

2016 Pilot Award Recipients

	Funding Mechanism	Investigator/Department	Project Title	Award Amount
01	ACS-IRG Junior Faculty Development Grant (16 applications)	Farrukh Afaq, PhD Assistant Professor, Dermatology	Combining Plumbagin and Vemurafenib for the Management of Melanoma	\$40,000
		Rebecca Arend, MD Assistant Professor Obstetrics & Gynecology	Treatment of ovarian cancer with Wnt/ β -catenin inhibitors	\$40,000
		Jennifer DeBerry, PhD Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology	Role of growth factors (ARTN, GDNF) in TRPA1-dependent mechanisms of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy	\$40,000
		Purnima Singh, PhD Assistant Professor Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (Special Interest Award)	Integrative genomics and anthracycline-related Cardiomyopathy in Childhood Cancer	\$40,000
02	Young Supporters Board of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center New Faculty Development Award in Cancer Research (9 applications)	Renata Jaskula-Sztul, PhD Assistant Professor, Surgery	Tumor-Targeting Nanotheranostic Micelles for Neuroendocrine Cancer Therapy	\$40,000
		Catherine Parker, MD Assistant Professor, Surgery	Should breast cancer screening mammography guidelines account for race?	\$40,000
		Jason Warram, PhD Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology	A dual anti-angiogenic approach to improving antibody-based therapy in head and neck cancer	\$40,000
03	National Clinical Trial Network LAPS program- <i>Translational Research Initiative Awards</i>	Mick Edmonds, PhD Assistant Professor, Genetics Francisco Robert, MD Professor, Medicine	Novel functions for non-coding RNA in human malignancy	\$20,000
		Piyathilake, Chandrika, PhD Professor, Nutrition Sciences Warner Huh, MD Professor, Gynecologic Oncology Devin Absher, PhD Faculty Investigator, HudsonAlpha	Characterization of cervical cancer specimens for CpG island methylator phenotype (CIMP)	\$20,000
		Soroush Rais-Bahrami, MD Assistant Professor, Urology Sooryanarayana Varambally, PhD Assoc. Professor, Pathology and Urology	Transcriptome sequencing of urinary exosomal RNA from prostate cancer patients to identify novel non-invasive biomarkers	\$20,000

		David Schneider, PhD Associate Professor, Biochemistry Rebecca Arend, MD Assistant Professor, Medicine	Testing ribosome biosynthesis inhibitors in patient derived ascites cells.	\$20,000
		Lizhong Wang, MD, PhD Assist. Professor, Genetics Erica Stringer-Reasor, MD Assistant Professor, Medicine	Utilizing circulating exosomal microRNA-141 in early detection of breast cancer metastasis	\$20,000
		Yang Yang, MD, PhD Assistant Professor, Pathology Deniz Peker, MD Assistant Professor, Pathology Racquel Innis-Shelton, MD Assistant Professor, Medicine	Plasma cell-derived Runx2 as a biomarker for MGUS progressing to multiple myeloma	\$20,000
04	Pilot Collaborative Projects in Non-AIDS Defining Cancers in Aging Individuals with HIV	Guangxiang Luo , PhD Professor, Microbiology Olaf Kutsch, PhD Professor, Medicine	Molecular Pathogenesis of HBV and HIV Co-Infection	\$100,000
		Chandrika Piyathilake, PhD Professor, Nutrition Sciences Edgar Overton, MD Associate Professor, Medicine Robert Cerfolio, MD Professor, Surgery Walter Bell, MD Associate Professor, Pathology	Etiologic role of human papillomavirus (HPV) infections in lung cancer of HIV positive patients	\$100,000

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01	ACS-IRG Junior Faculty Development Grant (15 applicants)	Soroush Rais-Bahrami, MD Assistant Professor, Urology	Epigenetic Profiles and Imaging Signatures of Prostate Cancer Detected on MRI Targeted Biopsy	\$40,000
		Jianmei Leavenworth, PhD Assistant Professor, Microbiology	Exploring the contribution of memory-like NK cells to anti-glioma responses	\$40,000
		Grant Williams, MD Assistant Professor, Medicine (Special Interest Award)	<u>S</u> arcopenia and <u>PhAR</u> maco <u>K</u> inetics in Colorectal Cancer: the SPARK project	\$40,000
		Jinda Fan, PhD Assistant Professor, Radiology	Preclinical PET Imaging of Phosphodiesterase 10 (PDE10), a Novel Target for Early Detection of Lung Cancer	\$40,000
02	The Richard A. Elkus, M.D., Pilot Grant Program in Pancreatic Cancer Research (3 applicants)	Susan Bellis, PhD Professor, Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology	Novel mechanism conferring PDAC resistance to gemcitabine-mediated DNA damage	\$50,000