

## Collaborating to cure cancer, investing in Oregon's economy

Under the leadership of Brian Druker, M.D., the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute has grown into an international leader in innovative cancer care and research, well known for turning discoveries into new cancer treatments. Less well known, however, is the link between the institute's wide-ranging — and increasing — impact on Oregon's economy and its commitment to collaboration.

Consider the example of husband and wife team Shivaani Kummar, M.D., and Sanjay Malhotra, Ph.D., specialists in cancer drug development. In 2020, OHSU recruited the prominent couple from Stanford University. They are bringing a team of experts and critical grant support to Oregon to jumpstart the new OHSU Center for Experimental Therapeutics. Like the dozens of top scientists and physicians who have moved their labs and practices to Oregon in the past decade to work at the cancer institute, Kummar and Malhotra possess the training, experience and expertise that allow them to situate their work — as well as associated funding and revenue — anywhere in the world. They chose OHSU because of the cancer institute's commitment to collaboration. Working side by side with other world-class faculty to discover new treatments gives them the highest probability of realizing their own ambition to improve the lives of cancer patients.

"Team science can be a buzzword. Very few institutions do it well, but OHSU truly gets it," Kummar said. "Dr. Druker's approach to team science is incorporated throughout the institute's infrastructure. He has the mindset along with the clear vision to make that mindset a reality."

Kummar and Malhotra are co-leading the Center for Experimental Therapeutics, which will develop therapies for cancer in collaboration with other academic centers as well as biotech and pharmaceutical companies. This center will help expand Oregon's entrepreneurial landscape, seeding startup companies and industry partnerships, and potentially attracting venture capital and investment to the region.

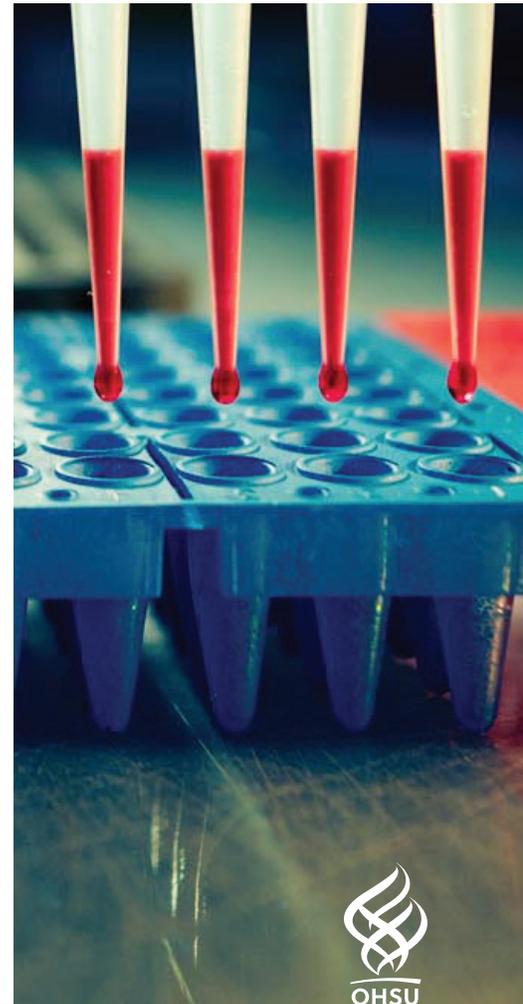
These world-class recruitments also increase federal funding flowing into Oregon. Cancer researchers at OHSU were awarded \$47.4 million in competitive grants in 2019 from the National Institutes of Health, up significantly from \$38.4 million the previous year. Combined with clinical revenue, state funding and philanthropy, this increase in grants has a spillover effect on job creation. Since March 2014, the Knight Cancer Institute has added a remarkable number of jobs — 952 well-paying positions for staff, administrative, maintenance and faculty — all contributing to the state and local tax base.

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**Shivaani Kummar, M.D.**

OHSU Center for Experimental  
Therapeutics



The Knight Cancer Institute's commitment to collaboration – and its economic impact – extends into every county in Oregon. In addition to clinical partnerships with hospitals and health systems across the state, the institute runs a program that awards grants to communities to fund cancer prevention and survivorship initiatives. So far, the program has awarded 119 grants totaling \$3.2 million, touching the lives of more than 40,000 Oregonians.

This outreach program is on track to invest \$10 million in regional cancer initiatives by 2024 and, in keeping with the commitment to collaboration, aims to create a grassroots network of projects across the state – depending on, learning from and investing in each other.