

Cancer Center Support Grant – CCSG 2016

“Harnessing the full potential of novel immune therapies for oral cancer prevention and treatment”

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There has been limited improvement in the overall survival of advanced oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) patients in the past decades. Recent therapeutic strategies using immune oncology agents restoring T cell mediated anti-tumor immunity have achieved remarkable clinical responses in ~20% of OSCC patients. However, the dearth of experimental animal models to study OSCC development in immunocompetent mice has prevented achieving the full clinical potential of immune therapies. Using a recently developed syngeneic OSCC mouse model system and human clinical samples, we will aim at discovering novel immune oncology co-targeting interventions, and biomarkers predictive of a favorable clinical response.