

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 27TH, 2017 THINK TANK OUTCOMES

On Friday October 27th, WCRG hosted the seventh Cancer Research Think Tank. **The objective of the Think Tank is to present and discuss 3 cancer research topics of interest and identify collaborative teams that can work together to bring these projects forward for funding.**

Number of participants: 40

Institutions Represented: University of Windsor, Windsor Regional Hospital, Henry Ford Health System, Azenia, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Wayne State University, Windsor Clinical Research Inc.

Disciplinary Backgrounds: Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Nursing, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Medical and Radiation Oncology, Physics, Pharmaceutical, Engineering, Administration, Dermatology

Think Tank Outcomes

Goal #1: Lisa Porter, WCRG Translational Research Director opened the Think Tank by welcoming all attendees. She provided an overview of the Agenda, highlighted some upcoming funding opportunities, shared some updates on student volunteer activities and shared metrics from the last six Think Tanks. She announced to attendees that a summary of all Think Tank results can be found on the [WCRG website](#).

Goal #2: Project leaders presented 3 potential project ideas for future submission, which included:

- Mathematical modeling of tumor growth
Presenter: **Tirupati Bolisetti**, PhD, Civil and Environmental Engineering, UWindsor
- Using a combination approach to reveal novel biomarkers of prostate cancer
Presenter: **Ingrid Qemo**, PhD Student, Biological Sciences, UWindsor
- Development of a new family of biocompatible 18F Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Agents
Presenter: **Drew Marquardt**, Chemistry and Biochemistry, UWindsor

Goal #3: Project leads were identified for each proposed project and participants expressed their interest to be included on specific project teams.

Goal #4: Moving forward, each Think Tank will provide an opportunity for project leads in selected areas to present a brief overview of their general research topic. Projects will be selected based on the results of previous Think Tanks and people's willingness to present their ideas.

Kyle Stokes, a PhD student in the Karpowicz lab, shared his experience with the Mitacs-JSPS Summer Program. Kyle had a three month Fellowship at the Keio University School of Medicine under the supervision of Dr. Toshiro Sato. We appreciated learning about the Mitacs opportunities, Kyles academic experience and Japanese culture.

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the Think Tank. The feedback summary indicates that all participants thought the goals of the Think Tank were achieved and they found the collaborative, collegial atmosphere and the discussions in break out groups very useful. Suggestions for continuing to increase the diversity of participants and presenters were provided.

Thank you to Think Tank participants for their on-going commitment to building collaborative research in our region. Sincere appreciation to **Rosa Ferraiuolo, Bre-Anne Fifield** and **Ellen Laurie** for their brilliant note taking - knowledge capture is a key component of the Think Tank success. And thank you to our WCRG CURES Team Volunteers, **Gillian Denomme, Vanessa Montemurri** and **Alexander Rodzinka** for ensuring the afternoon went smoothly. We couldn't have done it without you!

If you are interested in learning more about the research topics discussed at this Think Tank or have a research topic idea you would like to present and discuss at the next Think Tank, please contact Karen Metcalfe at karenmet@uwindsor.ca