

**New York State Department of Health  
Prostate and Testicular Cancer Research and Education Fund**

**2024 Report**

**I. The New York State Prostate and Testicular Cancer Research and Education Fund:  
Background**

The New York State Prostate and Testicular Cancer Research and Education Fund was created with an amendment to State Finance Law (SFL) §95-e, enacted as part of the 2014-2015 State budget. The law authorized the Commissioner of Health to provide grants for the purpose of advancing and financing prostate and testicular cancer research, support programs, and education projects, using the revenues received as part of the Prostate and Testicular Cancer Research and Education Fund. Available funding to support this initiative is limited to the amount(s) appropriated in the enacted State Fiscal Year budgets and as set by the New York State Division of Budget.

State Finance Law requires the Commissioner of Health to provide an annual report describing how monies from the fund were used in the prior calendar year. The following is a description of activities conducted in 2024 by the organizations awarded grants supported by the Prostate and Testicular Cancer Research and Education Fund.

**II. Prostate Cancer Research Grants for National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers Located in New York State**

**A. Background**

The New York State Department of Health (Department) awarded grants via a Solicitation of Interest to six National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Centers (listed below) for a two-year contract period, beginning June 1, 2021, and ending May 31, 2023. The intent of the Solicitation of Interest was to maximize the potential impact and reach of the funding to advance research into prostate cancer to address its heavy burden on New Yorkers, and particularly those New Yorkers disproportionately impacted by this disease. The noncompetitive procurement sought to make awards in sufficient values to support hypothesis-generating research to New York State institutions with experienced principal investigators and the infrastructure to meet the intent of the grant funding. Hypothesis development is an important phase of the research process in which evidence is gathered to develop new research questions that inform future studies and establish the basis for pursuing additional funding opportunities through entities such as the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, or the Department of Defense. Awardees used the grant funding to make research awards via their internal peer review processes to investigators at or above the level of postdoctoral fellow (or equivalent) to conduct innovative, hypothesis-developing research that is determined to be either 1) no greater than minimal risk and exempt under 32 Code of Federal Regulations 219.101(b), or 2)

eligible for expedited review under 32 Code of Federal Regulations 219.110 or 21 Code of Federal Regulations 56.110 by the local Institutional Review Board of record.

## Grantees

- Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center, Cold Spring Harbor, New York
- Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, Manhattan, New York
- Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at New York University Langone Health, New York, New York
- Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, New York
- The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Manhattan, New York (As reported in the 2023 report, this grantee was terminated for convenience in December 2022 after repeated outreach and communications from the New York State Department of Health.)

### **B. Post-contract Grantee Activities: December 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024**

Per the contracted work plans, *New York State Prostate Cancer Research Grants for National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers Located in New York State* grantees are required to complete and submit three post-contract reports, at six-, 12-, and 24-months after the May 31, 2023, contract end date. The intent of the post-contract reports is to determine how well the funding met the intent to support hypothesis-generating research and establish the basis for additional funding opportunities based on that research. Grantees reported on activities to 1) present their research at professional meetings and institutional in-services, 2) publish their research, and 3) submit applications for future funding to support further research.

Grantees reported the following post-contract activities for the period December 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024, along with activities not previously reported.

### **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center**

#### Research Presentation:

1. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Center - Lab-Wide, In-house Seminar, March 20, 2023

#### Articles Published:

1. Aakula A, Isomursu A, Rupp C, Erickson A, Gupta N, Kauko O, Shah P, Padzik A, Pokharel, YR, Kaur A, Li SP, Trotman L, Taimen P, Rannikko A, Lammerding J, Paatero I, Mirtti T, Ivaska J, Westermarck J. **PP2A methylesterase PME-1 suppresses anoikis and is associated with therapy relapse of PTEN-deficient prostate cancers.** *Mol Oncol.* 2023 Jun;17(6):1007-1023.
2. Brina D, Ponzoni A, Troiani M, Cali B, Pasquini E, Attanasio G, Mosole S, Mirenda M, D'Ambrosio M, Colucci M, Guccini I, Revandkar A, Alajati A, Tebaldi T, Donzel D, Lauria F, Parhizgari N, Valdata A, Maddalena M, Calcinotto A, Bolis M, Rinaldi A, Barry S, Rüschoff JH, Sabbadin M, Sumanasuriya S, Crespo M, Sharp A, Yuan W, Grinu M, Boyle A, Miller C,

- Trotman L, Delaleu N, Fassan M, Moch H, Viero G, de Bono J, Alimonti A. **The Akt/mTOR and MNK/eIF4E pathways rewire the prostate cancer translome to secrete HGF, SPP1 and BGN and recruit suppressive myeloid cells.** *Nat Cancer*. 2023 Aug;4(8):1102-1121.
3. Hillowe A, Gordon C, Wang L, Rizzo RC, Trotman LC, Ojima I, Bialkowska A, Kaczocha M. **Fatty acid binding protein 5 regulates docetaxel sensitivity in taxane-resistant prostate cancer cells.** *PLoS One*. 2023 Oct 5;18(10).
  4. Swamynathan MM, Mathew G, Aziz A, Gordon C, Hillowe A, Wang H, Jhaveri A, Kendall J, Cox H, Giarrizzo M, Azabdaftari G, Rizzo RC, Diermeier SD, Ojima I, Bialkowska AB, Kaczocha M, Trotman LC. **FABP5 Inhibition against PTEN-Mutant Therapy Resistant Prostate Cancer.** *Cancers (Basel)*. 2023 Dec 21;16(1):60.
  5. Amit M, Anastasaki C, Dantzer R, Demir IE, Deneen B, Dixon KO, Egeblad M, Gibson EM, Hervey-Jumper SL, Hondermarck H, Magnon C, Monje M, Na'ara S, Pan Y, Repasky EA, Scheff NN, Sloan EK, Talbot S, Tracey KJ, Trotman LC, Valiente M, Van Aelst L, Venkataramani V, Venkatesh HS, Vermeer PD, Winkler F, Wong RJ, Gutmann DH, Borniger JC. **Next directions in the neuroscience of cancers arising outside the CNS.** *Cancer Discov*. 2024 Apr 4;14(4):669-673.
  6. Colucci M, Zumerle S, Bressan S, Gianfanti F, Troiana M, Valdata A, D'Ambrosio M, Pasquini E, Varesi A, Cogo F, Mosole S, Dongilli C, Desbats MA, Contu L, Revankdar A, Chen, J, Kalathur M, Perciato ML, Basilotta R, Endre L, Schauer S, Othman A, Guccini I, Saponaro M, Maraccani L, Bancaro N, Lai P, Liu L, Pernigoni N, Mele F, Merler S, Trotman LC, Guarda G, Cali B, Montopoli M, Alimonti A. **Retinoic acid receptor activation reprograms senescence response and enhances anti-tumor activity of natural killer cells.** *Cancer Cell*. 2024 Apr 8;42(4):646-661.

#### Funded Research Projects:

1. The National Institute of Health R01 Grant. Research title: *Biology and Vulnerabilities of POU2F3+ Tuft Cell-like Carcinomas* (Active 5/1/24-3/31/29).

#### **Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York**

No research presentations, articles, or applications for future funding were submitted during this reporting period.

#### **Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at New York University Langone Health**

##### Research Presentations:

1. Asociación Urológica de Centro América y el Caribe (08/2023)
2. Sociedad Colombiana de Urología (08/2023)
3. Society of Urologic Oncology YUO lecture series (09/2023; 10/2023)
4. Fifth International Prostate Cancer Symposium and World Congress of Urologic Oncology (12/2023)
5. Surgical, Pharmacological and Technological Advances in Urology (12/2023)
6. ZERO Black Men's Prostate Cancer Support Group (1/2024)

7. ZERO UsTOO New York Chapter Support Group (2/2024)
8. Mayo Clinic Urology Review (2/2024)
9. Fans for the Cure Prostate Cancer Women's Support Group (3/2024)
10. Cornell University Grand Rounds (3/2024)
11. Rocky Mountain Urological Society (4/2024)

Articles Published:

1. Cole A and Loeb S. **Dietary and lifestyle recommendations that align patient and planetary health.** *European Urology Focus.* 2023 Nov;9(6):869-872.
2. Loeb S, Hua Q, Bauer SR, Kenfield SA, Morgans AK, Chan JM, Van Blarigan EL, Shreves AH, Mucci L. **Plant-based diet associated with better quality of life in prostate cancer survivors.** *Cancer.* 2024 May 1;130(9):1618-1628.
3. Liu VN, Van Blarigan EL, Zhang L, Graff RE, Loeb S, Langlais CS, Cowan JE, Carroll PR, Chan JM, Kenfield SA. **Plant-based diets and disease progression in men with prostate cancer.** *JAMA Netw Open.* 2024 May 1;7(5):e249053.

Applications for Future Funding:

1. Prostate Cancer Foundation Challenge Award, Title “Plant-Based Dietary Patterns and Advanced Prostate Cancer” (Submitted 5/15/23, not accepted; resubmitted 6/13/24).
2. American Cancer Society, EDS-24-1330587-01, Multivalent Peptoid Conjugates as a ‘Next-generation’ Therapy for Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer (Submitted 4/26/2024, accepted).

**Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Funded Research Project:

1. Department of Defense, Prostate Cancer Research Program, Idea Development Award  
Research title: *Targeting Prostate Cancer Metabolic Vulnerabilities in the Bone Microenvironment to Circumvent Lethal Metastatic Disease.* (Active: 9/2023-8/31/2026)

**The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Research Presentations:

1. Cancer and Again Retreat, The Mount Sinai Hospital, *Reprogramming of Glucose Metabolism in Prostate Cancer: Functional Genomics to Clinical Significance* (12/2023)

Articles Published

1. Rajanal SH, Ghale R, Nandakumar S, Chadalavada K, Lee GM, Stopsack KH, Chen Y, Nanjangud GJ, **Chakraborty G**, Kantoff PW. **Quantifying Y chromosome loss in primary and metastatic prostate cancer by chromosome painting.** *PLoS One* 2024 Apr 29; 9(4).

Applications for Future Funding

1. U.S. Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program Idea Development Award (application submitted 07/24)

### III. Peer Education, Outreach, and Shared Decision Making for Persons at High Risk of Prostate Cancer

#### A. Background

The New York State Department of Health awarded four grants via a Request for Applications on January 10, 2023, seeking applications to implement the *Peer Education, Outreach, and Shared Decision Making for Persons at High Risk of Prostate Cancer* program. The intent was to award four contracts to agencies that could support peer education and outreach, personalized coaching, linkage to community services to address barriers to health care, and referral to health care providers for prostate cancer screening. Program activities focus on males who are Black, ages 45 to 69 years old, and who bear a disproportionately high burden of prostate cancer. The contract period began October 1, 2023, and runs through September 30, 2028. The funding value for each of the awards is \$130,000 annually for a five-year total of \$650,000 for each of the four awardees.

The grantees and their service regions are as follows:

Grantee	Service Region
The Institute for Family Health	Bronx County
Weill Medical College of Cornell University	Kings County
University of Rochester	Monroe County
Health Research Inc., Roswell Park Division	Erie County

#### B. Program Activities: January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024

Grantees engaged in the following activities from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024:

- Participated in a one day, in-person training for peer educators and program coordinators on February 27, 2024. Department staff provided an overview of prostate cancer, skills-building for delivering education sessions, and a review of reporting requirements.
- Participated in individual monthly meetings with Department staff, reporting on outreach and education activities.
- In the first year of this five-year program (10/01/23 – 09/30/24), 1,159 males were educated about prostate cancer, 317 participated in coaching with peer educators, and 176 (56% of coaching participants) were screened for prostate cancer.
- Participated in two all-staff quarterly meetings, one on June 25, 2024, and one on October 2, 2024. At both meetings, peer educators shared successful outreach strategies and outreach challenges were discussed and addressed.

- In the first of quarter of year two of the program (9/01/24 – 12/31/24), grantees educated 865 people about prostate cancer and shared decision making and 55 program participants reported being screened or intending to be screened for prostate cancer.

**IV. Summary Financial Plan**

Cash Disbursement Summary

Cash Revenue in Account Start of SFY 23-24 \$3,177,849  
 Disbursements SFY 23-24 \$449,785

Cash Revenue in Account Start of SFY 24-25 \$3,074,437  
 Actual Disbursements SFY 24-25 \$60,729  
 Cash Revenue in Account as of 3/3/25 \$3,347,119

Projections SFY 21- 27	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$3,154,137	\$3,288,851	\$3,177,849	\$3,074,437	\$3,347,119**	TBD
<b>Receipts*</b>	\$192,568	\$261,221	\$346,374	\$333,410	\$300,000	\$300,000
<b>Disbursements</b>	(\$57,854)	(\$372,223)	(\$449,785)	(\$60,729)	TBD	TBD
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$3,288,851</b>	<b>\$3,177,849</b>	<b>\$3,074,437</b>	<b>\$3,347,119**</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>

\*SFYs 24 - 27: the estimated revenues are based on prior years.

\*\* estimated balances

**Expenditure Notes:**

While there is \$3,347,119 in the Fund balance as of March 3, 2025, the Fund received an appropriation of \$840,000 in the 2025-2026 State Fiscal Year Executive Budget. Budgeted expenditures for the grantees are based on a cash ceiling set by the Division of Budget which was \$520,000 for SFY 2024-2025.

The four *Peer Education, Outreach, and Shared Decision Making for Persons at High Risk of Prostate Cancer* grantees began October 1, 2023. There was an initial four-month period with no contracts in place supported by this fund. In 2024, the four grantees were challenged in recruiting the peer education staff to conduct outreach and education activities. They were also challenged with navigating claims processing procedures. Additionally, there were delays in establishing the program year two contracts; no contracts were in place between October 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Disbursements for the grantees are expected to increase in 2025 once program year two contracts are in place and grantees have staffing in place to fully implement their outreach and education plans.