

Brian P. Riesenbergr, PhD | Postdoctoral Research Associate

UNC Chapel Hill – Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

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Executive Summary

- PhD research scientist and entrepreneur with a focus in cancer immunotherapy drug development and commercialization.
- Co-Founder, ER Therapeutics LLC: A drug discovery, academic spinout focused on mitigating endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress as a means to improve patient outcomes in immunoncology.
- Developed and managed a sponsored research program aimed at supporting an IND filing for a potential clinical asset.
- Secured 3 competitive grant fellowships (SCTR TL1, NRSA NCI F31, T32 PIRE) in the past 6 years, worth approximately \$250,000 in support.

Research Experience

2021- present **Postdoctoral Research Associate** | Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | Chapel Hill, NC
Mentor: Jessica Thaxton, PhD | Assistant Professor

Cancer Immunology and Drug Discovery

- *Identified and validated the proteasome as a major cellular checkpoint responsible for controlling effectiveness of immunotherapy*

2021 **Postdoctoral Fellow** | Department of Microbiology and Immunology | Program for Immunology Research and Entrepreneurship | Medical University of South Carolina | Charleston, SC
Mentor: Jessica Thaxton, PhD | Associate Professor

Drug Discovery and Technology Commercialization

- *Co-Founder of an academic spinout company (ER Therapeutics) with Dr. Jessica Thaxton as a means to commercialize novel drugs developed from ongoing work in the lab.*
- *Developed and validated multiple cell-based, high throughput, phenotypic assays for screening proprietary drug libraries at the Medical University of South Carolina.*

2019-2021 **Postdoctoral Scholar** | Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology | The Ohio State University James Comprehensive Cancer Center | Columbus, OH
Mentor: Zihai Li, MD, Ph.D. | Founding Director, Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology

Technology Commercialization and Consulting

- *Managed a team of six scientists (4 PhDs, 2 graduate students) in the validation and expansion of a preclinical pipeline for testing potential in-house developed clinical assets*
- *Primary liaison and scientific consultant for a biotechnology firm developing an in-house generated clinical asset – responsible for hitting milestones associated with a sponsored research agreement aimed at generating a robust preclinical efficacy package to support IND filing*
- *Senior scientific consultant for the Immune Monitoring and Discover Platform at the Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology – tasked with developing and validating standard operating procedures for several next generation technology platforms including spectral flow cytometry (Cytek), single cell proteomics (Isoplexis), and single cell RNA sequencing (10x Genomics)*

Translational Immunotherapy

- *Demonstrated the prognostic effect of platelet count on overall survival of late stage cancer patients treated with PD-1 blockade in collaboration with medical oncologists at Ohio State University (Abstract at ASCO 2020)*

Spectral Flow Cytometry and Informatics

- *Developed, optimized, and validated multiple high dimensional (30+ antigen) spectral flow cytometry panels for use on isolated tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (human and mouse) as well as PBMC from cancer and COVID-19+ patients*

2014-2019

Graduate Research Associate | Department of Microbiology and Immunology | Hollings Cancer Center | Medical University of South Carolina | Charleston, SC
Mentor: Zihai Li, MD, Ph.D. | Microbiology & Immunology Department Chair

Tumor Immunology

- *Demonstrated platelets as a bona fide immunosuppressive entity in the tumor microenvironment via regulation of TGF β 1 activation and paracrine signaling*

Biotechnology Commercialization

- *Developed, wrote, and pitched a commercialization/business plan for navigating an in-house developed clinical asset on to the market as part of a technology commercialization class – received a perfect score*

Clinical Oncology

- *Aided in the development of a clinical protocol testing the capacity of combination antiplatelet therapy with pembrolizumab to induce a more favorable immunologic response in patients with metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (NCT03245489)*
- *Primary liaison for sample collection, isolation, storage, and analysis for clinical trial NCT03245489*

2013-2014

Graduate Rotation Student | Department of Microbiology and Immunology | Hollings Cancer Center | Medical University of South Carolina | Charleston, SC
Mentor: Mark Rubinstein | Associate Professor

Tumor Immunology

- *Assisted in uncovering the mechanism by which lymphodepletion improves engraftment of adoptively transferred, tumor specific T cells cultured with IL-12 prior to transfer*

2010-2013

Research Associate | Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory | Newport, Kentucky | Mentor: Dr. Julia Carter

Education

2013-2019

Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology | Focus: Cancer Immunotherapy
Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) | South Carolina, USA.
Mentor: Zihai Li, MD, Ph.D. | Department Chair | Cancer Immunology Program Leader

2008-2011

B.S. in Biology. Barton College | Wilson, North Carolina
Supervisor: Kevin Pennington, Ph.D.

Publications

Select publications can be found here:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Riesenberg+B>