

SBIR/STTR Phase I, Phase II, and Fast-track Application Support Program

OHSU Faculty Reviewer Roster

Amanda McCullough

Company: Restoration Genetics

Dr. McCullough received her doctoral degree in cellular and molecular biology from the University of Vermont. She completed postdoctoral training at Oregon Health & Science University and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. She was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics at the University of Texas before joining Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET) at OHSU in August 2003. Research in the McCullough laboratory is focused on the biochemical mechanisms of DNA repair systems and the regulation and roles of DNA repair in cellular responses to environmental stress.

Grazyna Adamus

Company: Virogenomics

My main research interest is in autoimmune aspects of retinal disorders. My work in visual paraneoplastic syndromes and autoimmunity of retinopathy received a world-wide recognition. We also developed a new RTL immunotherapy (a Technology Innovation Award in 2011) for treatment of uveitis, optic neuritis, and retinal degeneration that we hope to translate it into a clinical treatment. The main focus of my current study is to define the specificity of autoantibodies and their role in pathogenicity of autoimmune retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration. Having the biggest repository of sera from paraneoplastic and autoimmune retinopathies, our emphases are on the identification of biomarkers for retinal phenotypes useful for clinical application in diagnosis. I established an Ocular Immunology Laboratory that performs diagnostic tests for autoantibodies related to autoimmune retinopathy and optic neuropathy to help clinicians with diagnosis.

Hua Xie

Company: Hemcon

Dr. Xie received his MD and PhD from TongJi Medical University, in China. After he received his doctoral degree, he received his fellowship award in the Department of Surgery at West China University of Medical Sciences for prostate cancer and disease research. Dr. Xie also completed clinical research fellowships at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University and Providence St. Vincent Medical Center of Portland on surgical and urological research.

Dr. Xie currently holds the positions of assistant professor at the Department of Surgery and senior scientist at the Center for Regenerative Medicine of OHSU. Dr. Xie has interests in innovative surgical research, including minimal invasive surgery and robotic surgery. Dr. Xie is

leading a pre-clinical surgery team to work with principal investigators to develop translational cell therapy models and techniques to treat a variety of medical problems, such as acute myocardial infarction (AMI), stroke, burn wound, traumatic spinal injuries, lung injuries, extremity trauma injuries, and vascular injuries. As a principal investigator, he has conducted multiple NIH STTR/SBIR Phase I and II research awards on novel hemostatic technologies for transurethral resection of prostate (TURP), laparoscopic partial nephrectomy (LPN) and gastrointestinal bleedings. Currently Dr. Xie's research interests primarily focus on uses of stem cells and biomaterials to develop therapeutic solutions for regeneration of damaged tissue functions.

Jan van Santen

Company: BioSpeech, Inc.

I have directed several larger NIH- and NSF-supported projects involving multiple researchers and sites. I also direct a 7-faculty research center at my University (the Center for Spoken Language Understanding, which also runs PhD programs in Computer Science and in Electrical Engineering) and am the CEO of a startup company, BioSpeech Inc., through which significant SBIR funding has been obtained (more than \$4M during the past 5 years). In the process, I have developed keen skills for priority setting, mentoring junior faculty and students, effective communications, and organizing teamwork.

My work for the past three decades has focused on speech and language technology. Since I left industry in 2000, I have dedicated myself to the development of algorithms serving assessment, remediation, and assistive-communication purposes for neurological and neurodevelopmental disorders. I have directed a number of federally-supported projects on speech and language features in autism spectrum disorders and have contributed to additional projects on ASDs, as well as projects supported by Autism Speaks and the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation. I have also participated in projects on hearing impairment, dysarthria, and augmentative and alternative communication. These contributions build on my expertise in mathematical modeling, computational linguistics, signal processing, machine learning, and software development. I have over 100 peer reviewed journal or conference proceedings papers, and hold seven patents.

Jennifer Loftis

Company: Virogenomics

Dr. Loftis completed a B.A. in psychology and a B.A. in business economics at the University of California in Santa Barbara, an M.A. in clinical psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience at OHSU, and a postdoctoral fellowship in psychiatry and immunology at OHSU. Her translational research program is focused on investigating the psychoneuroimmunological mechanisms contributing to substance abuse and neuropsychiatric impairments (*e.g.*, cognitive deficits and mood disorders), particularly in adults with co-morbid hepatitis C viral infection (HCV). To support her research, Dr. Loftis has received grants from local and federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program. For example, in collaboration with Dr. Marilyn Huckans, her laboratory completed the STTR Phase I research that determined the preclinical efficacy of an immunotherapy for reducing methamphetamine-induced cognitive impairment.

Dr. Loftis has presented her research at national and international meetings and has authored over 50 publications in the fields of psychiatry, neuroscience, and immunology. Her goal as a scientist is to maintain a productive research program in the field of psychoneuroimmunology, one that allows for the pursuit of research, teaching, and community service and one that contributes to our understanding of the biochemical and molecular mechanisms associated with neuropsychiatric impairments and inflammation.

Nabil Alkayed

Company: Virogenomics

I have a broad background in neuroscience and vascular biology. Over the past two decades, I have focused on four areas related to cerebrovascular physiology and ischemic brain injury: 1) microvascular dysfunction in stroke and age-related vascular cognitive impairment, 2) role of astrocytes in neurovascular coupling during functional hyperemia, 3) sex differences and role of sex steroids estrogen and progesterone in ischemic brain injury, and 4) organelle biogenesis and autophagy in ischemic neurons.

Sharon McCoy

Company: 13therapeutics

I am Vice President for Product Development at 13therapeutics, a small biotech company spun out of OHSU. 13therapeutics develops novel anti-inflammatory peptide therapeutics derived from viral proteins and is beginning the IND process for its lead peptide. I have worked in the field of Immunology Research for 25 years and have been part of 13therapeutics since its inception. I am the co-inventor of all the Company's proprietary peptides and have been involved in every phase of 13therapeutics, including bench top research, grant writing, protecting IP, contracts, HR and fundraising. I have been the PI on 6 funded SBIR grants (two Phase Is, two Phase IIs, and two competing renewals (Phase III)), totally approximately \$9 million in company funding. I am currently serving on the SAG (Start-up Advisory Group), which is an independent business-focused advisory board designed to support emerging biotech companies.