protein called agglutinin on the metastatic spread of tumor cells. Dr. Parkin is using his AICR grant to determine how and why these substances seem to bolster a particular type of cellular defense against cancer.

Robin Wilson, PhD
Penn State College of Medicine
Hershey, Pennsylvania
Genetic, dietary and environmental influences on vitamin D metabolism
Although there is not yet conclusive evidence linking vitamin D to cancer prevention, the inconsistent results may be due to how individuals metabolize vitamin D. Her new study is investigating genetic differences in vitamin D metabolism.

Exposure of the influence of peanut agglutinin (PNA) on cancer cell metastatic spread
Dr. Yu is examining the effect of the peanut protein called agglutinin on the metastatic spread of tumor cells.

Lu-Gang Yu, PhD
University of Liverpool
Liverpool, United Kingdom
Regulation of the MYCN oncogene in pediatric patients.
Dr. Wada is examining the effect of a form of vitamin A on a series of genes that can cause the childhood cancer called neuroblastoma to become benign.

Randal Wada, MD
Cancer Research Center of Hawaii
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Dr. Saleem-Bhat is examining the ability of a compound called lupeol, found in figs, mangoes, olives, strawberries and grapes, to make pancreatic cancer cells more responsive to chemotherapy.

Dominic Smiraglia, PhD
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In Dr. Smiraglia’s new study, he is comparing the development of prostate cancer in mice fed a folate-restricted diet to mice that are fed a diet that is supplemented with folate. He hopes to show that dietary folate restriction, when combined with androgen deprivation therapy, will result in decreased cancer recurrence.

Prostate Cancer

Three decades of AICR-funded research helped transform how the scientific and medical communities think about cancer. It is now widely accepted that about one-third of the most common cancers in the United States are preventable through everyday choices about diet, physical activity and weight management.

AICR provides funding for research at leading universities, hospitals and research centers throughout the U.S. and the Americas. The grants support studies ranging from basic science to applied clinical research. Investigations cover a wide variety of topics in cancer research all designed to better understand the relationship of diet, nutrients and physical activity to cancer. Grant applications are reviewed by panels consisting of top U.S. researchers and only the best are funded.

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David Feldman, MD
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Diet-induced obesity and breast cancer: Protective role of vitamin D
Using a mouse model of breast cancer, Dr. Feldman hopes to develop vitamin D as a therapy to protect against fatness-enhanced breast cancer and to investigate whether vitamin D added to the diet protects against the negative effects of fatness.

Nikki Ford, PhD
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

The role of leisure physical activity on breast density: a biomarker related to breast cancer
Unlike most previous breast cancer research, which involved women in middle-age or older, this study is analyzing data on activity and breast density among women in their twenties.

Donato Romagnolo, PhD
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

Epigenetics of breast cancer and modulation by bioactive compounds
Dr. Romagnolo is testing the theory that polyphenolic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and dioxins silence the BRCA-1 gene and increase the development of colon cancer. He hypothesizes that maternal diets deficient in B vitamins promote cancer but diets supplemented with B vitamins are protective.

Isabelle Romieu, MD, MPH, ScD
International Agency for Research on Cancer
Lyon, France

Dietary energy density, body size and breast cancer-related to cancer risk
Dr. Romieu is analyzing national survey data to plot the relationships among high-calorie diets, body fatness, insulin sensitivity, inflammation and cancer risk.

Susa Sturgeon, DrPH
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Amherst, Massachusetts

Effects of green tea polyphenols on breast cancer risk
This study among postmenopausal women is examining the hypothesis that a daily glass of pomegranate juice alters blood hormone levels in ways that may lower breast cancer risk.

Trygve Tollefsbol, PhD, DO
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Green tea polyphenols in the prevention of breast cancer initiation
Dr. Tollefsbol is studying the potential of green tea to prevent breast cancer by examining how it seems able to alter the function – but not the structure – of DNA and does so in a manner that doesn’t give rise to mutations.

Michael Bordomaro, PhD
The Commonwealth Medical College
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Factors determining the apoptotic response of colorectal carcinoma cells to butyrate, a fermentation product derived from dietary fiber
Dr. Bordomaro is studying a specific cell-angling pathway that may explain why fiber-rich diets protect against colon cancer in some people, but not others.

Jeremy W. Crott, PhD
Tufts University
Boston, Massachusetts

Effect of normal B vitamin intake on tumorigenesis in offspring
Dr. Crott is examining how maternal diet affects the risk of colorectal cancer in offspring. He hypothesizes that maternal diets deficient in B vitamins promote cancer but diets supplemented with B vitamins are protective.

Joshua D. Lambert, PhD
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

Colon cancer prevention by the black pepper alkaloid, pipernine, and the green tea polyphenol epigallocatechin-3-gallate
Dr. Lambert is studying compounds found in black peppers (pipernine) and green tea (EGCG) to determine if they will combine synergistically to interfere with the development of colon cancer.

Christos Mantzoros, MD, ScD, PhD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts

Predictors of mammographic breast density and validation of dietary intake in a cohort of Mexican women
This large cohort study examines the associations between breast density, diet, physical activity, obesity and breast cancer in Mexican women.

Giovanni M. Pili, MD, PhD
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Therapeutic synergy between dietary calcium and bacterial enterotoxins for the prevention and treatment of colon cancer
Dr. Pili’s innovative study examines whether dietary calcium combines synergistically with a specific bacterial toxin to produce a potent therapeutic agent that can suppress the formation and growth of colorectal tumors.

Sabrina Peterson Trudo, PhD, RD
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
St. Paul, Minnesota

Effect of vegetable intake on heterocyclic amine metabolism in humans
Dr. Trudo is studying whether eating carrots, broccoli and other plant foods after eating grilled hamburger meat reduces the levels of harmful heterocyclic amines (HCAs) formed by grilling meat.

Sanjay Mallya, PhD
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Vitamin D and cyclic D1 pathways in oral carcinogenesis
Dr. Mallya is investigating the role of vitamin D in the prevention of oral cancer by focusing on the interaction between vitamin D and a specific gene known to play an important role in this cancer.

Lauri O. Byerley, PhD
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
Springfield, Illinois

Resistance training and physical function in head and neck cancer patients (RETAiN)
Dr. Byerley is conducting a clinical trial on muscle-strengthening among head and neck cancer patients to improve their quality of life and ability to function physically.
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Nikki Ford, PhD
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas
Lignan or fish oil supplement to reduce breast cancer progression

Dr. Ford is studying whether bioactive compounds found in flaxseed and fish oil have a positive effect on obesity biomarkers and thereby reduce breast cancer incidence and progression.

Kelly Pettee Gabriel, PhD
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas
The role of leisure physical activity on breast density: a biomarker related to breast cancer

Unlike most previous breast cancer research, which involved women in middle-age or older, this study is analyzing data on activity and breast density among women in their twenties.

Melinda L Irwin, PhD, MPH
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Telephone vs. in-person weight loss counseling on weight, body fat, and serum hormones in breast cancer survivors

This study is testing two different weight loss counseling approaches among women with breast cancer: in-person vs. telephone-based. Along with weight loss, the study will examine the cost-effectiveness of each program and the effect of weight loss on biomarkers associated with prognosis.

Donato Romagnolo, PhD
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona
Epigenetics of breast cancer and modulation by bioactive compounds

Dr. Romagnolo is testing the theory that polyethylene glycol (PEG) and diacetyl sodium borohydride (DASB) increase breast cancer risk, but naturally occurring compounds in plant foods can prevent this silencing and thus help prevent the onset of breast cancer.

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Christos Mantzoros, MD, ScD, PhD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts
Effects of walnut consumption in cancer prevention and treatment of colon cancer

Dr. Mantzoros is studying whether walnut consumption decreased the growth of colon cancer in mice. By looking at how habitual walnut consumption effects microRNA, small molecules that regulate gene expression, his new study will help us gain a more advanced understanding of these underlying mechanisms.

Sanjay Mallya, PhD
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Los Angeles, California
Vitamin D and cyclin D1 pathways in oral carcinogenesis

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Effect of vegetable intake on heterocyclic amine metabolism in humans

Dr. Trudo is studying whether eating carrots, broccoli and other plant foods after eating grilled hamburger meat reduces the levels of harmful heterocyclic amines (HCAs) formed by grilling meat.

Kana Wu, MD, MPH, PhD
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, Massachusetts
Adolescent diet and lifestyle factors and colorectal adenoma

Dr. Wu is analyzing the link between adolescent diets and colorectal cancer risk later in life among a large group of adult women.

Hang Xiao, PhD
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Amherst, Massachusetts
Synergistic inhibition of colon carcinogenesis by 5-hydroxy-l-nobiletin and atorvastatin

Dr. Xiao is studying the possible synergistic therapeutic activity of these two substances found in oranges and common lipid-lowering drug on the development of colon cancer.

Laura Q. Rogers, MD, MPH
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
Springfield, Illinois
Resistance training and physical functioning in head and neck cancer patients (RETAIL)

Dr. Rogers is conducting a clinical trial on muscle-strengthening among head and neck cancer patients to improve their quality of life and function physically.

Leukemia

George P. Studzinski, MD, PhD
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey
Plant antioxidant combinations in leukemia: a cell-based model for cancer prevention

Dr. Studzinski is studying the ability of plant antioxidants curcumin (found in turmeric), carnosic acid (found in rosmarin) and silibinin (found in milk thistle) separately and in combination, to prevent acute myeloid leukemias.

Multiple Sites

Lauri O. Byerley, PhD, RD
Louisiana State University
New Orleans, Louisiana
Can walnuts slow tumor growth and delay cancer-associated cachexia?

Dr. Byerley is testing whether diets rich in walnuts will slow tumor growth and thus slow cancer-associated cachexia (wasting).

Terry J. Hartman, PhD, RD
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas
Dietary energy density, body size and biomarkers related to cancer risk

Dr. Hartman is analyzing national survey data to plot the relationships among high-calorie diets, body fatness, insulin sensitivity, inflammation and cancer risk.
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Kirk Parkin, PhD
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Anticancer effects of mixed disulfide conjugates of allium thiosulfonates and cysteine/glutathione
Two compounds found in garlic and onions (cysteine and glutathione) have exhibited a variety of cancer-fighting behaviors. Dr. Parkin is using his AICR grant to determine how and why these substances seem to bolster a particular type of cellular defense against cancer.

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Obesity-induced IGF-1 coordinately upregulates COX-2 and downregulates tumor suppressive PGDH resulting in enhanced pancreatic cancer growth
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Dietary DMI in pancreatic cancer prevention and therapy
Dr. Wei is studying how a substance found in cruciferous vegetables affects the activity of the gene KLFG, which is closely involved in pancreatic cancer.

Pediatric Patients/Survivors
Karen Moody, MD, MS
Montefiore Medical Center
Bronx, New York
The effectiveness of the neutropenic diet in pediatric oncology patients
Dr. Moody is conducting a multi-center clinical trial comparing the effects of neutropenic diets vs. liberalized diets on infection rates in children with cancer.

Prostate Cancer
Dominic Smiraglia, PhD
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Buffalo, New York
Dietary folate interventions in a mouse model of castration recurrent prostate cancer
In Dr. Smiraglia's new study, he is comparing the development of prostate cancer in mice fed a folate-restricted diet to mice that are fed a diet that is supplemented with folate. He hopes to show that dietary folate restriction, when combined with androgen deprivation therapy, will result in decreased cancer recurrence.

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Brain cancer: Anatomic and functional aspects of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis in neuroblastoma
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Heather Baer, ScD
Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Body size at young ages and novel biomarkers of breast cancer risk
Dr. Baer is looking at data from girls to see whether body fatness in childhood and adolescence has effects on breast density or on levels of an ovarian hormone called MIS (Mullerian inhibiting substance) later in life, during young adulthood.

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