ABTA Alumni Research Network
2018 Meeting

Wednesday - Friday
September 5-7, 2018
Loews Chicago O'Hare
5300 N. River Road
Rosemont, IL 60018
Colleagues & Friends,

On behalf of the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) Board of Directors, staff and volunteers; welcome to our 7th annual ABTA Alumni Research Network (AARN) meeting. We are honored to have you with us to learn, network, and celebrate the vital work of the ABTA Alumni Research Network members.

As the American Brain Tumor Association celebrates 45 years of impact on the brain tumor community, we recognize that our research alumni are the backbone of our mission. The work that you do in the lab and in the field, as well as the contributions you make to help us ensure that we are delivering the most accurate information to the patients and caregivers we serve is invaluable.

This meeting is a one of a kind opportunity for us to continue supporting the careers of our brain tumor researchers beyond the grant funding we provide.

This year’s AARN meeting has been led by co-chairs, Renee Read, PhD of Emory University and Derek Wainwright, PhD of Northwestern University. Their guidance has helped to shape this year’s meeting into what we feel will be a more immersive experience for all attendees. The American Brain Tumor Association thanks and appreciates them for their leadership and guidance.

We hope that you enjoy the 2018 ABTA Alumni Research Network meeting and look forward to spending this time with you.

Ralph DeVitto
American Brain Tumor Association
President & CEO
LETTER FROM AARN MEETING CO-CHAIRS

Dear AARN Members,

Welcome to the 7th annual ABTA Alumni Research Network Meeting. We are pleased to host a program that provides an opportunity to learn about important scientific topics in the area of brain tumor research.

As co-chairs, we are excited about the innovation this group offers, the capacity to bring together diverse research experiences, and to devote some time to topics that will help enhance your career and personal growth. This year’s program topics will discuss scientific advances and techniques, grant writing, management skills, and dealing with career stress and burnout.

We encourage you to network with each other, explore opportunities for project collaboration, and use this time to get to know your fellow ABTA Alumni Researchers. We would also like to extend a special welcome to those who are joining us for the first time this year.

Thank you for attending this year’s meeting and we look forward to spending time with you in Chicago.

Sincerely,

Renee Read, PhD     Derek Wainwright, PhD
## PROGRAM AGENDA

### Wednesday, September 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM - 2:45 PM</td>
<td>ABTA Welcome and Overview</td>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>Nicole Willmarth, PhD, ABTA Chief Mission Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 PM - 5:15 PM</td>
<td>AARN Member Introductions</td>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 PM - 5:30 PM</td>
<td>Move to Reception</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM - 5:45 PM</td>
<td>Opening Reception</td>
<td>The Ashburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45 PM - 6:45 PM</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>The Ashburn</td>
<td>Ralph DeVitto, ABTA President and CEO Members, ABTA Board of Directors, Donor Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45 PM - 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Relocate to onsite dinner for networking</td>
<td>Prado</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Plated Dinner</td>
<td>Prado</td>
<td>Renee Read, PhD, Emory University, Derek Wainwright, PhD, Northwestern University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thursday, September 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45 AM - 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>The Ashburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Working Group Breakfast Meeting</td>
<td>The Ashburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM - 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Working Group Reports</td>
<td>The Ashburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM - 9:45 AM</td>
<td>Break and relocate to Pollock</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 AM - 10:45 AM</td>
<td>Immunotherapy Approaches</td>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>David Reardon, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 AM - 11:45 AM</td>
<td>Stress, Burnout, and Morale of Academic Biomedical Scientists</td>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>Warren Lee Holleman, PhD, MD Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 AM - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Buffet Lunch</td>
<td>The Ashburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM - 2:30 PM</td>
<td>Bioinformatics and Biostatistics</td>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>Roel Verhaak, PhD, The Jackson Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bioinformatics and Biostatistics Workshop</td>
<td></td>
<td>Roel Verhaak, PhD, The Jackson Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dan Brat, MD, PhD, Northwestern University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM - 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Keynote: Advances in Treatment and Research</td>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>Roger Stupp, MD, Northwestern University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3:30 PM - 3:45 PM  Break

3:45 PM - 5:15 PM  Ask a Chairman Panel
Dan Brat, MD, PhD, Northwestern University
Linda Liau, MD, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

5:15 PM - 5:25 PM  Speakers Bureau
Reggie Smith, ABTA Director of Marketing

5:25 PM - 5:45 PM  Group Photo

5:45 PM - 6:00 PM  Summary of the Day's Activities
Renee Read, PhD, Emory University
Derek Wainwright, PhD, Northwestern University

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM  Networking and Free Time

6:30 PM  Departure for King's Bowl

Friday, September 7

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  Breakfast

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM  AARN Member Panel: Mentorship
Duane Mitchell, MD, PhD, University of Florida
Priscilla Brastianos, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital
Renee Read, PhD, Emory University

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM  Break

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM  Applying for Government Funding
William Timmer, PhD, National Cancer Institute

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM  Mock Study Section: AARN Member Grant Submissions

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  Box Lunch and Networking

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM  AARN Member Panel: Team Building
Justin Lathia, PhD, Cleveland Clinic
Erik Sulman, MD, PhD, MD Anderson
Catherine Flores, PhD, University of Florida

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM  Meeting Closing and Overview
Renee Read, PhD, Emory University
Derek Wainwright, PhD, Northwestern University
Nicole Willmarth, PhD, ABTA Chief Mission Officer
Daniel Brat, MD, PhD
Professor & Chair, Department of Pathology, Northwestern Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

Dr. Brat received his MD and PhD from the Mayo Medical and Graduate Schools and completed Residency in Anatomic Pathology and a Fellowship in Neuropathology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He took his first position in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Emory University. In 2017, he was named the Magerstadt Professor and Chair of Pathology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Brat is a practicing surgical neuropathologist with special expertise in neoplastic diseases. He directs a basic and translational research lab that investigates mechanisms of glioma progression, including the contributions of hypoxia, genetics, tumor microenvironment and stem cells, using Drosophila and mouse models, and computational approaches using large-scale clinical and molecular databases, such as TCGA. He has over 18 years of experience in brain tumor research and has written more than 250 peer-reviewed manuscripts and reviews.

Dr. Brat has served in leadership positions that oversee clinical practice and investigation in Oncology and Pathology, including TCGA Glioblastoma and Lower Grade Gliomas Working Groups; the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Glioma Guidelines Committee; the Executive Council of the American Association of Neuropathologists; the Board of Directors for the Society of Neuro-oncology; the WHO Committee for Classification of Brain Tumors; and the AJCC Expert Panel. He is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Linda Liau, MD, PhD, MBA
Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, David Geffen School of Medicine
Co-Director, Brain Tumor Center, University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Linda M. Liau received her B.S. in Biochemistry and B.A. in Political Science from Brown University, her M.D. from Stanford University, and Ph.D. in Neuroscience from UCLA. After completing her residency and fellowship training in neurosurgery at UCLA, she joined the faculty at the UCLA School of Medicine. She also has a M.B.A. from the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Dr. Liau is a board-certified neurosurgeon with both an active research laboratory and a busy clinical practice in the field of brain tumors and neurosurgical oncology.

Dr. Liau's research interests include translational experimental therapeutics of cell-based immunotherapy and gene therapies for brain tumors and characterization of molecular targets involved in brain tumor pathogenesis and progression. Clinically, she has developed novel ways to map brain function during awake brain tumor surgeries. She is the lead investigator on various novel clinical trials for brain cancer patients, and developed one of the first human applications of a personalized brain tumor vaccine (DCVax-L®). She is also the Principal Investigator and Director of the NCI-designated UCLA Brain Cancer SPORE P50 grant. Dr. Liau has authored over 150 peer-reviewed research articles, several book chapters, and a textbook entitled Brain Tumor Immunotherapy. She is on the editorial boards of several scientific/medical journals and was the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology (2007–2017). She was the first woman President of the Western Neurosurgical Society (WNS), and currently serves as a Director of the American Board of Neurological Surgeons (ABNS).
Roel Verhaak, PhD
Professor and Associate Director of Computational Biology, Jackson Laboratory

Roel Verhaak, PhD performed his graduate studies at the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and was a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD, at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, Boston, MA. The Verhaak Lab focuses on mechanisms of resistance to therapy in glioma, which his group interrogates through sequencing and computational biology approaches. This has involved the genomic and transcriptomic characterization of large cohorts of glioma patients (Verhaak et al, Cancer Cell, 2010; Brennan et al, Cell, 2013; Kim et al, Genome Res, 2015; Cecarelli et al, Cell, 2016; Wang et al, Cancer Cell, 2017). Recent work has identified extrachromosomal DNA elements as playing a critical role in glioma evolution (DeCarvalho et al, Nature Genetics, 2018), which may have important implications for the development of accurate biomarkers and novel therapies.

Warren Lee Holleman, PhD
Professor (Retired), Department of Behavioral Science and Director, Faculty Health & Well-Being Program, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

From 2010 to 2017, Dr. Warren Holleman served as professor of Behavioral Science at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. During that time, he directed the Faculty Health & Well-Being Program, which addressed the growing problem of job burnout among faculty physicians and scientists.

From 1989 to 2008, Dr. Holleman served on the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine, where he founded and directed the Baylor/SEARCH clinic, a community health center for Houston’s homeless population. He also founded and directed the Compassion & the Art of Medicine lecture and performing arts series, now in its 30th year.

David Reardon, MD
Associate Professor, Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Clinical Director, Center for Neuro-Oncology, Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

David A. Reardon, MD, currently serves as Clinical Director of the Center for Neuro-Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and previously served as the Associate Deputy Director of the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University Medical Center for eleven years. He completed his residency at John Hopkins Hospital in Maryland, USA and was awarded a fellowship at the University of Michigan. Dr. Reardon is an active researcher with special interests in the design and implementation of clinical trials for neuro-oncology and the preclinical evaluation of promising therapeutics for central nervous system tumors. His work includes using innovative clinical therapeutic agents to improve cure rates in patients with brain and spinal tumors, with particular focus on immunotherapeutics as well as molecular-targeting agents, anti-angiogenic reagents, cytotoxins and other biologically-based therapies. Dr. Reardon has published over 170 peer-reviewed manuscripts and received the R. Wayne Rundles Award for Excellence in Cancer Research. In 2013, he was elected as the tenth president of the Society for Neuro-Oncology.
Roger Stupp, MD
Chief of Neuro-oncology, Department of Neurology, Northwestern Medicine
Professor of Neurological Surgery, Medicine (Hematology and Oncology) and Neurology (Neuro-oncology), Feinberg School of Medicine
Medical Director, Malnati Brain Tumor Institute
Associate Director for Strategic Initiatives, Lurie Cancer Center

Roger Stupp, MD trained in Internal Medicine in Switzerland and in Hematology/Oncology at the University of Chicago. He then worked over 17 years as a physician and researcher at the University of Lausanne, and from 2013 - 2017 as the Director of the Department of Oncology at the University Hospital in Zurich, Switzerland. Since April 2017 he holds an appointment as Division Chief of Neuro-Oncology and Medical Director of the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, and as Associate Director for Strategic Initiatives of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Stupp has been a member of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) since 1994, and serves as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee since 2006 (President from 2012 – 2017). Dr. Stupp's research focuses on early drug development, the combination of chemo- and radiotherapy, multidisciplinary cancer management, namely in the areas of lung cancer and brain tumors. Dr. Stupp is best known for his contributions in landmarks trials establishing temozolomide and, most recently tumor treating fields as the standard of care for glioblastoma patients.

In 2017, he took new responsibilities as leader of medical neuro-oncology and clinical brain cancer research within Northwestern University’s Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center and its Brain Tumor Institute. He remains dedicated to translational cancer research, scientific cooperation and believes in the importance of well-designed clinical trials conducted within academic cooperative groups.

William Timmer, PhD
NCI Investigator – Initiated Grants, Review and Funding, National Cancer Institute

Dr. William C. Timmer is a Program Director in the Clinical Investigations Branch in CTEP. As Program Director, he is responsible for a portfolio of clinical oncology research grants involving brain, head and neck, lung, liver, colorectal, pancreatic and sarcoma cancers, plus neuroblastoma, retinoblastoma and neurofibromatosis.

He is also the Program Director for the Adult Brain Tumor Consortium (UM1), the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (U24), the Neurofibromatosis NF-1 Consortium (U01) and the Drug Resistance and Sensitivity Network (U54).

He received his PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and then transitioned to molecular biology and clinical sciences. He studied the immune-regulatory effects of cytokines on HIV replication in the Laboratory of Immunoregulation at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

He subsequently joined the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) where, over a fifteen-year period, he held a variety of scientific and regulatory positions of increasing influence in three different Centers: Foods, Drugs, and Biologics. Dr. Timmer has been privileged to be mentored by two of the most influential scientific leaders in health related research and care: Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIAID Director and Chief of the Laboratory of Immunoregulation, and Dr. Richard Pazdur, Director of the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence.

Dr. Timmer has over 100 publications and presentations. He has received numerous honor awards from both the FDA and the NIH, and has recently completed thirty years of federal service.
Manish Aghi, MD, PhD
Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of California, San Francisco
2009 Translational Grant
Manish.aghi@ucsf.edu

Research Interests
My laboratory is interested in how genetic changes in tumor cells and the cells in their microenvironment contribute to aggressive biology and therapeutic resistance in glioblastoma.

Christian Badr, PhD
Assistant Professor in Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital
2011 Basic Research Fellowship
BADR.CHRISTIAN@MGH.HARVARD.EDU

Research Interests
My lab is focused on studying tumor plasticity and genetic drivers of malignancy and treatment resistance in brain-tumor initiating cells, in order to develop targeted and experimental therapeutics for brain tumors.

Priscilla Brastianos, MD
Assistant Professor, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School
2012 Basic Research Fellowship, 2003 Medical Student Summer Fellowship
pbrastianos@partners.org

Research Interests
Her research focuses on understanding the genetic mechanisms that drive brain tumors. She has lead seminal studies which identified novel therapeutic targets in meningiomas and brain metastases, and she has translated her scientific findings to national multicenter trials. She also leads a multidisciplinary brain metastasis clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School.

Milan Chheda, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine and Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine
2008 Basic Research Fellowship
MCHHEDA@DOM.wustl.edu

Research Interests
Our focus is on targeting glioblastoma (GBM) stem cells. We are characterizing the genetic and epigenetic events that induce cancer and maintain tumors. We are developing Zika virus as a new therapy for GBM.

Henk M. De Feyter, PhD
Research Scientist in Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, Yale University
2013 Discovery Grant
henk.defeyter@yale.edu

Research Interests
My research is focused on studying tumor metabolism in vivo using magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS). The goal is to use the in vivo metabolic phenotype of tumors as a biomarker to guide therapy, and as an early indicator of therapy response.
Research Interests
Our research effort focuses on characterizing the unique pathways driving the stem cell state in malignant brain tumors and identifying cancer stem cell dependencies and vulnerabilities that can be exploited therapeutically to specifically target these clinically relevant cells.

Ben Ellingson, PhD
Associate Professor of Radiology, University of California, Los Angeles
2017 Research Collaboration Grant
BEllingson@mednet.ucla.edu

Research Interests
Dr. Ellingson’s research involves the development, testing, and implementation of advanced MRI and PET imaging biomarkers for the characterization of brain tumor biology and response evaluation in clinical trials.

William Flavahan, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Massachusetts General Hospital
2015 Basic Research Fellowship
WFLAVAHAN@mgh.harvard.edu

Research Interests
My research is focused on the activation of oncogenes through defects in three-dimensional genetic topology caused by the ubiquitous glioma mutation in IDH1.

Catherine Flores, PhD
Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Florida
2017 Research Collaboration grant
Catherine.Flores@neurosurgery.ufl.edu

Research Interests
Dr. Flores is interested in determining biological interactions between various cellular compartments involved in adoptive immunotherapy. Her studies also focus on leveraging systemic toxicity of clinical treatments in order to further enhance anti-tumor efficacy of immunotherapy.

Anita Hjelmeland, PhD
Assistant Professor of Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham
2005 Basic Research Fellowship
hjelmea@uab.edu

Research Interests
My research program seeks to define novel regulators of glioblastoma growth and tumor initiating cell maintenance to determine new treatments for the disease.

Lan Hoang-Minh, PhD
Assistant Scientist, University of Florida
2016 Basic Research Fellowship
Lan.HoangMinh@neurosurgery.ufl.edu

Research Interests
Dr. Hoang-Minh’s research is focused on engineering T cells and optimizing their delivery to target invasive glioma cells in the context of adoptive cell immunotherapy.
**Craig Horbinski, MD, PhD**  
Associate Professor in Pathology/Neurological Surgery, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
2008 Basic Research Fellowship  
craig.horbinski@northwestern.edu  

**Research Interests**  
My lab studies the effects of altered glioma metabolism on the tumor microenvironment, particularly in mutant IDH1 gliomas.

**Jane Ishmael, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Oregon State University  
2014 Discovery Grant  
jane.ishmael@oregonstate.edu  

**Research Interests**  
My research interests focus on brain tumors and mechanisms of cell stress and death. My laboratory studies the action of new chemical structures that have arisen in nature and have the potential to inspire future drug development.

**Forrest Kievit, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Biological Systems Engineering, University of Nebraska  
2013 Basic Research Fellowship  
fkievit2@unl.edu  

**Research Interests**  
My research focuses on the development of nanoparticle-based delivery vehicles for transport into the brain to improve current brain cancer treatments, with the overall goal of translating nanomedicine into clinical use.

**Dohoon Kim, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Medical School  
2010 Basic Research Fellowship  
dohoonhms@gmail.com  

**Research Interests**  
The Kim lab focuses on understanding how changes in metabolic pathways support cancer cells and their survival within the tumor environment, and exploiting these changes for therapeutic purposes. In particular, we are interested in pathways that involve production of toxic metabolites in glioblastoma and medulloblastoma. We are also studying potential roles of toxic metabolites in contexts outside of cancer.

**Justin D. Lathia, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Cleveland Clinic  
2009 Basic Research Fellowship  
lathiaj@ccf.org  

**Research Interests**  
Work in the Lathia lab focuses on how the stem cell state is regulated in advanced cancers. Projects include understanding how cancer stem cells interact with their surrounding microenvironment and identifying unique pathways for therapeutic development.
Peter LaViolette, PhD
Assistant Professor of Radiology, Medical College of Wisconsin
2016 Discovery Grant
plaviole@mcw.edu

Research Interests
The LaViolette lab is focused on improving detection of infiltrative brain tumors using advanced MRI technology combined with brain cancer tissue obtained at autopsy. Our goal is to better predict where tumors have spread beyond margins denoted by conventional imaging.

Hernando Lopez-Bertoni, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Hugo Moser Research Institute at Kennedy Krieger, Inc.
2015 Basic Research Fellowship
LopezBertoni@kennedykrieger.org

Research Interests
My work focuses on the molecular mechanisms involved in establishing and promoting brain tumor formation and understanding the contribution of stem-like cells to this process. Our goal is to develop new approaches that will ultimately impact diagnosis and treatment of brain cancer.

Braden McFarland, PhD
Instructor in Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham
2015 Discovery Grant, 2012 Basic Research Fellowship
bdcox@uab.edu

Research Interests
Research in the McFarland lab is focused on the role of macrophages in glioblastoma, how targeted therapies affect immune response, and how the effects of the microbiome on tumors and treatment.

Duane Mitchell, MD, PhD
Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Florida
2006 Translational Grant
Duane.Mitchell@neurosurgery.ufl.edu

Research Interests
Dr. Mitchell leads a comprehensive translational research program focused on brain tumor immunotherapy, and is principal investigator on a number of first-in-human immunotherapy clinical trials in pediatric and adult patients with brain cancer.

Josh Neman, PhD
Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of Southern California
2016 Discovery Grant
josh.neman@gmail.com

Research Interests
My current research investigates the biology of medulloblastoma and breast to brain metastases. My expertise and strengths in stem cell biology and neuroscience have allowed me to develop novel molecular, cellular, and systems approach to study the interaction between the brain and cancer cells.
Research Interests
Dr. Olin's scientific interest is defining the mechanism(s) of suppression inhibiting the ability to mount a tumoricidal response evident in the tumor draining lymph nodes and tumor environment. He is focused on the development of inhibitors derived to overcome the suppressive tumor microenvironment.

Carmela Passaro, PhD
Research Fellow, Brigham and Women's Hospital
2017 Basic Research Fellowship
cpassaro@bwh.harvard.edu
Research Interests
Dr. Passaro’s research is focused on understanding the immunological effects of virotherapy and engineering oncolytic viruses for improved therapeutic efficacy in glioblastoma.

Anders Persson, PhD
Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of California, San Francisco
2018 Research Collaboration Grant, 2010 Translational Grant, 2008 Basic Research Fellowship
anders.persson@ucsf.edu
Research Interests
Dr. Passaro’s research is focused on understanding the immunological effects of virotherapy and engineering oncolytic viruses for improved therapeutic efficacy in glioblastoma.

Francisco Puerta-Martinez, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, MD Anderson Cancer Center
2016 Basic Research Fellowship
FWPuerta@mdanderson.org
Research Interests
Dr. Puerta-Martinez's research interests are in combining viral therapy with co-stimulatory molecules for enhanced immune response in gliomas and metastatic brain tumors.

Renee Read, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Emory University School of Medicine
2015 Discovery Grant
renee.read@emory.edu
Research Interests
Dr. Read’s research is centered on identifying novel drug targets for glioblastoma using animal models in a multidisciplinary approach.

Martyn Sharpe, PhD
Associate Research Professor of Neurosurgery, Houston Methodist Hospital
2011 Discovery Grant
MASharpe@houstonmethodist.org
Research Interests
I am currently investigating two novel chemotherapeutic strategies for treating glioblastoma, 1) using MAO-B to convert a prodrug version of a DNA alkyltransferase inhibitor, blocking this DNA-repair pathway, and 2) targeted nanosyringes to deliver hydrophobic drugs to chosen cell types.
Erik Sulman, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer
2010 Translational Grant, 2007 Basic Research Fellowship
epsulman@mdanderson.org

Research Interests
My research focuses on developing predictors of outcome and treatment response for patients with malignant brain tumors and on developing novel therapies using stem-like cells.

An-Chi Tien, PhD
Translational Scientist, Barrow Neurological Institute
2012 Basic Research Fellowship
An-Chi.Tien@DignityHealth.org

Research Interests
My research focuses on early phase trials with targeted therapies for recurrent GBM and meningioma patients. The goal is to examine pharmacodynamics endpoints using window-of-opportunity trial to elucidate drug properties as well as resistance mechanism.

Monica Venere, PhD
Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology, The Ohio State University
2010 Basic Research Fellowship
Monica.Venere@osumc.edu

Research Interests
The Venere laboratory is investigating mechanisms of radioresistance and pathways involved in fate switch from invasion to proliferation in glioblastoma.

Derek Wainwright, PhD
Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, Northwestern University
2013 Discovery Grant
derekwainwright@northwestern.edu

Research Interests
The Wainwright Laboratory studies mechanisms of glioma-induced immunosuppression and the therapeutic avenues that re-engage tumor immunity, specifically the immunosuppressive mediator IDO1.

Kyle Walsh, PhD
Associate Professor of Neurosurgery, Duke University Medical Center
Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium Junior Investigator
kyle.walsh@duke.edu

Research Interests
Dr. Walsh’s research program focuses on genetic and epigenetic factors contributing to cancer predisposition in children and adults, with a special interest in brain tumors.

Zhaohui Wang, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Duke University Medical Center
2016 Basic Research Fellowship
zhaohui.wang@duke.edu

Research Interests
My research is focused on genetic and functional studies in neuro-oncology, and I am currently working on defining the roles of recurrent genetic alterations discovered in brainstem glioma.
Qian Xie, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Science, East Tennessee State University
2013 Discovery Grant
Xieq01@etsu.edu

Research Interests
The Xie lab is focused on understanding the mechanisms of MET pathway activation in glioblastoma, to accelerate strategies to improve therapeutic efficacy targeting brain tumors, and to establish preclinical models for targeted therapy.

Eunhee Yi, PhD
Postdoctoral Associate, Jackson Laboratories for Genomic Medicine
2018 Basic Research Fellowship
Eunhee.Yi@jax.org

Research Interests
I am interested in the genomic instability and intratumoral heterogeneity in cancer. I am working on the extrachromosomal genome element to uncover their unique strategy to bring a genomic diversity in glioblastoma.

Mingyao Ying, PhD
Assistant Professor of Neurology, Hugo Moser Research Institute at Kennedy Krieger, Inc.
2012 Discovery Grant
ying@kennedykrieger.org

Research Interests
My research focuses on studying signaling pathways that support cancer stemness in glioblastoma and medulloblastoma, and developing novel therapeutic strategies for glioblastoma and medulloblastoma.

Kyunson Yun, PhD
Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, Houston Methodist Hospital
2013 Discovery Grant
kyun@houstonmethodist.org

Research Interests
The Yun laboratory studies dynamic cell:cell communication among diverse cell types in GBM and medulloblastoma at the single cell level. In particular, we are interested in elucidating how interactions among cancer stem cells and immune cells contribute to therapy resistance and tumor recurrence.