

Developing a Cure for HGG: The Deadliest and Most Aggressive Form of Brain Cancer

Carlos Cortez - 2024 - Neuroscience
Telethon Kids Institute- Cancer Centre
Funded by CHW under the Princeton Global Health Fellows Program

Introduction

- Telethon Kids Institute specializes in researching diseases that primarily affect children worldwide.
- The work aimed to validate new potential medications that targeted overactivated ion channels in HGG cancer models.

Objective of Internship

The objective of the internship revolved primarily around discovering novel and effective brain cancer therapies for preclinical study.

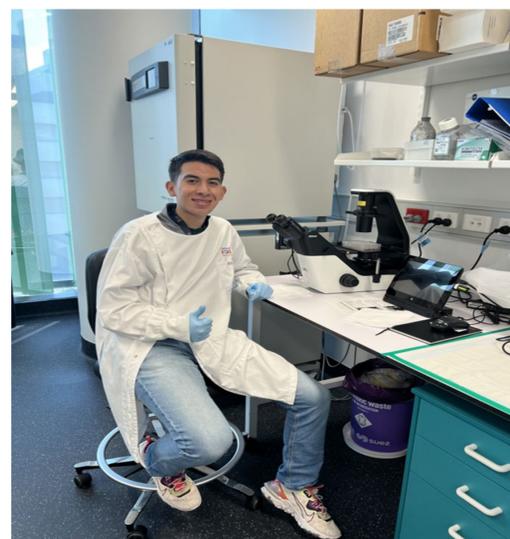


Work profile

- Aided in testing new medicines that specifically target GBM cells.
- Used molecular biology, biochemical and histological techniques, to reveal the role of ion channels in HGG proliferation.
- Analysed the main ion channels (targets) using scientific software.

Reflection

- As an intern, I gained a deeper appreciation for **scientific research** and **laboratory work**.
- I was able to work in a team setting which allowed me to learn novel molecular biology techniques.
- Aside from laboratory work, I was able to gain a cultural appreciation for the aboriginal communities of Australia.



- Conducting Lab Work with a microscope to analyze cancer cell growth after a two-week period.



- TKI fellow interns from Princeton University

Looking ahead

- This internship has encouraged me to pursue a career that involves scientific research and patient-focused work, maybe as an oncologist.

Questions

- How can the research discovered in this cancer lab be made more readily available to the children of the more isolated Aboriginal communities of Australia?

Conclusion

- Determining the unknown function of ion channels in HGG is crucial for validating new potential drugs that target these proteins in HGG cancer cells.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the TKI Cancer Center and Emily Fletcher, Ph.D. for their continuous support. I also wish to acknowledge the Center for Health and Wellbeing for this marvelous experience.