ABOUT IIRC

The IIRC will build on our strong transnational research and clinical programs and will enable us to:

- Grow research in basic immune mechanisms with translational endpoints
- Develop first-in-class immunotherapies
- Accelerate innovation through interdisciplinary, inter-divisional science

IIRC RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Through the IIRC we will advance interdivisional and interdisciplinary research focusing on the following:

- Cell Therapy (TCR/CAR)
- Transplant Immunology
- Tumor Microenvironment, Immune Checkpoint & Regulation
- Immunogenomics, Therapeutic Vaccines (in development)

July 2017

From the Director, Stan Riddell

IIRC Turns 1 Years Old

As the IIRC turns a year old, I am delighted to share the accomplishments of both the center and its faculty members. As the mechanism to support and catalyze work in immunotherapy, the IIRC is growing. I am particularly enthusiastic about our support for new collaborations in glioma research that have the potential to bring immunotherapeutic approaches to this deadly disease and expanded access to molecular pathology through the recruitment of Rob Pierce.

This past year the IIRC provided grants to foster collaboration, participated in faculty and research staff recruitment, and sponsored a variety of scientific seminars and special events. The IIRC worked closely with Shared Resources to expand multi-spectral imaging services in Experimental Histopathology, and created greater opportunities for partnership with the Therapeutic Products Program (TPP), Specimen Processing/Research Cell Bank and Immune Monitoring for ongoing clinical trials.

Additionally, organizations outside of Fred Hutch have recognized and awarded IIRC members for their outstanding contributions and promise. These endeavors leverage our unique expertise to develop first-in-class immunotherapies, and I am honored to be a part of such an amazing team of scientists.

Grant Competitions

The IIRC sponsored three grant competitions and provided awards for collaborative research.

- Five exploratory grants for single cell RNA seq collaborations with Jason Bielas to Aude Chapuis, Bruce Clurman, Cecelia Moens, Hans-Peter Kiem and Anthony Rongvaux. [Click here to learn more.]
- A collaborative grant to accelerate glioma immunotherapy research to Eric Holland, Hans-Peter Kiem, and McGarry Houghton. [Click here to learn more.]
- Three immunotherapy innovation grants to support novel research in immunotherapy with translational endpoints to Aude Chapuis and Derek Stirewalt, Cameron Turtle, and Damian Green.
FROM THE DIRECTOR, CONTINUED

Expanding the IIRC

The IIRC is dedicated to supporting Fred Hutch scientists who are interested in expanding their research in immunotherapy, recruiting experts in the field of immunotherapy to Fred Hutch, and training the next generation as world leaders in immuno-oncology. I would like to introduce those who have joined Fred Hutch this year.

Robert Pierce, M.D., joined Fred Hutch in November 2016 as Member in the Clinical Research Division and Scientific Director of Experimental Pathology. Rob is a true team scientist, collaborating with many labs and providing scientific and medical oversight of the Experimental Histopathology Core.

Mark Headley, Ph.D., will join Fred Hutch as Assistant Member in the Clinical Research Division in March 2018. Mark’s field of research is tumor microenvironment, an IIRC research objective. Specifically, his research is focused on intravital imaging approaches for studying metastases formation in the lung.

Jordan Gauthier, M.D., is the first immunotherapy clinical fellow to serve in a joint IIRC program in clinical and laboratory research. After he spends his first 3-6 months in the clinic, Dr. Gauthier will identify a mentor who will train and support him in a novel immunotherapy research project to be conducted for the remainder of his 2-year appointment.

Bruce Thompson, Ph.D., joined Fred Hutch as Senior Scientific Director of Therapeutics Products Program (TPP) in May 2017. Bruce leads TPP in its goal, “to be a world-leading provider of clinical products that cure cancer.” Learn more here.
FROM THE DIRECTOR, CONTINUED

Activities

To foster collaboration and dialogue among IIRC members, we host a number of activities that provide opportunities for sharing information, including our first annual Faculty Retreat in January and the monthly junior faculty lunch series that offers peer education and mentoring.

Experimental Histopathology Open House

On June 14th the IIRC hosted an open house at the Experimental Histopathology Lab to promote partnerships that advance immunotherapy research.

Contact Savanh Chanthaphavong at rchantha@fredhutch.org for more information about new services in experimental histopathology.

Bezos Family Clinic Opening & Symposium

On December 12, 2016, the IIRC sponsored the Symposium to celebrate immunotherapy research at Fred Hutch and to support the launch of the Bezos Family Clinic Opening. Here, former patient Stephanie Florence performs the ceremonial ribbon cutting at the Clinic’s official opening.

IIRC Seminar Series

Over the last year, the IIRC hosted a scientific seminar series with presentations by Drs. Paul Nghiem, Steve Ziegler, Marco Ruella, Amy Payne, Geoff Hill, Laura Chow, Christine Brown and Judith Varner.

We hope to see you when the series resumes in September, featuring Dr. Kole Roybal from the University of California, San Francisco, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy.
Member Honors & Awards
Lastly, I would like to recognize recent IIRC members’ outstanding achievements and congratulate them on their successes. Click on each description below for more information.

Marie Bleakley, Associate Member, Clinical Research Division
Stand Up To Cancer 2017 Innovation Research Grant ($750K) in immune-oncology to further her work in developing immunotherapy that targets cancer-specific proteins within the cell.

Taran Gujral, Assistant Member, Human Biology Division
2017 Kimmel Scholar from Sidney Kimmel Foundation for Cancer Research ($200K) to expand his research of a new player in well-studied family of protein chains “Fizzled2” and its role in dampening immune attacks against tumors and allowing tumors to evade the immune system.

Anthony Rongvaux, Assistant Member, Clinical Research Division
$100K award from Lupus Research Alliance to further his discoveries of the mechanism that may cause or worsen lupus.

Edus Houston “Hootie” Warren, Clinical Research Division
Dr. Hootie Warren serves as the new head of Fred Hutch Global Oncology, a cross-divisional effort led by the Hutch’s Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Division.

Damian Green, Assistant Member, Clinical Research Division
$3.2M award from NCI to test radioimmunotherapy for multiple myeloma.

Jarrod Dudakov, Assistant Member, Clinical Research Division
2017 ASH Scholar Award ($150K) for his work in understanding the role of thymus in immune-cell regeneration.
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

IIRC Seminar Series, September 21st

Kole Roybal, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
University of California, San Francisco
Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy

TOPIC TBD

Thursday, September 21
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Pelton Auditorium, Fred Hutch Campus
Refreshments provided

All Fred Hutch faculty and staff are invited. For more information, please contact Jen Casserd, jcasserd@fredhutch.org

2018 Faculty Retreat – Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for the annual IIRC Faculty Retreat.
Bell Harbor Conference Center
Friday, January 12, 2018

Program & Luncheon: 9am – 5pm
Reception: 5pm – 7pm

Post-docs and research associates will be invited; details to follow. For more information, please contact Jen Casserd, jcasserd@fredhutch.org