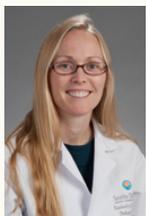


Research Reinvestment Fund Awardees

The **Research Reinvestment Fund (RRF)** was established to help achieve the Department of Surgery's goal of becoming the premier home for surgical research. The first round of proposals and awards has been completed. Nearly 10 principal investigators in the Department of Surgery submitted proposals to access the Department Research Reinvestment Fund. Winning proposals were tightly tied to deliverables, were considered game-changing proposals and demonstrated the ability to provide returns on the investment. While each proposal was thoughtful and presented worthwhile research questions, evaluations from the Research Executive Group helped narrow the field to five projects that will be funded at this time. Congratulations to the following investigators who were chosen:



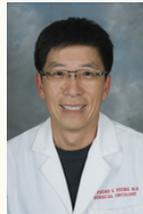
Dr. James Park, Associate Professor, General Surgery. Dr. Park's funding provides support for a proof-of-principle pilot study of the immunocompetent rat hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) model. This collaborative project will be a forging of resources between multiple departments to overcome major hurdles in current imaging barriers looking at HCC.



Dr. Kim Riehle, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Surgery. This funding allows Dr. Riehle to examine non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) from three perspectives: surveying mouse models, comparing specific mouse tumors to human tumors, and sequencing human tumors with a novel method. This project should result in the development of important data about this highly fatal disease.



Dr. Venu Pillarisetty, Assistant Professor, General Surgery. This project will study chimeric antigenic receptor targeting of pancreatic cancer. Dr. Pillarisetty's study could have a major impact on treatment models for patients with this devastating cancer.



Dr. Ray Yeung, Professor, General Surgery. Dr. Yeung will develop new genetic models to study hepatic stenosis. The novel hypothesis from this work could be a key step towards targeted therapies to address an epidemic of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. By the end of the funding period, Dr. Yeung will be submitting an NIH R01 proposal based on this work.



Iris Garcia, Operations Manager Trauma Lab and Clinical Research, submitted a proposal to replace and upgrade HMC's fluorescence imaging system; an important laboratory tool for multiple projects in multiple labs shared by **Dr. Sam Arbabi**, Professor, Trauma & Burn Surgery; **Dr. Joe Cuschieri**, Professor, Trauma & Burn Surgery; and **Dr. Nicole Gibran**, Professor, Trauma & Burn Surgery. This award will be key to future successes in both discoveries and future funding.



Arbabi



Cuschieri



Gibran

Total awards were over \$250,000. The strength of each of these projects suggests high likelihood of future external funding based on this investment.

New proposals to access the Reinvestment Fund continue to be accepted on a rolling basis. The next round of funding (for the second quarter of this year) was completed November 2012. Second quarter awardees are expected to be chosen January 2013; however, awardees were not known at the time of this publication. They will be announced in the Spring 2013 issue.