



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Award ID:  
RP180530

Project Title:  
Hippo signaling in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and its progression to hepatocellular carcinoma

Award Mechanism:  
Individual Investigator

Principal Investigator:  
Johnson, Randy

Entity:  
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Lay Summary:

Liver cancer is the fifth most common malignancy and is the third cause of cancer related deaths world wide with poor clinical prognosis, especially when diagnosed at advanced stages. Liver cancer incidence is increasing, in part to major risk factors including non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis that is prevalent in Western populations, including the United States and especially in Texas. We have partnered with Ionis Pharmaceuticals to develop their unique technology to target molecules and pathways previously thought to be "undruggable" leading to effective targeted therapy in preclinical models for liver cancer. Ionis has demonstrated experience in achieving FDA approval for new therapies and we are committed with working with them towards that objective for liver cancer. There is an urgent need to identify safe and effective therapies for treatment and prevention of liver cancer in the context of chronic fatty liver disease: our proposed research is designed to address these urgent needs.