



## Fostering Cancer Research

**BOCA RATON, FL (March 28, 2018)** – Researchers recently gathered at the Jupiter campus to tackle the best way to make a mark in cancer research and identify FAU's niche. Faculty from Jupiter, HBOI and Boca brainstormed on how they can strengthen one of the university's long-standing, but less visible research programs.

The meeting began with brief research highlights from leading researchers:

- Chemistry Department Chair Gregg Fields, Ph.D., presented his research with MMPs (matrix metalloproteinases) and their role in the metastatic processes of melanoma and multiple myeloma.
- HBOI Research Professor Amy Wright, Ph.D., discussed the collection of natural materials she has amassed from the sea since the 1980s and has been assessing as targets in a variety of diseases, including cancer.
- HBOI Associate Research Professor Esther Guzman, Ph.D., concluded the presentation by explaining how she works in tandem with Wright to determine a compound's mechanism of action against multiple cancers, with a particular focus on pancreatic cancer.

Researchers at the meeting also discussed the challenges of their field of study. Collaborating across miles of campus, obtaining important seed funding and shoring up infrastructure were all voiced as significant challenges needed to move FAU to the next level. The group looks forward to expanding its relationship with clinical partners, developing a vibrant student curriculum in cancer biology, and pursuing exciting collaborations in machine learning and genomics.

With the support of Associate Vice President of Research Karin Scarpinato, Ph.D., a former cancer researcher who studied DNA repair, and Vice President of Research Dan Flynn, Ph.D., who spent over 20 years studying signals that regulate breast cancer invasion, cancer research at FAU is positioned to make a significant impact.

If you would like to stay informed about future Cancer Research Group meetings, email [proposaldevelopment@fau.edu](mailto:proposaldevelopment@fau.edu) to be added to the list.