# 50+ High Level Recruits Example: José Conejo-Garcia, MD, PhD





- Recruited from Wistar 2016
- Leadership highlights
- Chair, Cancer Antigen Working Group – Moonshot IOTN
- Blue Ribbon Center for Scientific Review Advisor – NIH (Oncology)
- Chartered and ad hoc NIH and CPRIT Study Sections Member
- 150+ publications including recently in Science & Nature
- PI of active NCI grants
  - NCI R01 CA240434
  - NCI U01 CA232758
  - NCI R01 CA124515
  - NCI R01 CA157664

#### **CHANGING PARADIGMS**

## Science

RESEARCH

#### CANCER IMMUNOLOGY

## BTN3A1 governs antitumor responses by coordinating $\alpha\beta$ and $\gamma\delta$ T cells

Kyle K. Payne<sup>1</sup>, Jessica A. Mine<sup>1</sup>, Subir Biswas<sup>1</sup>, Ricardo A. Chaurio<sup>1</sup>, Alfredo Perales-Puchalt<sup>2</sup>, Carmen M. Anadon<sup>1</sup>, Tara Lee Costich<sup>1</sup>, Carly M. Harro<sup>1,3</sup>, Jennifer Walrath<sup>2</sup>, Qianqian Ming<sup>4</sup>, Evgenii Toyganov<sup>2</sup>, Andrea L. Buras<sup>5</sup>, Kristen E. Rigolizzo<sup>1</sup>, Gunjan Mandal<sup>1</sup>, Jason Lajoie<sup>6</sup>, Michael Ophir<sup>6</sup>, Julia Tchou<sup>7</sup>, Douglas Marchion<sup>8</sup>, Vincent C. Luca<sup>4</sup>, Piotr Bobrowicz<sup>6</sup>, Brooke McLaughlin<sup>6</sup>, Ugur Eskiocak<sup>6</sup>, Michael Schmidt<sup>6</sup>, Juan R. Cubillos-Ruiz<sup>9</sup>, Paulo C. Rodriguez<sup>1</sup>, Dmitry I. Gabrilovich<sup>2</sup>, Jose R. Conejo-Garcia<sup>1,5</sup> +

- Showed that butyrophilins block a functional immune synapse
- Targeting the CD277+, provokes killing of ovarian tumors by activating  $\alpha\beta$  and  $\gamma\delta$  T cells
- Led to an international multi-site phase I/IIa trial testing a CD277 antibody in patients with hematological & epithelial malignancies

## nature

Article

# IgA transcytosis and antigen recognition govern ovarian cancer immunity

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-03144-0

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Subir Biswas¹, Gunjan Mandal¹, Kyle K. Payne¹, Carmen M. Anadon¹, Chandler D. Gatenbee², Ricardo A. Chaurio¹, Tara Lee Costich¹, Carlos Moran², Carly M. Harro¹, Kristen E. Rigolizzo¹, Jessica A. Mine¹, Jimena Trillo-Tinoco¹, Naoko Sasamoto⁴, Kathryn L. Terry⁴, Douglas Marchion⁴, Andrea Buras³, Robert M. Wenham³, Xiaoqing Yu⁴, Mary K. Townsend¹, Shelley S. Tworoger¹a, Paulo C. Rodriguez¹, Alexander R. Anderson¹ & Jose R. Conejo-Garcia¹□

- Discovered protective humoral responses vs.
   ovarian cancer (OC) are driven by IgA binding to IgA receptors expressed on ovarian cancer cells.
- IgA redirects myeloid cells against cancer cells
- IgA transcytosis through OC cells antagonizes RAS pathway & sensitizes to cytolytic killing by T cells.
- Opens new therapeutic avenues.

Catchment Area Priority: Ovarian Cancer

# High Impact Multi-Project Grants Example: P01 Award (CA 250984)





Elsa Flores, PhD



Eric Haura, MD

- P01 Title: Identifying Metabolic Vulnerabilities in Lung Cancer
- \$10,288,518 over 5 years, which began June 1, 2021
- Leadership
  - MPIs: Drs. Elsa Flores (contact) & Eric Haura
  - Project Leaders: Drs. Elsa Flores, John Cleveland, Eric Haura, Gina DeNicola, & Paulo Rodriguez
  - Core PIs: Doug Cress, Brooke Fridley, Florian Karreth, John Koomen
  - Co-Investigators: Drs. Theresa Boyle, Bradford Perez, Mingxiang Teng, & Xiaoqing Yu
- Goals:
  - Identify metabolic mechanisms controlled by genetic drivers across non-small cell lung cancer & small cell lung cancer
  - Use that information to utilize standard of care therapeutics or develop new therapies that can target the common molecular signatures
- Dr. Flores, recruited 2016 from MD Anderson, recently promoted to Associate Center Director, Basic Science
  - Also funded by an NCI R35 and T32
- Dr. Haura recently promoted to Associate Center Director, Clinical Science
  - Also funded by an NCI R01 and UH3

## High Impact Clinical Trials

Example: the ZUMA-1 National Trial





#### CHANGING PRACTICE WITH CELL THERAPIES

- Moffitt treated 1<sup>st</sup> patient in the US with Yescarta™, a diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL) CAR-T therapy
- Co-led the ZUMA-1 national trial
- Moffitt was the 1<sup>st</sup> center to treat patients in the investigational setting
- Locke is Program Co-Leader of Immuno-Therapy Program



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel CAR T-Cell Therapy in Refractory Large B-Cell Lymphoma

S.S. Neelapu, F.L. Locke, N.L. Bartlett, I. Braunschweig, O.O. Oluwole, T. Sid J.W. Friedberg, I.W. Flinn, A. Goy, B.T P. McSweeney, J. Munoz, I. Avivi, J.E. Cas K.V. Komanduri, R. Levy, E.D. Jacobsen L. Navale, Y. Jiang, J. Aycock, M. Elias



Articles

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel as Second-Line Therapy for Large B-Cell Lymphoma

> s, C.A. Jacobson, M.-A. Perales, M.-J. Kersten, , A.P. Rapoport, J. McGuirk, J.M. Pagel, J. Muñoz, .M. Reagan, A. Sureda, I.W. Flinn, P. Vandenberghe M.C. Minnema, P.A. Riedell, L.A. Leslie, S. Chaganti, h, M. Schupp, C. To, P. Cheng, L.I. Gordon, and -7 Investigators and Contributing Kite Members\*

THE LANCET Oncology

Long-term safety and activity of axicabtagene ciloleucel in 💮 🗦 🥁 📵 refractory large B-cell lymphoma (ZUMA-1): a single-arm, multicentre, phase 1-2 trial

immerman, Abbinav Deol, Patrick M.Reagan, Patrick Stiff, Ian W.Finn, Umar Faroog, Andre Goy, Peter A.McSweeney, Javier Munoz, ddiqi, Jolio C.Chavez, Alex F.Herren, Nancy I. Bartlett, Jeffny S.Wiezorek, Lynn Navale, Allen Xue, Yizhou Jiang, Adrian Bot, John M.Rossi

#### **EXPANDING INNOVATIVE CELL THERAPY TREATEMENTS**

- Moffit was first institution to provide CAR-T to a DLBCL patient
- Moffitt has an 85.5% market share of patients receiving CAR-T in Florida (151 CAR-T in CY2019)
- Immune Cell Therapy (ICE-T) Clinical Service established to support the needs of patients undergoing these treatments
- Insurance and Medicare coverage of cell therapies is inconsistent

#### POLICIES TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO CARE

- Dr. Locke participated in outreach to members of Congress and the Administration regarding cell therapies and insurance coverage
- Advocacy to CMS led to a reimbursement pathway for **CAR-T** therapies
- Currently working to reduce referral barriers from community oncologists

## Impactful Science Addressing State's Cancer Needs

## Cancers with excess mortality in vulnerable populations



## Understanding disparities in pancreatic cancer

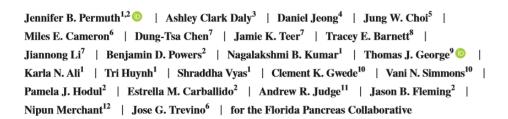


- 1<sup>st</sup> state-wide cohort study with a biospecimen and imaging bank for pancreatic cancer disparities research
- Funded by Florida Academic Cancer Center Alliance (FACCA) Pilot Project
- Led to Florida Biomed funding (8JK02)
- Dr. Permuth also funded by an NCI R37

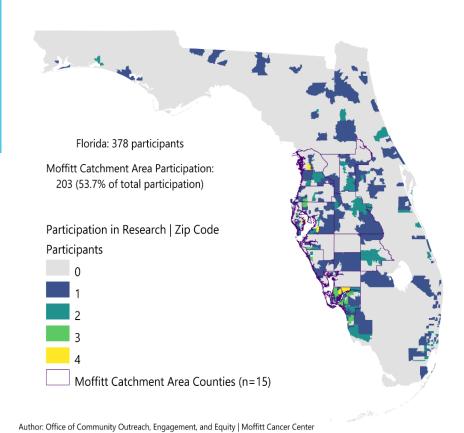
Revised: 29 March 2019 Accepted: 3 April 2019 Cancer Medicine

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Racial and ethnic disparities in a state-wide registry of patients with pancreatic cancer and an exploratory investigation of cancer cachexia as a contributor to observed inequities







378 **Participants** 

Sites

12% Black

**15**% Hispanic

**73**% Non-Hispanic white

# Training the Next Generation in Florida Example: Innovative Data Science Training Grant







Brooke Fridley, PhD



### **Grant Title: The Integrated Program in Cancer and Data Science**

- NCI funded Training grant (T32 CA233399)
- Led by Drs. Doug Cress, Brooke Fridley, and Elsa Flores
- \$1,584,045 over 5 years, which began in 2019
- 2021 Supplement expands focus to include focused training in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

### **Training Program Summary**

- Cross-disciplinary, spanning every Division at Moffitt
- 30+ faculty mentors
- Postdoctoral trainees will be paired into training teams that design a mentored research project that addresses a critical issue in cancer utilizing data science approaches
- In addition to research, the Program includes structured coursework, taken as appropriate, and is supplemented by participation in many career development activities relevant to postdoctoral trainees