

New Mexico State University Cancer Research Initiatives

*Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee
September 18, 2015*

- Agriculture, Consumer & Environmental Sciences
- Engineering
- Health & Human Services
- Arts & Sciences

For more details :
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Cowboys for Cancer research awards at NMSU 2014-2015

Dr. Ryan Ashley, Animal and Range Sciences.

"Understanding the role of membrane progesterone receptor alpha signaling in breast cancer"
• The project investigates the role of progesterins in an important signaling pathway activated in breast cancer that is expected to improve understanding and may lead to new targets for cancer therapy.

Dr. Kevin Houston, Chemistry & Biochemistry; and Dr. Jessica Houston, Chemical Engineering.

"A new technology to detect rare circulating tumor cells in a heterogeneous blood cell population"
• The goal of this project is to develop a new instrumental method for detecting rare circulating tumor cells that can be used to monitor individualized cancer therapies.

Dr. C. Brad Shuster, Biology.

"Development of a novel anti-mitotic strategy for cancer treatment"
• The goal of this project is to develop a new adjuvant therapeutic approach for targeting mitotically active tumor cells without the side effects associated with existing drugs.

Dr. Shelley Lusetti, Chemistry & Biochemistry

"The role of SMC5-6 in the repair of damaged chromosomes"
• The goal of this project is to increase understanding of a mechanism for DNA repair that is important for chemotherapy and cancer prevention.



Role of Partnerships in Cancer Research at NMSU



Fred Hutchinson
Cancer Research
Center, Seattle WA

New Mexico State
University,
Las Cruces, NM



NMSU-FHCRC Partnership

- Continuously funded by the NIH National Cancer Institute since 2002
- Current grant award ends August 2018
- Since 2002, ~\$21M for cancer research, training and outreach
 - 40+ projects and programs
 - 350+ trainees
 - 100+ publications
 - 60+ additional grants



