



CASEY DESANTIS CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM
Florida Cancer Innovation Fund Awardees
Fiscal Year 2025-26, Period 3

Institution	Principal Investigator	Budget	Project Title	Grant Category	Cancer Type	Research Category
University of Miami	Anis Ahmad, Assistant Professor	\$481,498.30	Rituximab Repurposing to Expand the Therapeutic Index in Cancer Therapy: Normal-Tissue Protection with Concurrent Tumor Sensitization	Generic Drug Repurposing Grant	Lung and Blood, Head and Neck, Non-Small Cell Lung Cancers, and Platinum-Treated Solid Tumors	Generic Drug Repurposing Research
Lincoln Memorial University – Orange Park	James Gnarra, Professor of Biochemistry and Genetics and Director of Research	\$695,526.00	Targeting fatty acid metabolism to enhance standard of care drugs for metastatic clear cell renal cell carcinoma	Consortium Grant	Renal Cell Cancer	Translational Research
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville	Folakemi Odedina, Professor and Scientific Director	\$1,998,912.70	FL-LIFE: Florida Lifestyle Intelligence Framework for Evidence-Based Precision Cancer Health	Nutrition and Food-Based Cancer Prevention Grant	Lung, Breast, Colon, Prostate, Colorectal Cancer, and Cancers Impacted by Nutrition	Nutrition-Based Cancer Prevention Research
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Inc.	Brian Czerniecki	\$1,669,150.00	ImmuneHERGAL for Breast Cancer Prevention	Clinical Trials	Breast Cancer	Clinical Trials
Live Like Bella, Inc.	Chris Hagemeyer, Director of Research Partnerships	\$1,987,282.55	Establishing Statewide Infrastructure to Accelerate Precision Medicine and Collaborative Clinical Trials for Children and Adolescents with CNS Tumors through the Florida Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium (FL-PNOC)	Consortium Grant	Brain/CNS Cancer	Implementation Research

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H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Inc.	Jingsong Zhang, Senior Member, Department of Genitourinary Oncology	\$587,307.40	A Phase 2a Study of High Dose Testosterone followed by Targeted Radioligand Therapy in Metastatic Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer	Clinical Trials	Prostate Cancer	Clinical Trials
University of Miami	Nipun Merchant, Professor	\$1,258,990.95	Accelerating Implementation of a Circadian-Aligned Nutritional Intervention to Improve Response and Reduce Attrition to Neoadjuvant Therapy in Pancreatic Cancer	High Impact Pilot Grant	Pancreatic Cancer	Nutrition-Based Cancer Prevention Research
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville	Yanyan Lou, Professor	\$500,000.00	An LLMs-Powered Multi-Agent System for Predicting and Monitoring Immune-Related Adverse Events in Cancer immunotherapy	High Impact Pilot Grant	Lung, Breast, Colon, Prostate, Skin/ Melanoma, Brain/CNS, Colorectal, and Blood Cancers	Implementation Research
University of Florida	Ramzi Salloum, Professor and Associate Chair for Research	\$1,458,164.10	Reducing tobacco-associated lung cancer risk: a randomized clinical trial of AB-free kava	Clinical Trials	Lung Cancer	Clinical Trials
Nova Southeastern University	Toshihisa Kawai, Chair and Professor	\$1,999,784.25	A Dual Diagnostic-Therapeutic Strategy for Prostate Cancer Bone Metastasis	High Impact Pilot Grant	Prostate Cancer	Technology Transfer Feasibility (TTF)
University of South Florida	HongYuan (Rays) Jiang, Associate Professor	\$2,000,000.00	Live Brain Tumor Testing: Metabolic Drug Repurposing with Mechanistic Precision	Generic Drug Repurposing Grant	Brain/CNS Cancer	Generic Drug Repurposing Research
University of Florida	Saunjoo Yoon, Associate Professor	\$1,631,912.00	Mobile Health Exercise Intervention for Fatigue Reduction Tailored to Cancer Survivors (MOTIVE)	Integrated Cancer Care Innovations	Lung, Breast, Colon, Prostate, Colorectal, Pancreatic, Hepatobiliary, Esophageal, and Gastric Cancer	Novel Treatments

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Mayo Clinic Jacksonville	Pooja Advani, Consultant Physician	\$1,465,886.35	Phase I trial of SCD-1 Inhibitor: A First in Human Dose Regimen-Finding Study to Evaluate Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetics, and Activity of MTI-301 in Patients with Advanced Malignancy	Clinical Trials	Lung, Breast, Colon, Colorectal, Skin/ Melanoma, Renal Cell, Liver, Pancreatic, and Thyroid Cancers	Clinical Trials
University of Miami	Shanta Dhar, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	\$1,467,122.28	Repurposing Ivermectin Using a Dual Targeted Orally Administrable Nanoparticle for Unlocking Therapeutic Potential in Prostate Cancer	Generic Drug Repurposing Grant	Prostate Cancer	Novel Treatments