



Leaders' Update

A message from Paul Fawcett, associate director for shared resources

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that as a result from funds received from the Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund, Massey's Cancer Mouse Models Core has recently purchased some new equipment that will expand the core's services and capabilities. The new instrumentation includes the Leica Bond RX for fast, automated IHC, ISH and OPAL staining; the Dako Coverstainer for automatic H&E staining and coverslipping; and the Vectra Polaris Automated Quantitative Pathology Imaging System.

The BOND RX is a fast and efficient stainer for fully automated IHC, ISH and OPAL staining. It runs any preferred markers, uses any preferred detection components and easily edits protocols to improve test performance. The Cancer Mouse Models Core will start with performing IHC and with some common antigens many would use, such as Ki67, Caspase 3 and HLA. If there are other antigens that you think would be commonly used, please reach out to core director Jennifer Koblinski to discuss the development of protocols for those antigens. Our hope is to have this system on line in July.

The Dako CoverStainer automates every step of the H&E process from baking, dewaxing and staining through to the dehydrated, coverslipped and dried slide that is ready for examination by the pathologist. It offers consistently high staining quality while at the same time reducing hands-on and turnaround time. This equipment is now in use. Visit the [website](#) for pricing.

The Vectra Polaris Automated Quantitative Pathology Imaging System offers simple whole slide brightfield or fluorescence imaging to more complex multiplex immunofluorescence imaging to characterize cell-level immuno-biology in intact FFPE tissue sections. Multiplex immune-fluorescence is an effective and efficient way to identify specific immune cell types and their location and state of activation in the tumor microenvironment, as well as to assess check-point expression at the same time. This capability is beneficial for exploring immune evasion mechanisms, finding potential biomarkers for assessing the mechanism of action and predicting response, as well as for potentially tracking response. This information could then be used to stratify patients for enrollment on clinical trials, evaluate drug mechanisms of action and potentially identify patients in need of aggressive therapy – all of which could ultimately accelerate the development of immuno-oncology agent combinations and improve patient outcomes. The Cancer Mouse Models Core is working to make this equipment operational by July.

To request services with any of the Cancer Mouse Models equipment, contact core director Jennifer Koblinski or lab and research manager Bin Hu. They can also ensure that you have all the appropriate controls needed for use with the Vectra Polaris.

On a final note, I will share that there is currently a search for a director of the Microscopy Core. The search is going well. Thus far we have conducted teleconference interviews with six candidates and are moving forward with arranging on-campus visits for at least two of these individuals. I'll share any updates as the recruitment progresses.

Regards,

Paul Fawcett, Ph.D.
Associate director for shared resources