



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian
The University Hospitals of Columbia and Cornell

SORKIN FELLOWSHIP: *SURGICAL RESEARCH IN PEDIATRIC CANCER*

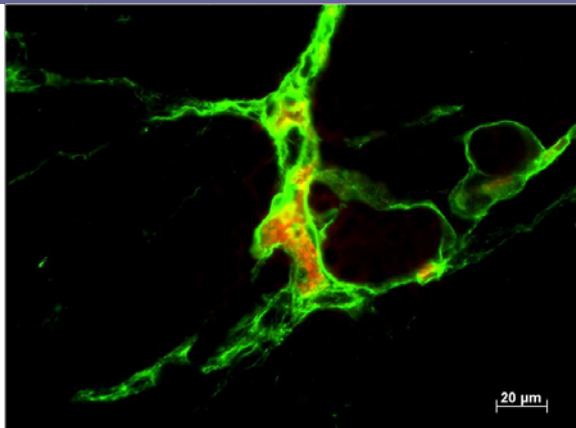
October 2009 (one year update)

Sam Soffer

(Sorkin Fellow 1999-2001, now Assistant Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine)

Sam's lab, now in its third year, continues to set a rapid pace. He is focusing on using rapamycin, a drug that's already approved, in a new way—very low doses, which reduce toxicity. He's shown that he can block tumor growth and metastasis, and (also excitingly) if he adds an aspirin-like drug (celecoxib) metastasis is blocked even further. Sam graduated his own first fellow this summer, Aaron Lipskar, who did a brilliant job and looks like another future cancer researcher...maybe our first lab "grandchild". Benchmarks:

- Received first major external funding (Alex's Lemonade Foundation Grant)
- Authored important paper on metastasis control in the Journal of Pediatric Surgery in June 2009



Targeting tumor vasculature with rapamycin.



Sam reports that he still has five boys--and a large supply of hockey equipment.

Eugene Kim

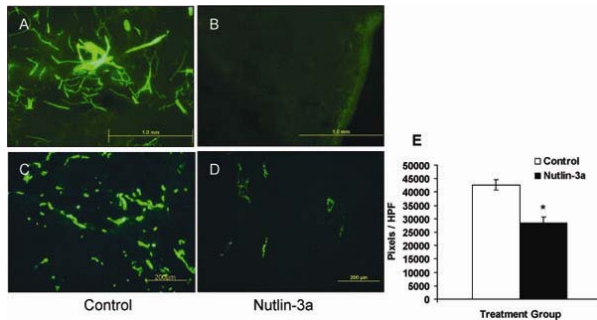
(Sorkin Fellow 1999-2001, now Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine)

Eugene had a remarkably productive first year at Texas Children's Hospital, on many fronts. He chose to continue the theme of his Sorkin Fellow work, focusing on neuroblastoma. He has begun to explore the effect of targeting a pivotal cancer pathway, centering on a protein called p53, that loses its function in many cancers. He showed that a novel molecule developed by collaborators could partly restore this function, and decreased blood vessel development and tumor growth in mice with neuroblastoma.

Benchmarks:

- Coauthored an important paper on neuroblastoma in August 2009 in the journal Molecular Cancer Research
- Received first NIH funding in August 2009

Even more remarkable, his first child (Sabrina) appeared 9 days after the Sorkin Symposium!



Effect of Nutlin-3a on neuroblastoma tumors



Sabrina at the beach.

In Brief

Jason Frischer (*Sorkin Fellow 2001-2003*) and Angela Kadenhe-Chiweshe (*Sorkin Fellow 2002-2004*) each added a baby boy to their families, and began their own laboratory investigations. Jason is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and will be investigating the epidermal growth factor pathway in pediatric cancer. He received a Proctor and Gamble Fellowship to support these first experiments. He will be mentoring Jason Fisher (*Sorkin Fellow 2006-2008*), who will begin his pediatric surgery fellowship at Cincinnati this summer.

We persuaded Angela to stay with us at Columbia, where she received an important Faculty Grant from the University that will support her first experiments. She is going to continue the work she began on pediatric liver tumors as a Sorkin Fellow.

Tamara New (2001-2002) has been working with pediatric sickle cell patients in Atlanta, who have been very seriously affected by H1N1 flu this fall. Kim McCrudden Erickson (Sorkin Fellow, 2000-2002, now at Vanderbilt after her first appointment at the University of Michigan), had her first baby (Anne Kressly Erickson, after 36+ hours of labor) in February. Yoon Jung Boo (*Visiting Fellow from Korea, 2007-2008*) was promoted to Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at Korea University Anam Hospital, Seoul. Paiivi Ullner (2004-2006, now a Senior Child Neurology Fellow, Columbia) published an important paper on congenital brain injury that involves angiogenesis. Akiko Yokoi (*Visiting Fellow from Japan, 2003-2005*, now an Assistant Professor at Kobe Children's Hospital, Kobe, Japan) published an important series describing reconstructive procedures in neonates.

