

The James



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W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Office of Academic Affairs
203 Bricker Hall

Dear Dr. Smith,

Thank you again for meeting on June 1, 2017 to review the process and requirements for creating a new University Institute. As we discussed, given the depth, breadth and success of our work in targeted blood cancer therapeutics over the last several years, the OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC) is interested in developing a new institute to elevate our current and future efforts in this cutting edge field.

By way of background, with the advent of molecular characterization, many blood cancer diseases are being identified as part of what we previously characterized as a single entity. This is best exemplified by acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in the elderly where we now know that there are more than 10 to 15 diseases present molecularly, making each a relatively rare entity. Similar findings are present in other blood cancers and also solid tumors making development of new therapies uniquely different from what has been done previously. This rarity of disease brings forth the need for global collaboration and also sharing of common strategies that were best encompassed in a pilot effort that the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) initiated in elderly AML as part of a collaboration between academia, industry, the FDA, and the LLS to rapidly transition drugs to untreated elderly patients with this disease.

Our proposed new Institute would extend beyond this work and would provide the hub for stimulating and facilitating collaboration between investigators and staff from multiple OSU colleges/departments, the OSUCCC and OSUCCC Drug Development Institute as well as the LLS and potentially other philanthropic societies to enable rapid preclinical, translational and clinical development of novel therapeutics targeted toward rare populations focusing initially on blood cancers.

With the significant progress we have been making to date in establishing collaborations and the opportunity to begin approaching possible philanthropic donors, we now feel it important that we give this effort more of a formal identity and therefore would like to begin to use the term "Institute". Specifically, we would like to refer this program as the Institute for Precision Breakthrough Therapies.

Therefore, at this time, we are seeking your approval as well as that of the Council of Academic Affairs to begin using the term "Institute" now with the expectation that we will move forward over the next few months with the formal process for establishing the Institute for Precision Breakthrough Therapies as a University Institute per OSU policy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Caligiuri".

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A Comprehensive Cancer
Center Designated by the
National Cancer Institute