February 28, 2020

The Ting Laboratory at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Cancer Center and Harvard Medical School is looking for post-doctoral researchers interested in translational research projects in gastrointestinal malignancies including pancreatic, colorectal cancer, and liver cancer.

There are two major projects being pursued by the laboratory.

The first is the study of a novel class of non-coding RNAs called satellites, which were found to be highly and specifically expressed in cancers compared to normal tissues (Ting DT*, Lipson D*, et al. Science 2011; Bersani et al. PNAS 2015; Desai et al. JCI Insight 2017; Solovyov et al. Cell Reports 2018). This work has implications as a clinical cancer biomarker, as well as an interesting area of research to elucidate the role of these repeat RNAs in cancer biology. We are looking for a biologist interested in studying the biology of these repeats in cancer and their impact on the tumor immune microenvironment.

The second is the study of the role of single cell heterogeneity on metastasis and resistance to chemotherapy. Our lab utilizes innovative circulating tumor cell (CTC) isolation technology to study the features that define these metastatic precursors (Yu M*, Ting DT*, et al. Nature 2012; Ting DT et al. Cell Reports 2014; Franses J et al. Oncologist 2017; Bhan I et al. Gastroenterology 2018). Recent work using single cell RNA-seq and other single cell spatial profiling has shown the importance of the tumor microenvironment in driving single cell heterogeneity in pancreatic cancer (Ligorio M et al. Cell 2019) and the functional importance of cancer cell plasticity in response to chemotherapy (Porter RL et al. PNAS 2019). We are looking for a biologist interested in further understanding the factors important in driving single cell phenotypes and developing new therapeutic targets.

The laboratory is currently composed of 1 hepatologist junior faculty, 2 oncology junior faculty, 6 post-doctoral researchers, 1 computational staff scientist, 1 microscopy staff scientist, and 6 research technicians. Our multidisciplinary team will provide a rich environment to do cutting edge translational biology research.

If you are interested in this position, please email David T. Ting, MD at dting1@mgh.harvard.edu with your CV and a brief description of your goals from this research experience.

Sincerely,

David T. Ting, MD