Pancreatic Cancer Collective Research Team: “Immunotherapy Targeting Mutant KRAS”

The goal of the Immunotherapy Targeting Mutant KRAS New Therapies Challenge Research Team is to develop a cellular therapy that exploits novel cell engineering to manufacture highly selective anticancer T cells on an individual-patient basis. The approach is similar to T cell therapies recently approved by the FDA that target leukemia and lymphoma, except the team is targeting mutant KRAS in pancreatic cancer.

The team has been able to isolate T cells specific for mutant KRAS and has successfully grown these cells from multiple donors. In this study the researchers are isolating more KRAS T cells obtained from three groups of people: normal individuals, patients with mutant KRAS tumors, and pancreatic cancer patients who are being treated with vaccines against mutant KRAS. Their ultimate goal is to test in the clinic the effectiveness of individualized infusions of KRAS T cells against pancreatic cancer in patients.

This team started its work in November 2018; progress notes will be posted after its first review.