

100 Voices of HOPE

Voices lead ∞ Lives change ∞ Hope endures

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2013 Hunch: Selective Delivery—getting chemo to the right place to increase response and decrease toxicity



We are proud to introduce Samy Meroueh, PhD, as the recipient of this year's 100 Voices of Hope funding. Dr. Meroueh received his doctorate from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and his post-doctorate training at the University of Notre Dame. He joined the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the IU School of Medicine in 2006. Dr. Meroueh is a member of the IU Simon Cancer Center, as well as the Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, and the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at IUPUI. His research interests lie in using chemistry to design and synthesize compounds to address important biological questions, and to use these compounds to develop new therapeutics in cancer metastasis. The majority of his research focus has been on metastatic breast cancer models, but he is also actively involved in developing new compounds targeting other tumors that are highly prone to invasion and metastasis.

Dr. Meroueh's research hunch stemmed from a chemical compound he and his research colleagues developed at IU. This compound was created to act as a homing agent to target a protein that is exclusively found in highly malignant cells. With 100 Voices of Hope funding, Dr. Meroueh is proposing to chemically link chemotherapeutics to the homing agent so the treatment is targeted to kill only the malignant cancer cells and spare the surrounding normal cells. If this approach is successful, it could lead to significantly less toxicity and allow a longer treatment period that will enable oncologists to better control or reverse metastatic disease.

Dr. Nakshatri's U6 project: awaiting good news on additional funding

Many of you know that Dr. Hari Nakshatri received \$450,000 external funding from the National Cancer Institute to continue studying U6—a discovery made through 100 Voices of Hope funding in 2009. He has recently applied for a \$1.5 million grant through the Translational Research Institute of National Institute of Health to continue his work on this important discovery. Stay tuned for an answer in March!



Meet Crystal: the new ITRAC guru

Mary Murray, who has been tracking 100 Voices of Hope research projects through the ITRAC system, has transitioned to the Translational Research Administrator & Special Projects Coordinator for Pediatrics at IU. Crystal Munson will take over the ITRAC process for 100 Voices of Hope. Crystal came to IU in 2008 and since then has worked closely with Mary facilitating the tracking of 100 Voices of Hope projects. Crystal has a BA from DePauw University and prior to IU she was an in vivo pharmacologist in the oncology department at Eli Lilly. Crystal is a born and bred Hoosier from Greenwood.

