Building An Innovation-Driven Cancer Center: Clinical Care, Research, and Entrepreneurship

Laurie Owen, Ph.D. Associate Director USA Mitchell Cancer Institute



State-of-the-Art Research and Clinical Facilities (Occupied October 2008)

\$85 Million Construction and Equipment

Largest Single USA Research Investment (\$135 M)







Mitchell Cancer Institute Strategic Goals

- Develop and maintain a cutting-edge interdisciplinary, research- and innovationdriven clinical cancer institute with regional and national impact.
- Achieve NCI Cancer Center designation.



The Mitchell Cancer Institute



Research Programs at MCI

12 PI-Led Research Groups focused on:

- Cancer Biology
- DNA Damage and Repair
- Biomarkers and Early Detection
- Cancer Prevention and Drug Discovery



Cumulative Federal Peer-Reviewed Grants Dollars Per MCI PI





Cumulative MCI Invention Disclosures





Cumulative MCI Patents Filed





Ingredients For Growing A Successful Research Program

- Talented, Interested, and Energetic Faculty
- Workforce (students, postdoctoral fellows, staff)
- Collaborations
- Institutional Support
- Institutional Infrastructure
 - Compliance (IRB, IACUC, Bio-safety, etc.)
 - Grant/Contract Support
 - Tech Transfer/Commercialization
 - Space/Equipment



MCI Shared Resources and Cores

Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy

Tumor Biobank

Biofortis (Labmatrix)

• Flow Cytometry

Cancer stem cell isolation

Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics

Waters Ultima QTOF, ThermoFisher Orbitrap,

ThermoFisher Q-Exactive Plus nano-LC (Orbitrap)

•Cellular Bioenergetics

Seahorse Extracellular Flux (XF)

Hypoxia chamber, incubator

High Throughput Screening for Drug Discovery

- Automated liquid handling
- Robotic arm, confocal imager and multimode multiplate reader

Advanced Microscopy
Super-resolution microscopy, laser micro-dissection



Unique Shared Use Facilities at MCI

- High-throughput automated screening with industrial robot, liquid handling, imaging read-out (1 of 2 facilities in State)
- Advanced Microscopy Center Super-resolution microscopy (SIM and STORM) (1 of 4 facilities in United States)



Image-Based High Content Screening





67% 10 583 SH-253 I glad = 0.000 am 1.02 05 photosi memory 4.00 08 initial memory



Beckman Coulter FXp Liquid Handler



What are the Strengths of High Content Screening?

- HCS can measure cell health and treatment effects of experimental anticancer drugs (e.g. apoptosis, cell cycle arrest, etc)
- HCS can measure translocation of intracellular proteins (e.g. transcription activation)
- HCS can measure changes in cell morphology (e.g. differentiation)
- HCS can find rare events in adherent cultured cells
- Or all of these in the same assay with high reproducibility, low variability, in very low volumes



Laboratory Automation and High Throughput: Built to do experiments in microscale



Smaller well volumes save expensive and/ or precious reagents



Inhibition of EGFR Autophosphorylation









EGF + Vehicle







Minus EGF Control





Advanced Imaging Facility at MCI



SIM

STORM





Resolution of Visible Light vs. Super-Resolution (sub-diffraction)

- Resolution of visible light limited by light diffraction
- Defined by Abbe Equation (1873)- 200 nm



Image Comparison Conventional Vs. Super-Resolution Microscopy





Super-Resolution Compared to Conventional Microscopy



3D-SIM

Widefield

Deconvolved Widefield



Super-Resolution Imaging



3D-SIM super-resolved image of actin (red) and VASP (green) association in A549 cells



Super-Resolution Imaging



STORM superresolved image of mitochondria (red) and microtubules (green) in HeLa cells

