (IRIC) lecture series (for more information: http://www.iric.ca/en/press-room/events-calendar/) and the McGill Distinguished Lectureship in Human Genetics, a seminar series organized by the Lady Davis Institute in collaboration with the McGill University-Génome Québec Innovation Centre.

Cancer Seminar and Postdoctoral Seminar Series

The Segal Cancer Centre (SCC) seminar series are composed of the Cancer Seminars and the Lady Davis Institute (LDI) Postdoctoral Seminars. The Cancer Seminar Series invite the investigators from the SCC and the LDI (including the MCTRC members), their trainees as well as the researchers outside of the institution to present their most recent work to the LDI community. In addition, the postdoctoral fellows at the LDI (including the postdocs at the SCC) form a Postdoctoral fellow Committee. This committee holds monthly seminar series where the postdoctoral fellows are given the chance to present their research and to receive constructive feedback.

Friday, April 7, 2017

Role of the MNK/elf4E axis in melanoma
Zhuolin Yang, M.Sc. Student
Dr. Wilson Miller’s Lab

Exploiting ALDH-driven vulnerabilities to treat anaplastic thyroid cancer
Henry Yu, Ph.D. Student
Dr. Alaoui-Jamali’s Lab
Hosted by Josie Ursini-Siegel

Friday, April 21, 2017

Uncovering regulatory networks that control glioma stem cell differentiation
Dr. Kevin Petrecca, Dept of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Montreal Neurological Institute - McGill University.
Hosted by Dr. Arezu Jahani-Asl
Friday, May 5, 2017
What can protein methylation tell us about biology?
Dr. Steven Clarke. Professor, Dept of Chemistry and Biochemistry - University of California, Los Angeles.
Hosted by Dr. Stephane Richard

Friday, May 19, 2017
Decoding the post-transcriptional regulatory networks of human diseases
Dr. Hamed S. Najafabadi. Assistant Professor, Dept of Human Genetics - McGill University
Hosted by Dr. Arezu Jahani-Asl

Friday, May 26, 2017
Chromatin binding protein MYSM1: regulation of gene expression and DNA-damage response in hematopoietic stem cells
Dr. Anastasiya Nyzhnyk. Assistant Professor, Dept of Physiology - McGill University.
Hosted by Dr. Alexandre Orthwein

Friday, June 2, 2017
eIF4F links translation to energy stress response in cancer
Laura Hulea, Postdoctoral Fellow
Drs. Ivan Topisirovic and Michael Pollak’s Lab

Friday, June 9, 2017
Quantitative proteomic workflows reveal global impact of kinase inhibitors on the kinome and phosphoproteome
Dr. David Litchfield, Professor and Chair, Dept of Biochemistry - University of Western Ontario
Hosted by Dr. Ivan Topisirovic

Friday, June 16, 2017
Understanding the effects of androgen deprivation on mRNA translation
Abhishek Ghosh, Postdoctoral Fellow
Dr. Ivan Topisirovic’s Lab
Telomere maintenance in breast cancer cells
Jeffrey Wang, M.Sc. Student
Dr. Chantal Autexier’s Lab
Hosted by Dr. Volker Blank

Friday, October 13, 2017
Functional genomics in acute myeloid leukemia
Dr. Francois Mercier. Investigator, LDI Division of Hematology, Jewish General Hospital
Assistant Professor, Dept of Medicine - McGill University
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel

Friday, October 20, 2017
Oncostatin M receptor regulation of brain tumour stem cell metabolism
Matthew Laaper, M.Sc. Student
Dr. Jahani-Asl’s Lab
p66ShcA as a prognostic biomarker for responsiveness to PARP inhibitor
combination therapy in poor outcome breast cancers
Eduardo Cepeda Canedo, M.Sc. Student
Drs. Ursini-Siegel and Michael Witcher’s Lab
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel

Friday, November 3, 2017
The Protein Arginine Deiminases: Therapeutic Targets for Inflammatory Disease and Cancer
Paul R. Thompson, Ph.D. Professor and Director of Chemical Biology Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology - University of Massachusetts Medical School
Hosted by Dr. Stephane Richard

Friday, November 17, 2017
Signaling pathways controlling the NFE2L3 transcription factor
Joo Yeoun (Sophie) Park, M.Sc. Student
Dr. Volker Blank’s Lab
Susceptibility of SMARCA4-negative cancers to bromodomain inhibitors
Tatiana Shorstova, Ph.D. Student
Dr. Michael Witcher’s Lab
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel

Friday, December 8, 2017
Targeting the anaphase promoting complex in viral replication and cancer
Dr. Jose Teodoro. Associate Professor, Dept of Biochemistry Goodman Cancer Research Centre - McGill University
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel

Wednesday, December 13, 2017
Targeting cancer using malaria-derived host-anchor proteins
Mads Daugaard, Ph.D. Head of Molecular Pathology & Cell Imaging Laboratory Senior Research Scientist, Assistant Professor
Department of Urologic Sciences - University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine
Hosted by Dr. Ivan Topisirovic

Friday, January 12, 2018
LGALS1/Galectin-1: Potential therapeutic target in EGFRvIII-linked Glioblastoma tumorigenesis
Ilia Zenkov, Undergraduate Student
Dr. Arezu Jahani-Asl’s Lab
Identification of a novel autophagy-inducer with anti-proliferative activity in triple-negative breast cancer
Chia-Hao Chang, Postdoctoral Fellow
Dr. Alaoui-Jamali’s Lab
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel

Friday, January 19, 2018
Extracellular vesicle communication as emerging actionable element in cancer complexity
Dr. Janusz Rak Jack Cole. Chair in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Professor, Dept of Pediatrics - McGill University
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel
Friday, February 9, 2018
***Functional and therapeutic implications of the PKR/eIF2αSer51 phosphorylation in HER2 breast cancer***
Cedric Darini, Research Assistant
Dr. Antonis Koromilas’ Lab

Helicase to resolve R-loops
Sofiane Mersaoui, Postdoctoral Fellow
Dr. Stephane Richard’s Lab
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel

Friday, February 16, 2018
***RNF168-dependent ubiquitylation of the chromatin at DNA double-strand breaks; A non-expected target of human papillomavirus***
Dr. Amélie Fradet-Turcotte, Chaire de recherche du Canada en virologie moléculaire et instabilité génomique Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec Centre de recherche sur le cancer de l’Université Laval
Hosted by Dr. Alexandre Orthwein

Friday, March 2, 2018
***Investigating the anti-cancer properties of tumor suppressor TNK1***
Yuan Jiang, Postdoctoral Fellow
Dr. Rongtuan Lin’s Lab

Oncogenic properties of STAT1 in KRAS cancer
Shuo Wang, Research Associate
Dr. Antonis Koromilas’ Lab
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel

Friday, March 9, 2018
***Cancer Seminar Genomic alterations in residual ovarian cancer after neoadjuvant chemotherapy and their impact on survival***
David Octeau, M.Sc. Student
Dr. Walter Gotlieb’s Lab

Characterizing the role of phosphorylated eIF4E in melanoma
Fan Huang, Ph.D. Student
Dr. Wilson Miller’s Lab
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel

Friday, March 16, 2018
***Integration of distinct ShcA signaling complexes promotes breast tumorigenesis***
Jacqueline Ha, Ph.D. Student
Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel’s Lab

Exploring the role of PR70-DDX3X interactions in melanoma
Muhammad Qasim Saeed, M.Sc. Student
Dr. Alan Spatz’s Lab
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel

Friday, March 23, 2018
***Metabolic vulnerabilities of colorectal cancer***
Oro Uchenunu, Ph.D. Student
Drs. Ivan Topisirovic and Michael Pollak’s Lab

Analysis of single cell transcriptomes from a triple-negative breast cancer tumor
Alexis Blanchet-Cohen, Ph.D. Student
Dr. Claudia Kleinman’s Lab
Hosted by Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegel
Monday, March 26, 2018

The impact of translational control in gliomas
Glaucia Hajj, Ph.D. Cell Biology and Biomarkers Laboratory, AC Camargo Cancer Center, São Paulo, Brazil
Hosted by Dr. Ivan Topisirovic

Thursday, March 29, 2018

Strategies to augment oncolytic virus infection
Tommy Alain, Ph.D. Assistant Professor Dept. of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology - University of Ottawa Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute
Hosted by Dr. Ivan Topisirovic
Distinguished Lecture Series

Trainees also benefit from the Distinguished Lecture Series, which has attracted world renowned scientists such as James D. Watson (lecture on October 12, 2011). The lectures shown here are only those relative to the context of oncology.

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
LMO2 protein complexes driving hematopoietic cell fate and leukemogenesis
Trang Hoang, Ph.D. Professor, Dept of Pharmacology and Physiology - Université de Montréal, Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer (IRIC)
Hosted by Dr. Michael Witcher

Tuesday, October 24
Breaking Bad: Lysine Methyl Signaling in Chromatin and Cancer Regulation
Or Gozani, MD, Ph.D. Professor in the Department of Biology - Stanford University
Hosted by Dr. Stéphane Richard

Tuesday, November 7, 2017
ClinicalTrials.gov: A window into the Clinical Research Enterprise
Deborah Zarin, M.D. Senior Scientist, NIH Cognitve Science Branch
Hosted by Dr. Jonathan Kimmelman

Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Pathway analysis of genomics data - from correlation to causation to drug discovery
Gary Bader, Ph.D. Professor, The Donnelly Centre Department of Molecular Genetics, Department of Computer Science - University of Toronto
Hosted by Dr. Claudia Kleinman

Tuesday, December 12, 2017
CRISPR-Cas systems: from humble beginnings to today's headlines
Sylvain Moineau, Ph.D. Professor, Dept of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Bioinformatics Faculty of Sciences & Engineering - Université Laval
Hosted by Dr. Alexandre Orthwein

Tuesday, March 6, 2018
Translating the cancer genome one codon at a time and its therapeutic implications
Davide Ruggero, Ph.D. Professor, Dept of Urology and Cellular Molecular Pharmacology - University of California
Hosted by Dr. Ivan Topisirovic

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Neuroprotective role of innate immunity
Serge Rivest, Ph.D. Director Centre de recherche du CHU Professor, Department of Molecular Medicine - Universite Laval
Hosted by Dr. Stéphane Richard
Other LDI Seminar Series

Our trainees can attend other LDI seminar series, including epidemiology, molecular and regenerative medicine, and psychosocial seminar series. The lectures shown here are only those relative to the context of oncology study.

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Lineage differentiation and cancer evolution models of blood and pancreas
Dr. Faiyaz Notta, Scientist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
Hosted by Dr. Ivan Topisirovic

Thursday, April 13, 2017

Molecular characterization of melanoma: creating a framework for targeted and immune therapy
Ian Watson, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry - McGill University
Hosted by Dr. Marc Fabian

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Bringing cell culture to the 21st century: How innovative organ-on-a-chip platforms are changing the landscape
Dr. Margaret Magdesian Chief Executive Officer & Founder Ananda Devices
Hosted by Dr. Nadia Nour

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

The prevalent new-user cohort design to study medication effects
Samy Suissa, Ph.D. Professor of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Medicine, McGill University. Director, Centre for Clinical Epidemiology, Lady Davis Research Institute, Jewish General Hospital
Hosted by the Centre of Clinical Epidemiology

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Job’s dilemma for the genome: Why bad things happen to good chromosomes
David Pellman, M.D. Margaret M. Dyson Professor of Pediatric Oncology Dana-Farber Cancer Institute - Harvard Medical School
Hosted by Dr. Alexandre Orthwein

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

From Oncology to Autoimmune diseases
Hans-Juergen Thiesen, M.D., Ph.D. Professor, Chair in Immunology at the Medical Faculty of the University of Rostock, Director of the Institute of Immunology, Head of the Department of Immunology - University of Rostock, Germany
Hosted by Dr. Christopher Borchers
IV. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The MCTRC members actively engage in outreach activities to disseminate their findings and scientific knowledge to the public. Through various types of communication media, our researchers make cancer research more accessible, extending the impact of research on the society.

COLUMNS IN NEWSPAPERS:

**Richard Béliveau** and Gingras D: ‘Journal de Montréal’ and ‘Sun Media’
April 3, 2017 : « Le régime méditerranéen pour prévenir le cancer du sein. »
April 10, 2017 : « Soja et cancer du sein: fini la controverse! »
April 24, 2017 : « Cancer: vaincre la malchance grâce au mode de vie. »
May 8, 2017 : « Des milliers de vies sauvées par l’interdiction des gras trans »
July 10, 2017 : « Vers un nouveau traitement pour le cancer métastatique de la prostate »
August 7, 2017: « Prévenir le cancer... en dormant. »

* The columns are also printed in English in “SUN MEDIA” in all these newspapers:

INVITED LECTURES – PRESENTATIONS

**Richard Béliveau**
April 9, 2017 : « Preventing chronic diseases » Chambre de Commerce, Mont St-Hilaire, QC.
April 12, 2017: « Preventing chronic diseases » Ministère de l’Agriculture, Trois-Rivières, QC.
April 13, 2017: « Endocrinology Grand Round: Preventing cancer » McGill University Health Center, Montreal, QC.
April 25, 2017: « Preventing chronic diseases » Camp Tekakwitha, Quebec, QC.
April 26, 2017: « Preventing cancer » Bal de la Jonquille, Quebec, QC.
April 27, 2017: « Preventing cancer » Cliniques Buchinger (Germany), Montreal, QC.
May 3, 2017 : « Preventing cancer » RBC Valeurs Mobilières, Montreal, QC.
May 25, 2017: « Preventing cancer » Aînés de Gatineau, Gatineau, QC.
May 29, 2017: « Preventing chronic diseases » Assurances RGA, Montreal, QC.
May 30, 2017: « Preventing cancer » RBC Valeurs Mobilières, Montreal, QC.
May 31, 2017: « Preventing chronic diseases » Assurances RGA, Montreal, QC.
June 1, 2017: « Preventing cancer » Le Phare OSBL, Saint-Hyacinthe, QC.
June 3, 2017: « Preventing cancer » Fondation du cancer du sein, Montreal, QC.
June 7, 2017: « Preventing cancer » RBC Valeurs Mobilières, Montreal, QC.

**Nathalie Johnson**

April 22, 2017: ‘The changing landscape of CLL’  
Educational event for patients sponsored by Lymphoma Canada.

Educational event for patients sponsored by Lymphoma Canada.

**Walter Gotlieb**

May 2017: ‘The smaller the scar the bigger the benefit and the Era of Precision Medicine’  
You are not alone. Hope & Cope collaboration with Ovarian Cancer Canada

Aug 2017: ‘Together everyone accomplishes more.’  
ICRF Ladies Only Golf Tournament

Nov 2017: Innovations in cancer therapies  
Women of action lunch

**SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

**Richard Béliveau**

April 26, 2017: Honorary Guest and Speaker for the Fondation Canadienne du Cancer  
Bal de la Jonquille, Québec

**Nathalie Johnson**

May 26, 2017: Invited to be a mentor at the International Young Scientists Mentorship Program (IYSMP), a student-led non-profit organization that strives to motivate high school and CEGEP students to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) related activities in order to promote the development of a new generation of future young scientists. 2-hour evening mentoring students.
Celia Greenwood
Fundraising, Segal Cancer Centre, for 2017 Ride for Cancer:
  o https://youtu.be/xLqRBlg1hY8
  o https://youtu.be/YaEscZhid5U

INTERVIEWS

A. TELEVISION

Walter Gotlieb
Sept 2017: The role of Heredity in patients with ovarian cancer, CTV News
Feb 2018: Single Site Robotics, Public Relations JGH

Richard Béliveau
August 1, 2017: TVA Nouvelles, « Alcool et diabète de type 2 », LCN

B. RADIO

Richard Béliveau

William Foulkes
February 23, 2018: Radio Interview with Quebec Science – Discussion about current research on BRCA1 and BRCA2.
Koren Mann
April 2017: CBC Radio on the March for Science

C. NEWSPAPERS:

Richard Béliveau


Serengo, France, « 10 aliments santé qui gagnent à être connus », June 2017.

Prima, France, « Je me soigne avec les super fruits de l’été », September 2017.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to acknowledge our partners who play an essential role in the mission of the MCTRC to bring cancer research from basic science laboratories into the heart of patient care: Réseau de Recherche sur le Cancer (RRCancer), McGill University’s Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology, TransMedTech institute, Fonds de Recherche Québec – Santé (FRQS), Exactis, Worldwide Innovative Networking (WIN) Consortium in personalized cancer medicine, Quebec Clinical Research Organization in Cancer (Q-CROC) and Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network (CCCTN).
APPENDIX: PUBLICATIONS LIST

The researchers of the MCTRC are indicated in bold letters.


53. McCluggage WG, Witkowski L, Clarke BA, **Foulkes WD**. Clinical, morphological and immunohistochemical evidence that small-cell carcinoma of the ovary of hypercalcaemic type (SCCOHT) may be a primitive germ-cell neoplasm. *Histopathology*. 2017;70(7):1147-1154.


platform for the analysis of heterogeneity in large tumor transcriptome datasets. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2017;45(13):E122. (*main corresponding author; GS and SL are co-corresponding authors.*)


110. Ha JR, Ahn R, Smith HW, Sabourin V, Hebert S, Cepeda Canedo E, Im YK, Kleinman C, Muller WJ and Ursini-Siegel J. Integration of Distinct ShcA Signaling Complexes Promotes Breast Tumor


118. Youn JY, Dunham WH, Hong SJ, Knight JDR, Bashkuroc M, Chen GI, Bagci H, Rathod B, MacLeod G, Eng SWM, Angers S, Morris Q, Fabian M, Côté JF and Gingras AC. High-Density Proximity Mapping Reveals the Subcellular Organization of mRNA-Associated Granules and Bodies. *Molecular Cell*. 2018;69(3):517-532.


