AWARD NUMBER: W81XWH-17-1-0372

TITLE: Military Exposure-Related Pleural Mesothelioma: An Innovative Translational Approach to Inform Novel Molecular-Targeted Treatment Development

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REPORT DATE: November 2022

TYPE OF REPORT: Final Report

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

1. REPORT DATE	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED
November 2022	Final Annual Report	1AUG2017 - 31JUL2022

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE

Military Exposure-Related Pleural Mesothelioma: An Innovative Translational Approach to Inform Novel Molecular-Targeted Treatment Development

5a. CONTRACT NUMBER
W81XWH-17-1-0372

5b. GRANT NUMBER
CA160891

5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER

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5d. PROJECT NUMBER
0011008943

5e. TASK NUMBER

5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER

7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

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8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
20

9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)
DoD

11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)
20

12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES
Not applicable

14. ABSTRACT

Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) is a highly aggressive form of cancer that develops within the pleural lining of the lungs. Asbestos-related malignancies dropped precipitously in military/veteran populations upon the removal of asbestos from naval ship construction. However, older naval vessels and military facilities still containing asbestos were still in use decades later, resulting in thousands of veterans suffering asbestos exposure. Indeed, it is estimated that military veterans account for one third of all MPM patients. Despite this estimation, there is little data on the phenotype of military exposure and MPM pathogenesis. During this funding cycle, we demonstrated at the molecular level, Clusters 2 & 3 represented a continuum, or "histo-molecular gradient", predominantly biphasic and sarcomatoid tumors, respectively. Correlated with the epithelial to mesenchymal transformation (EMT) process, the two more extreme clusters 1 and 4 were enriched for epithelioid and sarcomatoid tumors, respectively. We identified an association of single-pattern cytoplasmic staining with markers of EMT, suggesting a complex role for BAP1 in MPM. In fact, it appears that military exposed MPM patients have a unique phenotype compared to matched civilian cohort (unpublished data undergoing secondary validation). We successfully generated conditional mouse lines with NF2, CDKN2a and p53 deletions in mesothelial cells (WT1-CreER driver) as single and multiple knockout mice. The mice were sacrificed 1 year after administration of tamoxifen with successful pleural MPM tumor generation in all genotypes. The final aim of this funding cycle was accomplished with establishment of patient-derived xenografts (PDX) from 14 patients (including 2 rare sarcomatoid tumors and several biphasic tumors) utilizing modifications of existing techniques such that it should be possible to created immortalized tumors from most patients with triplicate implantation.

15. SUBJECT TERMS
Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM)

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT	b. ABSTRACT	c. THIS PAGE			USAMRDC
U	U	U	UU	15	19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER *(include area code)*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **INTRODUCTION:** *Narrative that briefly (one paragraph) describes the subject, purpose and scope of the research.*
Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) is a highly aggressive form of cancer that develops within the pleural lining of the lungs. Asbestos-related malignancies dropped precipitously in military/veteran populations upon the removal of asbestos from naval ship construction. However, older naval vessels and military facilities still containing asbestos were still in use decades later, resulting in thousands of veterans suffering asbestos exposure. Indeed, it is estimated that military veterans account for one third of all MPM patients. Despite this estimation, there is little data on the phenotype of military exposure and MPM pathogenesis. We recently defined the mutational landscape of MPM and have identified the most commonly mutated genes as BAP1, NF2, TP53, and SETD2, as well as other frequent mutations. We have also classified MPM into 4 distinct molecular clusters that provide new opportunities to identify MPM patients with better prognosis as well as to rationally divide tumors based on distinct molecular/biochemical driving mechanisms. The objective of the study is to refine the classification of MPM into biologically and prognostically distinct sub-groups, relate these sub-groups to the military-exposed veterans and rationally design potential biomarker-selected targeted therapies for the military/veteran population for future human trials. This study aims to define and compare MPM tumors from military versus non-military cases for diagnosis and prognosis, using the type of mutations and cluster membership by RNA expression. This study also intends to identify potential novel therapies utilizing genetically-engineered mouse models (GEMMs) to interrogate MPM-specific tumorigenesis, invasion, and metastasis. Finally, this study plans to translate potential molecular targets into therapeutics using an *in-vivo* PDXs model. MPM tumors from civilian and military/veteran patients will be genotyped for the five most frequently mutated genes in MPM and will then be used to establish the distribution of mutations of all types in the 4 molecular cluster groups that have been classified. Frequently observed mutations or other genomic aberrations will be further interrogated using GEMMs to more completely understand MPM carcinogenesis and progression, as well as to identify potential targets for therapy. PDXs models will then be developed *in vivo* from the diagnostic/prognostic biomarkers that are identified in the civilian and military populations to focus pre-clinical therapeutics on the two extreme sub-types of MPM: 1 and 4.

2. **KEYWORDS:** *Provide a brief list of keywords (limit to 20 words).*

Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM)

genetically-engineered mouse models (GEMMs)

patient-derived xenograft (PDX)

3. **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** *The PI is reminded that the recipient organization is required to obtain prior written approval from the awarding agency grants official whenever there are significant changes in the project or its direction.*

What were the major goals of the project?
List the major goals of the project as stated in the approved SOW. If the application listed milestones/target dates for important activities or phases of the project, identify these dates and show actual completion dates or the percentage of completion.

A. Establish Consortium Collaborative Infrastructure (Responsible PI, Harpole-Duke)
Expected:1-3 months
Actual: 100% complete

B. Perform RNA-seq analyses on the prospectively-collected, fresh-frozen MPM tumors (Responsible PI, Bueno-BWH)

Expected: 3-9 months
Actual: 95% complete.

C. Investigate whether there are any genomic / genetic differences between civilian and veteran MPM tumors based on the consensus cluster expression and mutational genotyping (N=250 FFPE) (Responsible PI, Bueno-BWH)
Expected: 6-18 months
Actual: 60% complete.

D. Identification of Novel Therapies (Responsible PI, Harpole-Duke)
Expected: 12-24 months
Actual: 45% Complete

E. To translate potential molecular targets into therapeutics using an in-vivo PDX model (Responsible PI, Harpole-Duke) – 70% complete
Expected completion: 24-36 months
Actual completion: 70% complete

What was accomplished under these goals?
For this reporting period describe: 1) major activities; 2) specific objectives; 3) significant results or key outcomes, including major findings, developments, or conclusions (both positive and negative); and/or 4) other achievements. Include a discussion of stated goals not met. Description shall include pertinent data and graphs in sufficient detail to explain any significant results achieved. A succinct description of the methodology used shall be provided. As the project progresses to completion, the emphasis in reporting in this section should shift from reporting activities to reporting accomplishments.

A. Establish Consortium Collaborative Infrastructure

This major goal was previously completed and reported in prior reports. There was nothing further to complete regarding this major goal. However, we are pleased to inform the DOD that we have successfully assembled the most comprehensive and largest collection of Mesothelioma cases and associated fresh Frozen and FFPE specimens with linked military service and clinical data in North America. This number is slightly above the one proposed in the grant, to allow for redundancy in case some of the specimens are not adequate.

B. Perform RNA-seq analyses on the prospectively collected, fresh-frozen MPM tumors.

Unsupervised analysis to identify potential novel, distinct molecular MPM subgroups (n=192; BWH). We validated at the molecular level, Clusters 2 & 3 represented a continuum, or "histomolecular gradient", consisting mainly of biphasic and sarcomatoid tumors, respectively. Correlated with the EMT process, the two more extreme clusters 1 and 4 were enriched for epithelioid and sarcomatoid tumors, respectively. The following tests were developed for Cluster diagnosis:

A. *Cluster 1 test (CHP1/ENAH): AUC 0.95, at 9.877 threshold: sensitivity 0.92 / specificity 0.89*
B. *Cluster 2 test (ANKRD50/FXYD6): AUC 0.90, at 0.989 threshold: sensitivity 0.80 / specificity 0.83*
C. *Cluster 3 test (KRT17/PLB1): AUC 0.79, at 0.2 threshold: sensitivity 0.95 / specificity 0.53*
D. *Cluster 4 test (DYSF/MISP): AUC 0.9, at 1.678 threshold: sensitivity 0.76 / specificity 0.95*

C. Investigate whether there are any genomic / genetic differences between civilian and veteran MPM tumors based on the consensus cluster expression and mutational genotyping (N=250 FFPE)

We analyzed both the military and the matching non-military cohort by RNA sequencing using frozen tissue to have more reliable data after pilot data indicated that the FFPE samples might not reproducible for validation due to distortion caused by some genes. We have used whole exome sequencing for these samples, as well as a "deeper dive" into the sarcomatoid tumors (n=72) with RNA sequencing, whole exome sequencing and the Saphyr (Bionano Genomics, San Diego, CA) DNA deletion/insertion panel. Clustering analyses from these data in progress. Our targeted exome sequencing panel (mutations and variants in BAP1, NF2, SETD2, SETBP1, TP53, CDKN2A) has been collected from all military-exposed veterans and MPM controls in our cohort. Initial analysis of 677 cases, 243 military and 392 non-military revealed not unexpectedly that the military population is almost entirely composed of men, whereas the non-military population includes 25% women. Also noted is the observation that in the military cohort, the non-epithelial histology is significantly higher 43% (104/243; 43% vs. 245/392; 36%, $p<0.05$). Our results suggests that the military patient population is different from the civilian one and we are currently completing final genomic analysis to understand why.

In addition, BAP1 IHC on a preliminary cohort has been performed using other funding sources, and NF2 FISH are completed. The BAP1 preliminary data were published (De Rienzo et al. *Journal of Pathology* 2021). The data from NF2 FISH analysis is currently being analyzed by a biostatistician. Oncopanel data, which detects mutations and variants in BAP1, NF2, SETD2, SETBP1, TP53, CDKN2A, has been collected from all patients consented to an IRB-approved protocol. Genomic mutation results are available for 240 patients.

c. Identification of Novel Therapies

In order to test the candidate drivers of mesothelioma and developing novel therapies, in this sub-aim, we used a mouse genetic approach. We continued to try to generate conditional mouse lines with NF2, CDKN2a and p53 deletion in mesothelial cells (WT1-CreER). Over this grant cycle, we have generated several novel mouse lines in which oncogenic stimuli are inducible expressed in mesothelial cells of the mouse pleura. Although breeding multiple floxed alleles to homozygosity is very complex and time-consuming, and the addition of the COVID pandemic that presented a unique challenge, we successfully generated the cell lines outlined in the table below. Table below shows number of mice obtained with single and multiple floxed genes (all homozygous) with Wt1-CreER promoter. These mice have also been administered tamoxifen. In order to determine the individual and combined effect of NF2, CDKN2a and P53 deletion on disease progression or tumor formation, we sacrificed one mouse from each genotype (Wt1-creER; NF2 fl/fl, WT1-creER; NF2 fl/fl; CDKN2a fl/fl and WT1-creER; NF2 fl/fl; CDKN2a fl/fl; P53 fl/fl) 35 weeks post tamoxifen injections. The H&E analysis showed that there was no apparent difference between the control and knockdown transgenic mice. So, we decided to wait little longer and we plan to harvest lung sections after 60 weeks post tamoxifen administration. We also plan to do the Kaplan Meier analysis (survival assays) for these various genotypes.

S.No.	Genotype	No of mice	Date Tamoxifen injection	Time since injection (Feb 13, 2021)
1	Wt1-creER; NF2 fl/fl	14	1/28	(54 weeks)
2	WT1-creER; NF2 fl/fl; CDKN2a fl/fl	6	1/28	(54 weeks)
3	Wt-creER; NF2 fl/fl;	8	1/28	(54 weeks)

	P53 fl/fl			
4	WT1-creER; NF2 fl/fl; CDKN2a fl/fl; P53 fl/fl	12	1/28	(54 weeks)
5	WT1-creER; NF2 fl/fl; CDKN2a fl/fl; P53 fl/fl	8	5/1	(41 Weeks)

All the above lines with a lox-stop-lox Cas9 allele that will allow Crispr knockout of additional genes after lentiviral delivery of sgRNAs to the pleural space. Characteristic images of the tumors demonstrating invasive mesothelioma growth in the mouse pleura after 12 months.

d. To translate potential molecular targets into therapeutics using an in-vivo PDX model.

BWH reports that eleven models have completed passage 1, of which one is Sarcomatoid and ten are Epithelioid or Biphasic. Nine have been sent to Duke's animal facility for therapeutic agent testing, consisting of 6 biphasic, 2 epithelioid, and 1 sarcomatoid. The BWH PDX Core no longer passages tumors to p2 because they have determined that they can generate enough cryovials from p0 and p1.

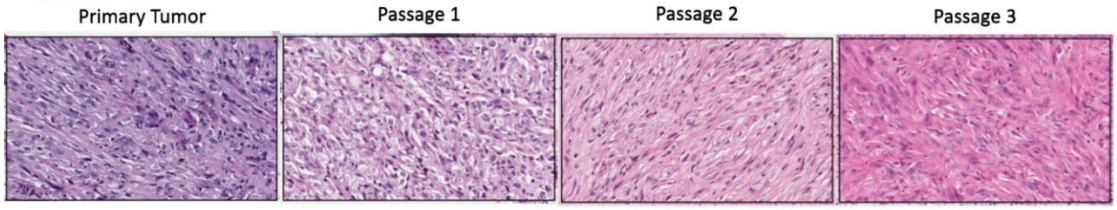
To date, Duke reports a sarcomatoid PDX line and a predominantly epithelioid variant PDX line. Both established PDX lines have been developed/ grew at a faster pace than previous passages have reached their endpoint quicker due to size and tumor burden. In addition to the established PDX, we established 3 additional, unique lines of tumors. However, due to inventory issues with the vendor, mouse orders were delayed and delayed the implantation and passage of these new lines.

To verify that the PDX immortalized tumor accurately represents the patient's tumor and environment, fresh tumor from two different primary tumors implanted in mice and a specimen from each subsequent passage were analyzed and compared to the original primary for concordance. Concordance was evaluated by: histopathologic (H/E, IHC) assessment, miRNA array assessment using FFPE-based qNPA Whole Transcriptome Assays (HTG, Inc) using other funding sources. We set a threshold of similar histology and >90% concordance for an acceptable representation of the primary MPM.

Fresh tumor from resection or biopsy is implanted in a mouse (passage 1), taking 6-9 months to grow to a size that requires harvesting and re-implantation to the next mouse (passage 2). This continues if the tumor remains intact. At each passage, part of the tumor is analyzed and compared to the original primary for concordance. To the best of our knowledge, this quality control process has never been utilized and includes histopathologic (H/E, IHC) assessment, miRNA array and mRNA array full genomic assessment using FFPE-based qNPA Whole Transcriptome Assays (HTG, Inc). We set a threshold of similar histology and >90% concordance for an acceptable representation of the primary MPM. Below are two examples: a rare sarcomatoid and a biphasic mostly epithelial tumor we successfully generated PDX models. Note in Figure 6 that the histology is similar up to the third passage collected more than 2 years after resection, with miRNA array (Figure 7) data demonstrating 0.92 correlation at passage 3 of the primary for the sarcomatoid tumor and 0.96 at passage 2 for the biphasic tumor we are focusing on in veterans. (mRNA arrays were delayed by Covid-19 laboratory shutdowns)

These data demonstrate the reproducibility and fidelity of our PDX models, allowing us the ability to continue with this platform in our proof of principle prospective trial.

6A. Sarcomatoid MPM (Cluster 4): Histologic Correlation between primary MPM and PDX tumors Passage 1 to 3



6B. Biphasic MPM (Cluster 2): Histologic between primary MPM and PDX tumors Passage 1 to 2

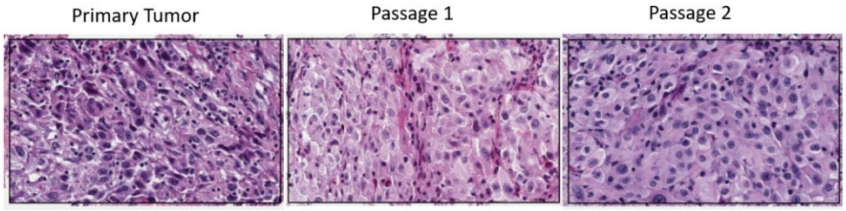


Figure 7a. Sarcomatoid MPM (Cluster 4): Correlation of miRNA Expression between primary MPM and PDX tumors Passage 1 to 3

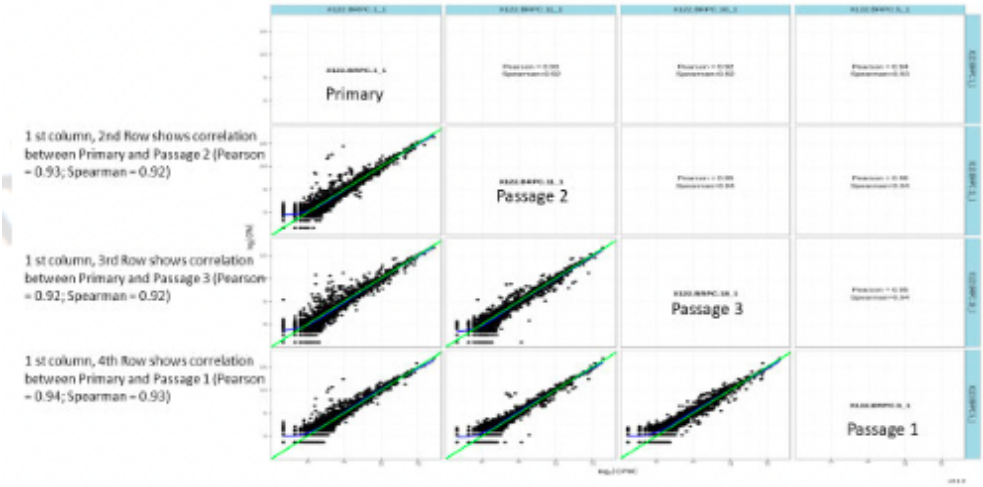
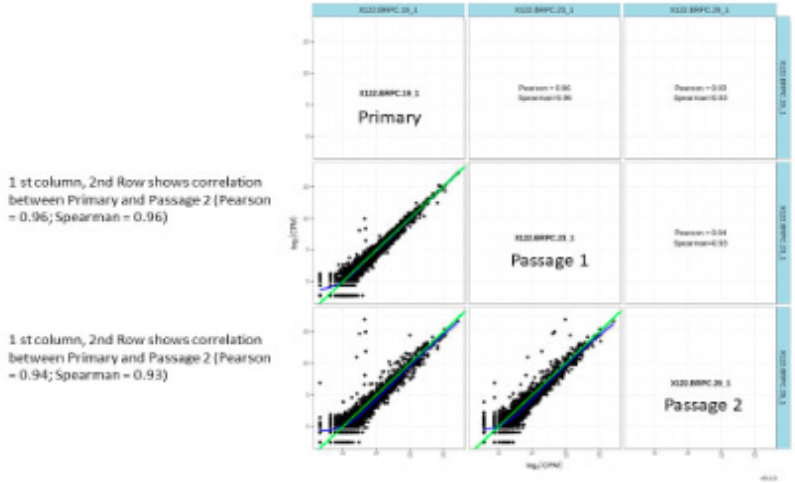


Figure 7b. Biphasic MPM (Cluster 2): Correlation of miRNA Expression between primary MPM and PDX tumors Passage 1 to 2



The histology is similar up to the third passage and was collected more than 2 years after the initial resection, with miRNA array data demonstrating 0.92 correlation at passage 3 of the primary for the sarcomatoid tumor and 0.96 at passage 2 for the biphasic tumor we are focusing on in veterans. These data demonstrate the reproducibility and fidelity of our PDX models.

Our Duke IACUC protocol#A043-18-02 was reviewed and approved for renewal on February 02, 2021. The new IACUC protocol number is A020-21-01 and was approved through January 31, 2024. This protocol was submitted to ACURO and gained approval on April 14, 2021. The BWH IACUC protocol (CA160891P1.e001) 3-year rewrite for the previously approved protocol 18-006 was approved on 3/24/2021 through 3/24/2024.

What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?
If the project was not intended to provide training and professional development opportunities or there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state "Nothing to Report."

Describe opportunities for training and professional development provided to anyone who worked on the project or anyone who was involved in the activities supported by the project. "Training" activities are those in which individuals with advanced professional skills and experience assist others in attaining greater proficiency. Training activities may include, for example, courses or one-on-one work with a mentor. "Professional development" activities result in increased knowledge or skill in one's area of expertise and may include workshops, conferences, seminars, study groups, and individual study. Include participation in conferences, workshops, and seminars not listed under major activities.

Nothing to Report

How were the results disseminated to communities of interest?
If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state "Nothing to Report."

Describe how the results were disseminated to communities of interest. Include any outreach activities that were undertaken to reach members of communities who are not usually aware of these project activities, for the purpose of enhancing public understanding and increasing interest in learning and careers in science, technology, and the humanities.

Nothing to Report

What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?
If this is the final report, state "Nothing to Report."

Describe briefly what you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives.

This is the final report for this grant. Therefore, there is nothing to report.

4. **IMPACT:** D*escribe distinctive contributions, major accomplishments, innovations, successes, or any change in practice or behavior that has come about as a result of the project relative to:*

What was the impact on the development of the principal discipline(s) of the project?
If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state "Nothing to Report."

Describe how findings, results, techniques that were developed or extended, or other products from the project made an impact or are likely to make an impact on the base of knowledge, theory, and research in the principal disciplinary field(s) of the project. Summarize using language that an intelligent lay audience can understand (Scientific American style).

We have assembled the most comprehensive and largest collection of Mesothelioma cases and associated fresh Frozen and FFPE specimens with linked military service and clinical data in North America, available for current and future analyses. This comprehensive proposal for molecular

characterization of mesothelioma whose goal is identification of novel targeted therapies specifically matched with genetically identified subsets of tumors study, seeks to identify genetic markers specific to military-related MPM. Thus, these findings will be relevant to thousands of military veterans who were exposed to asbestos. The identification of these markers could lead to earlier/enhanced diagnosis and treatment strategies for veterans afflicted with this deadly disease and improve patient survival.

What was the impact on other disciplines?
If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state "Nothing to Report."

Describe how the findings, results, or techniques that were developed or improved, or other products from the project made an impact or are likely to make an impact on other disciplines.

Nothing to Report

What was the impact on technology transfer?
If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state "Nothing to Report."

Describe ways in which the project made an impact, or is likely to make an impact, on commercial technology or public use, including:
- *transfer of results to entities in government or industry.*
- *instances where the research has led to the initiation of a start-up company; or*
- *adoption of new practices.*

Nothing to Report

What was the impact on society beyond science and technology?
If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state "Nothing to Report."

Describe how results from the project made an impact, or are likely to make an impact, beyond the bounds of science, engineering, and the academic world on areas such as:
- *improving public knowledge, attitudes, skills, and abilities.*
- *changing behavior, practices, decision making, policies (including regulatory policies), or social actions; or*
- *improving social, economic, civic, or environmental conditions.*

Nothing to Report

5. CHANGES/PROBLEMS: *The PD/PI is reminded that the recipient organization is required to obtain prior written approval from the awarding agency grants official whenever there are significant changes in the project or its direction. If not previously reported in writing, provide the following additional information or state, "Nothing to Report," if applicable:*

Cluster-4 Sarcomatoid Mesothelioma tumors are very rare, therefore it has become evident that we will not reach the stated goal of five Cluster-4 PDX models within this grant period.

Changes in approach and reasons for change
Describe any changes in approach during the reporting period and reasons for these changes. Remember that significant changes in objectives and scope require prior approval of the agency.

A pilot test that was performed indicated that the FFPE samples are not suitable for the validation planned under Major goal 3. Therefore, we are performing RNAseq in frozen samples, exome sequencing and immunohistochemistry as a replacement for this metric.

Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them
Describe problems or delays encountered during the reporting period and actions or plans to resolve them.

We anticipate that creating 5 PDX models from Cluster 4 may be challenging for the following reasons;

Based upon the fact that BWH's PDX success rate has now been determined to be 3-6 tumors required for each one successful PDX model. Therefore, to get 5 Cluster 4 PDX models needed for this grant we will need to have approximately 15-30 Cluster 4 histology tumors available in the next one to two years. However, Cluster 4 tumors are rare - we might expect up to approximately 6 per year between Duke and BWH. To mitigate this, a high priority will be placed on any Cluster 4 tumors that become available for PDX models.

Cluster-4 Mesothelioma tumors are very rare, therefore we may not reach the stated goal of five Cluster-4 PDX models within this three year grant period.

Changes that had a significant impact on expenditures
Describe changes during the reporting period that may have had a significant impact on expenditures, for example, delays in hiring staff or favorable developments that enable meeting objectives at less cost than anticipated.

Nothing to Report

Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, biohazards, and/or select agents
Describe significant deviations, unexpected outcomes, or changes in approved protocols for the use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, biohazards, and/or select agents during the reporting period. If required, were these changes approved by the applicable institution committee (or equivalent) and reported to the agency? Also specify the applicable Institutional Review Board/Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval dates.

Nothing to Report

Significant changes in use or care of human subjects

Nothing to Report

Significant changes in use or care of vertebrate animals

Nothing to Report

Significant changes in use of biohazards and/or select agents

Nothing to Report

6. **PRODUCTS:** *List any products resulting from the project during the reporting period. If there is nothing to report under a particular item, state "Nothing to Report."*

- **Publications, conference papers, and presentations**
  Report only the major publication(s) resulting from the work under this award.

Journal publications. *List peer-reviewed articles or papers appearing in scientific, technical, or professional journals. Identify for each publication: Author(s); title; journal; volume: year; page numbers; status of publication (published; accepted, awaiting publication; submitted, under review; other); acknowledgement of federal support (yes/no).*

De Rienzo et al. *Journal of Pathology* 2021

Books or other non-periodical, one-time publications. *Report any book, monograph, dissertation, abstract, or the like published as or in a separate publication, rather than a periodical or series. Include any significant publication in the proceedings of a one-time conference or in the report of a one-time study, commission, or the like. Identify for each one-time publication: author(s); title; editor; title of collection, if applicable; bibliographic information; year; type of publication (e.g., book, thesis or dissertation); status of publication (published; accepted, awaiting publication; submitted, under review; other); acknowledgement of federal support (yes/no).*

Nothing to Report

Other publications, conference papers and presentations. *Identify any other publications, conference papers and/or presentations not reported above. Specify the status of the publication as noted above. List presentations made during the last year (international, national, local societies, military meetings, etc.). Use an asterisk (*) if presentation produced a manuscript.*

Nothing to Report

- **Website(s) or other Internet site(s)**
  List the URL for any Internet site(s) that disseminates the results of the research activities. A short description of each site should be provided. It is not necessary to include the publications already specified above in this section.

  Nothing to Report

- **Technologies or techniques**
  Identify technologies or techniques that resulted from the research activities. Describe the technologies or techniques were shared.

  Nothing to Report

- **Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses**
  Identify inventions, patent applications with date, and/or licenses that have resulted from the research. Submission of this information as part of an interim research performance progress report is not a substitute for any other invention reporting required under the terms and conditions of an award.

  Nothing to Report

- **Other Products**
  Identify any other reportable outcomes that were developed under this project. Reportable outcomes are defined as a research result that is or relates to a product, scientific advance, or research tool that makes a meaningful contribution toward the understanding, prevention,

diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and /or rehabilitation of a disease, injury or condition, or to improve the quality of life. Examples include:

- *data or databases;*
- *physical collections;*
- *audio or video products;*
- *software;*
- *models;*
- *educational aids or curricula;*
- *instruments or equipment;*
- *research material (e.g., Germplasm; cell lines, DNA probes, animal models);*
- *clinical interventions;*
- *new business creation; and*
- *other.*

A. Collaborative mesothelioma clinical RedCAP database

B. Collaborative Biospecimen collection of fresh-frozen and FFPE mesothelioma tumor samples – samples are continuing to be added as the project progresses

C. Collaborative data repository of RNA-seq analyses on mesothelioma tumor samples – data is continuing to be added as analyses are completed

D. - Database of clinical data, outcomes, and military exposure on 500 patients.

E. - Physical collection of 250 fresh frozen non-military and matching FFPE samples, plus 250 Military FFPE samples.

F. - >10 PDX Mesothelioma mouse models.

G. Molecular signatures of potential clinical value

7. PARTICIPANTS & OTHER COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

What individuals have worked on the project?

Provide the following information for: (1) PDs/PIs; and (2) each person who has worked at least one person month per year on the project during the reporting period, regardless of the source of compensation (a person month equals approximately 160 hours of effort). If information is unchanged from a previous submission, provide the name only and indicate "no change".

<u>Example:</u>

Name: *Mary Smith*
Project Role: *Graduate Student*
Researcher Identifier (e.g. ORCID ID): 1234567
Nearest person month worked: *5*

Contribution to Project: *Ms. Smith has performed work in the area of combined error-control and constrained coding.*
Funding Support: *The Ford Foundation (Complete only if the funding support is provided from other than this award.)*

Name: David Harpole, MD (Duke) – no change

Name: Mary-Beth Joshi, MPH (Duke) – no change

Name: Tam How (Duke) – no change

Name: Mark Onaitis, MD (UCSD) – no change

Name: Priyanka Chaudhary, PhD (UCSD) – no change

Name: Guangfang Wang (UCSD) – no change

Name: Raphael Bueno (BWH) – no change

Name: Corinne Gustafson (BWH) – no change

Name: David Severson, Ph.D. (BWH)
Project Role: Computational Biologist
Nearest person month worked: 1
Contribution to Project: analysis of RNAseq data, clustering

Name: Assunta De Rienzo, Ph.D. (BWH)
Project Role: Lab Director
Nearest person month worked: 6
Contribution to Project: Sample prep, data analysis

Has there been a change in the active other support of the PD/PI(s) or senior/key personnel since the last reporting period?
If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state "Nothing to Report."

If the active support has changed for the PD/PI(s) or senior/key personnel, then describe what the change has been. Changes may occur, for example, if a previously active grant has closed and/or if a previously pending grant is now active. Annotate this information so it is clear what has changed from the previous submission. Submission of other support information is not necessary for pending changes or for changes in the level of effort for active support reported previously. The awarding agency may require prior written approval if a change in active other support significantly impacts the effort on the project that is the subject of the project report.
Nothing to report

What other organizations were involved as partners?
If there is nothing significant to report during this reporting period, state "Nothing to Report."

Describe partner organizations – academic institutions, other nonprofits, industrial or commercial firms, state or local governments, schools or school systems, or other organizations (foreign or domestic) – that were involved with the project. Partner organizations may have provided financial or in-kind support, supplied facilities or equipment, collaborated in the research, exchanged personnel, or otherwise contributed.

Provide the following information for each partnership:
Organization Name:
Location of Organization: (if foreign location list country)
Partner's contribution to the project (identify one or more)
- *Financial support;*

- *In-kind support (e.g., partner makes software, computers, equipment, etc., available to project staff);*
- *Facilities (e.g., project staff use the partner's facilities for project activities);*
- *Collaboration (e.g., partner's staff work with project staff on the project);*
- *Personnel exchanges (e.g., project staff and/or partner's staff use each other's facilities, work at each other's site); and*
- *Other.*

Nothing to Report

8. SPECIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

COLLABORATIVE AWARDS: *For collaborative awards, independent reports are required from BOTH the Initiating Principal Investigator (PI) and the Collaborating/Partnering PI. A duplicative report is acceptable; however, tasks shall be clearly marked with the responsible PI and research site. A report shall be submitted to* ***https://ers.amedd.army.mil*** *for each unique award.*

Independent reports will be submitted by BOTH the Initiating PI and the Collaborating/Partnering PI.

QUAD CHARTS: *If applicable, the Quad Chart (available on https://www.usamraa.army.mil) should be updated and submitted with attachments.*

Not applicable

9. APPENDICES: *Attach all appendices that contain information that supplements, clarifies or supports the text. Examples include original copies of journal articles, reprints of manuscripts and abstracts, a curriculum vitae, patent applications, study questionnaires, and surveys, etc.*

Not applicable