

Proposal Relevance Statement

Principle Investigator:

Proposed Title: *Deciphering the Contributions of Beta-catenin to Progression of Androgen Independent Prostate Cancer by Modulation of PI3K Signalling.*

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My proposed studies at UCLA will provide me with excellent preparation for a career in prostate cancer biology. The UCLA prostate cancer group is one of the best in the United States and will give me with the opportunity to continue my study of mechanisms leading to androgen independence but will also provide me with new and exciting training in the development of novel animal models for prostate cancer research.

In terms of intellectual training, I will work closely with UCLA collaborators of Dr. _____ who are interested in prostate cancer biology, including Drs. _____ and _____. These investigators can all be considered leaders in their respective fields and are highly productive as bourn out in their publication record.

Dr. _____'s laboratory is a member of the UCLA Cancer Center, which offers weekly seminars and a yearly scientific retreat. I will present my research work at least once a year in this campus-wide research seminar series in addition to our weekly lab meetings. I will also attend at least one National or International Scientific Conference per year.

UCLA has obtained funding from the National Cancer Institute as a part of Mouse Models for Human Cancer Consortium and Dr. Wu is the Co-PI for the UCLA center grant. Dr. _____ is also a co-investigator of the UCLA SPORE grant. Dr. _____ laboratory has a monthly scientific meetings as well as a journal club with rest of the prostate cancer research groups at UCLA. I will be an active member of this joint team.

My research project in the laboratory of Dr. _____ will involve the study of knock-out and transgenic animals. Currently, the field of prostate cancer lacks biologically relevant cell lines (PSA secreting) and animal models can develop prostate cancer progression in a similar manner to humans. Dr. _____ has recently developed a novel animal model (a PTEN -/- conditional mouse) which develops metastatic and androgen independent prostate cancer. By learning technology and expertise in the production of transgenic and knock-out animals, within the context of sound biological hypothesis, I hope to gain training that will allow me to conduct research that provides greater clinical relevancy.

By completing my Doctoral studies at The Prostate Centre, Vancouver, BC and my Post-doctoral training with the prostate group at UCLA I will be in an excellent position to complete for a first rate faculty position in prostate cancer research.