

**Nebraska Cancer and Smoking Disease
Research Program**



Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Competitively Awarded Research Projects

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	CAMPUS	PROJECT TITLE
Abhijit Aithal, PhD	UNMC	Targeting MUC5AC to inhibit lung cancer metastasis
Jennifer Black, PhD	UNMC	Defining Anticancer Mechanisms of Small Molecule Activators of PP2A
Gloria Borgstahl, PhD	UNMC	Targeting RAD52 in HR-deficient Cancers with Heterobifunctional Compounds
Sarah Holstein, PhD	UNMC	GGDPS inhibitor nanoparticles for targeted delivery to osteosarcoma
Adam Karpf, PhD	UNMC	Degron Tagging for Validation of RHNO1 as a Therapeutic Target in Ovarian Cancer
Prakash Kshirsager, PhD	UNMC	Multiplex Detection of KRAS Mutant Transcripts for Pancreatic Cancer Diagnosis
Benjamin Kwok, PhD	UNMC	Targeting kinesin-13 proteins as an anti-cancer therapeutic strategy
Robert Lewis, PhD	UNMC	Disruption of Drug Tolerant Persister Cell Formation in Lung Adenocarcinoma
Tzeyu Michaud, PhD	UNMC	Epidemiological Assessment of E-cigarette and Cannabis Use among Cancer Patients
David Oupicky, PhD	UNMC	Development of Oral Therapeutics for the Prevention of Colon Cancer Metastasis
Youri Pavlov, PhD	UNMC	Cell Cycle Control Over Replicative DNA Polymerases and Cancer Therapy
Jay Reddy, DVM, PhD	UNL	Oncolytic virotherapy for lung cancers
A. Angie Rizzino, PhD	UNMC	Reducing Drug Resistance in Multiple Types of Human Cancer with a Wnt Inhibitor
Polina Shcherbakova, PhD	UNMC	The Role of POLE Driver Mutations in Alleviating Oncogene-induced Senescence