

For Immediate Release  
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## Roswell Park Receives Grant to Further Research in Multiple Myeloma

BUFFALO, NY – [Kelvin P. Lee, MD](#), has been awarded a grant by the [National Cancer Institute](#) to characterize the molecular and cellular components of potential therapeutic targets on [multiple myeloma](#) (MM) cells. The first year of the grant is funded in the amount of \$290,757, and is renewable at the same amount for up to five years for a total of \$1,484,653. Dr. Lee is the Jacobs Family Chair in [Immunology](#), Vice Chair of Medicine (Hematologic Malignancies) at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Dr. Lee will build on previous clinical observations that implicate CD28 – a receptor expressed on the surface of normal plasma cells and MM cells – as an important contributor to the survival of myeloma cells and their ability to eventually become resistant to chemotherapy. These studies found a highly significant correlation between the progression of multiple myeloma and CD28 expression and identified CD28 expression as a significant predictor of poor prognosis.

Dr. Lee will focus on defining the components of CD28 activation in myeloma cells; to characterize the cellular responses to CD28 activation; to define the cellular partners that activate myeloma CD28; and to determine if targeting myeloma CD28 cells alone, components of its signaling pathway, or its cellular partners can be exploited therapeutically in a laboratory model.

Multiple myeloma – a cancer of the plasma cells in the bone marrow – is the second most common hematologic malignancy and remains an incurable disease. Results of this study will hopefully bring researchers one step closer to transforming multiple myeloma from a terminal disease to a chronic condition.

Roswell Park Cancer Institute, founded in 1898, is the nation's first cancer research, treatment and education center and is the only [National Cancer Institute](#)-designated comprehensive cancer center in Upstate New York. RPCI is a member of the prestigious [National Comprehensive Cancer Network](#), an alliance of the nation's leading cancer centers. Roswell Park has affiliate sites and collaborative programs in New York, Pennsylvania, and in China. For more information, visit RPCI's website at [www.roswellpark.org](http://www.roswellpark.org), call 1-877-ASK-RPCI (1-877-275-7724) or e-mail [askrpci@roswellpark.org](mailto:askrpci@roswellpark.org).