



Coalition to Cure Prostate Cancer Special Challenge Award

The Coalition to Cure Prostate Cancer (CCPC) Special Challenge Award will fund the Prostate Cancer Extinction Research program under the leadership of Dr. Martin Gleave of the University of British Columbia and Vancouver Prostate Centre. The team in Vancouver is a world leading Young Investigator training environment led by Dr. Gleave, a urologist-scientist and accomplished world leader in the prostate cancer research field who is wonderfully entrepreneurial. This cross-disciplinary team of over 50 scientists have discovered at least 5 new medicines with the potential to treat metastatic, lethal prostate cancer.

This critical research program was originally funded by the generosity of The Safeway Foundation of Canada. With the sale of their Canadian stores, this funding has since been terminated. The \$1 million award will leverage a prior three-year investment by the Safeway Foundation of \$4 million. The program was due-diligenced by senior U.S. experts led by Prostate Cancer Foundation's Chief Science Officer, Howard R. Soule, PhD in December 2013. This program is among our highest funding priorities, and would not be possible without the donor's generosity.

The science pursued in this work is 100% first-in-field, innovative, and potentially lifesaving. The androgen receptor is the engine that drives lethal prostate cancer survival and progression. The fuel for the engine is the male hormone testosterone. New medicines that block the androgen receptor and the production of testosterone have been FDA-approved for patients and provide modest survival benefit to patients with lethal metastatic prostate cancer. Inevitably, patients become resistant to these medications, thereby creating an unmet medical need for new treatments.

To address this urgent medical need, the Vancouver team is "precision bombing" the androgen receptor in multiple new ways with fewer – not greater – side effects. Treatments that block the expression of the androgen receptor have been discovered in the Vancouver team's laboratory. Experimental medicines that bind the androgen receptor, thereby blocking the engine of disease, have been selected and are being tested. Molecules that block cancer progression signals downstream from the action of the androgen receptor have also been discovered and are being analyzed for anti-cancer activity. Taken together, this critical mass of discovery science, pharmacology, and clinical medicine with an eye to urgent patient needs, is ultimately focused on improving and saving lives.