Nemours Children's Health Researchers Awarded NIH Grants Totaling $5 Million

(Wilmington, Del., April 12, 2022) — Nemours Children's Health researchers have received two grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) totaling $5 million. They include a $3.3 million NIH R01 grant awarded to **Kimberly Canter, PhD**, Research Scientist, Center for Healthcare Delivery Science (CHDS), Nemours Children's Health, Delaware, to research the effectiveness of an eHealth intervention, the Electronic Surviving Cancer Competently Intervention Program (eSCCIP), which provides psychosocial care for English and Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers of children with cancer, and a $1.7 million NIH R01 grant awarded to **Sigrid Langhans, PhD,** Senior Research Scientist, Head of the Cancer Epigenetics Research Laboratory, Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware, to investigate targeting mechanosignaling pathways in pediatric brain cancer.

"I congratulate all of the incredible work that has been done to secure each of these transformational grants awarded by the NIH," said Mary M. Lee, MD, FAAP, Nemours Children's Chief Scientific Officer and Physician-in-Chief in the Delaware Valley. "Nemours Children's Health is committed to advancing pediatric cancer research in all areas including diagnostics, treatments and caregiving, as a part of the Nemours continuum of care."

A Randomized Controlled Trial of eSCCIP: An eHealth Psychosocial Intervention for English and Spanish Speaking Parents of Children with Cancer: 3.3 Million NIH R01, Kimberly Canter, PhD, Research Scientist, Center for Healthcare Delivery Science, Nemours Children's Health, Delaware

As Principal Investigator, Dr. Canter will lead a team of Nemours associates including **Anne Kazak, PhD,** Enterprise Director, CHDS, **Steven Reader, PhD,** Psychologist, **Kamyar Arasteh, PhD,** Senior Research Scientist and Biostatistician, **Aimee Hildenbrand, PhD,** Clinical Psychologist, and **Karen Wohlheiter, PhD**, Pediatric Psychologist to evaluate the effectiveness of an eHealth intervention, eSCCIP, to provide psychosocial care to English and Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers of children with cancer. Parents and caregivers for children with cancer are at high risk for multiple psychosocial issues and this online intervention is significant in providing a more accessible means to deliver care when in-person interventions can be difficult.

Targeting Mechanosignaling in Pediatric Brain Cancer: $1.7 Million NIH R01, Sigrid Langhans, PhD, Senior Research Scientist, Head of the Cancer Epigenetics Research Laboratory, Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware

A collaborative effort with the University of Delaware, Dr. Langhans and co-investigators **Darrin Pochan, PhD**, Professor & Chair at University of Delaware, **Karen Sperle, MS,** Research Associate at Nemours Children's Health, **Rahul Nikam, MD,** Radiologist at Nemours Children's Health, and **Xuyi (Kevin) Yue, PhD**, Research Scientist at Nemours Children's Health, will address the need for more effective therapies for pediatric brain cancers, especially for the most common brain cancer medulloblastoma, a tumor that originates in the cerebellum. The team is using an innovative 3D cell culture approach that is compatible with automated high throughput screening to evaluate mechanosensitive signaling pathways that have emerged as powerful targets in cancer drug discovery, including for the treatment of medulloblastoma. This research work will present new opportunities for developing therapeutic approaches for medulloblastoma by laying the foundation for a future high-throughput drug discovery approach through use of these innovative 3D pediatric brain cancer models.

Nemours Children's associates continue to be recognized by the NIH as uniquely positioned in the industry to conduct thoughtful, effective research and foster new investigators in transformative fields of study.

About Nemours Children's Health
Nemours Children's Health is one of the nation's largest multistate pediatric health systems, including two free-standing children's hospitals and a network of nearly 80 primary and specialty care practices across five states. Nemours seeks to transform the health of children by adopting a holistic health model that utilizes innovative, safe, and high-quality care, while also caring for the health of the whole child beyond medicine. Nemours also powers the world's most-visited website for information on the health of children and teens, KidsHealth.org.

The Nemours Foundation, established through the legacy and philanthropy of Alfred I. duPont, provides pediatric clinical care, research, education, advocacy, and prevention programs to the children, families and communities it serves.

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