

**Nebraska Cancer and Smoking Disease
Research Program**



Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Competitively Awarded Research Projects

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	CAMPUS	PROJECT TITLE
Maheer Y. Abdalla, PhD	UNMC	Disrupting Heme Homeostasis to Overcome Radioresistance in Prostate Cancer
Aditya N. Bade, PhD	UNMC	AI-Enhanced CEST MRI for Mapping Nicotine-Associated Brain Molecular Connectivity
Martin M. Conda Sheridan, PhD	UNMC	Targeted-Metal Nanoparticles to Enhance Radiation Treatments
Laura A. Hansen, PhD	Creighton	Identification of NUP93 and XPO1 as targets for skin cancer treatment
Ranjana Kanchan, PhD	UNMC	Targeting the Kinetochore-MYC Axis in High-Risk Group 3 Medulloblastoma
Parvez Khan, PhD	UNMC	Neuropeptide CGRP orchestrates tumor immune microenvironment in SCLC
Robert E. Lewis, PhD	UNMC	Effectors of SCLC Therapy Resistance
Bhopal Mohapatra, PhD, DVM	UNMC	CBLProteins-Mediated Metabolic Changes Fuel TNBC Stemness and Metastatic Spread
Brian J. North, PhD	Creighton	Investigating a role for BubR1 in colitis-associated cancer (CAC)
Armen Petrosyan, MD, PhD	UNMC	Loss of ER-PM contacts: novel prognostic criteria in prostate cancer metastasis
A. Angie Rizzino, PhD	UNMC	Increasing the Radiosensitivity of Pediatric Brain Tumors
Afshin Salehi, MD, MS	UNMC	ApoE Peptide-Targeted Gold Nanoadjuvants to Enhance LITT and Combat Glioma
Ashu Shah, PhD	UNMC	A novel Fc-optimized immunostimulatory antibody for treating pancreatic cancer
Polina Shcherbakova, PhD	UNMC	AI approaches to classification of endometrial and colorectal tumors
Yaping Tu, PhD	Creighton	Cigarette Smoke-Induced Glucocorticoid Resistance in Refractory Asthma