

SUMMARY OF APRIL 7TH, 2017 THINK TANK OUTCOMES

On Friday April 7th, WCRG hosted the fifth 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: 39

Institutions Represented: University of Windsor, Windsor Regional Hospital, Cross Border Institute, ITOS Oncology, Henry Ford Health System, WE-Tech Alliance, Acentia, Naom Medicine Professional Corporation, University of Michigan, Karmanos Cancer Centre.

Disciplinary Backgrounds: Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Neuroscience, Psychology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Medical and Radiation Oncology, Physics, Pathology, Pharmaceutical, Communications, Engineering, Urology, Neurosurgery

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 facts about WCRG and provided an update on the Nucleus initiative.. She announced to attendees that a summary of all Think Tank results can now be found on the [WCRG website](#).

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

- Semiconducting Polymers: Innovative Materials for Bioimaging and Mobile Healthcare
Presenter: **Simon Rondeau-Gagné**, PhD, Chemistry and Biochemistry, UWindsor
- High Resolution Acoustic Microscopy for Skin Pathology Diagnosis
Presenter: **Ina Seviaryna**, Department of Physics, University of Windsor
- Tumour Heterogeneity in Prostate Cancer
Presenter: **Nallasivam Palanisamy**, PhD, Henry Ford Health System, University of Michigan, Karmanos Cancer Center

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. We will track ideas that emerge and re-visit at future Think Tanks.

Dr. Ken Schneider, Chief of Oncology and Head of Radiation Oncology at Windsor Regional Hospital, provided closing remarks. He shared a personal story, bringing the patient experience into the room. Ken thanked everyone for pushing the boundaries, for their dedication to research and for coming together to make a difference in people's lives. He urged us all to continue.

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 opportunity to

collaborate with people from diverse backgrounds very useful. Advice for future Think Tanks included approaching a sponsor so that lunch and snacks could be added .

Thank you to Think Tank participants for their on-going commitment to building collaborative research in our region. Sincere appreciation to **Ingrid Qemo, Bre-Anne Fifield** and **Rosa Ferraiuolo** for their brilliant note taking - knowledge capture is a key component of the Think Tank success. And thank you to our WCRG Volunteers **Melanie Grondin** and **Gillian Denomme** 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