

PI: Kristoffer Valerie, PhD

Academic Rank: Professor

Title: Combined Immune Checkpoint Blockade and ATMi Radiosensitization of Glioma

Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) is a devastating brain cancer with a median survival of only 12-15 months and few therapeutic options with more effective treatment urgently needed. Current standard treatment of GBM is surgery followed by chemo- and radiation therapy with only incremental improvement in survival seen in decades. A clinical candidate ATM kinase inhibitor (ATMi), currently undergoing human testing, sensitizes GBM to radiation in a cancer specific manner in preclinical tumor models. Even though we believe this treatment will be highly effective it may not cure GBM. The current study focuses on developing and test a two-pronged approach combining ATMi radiosensitization with an antibody that invigorates the tumor immune response that might lead to significant improvement in survival.