

Triggers and Targets in the Tumour Microenvironment

A research group led by Drs. Michael Milosevic and Marianne Koritzinsky, initiated “Triggers and Targets in the Tumour Microenvironment”, a project that aims to expand on existing groundbreaking research into the effects of hypoxia on tumour aggressiveness. The project will look at four highly aggressive cancers: pancreatic cancer, glioblastoma multiforme, castrate-resistant prostate cancer and cervical cancer.

“During previous iterations of the project we learned that the tumour microenvironment is a unique ecosystem made up of different cells, and that its composition, including hypoxia, can drive the aggressiveness of a cancer and determine if a patient’s tumour is resistant to therapy,” says Dr. Koritzinsky.

The project was awarded \$6 million-dollars over six years from the Terry Fox New Frontiers Program Project grant. The aim is to continue gaining a deeper biological understanding of the role each element in the microenvironment plays and subsequently begin targeting specific vulnerabilities in each patient to improve their outcomes.

“By capitalizing on the flow of information back and forth from the clinic to the lab we will advance the science on how the microenvironment influences cancer progression, cancer

control, metastasis formation and treatment response in our patient population,” says Dr. Milosevic. “I think it’s hugely exciting because over the next few years we can make a really big difference in how patients with cancer are treated.” 🔄



Drs. Michael Milosevic and Marianne Koritzinsky

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