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Research Interests

My research interest includes the role of insulin-like growth factors in breast cancer. The main interest of our laboratory is to evaluate the role of IGF-II in breast cancer development and the progression of metastasis. We have demonstrated that expression of IGF-II stimulates cancer growth and enhances the secretion of cathepsin D, an enzyme associated with poor prognosis in breast cancer patients. Of great interest is our recent observation that IGF-II is also important in the establishment of breast tumors. Breast cancer tumors can be developed in SCID and NUDE mice without the requirement of estrogen when the tumors secrete pro IGF-II. We are currently identifying the mechanism involved with this effect.

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