

Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program

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*Cancer Prevention & Control
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute*

*2009 Program
New Investigator (3-year project)*

Project Title: Insulin-like Growth Factor Biomarkers and Colorectal Cancer

Project Summary: People who do not exercise, eat unhealthy diets, and are extremely overweight have been shown to be at an increased risk of both developing and dying from colorectal cancer (CRC). Insulin and several members of the insulin-like growth factor (IGF) hormone family are generally kept at low-levels in the blood but may be higher among people who do not exercise, have poor diets, and are overweight. The high levels of insulin and IGFs may be the link between these unhealthy factors and the risk of developing colorectal cancer. This study plans to enroll 300 CRC patients after they are diagnosed and follow them both during and after treatment for 12 months. We will measure the levels of insulin and of three members of the IGF family in blood samples and have patients fill out questionnaires on their quality of life and health behaviors at study entry, 6 and 12 months. We will measure insulin and IGFs in the blood and see if different levels are linked not only to changes in the molecular characteristics of the cancer tissue but also to patient quality of life. This study is taking a holistic approach to understanding how insulin and IGFs in the blood are related to tumor biology and to patient quality of life during the first 12 months after diagnosis. Our long-term goals are to identify blood tests, (like insulin and IGF) and health behaviors that can help doctors predict which patients will have longer survival with good quality of life after treatment of their cancer.