# Overview of Consortium Research

Yibin Kang, PhD

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RUTGERS PRINCETON UNIVERSITY **RWJBarnabas** HEALTH

RUTGERS

Cancer Institute of New Jersey RUTGERS HEALTH



## Associate Director for Consortium Research



#### Yibin Kang, PhD

- Princeton University
- Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Professor of Molecular Biology
- American Cancer Society Research Professor
- Member, Ludwig-Princeton Branch

#### **Mission**

To integrate the outstanding researchers at Princeton University into cancerfocused collaborations and provide them with opportunities for translational research made possible within an NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center

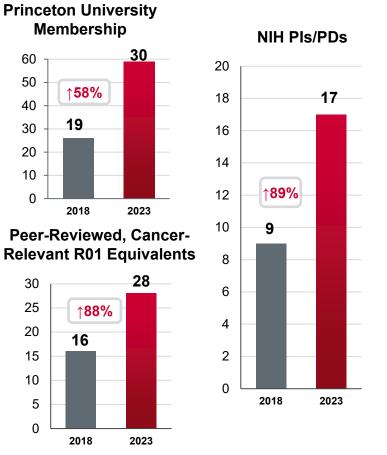
### 2018 CCSG Summary Statement Highlights

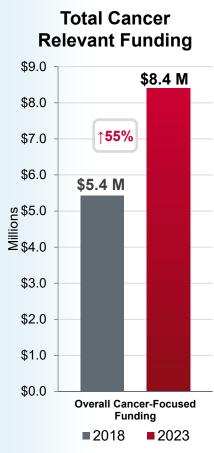
- Long-standing consortium partnership: opportunities for scientific collaboration, cooperative development
- Use of state-of-the-art Shared Resources
  - Princeton-led: Metabolomics, Genome Editing
  - Multi-campus: Flow Cytometry, Metabolomics
  - Jointly sponsored: Small Molecule Screening
- Collaboration on training and education
- Princeton University: tangible financial commitment to the Cancer Center



## Expansion and Progress of the Consortium since 2018

- Commitment to CINJ vision
  - Recruitment of cancer immunology/ metabolism faculty at PU
- Joint annual symposium and seed grants to promote collaboration
- Multi-institutional multi-PI program grants
  - U24CA211000 (Raphael [GICG] / Yeh )
  - NCI 10T2CA278609-01/ CRUK CGCATF-2021/100022 (Davidson [CMI] / White, Anthony)
- T32CA257957 training grant in Cancer Metabolism and Tumor-Host Interactions
  - Co-PIs: Zong (CMI) and Kang 🕏 (CMI)





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## Translating Basic Science into Novel Cancer Therapeutics



Identified irresistins (IRS) - novel family of dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) inhibitors (Cell, 2020)

- IRS-17 superior to methotrexate (MTX) with reduced resistance
- Developing IRS-17 as novel anti-folate chemotherapy agent
- └ Collaboration with H. Kim�, Rabinowitz�, Herranz, J. Guo

Zemer Gitai (CMI)



- Study on metastasis gene MTDH led to identification of small molecular inhibitor C26-A6 (*Nature Cancer*, 2022); licensed to Firebrand Inc. for further clinical development
- Developed dual-specific inhibitors against ALDH1a2/3 to target the immunosuppressive environment induced by RA signaling. IP licensed to KayoThera; expect to file IND later this year
- Collaboration with H. Kim \$\$, Rabinowitz \$\$, Haffty, Ganesan, Bertino

Yibin Kang (CMI)

**Shared Resources and other Center-supported Services:** Small Molecule Screening, Metabolomics, Flow Cytometry, Genome Editing, Biospecimen Repository, Biostatistics

## New Princeton Branch of the Ludwig Cancer Research Institute



**Director** Joshua D. Rabinowitz



**Member** Yibin Kang



**New Member (2023)** Michael Skinnider



- Established in 2021, \$25 M investment through 2023
- 3 Faculty Recruits
- Equipment
- Ludwig Fellows
- Ludwig Collaborative Research Awards

#### LUDWIG CANCER RESEARCH

Princeton



Associate Director Eileen White

RUTGERS Cancer Institute

of New Jersey

- Ludwig Fellows
- Ludwig Collaborative Research Awards: J. Guo (CMI), Herranz (CP), Hu (GICG), Valvezan (CMI)
- Equipment

#### **RWJBarnabas** HEALTH

- PDAC clinical trial: Hochster (CIPT), Alexander (CIPT)
- Breast Cancer Clinical Trial; Omene (CIPT), Ganesan (CIPT)

## Future Directions

#### **Translational Research and Clinical Trials**

- Large collaborative research project focusing on impact of diet on cancer development and treatment response in diverse cancer types
- Metabolic profiling of clinical samples from ongoing clinical trials

#### **Education and Training in Collaboration with CRTEC**

- Joint T32 with Princeton University Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics (2023)
- Development of a summer undergraduate student internship program with Ludwig Princeton Branch (2023)

#### Joint Efforts in Faculty Recruitment

 Focused recruitment efforts in cancer metabolism and immunology

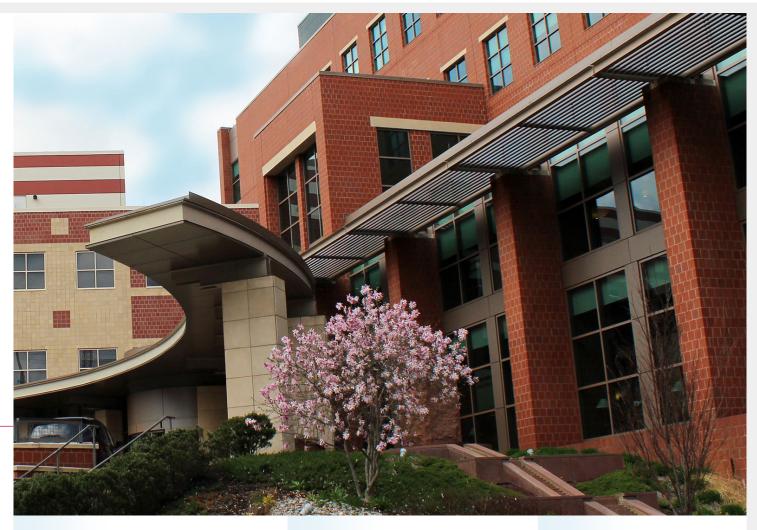






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## Thank You



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