

Media Release

Brain Tumor Funders' Collaborative Announces \$3 Million in Grants

Funding Will Support 4 Collaborative Teams Funds to Help Bridge the Translational Gap in Brain Cancer Research

London, ON – January 16, 2019 – The Brain Tumor Funders' Collaborative (BTFC) – six private funders of brain tumour research – today announced \$3 million in grants to four multi-institutional teams of researchers and clinicians studying immunotherapy in primary brain tumours.

The four funded projects will examine vaccination strategies, the tumour's micro-environment, anti-tumour T-cells, and personalized immunotherapy approaches. They were selected during a multi-stage review process from more than 79 responses to the BTFC call for proposals.

The following institutions will be receiving \$750,000 BTFC grants over the next three years:

Project Sponsor: David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Project Title: Active vaccination and the timing of checkpoint blockade dictate effective immunotherapy for glioblastoma
Project Manager: Robert Prins

Project Sponsor: McGill University
Project Title: Harnessing the brain tumour immune-microenvironment to enhance therapeutic efficacy
Project Manager: Daniela Quail

Project Sponsor: UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Project Title: Interrogating anti-tumour T-cells to develop adoptive cell transfer (ACT) Immunotherapy for pediatric high-grade gliomas
Project Manager: Gary Kohanbash

Sponsoring Institution: University of California, San Francisco
Project Title: Three dimensional immuno-genomics approach to personalized neoantigen-based immunotherapy
Project Manager: Joseph Costello

The Brain Tumor Funders Collaborative was formed by private foundations and non-profit organizations to pool their resources and become more strategic by focusing their research dollars

Media Release

toward specific therapeutic goals. The BTFC organizations combine this research funding with patient education and advocacy.

Note: The following organizations participate in the BTFC and in this joint funding initiative:

- American Brain Tumor Association
- Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada
- James S. McDonnell Foundation
- Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
- Sontag Foundation
- Anonymous

“We are excited to be a part of this Collaborative which aligns with our vision, to find the cause of a and a cure for brain tumours while improving the quality of life for those affected.” Said Susan Marshall, CEO of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. “We are especially pleased to be working with Daniela Quail of McGill University in Montreal and congratulate her on her grant.”

Further information about the BTFC and its funding initiative can be found at www.braintumorfunders.org or <https://www.braintumour.ca/2306/brain-tumor-funders-collaborative>.

Brain tumour facts are available at www.braintumour.ca/facts.

- 30 -

About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada: Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity offering information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it cancerous, non-malignant or metastases. The organization funds ground-breaking research across North America and, since 1982, has dedicated over \$6.9 million to finding a cure and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is funded solely through generous contributions from individuals, corporations, organizations, employee groups and special events. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s website: www.BrainTumour.ca.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

Susan Marshall
Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada
1.800.265.5106 ext. 222
smarshall@braintumour.ca