

May 9, 2013

Dear Biomedical Research Advisory Council -

We, the undersigned, are recipients of 5 year research project grants through the James and Esther King and Bankhead-Coley Biomedical Research Programs, Research Program Grant (RPG) mechanism. We are all currently coming to the end of the third year of these projects. As you know, the original proposals were written in terms of 5 year projects and were awarded as such by the Department of Health, with continuation of funding each year contingent on satisfactory progress towards the goals and specific aims of the proposed research.

In June of 2012, all recipients of RPG funding received notice that funding for years 4 and 5 of these awards might not be continued because of cuts to funding to the King and Bankhead-Coley programs. This discontinuation of funding would be regardless of the progress or success that the individual projects have made. We urge the BRAC to support continued funding for those projects that are making satisfactory progress and are likely to have an important impact on care and research on cancer and other tobacco related diseases prevalent in the state of Florida.

We believe that the work that we – individually and as a group – are doing is vital to furthering research to lessen the burden of cancer in the state of Florida. To halt work mid-way through these projects will not only stop the progress of important research, but will at least partially waste valuable taxpayer money that has already been spent on these projects if they cannot be completed.

The State Surgeon General's proposed "Florida System of Cancer Research and Collaboration" appears to be an innovative effort that has the potential to improve cancer care in Florida. We believe that the work that we are doing is aligned with and will further the mission and goals of that vision for cancer care and research as they have been articulated by the Surgeon General, BRAC, CCRAB, and other stakeholders.

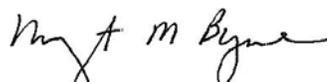
Therefore, we strongly urge the Florida Biomedical Research Advisory Council to do everything in its power to continue to fund those Research Program Grantees whose projects are showing meritorious progress towards their respective goals. We welcome the opportunity to contribute in very meaningful ways to Florida's cancer research initiatives. We ask that you do not cut our funding at this critical juncture, but rather give us the time we were initially awarded to complete our work and integrate into this exciting new collaboration.

Thank you for your consideration.

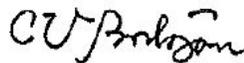
Sincerely,

Recipients of Florida Biomedical Research Program grant funding (In alphabetical order)

Margaret M. Byrne PhD, University of Miami



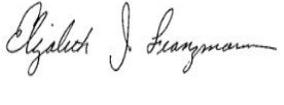
Cesar V. Borlongan, University of South Florida



Jin Q. Cheng, Ph.D., M.D., Moffitt Cancer Center 

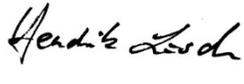
Barbara Curbow, PhD, University of Florida *Barbara Curbow*

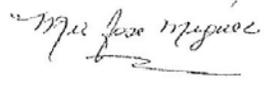
Alan P. Fields, Ph.D., Mayo Clinic 

Elizabeth J. Franzmann, MD, University of Miami 

Jennifer J. Hu, PhD, University of Miami 

Krishna V. Komanduri, M.D. University of Miami *Krishna V. Komanduri MD*

Hendrik Luesch, Ph.D., University of Florida 

Maria Jose Miguez, Florida International University 

Tuya Pal, MD, Moffitt Cancer Center *Tuyaralalun.*

Ana M. Palacio MD, MPH, University of Miami 

Roger L. Papke, PH.D. University of Florida 

Alexander S. Parker, PhD, Mayo Clinic Florida *Alex Parker*

Hamisu Salihu, MD, PhD, University of South Florida 

Peter Storz, PhD, Mayo Clinic 

E. Aubrey Thompson, Ph.D., Mayo Clinic *Aubrey Thompson*

Maria Zajac-Kaye, PhD, University of Florida *Maria Zajac-Kaye*