

SUMMARY OF JULY 14TH, 2017 THINK TANK OUTCOMES

On Friday July 14th, WCRG hosted the sixth 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, ITOS Oncology, EPI Centre, Henry Ford Health System, WE-Tech Alliance, Acenzia, Naom Medicine Professional Corporation, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta, Dalhousie University, Princess Margaret CRC.

Disciplinary Backgrounds: Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Nursing, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Medical and Radiation Oncology, Physics, Kinesiology, Pathology, Social Innovation, 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 (see Appendix A), highlighted some upcoming funding opportunities, shared some facts about WCRG and provided an overview of the [Fundamental Science Review](#) Initiative, inviting everyone to support it through social media by using #SupportTheReport #Windsorresearchmatters. 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:

- Pipeline to Precision Medicine
Presenter: **Paola Marignani**, PhD, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dalhousie University
- Noninvasive Measures of Tumor Physiology by MRI
Presenter: **James Ewing**, PhD, Department of Physics, Henry Ford Health Systems
- The Epigenetics of Benign and Cancerous Prostates- Clarifying the Role of Obesity
Presenter: **Jody Ralph**, PhD, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor

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.

Diane Marley, cancer survivor, patient and research advocate, provided closing remarks. She shared her personal story of her cancer diagnosis and her experience of being asked to participate in a clinical trial. Diane thanked everyone for their dedication to research and providing cancer patients with hope. We sincerely appreciate her time and thoughtful words.

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 networking and dialogue with a diverse group of researchers very useful. Advice for future Think Tanks focused on adjusting the timing of presentations.

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 **Brayden Labute** 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, Gillian Denomme, Rami Naom 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