Services & Innovation



#### Aims

- The IMFC SR supports immune monitoring, Flow Cytometry phenotyping of tissue-infiltrating and circulating immune cells, cytokine and chemokine characterization and RNA analysis using NanoString nCounter technology
- We support the Good Manufacturing Practice by providing Replication Competent Retrovirus and Vector Copy Number Assays
- We invest in training & education with hands-on demonstration to CINJ basic and clinical researchers

Personnel

A Main

#### Research Program Support (2018–2022)



Attachments

Utilization & Management



**Emphasis & Directions** 

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## Leading Personnel & Roles



**Christian Hinrichs, MD** Director Started January 2021



**Christina DeCoste** Managing Director, Princeton Started 2010



Ankit Saxena, PhD Managing Director, New Brunswick Started March 2022





UMAP\_2\_NXLB



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# Services & Innovation

## New

- Cytek Aurora spectral flow cytometer •
- Cytek Aurora spectral high-speed cell sorter
- xCELLingence RTCA
- 24x7 Flow Cytometry •

#### Services supporting clinical trials

- Clinical trial study design
- Tissue processing, including 10x single-cell prep
- Spectral flow cytometry
- Ncounter NanoString
- Luminex assay for cytokine, chemokine detection

🔒 Main

26-color spectral Flow Cytometry data generated on Cytek Aurora analyzer from mouse tumor samples



## Continuing

- Flow Cytometry
  - 2 Attune NxT
  - FACSymphony A3 (S10-funded)
- High Speed Cell Sorting
  - MA-900
  - FACSAria Fusion
- Training
- Consultation, data analysis and . interpretation

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## **Cell Therapy Program**

A Main



#### IMPACT

- IMFC-SR is the first SR in NJ to bring novel genetically engineered cell therapies to our populations
- We support the CINJ Cancer Immunology and Metabolism Center of Excellence (CIMCoE) cell therapy initiatives, CINJ protocol 192103
- Long-Term Follow-Up for Subjects Treated with Gene Therapy Cell Products at Rutgers Cancer Institute
- This protocol aims to monitor research participants who have received gene-engineered T cells targeting KK-LC-1, encoded by CT83 and HPV E7 antigen

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## **Clinical Trial Involvement**



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### **Investigator-Initiated Trials**

Member	Protocol Title	Service	# of samples processed
Eugenia Girda	A Basket Trial of Pembrolizumab in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors and Genomic Instability	Multi-parameter Flow Cytometry, NanoString	16
Mridula George	Phase 2 Study of INCMGA00012 and the Oncolytic Virus Pelareorep in Metastatic Triple Negative Breast Cancer	NanoString, cfDNA isolation	10
Salma Jabbour	A Phase II Study of Preoperative Pembrolizumab for Mismatch Repair Deficient, Epstein-Barr Virus Positive and/or PD-L1 Positive Gastric Cancer followed by Chemotherapy and Chemoradiation with Pembrolizumab	Multi-parameter Flow Cytometry, NanoString, LUMINEX	33
Janice Mehnert	A Phase 1 Study of Talimogene Laherparepvec and Panitumumab in Patients with Locally Advanced Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Skin (SCCS)	Multi-parameter Flow Cytometry, NanoString	5
Christian Hinrichs	Long Term Follow Up for Subjects Treated with Gene Therapy Cell Products at Rutgers Cancer Institute	Multi-parameter Flow Cytometry	April 2023

Personnel

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## Pharmacological Disruption of the MTDH-SND1 Complex Enhances Tumor Antigen Presentation and Synergizes with Anti-PD-1 Therapy in Metastatic Breast Cancer



(A) MTDH promotes metastatic breast cancer by enhancing immune evasion

🔒 Main

Personnel

Yibin Kang (CMI) ⊠

Nat Cancer, 2022 3(1): 60–74



(B) MTDH inhibits T cell activation



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(D) MTDH-SND1 disruption and anti-PD-1 treatment synergistically inhibits metastatic breast cancer progression

**Emphasis & Directions** 

and T cell activation

(C) MTDH forms complex with SND1

to inhibit tumor antigen presentation

**Utilization & Management** 

С

#### IMPACT

Attachments

- IMFC-SR performed flow cytometry assays for this study
- The team reveals a key role for MTDH-SND1 complex in suppressing antitumor T cell responses in breast cancer
- The researchers showed enhanced immune surveillance and sensitivity to anti-programmed cell death protein 1 therapy in preclinical models of metastatic breast cancer, in support of this combination therapy as a viable approach to increase immune-checkpoint blockade therapy responses in metastatic breast cancer

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# Leukemia Inhibitory Factor Protects Against Graft-versus-host Disease while Preserving Graft-versus-leukemia Activity



🔒 Main

(C) rLIF administration inhibits the elevation of MHC-II expression on IECs and donor T cell activation after allo-BMT

#### IMPACT

Attachments

- IMFC-SR provided flow cytometry services for this study
- This work demonstrates how LIF protects mice against GVHD by reducing the infiltration and activation of donor immune cells and protecting intestinal stem cells
- This study reveals a previously unidentified protective role of LIF for GVHD-induced tissue pathology and provides a potentially effective therapeutic strategy to limit tissue pathology without compromising antileukemic efficacy

(D) Flow Cytometry

Gating strategies for

different cell

populations

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## Autophagy Promotes Growth of Tumors with High Mutational Burden by Inhibiting a T-cell Immune Response



(A) Model depicting hepatic autophagic immune tolerance



Rabinowitz, Cao, Lattime, and White ☑ (CMI), Ganesan (CIPT), and Chan (GICG)

Nat Cancer, 2020 1(9): 923-934



 $\begin{array}{c} Atg7^{+/+} + \alpha CD25 \\ Atg7 \Delta / \Delta \\ Atg7 \Delta / \Delta \\ Atg7 \Delta / \Delta \\ \end{array}$ 

(D) CD4 and CD8 Immune exhaustion analyzed by flow cytometry



(C) NanoString expression analysis of genes involved in signature immune pathways or immune cell type



#### IMPACT

IMFC-SR performed the flow cytometry and NanoString assays to analyze T-cell frequencies and exhaustion markers

This work shows how autophagy promotes tumor growth through both metabolic and immune mechanisms

These findings highlight the importance of understanding how host autophagy outside of the tumor microenvironment can induce an antitumor immune response to enable rational application of autophagy inhibitors to improve responses to immunotherapy

A Main Personnel Services & Innovation

**Emphasis & Directions** 

**Utilization & Management** 

Attachments

# **Emphasis & Future Directions**

## Outreach

- Research Program presentations
- Link for IMFC-SR services on Princeton Flow Cytometry website
- Participation in Rutgers University events

#### Christian S. Hinrichs (2022)

OncoCell Therapy Summit, "Improving Solid Tumor Targeting Engineered T-Cell Therapies", Boston, Massachusetts

ASCO Annual Meeting, "Updates in HPV Treatment Approaches," Chicago, Illinois

Ankit Saxena, Training users for independent use Education, CRTEC workshop

Christina DeCoste President of MetroFlow, the NY/NJ Flow Cytometry Users Group since 2015

Personnel

## **Future Directions**

- IMFC-SR to support the clinical aims of the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility and cell therapy program.
- Perform needs assessment for transcriptomics-based assays to support Immune Therapy basic and clinical research
- Centralized and cost-effective services for clinical trials
- Increase Outreach, Training and Workshops

#### CRTEC Workshop, September 2022







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# **Supporting Information**

