

AWARD NUMBER: W81XWH-15-1-0141

TITLE: Enhancing Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor therapy in Kidney Cancer

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REPORT DATE: October 2017

TYPE OF REPORT: ANNUAL

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

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1. REPORT DATE October 2017		2. REPORT TYPE Annual		3. DATES COVERED 30 Sep 2016 - 29 Sep 2017	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Enhancing Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor therapy in Kidney Cancer				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER W81XWH- 15-1-0141	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S) Hans Hammers, M.D., Ph.D. E-Mail: hans.hammers@utsouthwestern.edu				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center 5323 Harry Hines Blvd Dallas, TX 75390-9105				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT The purpose of this work is to develop strategies to enhance immune checkpoint inhibition in kidney cancer. The work is designed to test different strategies to induce or enhance the abscopal in a kidney cancer model by combining ablative techniques or TLR agonists with PD1 inhibitors. Funds were transferred to UT Southwestern mid 2017. The PI is in the process of getting IACUC/ACURO approval for the poposed animal studies.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS Kidney cancer, Immunotherapy, abscopal effect					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 5	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON USAMRMC
a. REPORT Unclassified	b. ABSTRACT Unclassified	c. THIS PAGE Unclassified			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)

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1. **INTRODUCTION:** *Narrative that briefly (one paragraph) describes the subject, purpose and scope of the research.*

The purpose of this research is to test therapeutic strategies to make immune checkpoint inhibition more effective in an animal model of kidney cancer. Our plan is to combine focally ablative techniques such as radiation or cryotherapy with PD1 immune checkpoint inhibition and assess the abscopal effect, i.e. the growth of tumors at a distant, untreated site. Additionally, we will test the effect of TLR agonist administration in this model and look at combination with focally ablative techniques.

2. **KEYWORDS:** *kidney cancer, immunotherapy, PD1, TLR, abscopal, radiation, cryotherapy*
3. **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

The major goals for the first year were to

- a) produce PD1 antibody from a H5 hybridoma (available from the Drake lab)
- b) obtain IACUC/ACURO approval for the animal protocol
- c) test the effect of radiation of radiation and cryotherapy +/- PD1 inhibition on the abscopal effect
- d) analyze tissues for immune cell infiltrates

Funding was transferred in mid/fall 2017. Since then we have been working on the IACUC animal protocol which is currently undergoing its 3rd revision. WE expect it to finally approved by end of January 2018, when we can submit it for IACUC review.

No funding for personnel or any lab/ animal related studies until ACURO approval.

At UT Southwestern I am a Co-leader at the Kidney Cancer Program and have access to lab space, animal facilities and a pathology core to conduct the studies as outlined in the original statement of work.

4. **IMPACT:**

Nothing to report

5. **CHANGES/PROBLEMS:**

As outlined above the progress with this project was primarily stalled by the PI changing institutions and we expect to be in the position to perform start with the animal studies shortly.

The PI does not foresee problems or barriers with the conduct of these studies at UT Southwestern.

6. **PRODUCTS:**

Nothing to report

7. PARTICIPANTS & OTHER COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS:

None

8. SPECIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

None