

Message from the Board Chair

Judy Morris-Hardy Chair - Board of Trustees



Dear Friends and Supporters of the Institute,

This is an historic year for Tampa Bay Research Institute (TBRI). We are celebrating our 30th Anniversary this year!

In 1981, scientists from Japan, attracted by the culture of scientific innovation and openness in the United States, and with the support of many individuals and the local city and county government, came to Pinellas County to create the first non-profit biomedical research organization in Florida.

For over three decades TBRI researchers have dedicated themselves to finding cures for cancer and infectious diseases. Guiding this research has been a focus on the human immune system and its ability to fight diseases with the help of products created through the use of natural ingredients. TBRI holds a number of patents for its discoveries related to the immune system.

The Institute's many accomplishments have been achieved through the dedicated efforts of its esteemed founders, including our current President Dr. Akiko Tanaka, its gifted scientists, staff, Scientific Advisory Council, and leadership provided by the Board of Trustees.

This important work could not have been done without the wide-world support we have received. TBRI has been supported by individuals, families, charitable trusts, community foundations, medical foundations, private foundations, as well as the National Institutes of Health.

We are having our 30th Anniversary Celebration Gala.

Mark your calendars now for this event!

The Evening of Thursday, November 3, 2011

TBRI will be honoring several individuals whose support over the years has been crucial to our important discoveries. I look forward to seeing you at our 30th Anniversary Celebration. **DON'T MISS THE PARTY!**

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In The Lab

with Dr. Guy Bradley

Harnessing the Immune System to Fight Cancer

In April of 2010, the United States Food and Drug Administration approved Dendreon's PROVENGE (Sipuleucel-T) to treat advanced metastatic prostate cancer. This treatment modality is now listed as a category 1 (highest recommendation) therapy for the treatment of prostate cancer.

PROVENGE is unique in that it is made by inducing cells from the patient's own immune system to mount a prostate cancer-specific immune response. The cells (dendritic cells, DC) are prepared from white blood cells obtained from

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Thomas P. Taggart, CFP
Director of Development and
Community Relations

Welcome to TBRI
Thomas P. Taggart, CFP®

Tom has recently joined TBRI as the Director of Development and Community Relations.

Mr. Taggart was recently the Director of Gift Planning at WEDU, Florida's West Coast PBS television station. Prior to that, Tom was the Manager of Major and Planned Gifts at the All Children's Hospital Foundation.

He is involved with several Estate Planning Councils and Financial Planning Organizations. Tom is a member and past President (2007) of the Suncoast Estate Planning Council. Tom is also a member of the Tampa Bay Estate Planning Council and the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council. He has served several local non-profit organizations including the Morean Arts Center, Happy Workers' Children Center and The American Stage.

Before his involvement with non-profit organizations, Tom, a CFP®, had a financial planning practice with Trademark Capital Management and American Express Financial Advisors in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Tom received his B.A. from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.

In The Lab

Continued from page 1

the patient's own blood. Once isolated and expanded, the dendritic cells are exposed to a specific protein from prostate cancer cells. The DC are then injected back into the patient. Following injection, the dendritic cells stimulate the immune system to generate cytotoxic T cells capable of killing the prostate cancer cells. This form of cancer therapy is known as immunotherapy.

The medical community has long suspected that the immune system has an effect on cancers. We now know that the immune system can both positively and negatively influence the growth of cancers. While it is clear that people with weakened immune systems are more likely to get cancer, persons with normal immune systems are also vulnerable to the development of cancer. This could be due to a number of reasons: (1) Sometimes the immune system doesn't recognize the cancer cells as something that should not be there. This is because the cancer cells are not different enough from your normal cells and therefore are not marked for destruction. (2) There exist components of your immune system's surveillance mechanism (regulatory T cells) that prevent cytotoxic T cells from attacking normal cells and cancer cells that appear to be normal. This inherent form of immunosuppression is meant to prevent the development of autoimmunity, a condition where your immune system attacks normal cells and tissues. (3) Sometimes the immune system recognizes the cancer, but the cancer cells themselves secrete substances that block the immune response and prevent destruction of the cancer. Some of these substances can even enhance the activity of the immunosuppressive regulatory T cells. This leads to the inability to destroy the cancer cells.

At the Tampa Bay Research Institute (TBRI), we are focusing our efforts on the development of cancer treatment protocols that will address the ability of cancers to evade, hide or suppress the immune response, and that will actively engage the immune system in positive ways to eliminate cancer. The ultimate goal of this research is to effect the total eradication of disease in patients afflicted by cancer.



W. Guy Bradley, Ph. D.
TBRI Associate Member

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TBRI Equipment Wish List

CYTOSPIN® 4 CENTRIFUGE \$12,000

The Cytospin centrifuge is designed to separate and prepare biological materials for further study, while minimizing the scientist's exposure to hazardous biological aerosols. This model processes samples quickly and provides consistent high-quality slides for analysis. It also allows us to apply multiple samples on the same slide for testing. A unique feature of this model is its ability to apply different cell types onto the same slide, thus exposing the cells to identical test conditions. Thus, our ability to rapidly screen cells, such as cancer cells, is enhanced.

EVOSFL DIGITAL INVERTED FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPE IMAGING SYSTEM \$30,200

This microscope uses digital technology to display biological images on a flat-screen color monitor. Traditional microscopes require that we view images through an eyepiece. This microscope allows several scientists to examine the image at the same time and discuss their observations. Since the image is in digital form, it can be easily captured and transferred to a memory device or downloaded as a computer file. This instrument provides a means to rapidly organize and save images for further analysis and comparison. Images can also be displayed during a class or conference, and it is becoming increasingly important that we carry out our collaborations with scientists from around the world.

NANODROP SPECTROPHOTOMETER \$13,525

This system combines fiber optics and surface tension to hold and measure small amounts of sample. The NanoDrop system allows our scientists to quickly and easily quantify and assess the purity of samples such as proteins and nucleic acids. This instrument is necessary for every lab that handles biological samples.

LABORATORY REFRIGERATORS/FREEZERS 2 @ \$800 EACH

Combination laboratory refrigerators/freezers, which maintain temperatures of 4 C (39 F) and -20 C (-4 F) respectively, are essential in preserving perishable biological materials.

It's a great time to consider using a Charitable Lead Trust in your estate plan to benefit your heirs and TBRI.

How It Works:

A donor (grantor) deposits assets into an irrevocable trust, with the income from the investment of these assets going to a designated charity for a certain period of time. After that time expires, the remainder of the assets and income are given to the trust's beneficiaries (i.e., your children, grandchildren). A charitable lead trust (CLAT) allows the donor (grantor) to provide for their survivors after death while reducing to a minimum the estate tax because some of the assets were given to charity.

For more information contact Thomas P. Taggart, CFP, TBRI Director of Development at (727)-576-6675 or your estate planning professional.

www.tampabayresearch.org

727.576.6675

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