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Email

smithr@mskcc.org

Dissertation

[Understanding the Developmental Specificity of the Histone H3.3 K27M Mutation in Pediatric Gliomas \(2020\)](#)

Mentor

[Viviane Tabar, MD](#)

Start Year

2013

End Year

2020

Education

BA, Wesleyan University

I became interested in science after being injured when I was younger. As I learned about the healing process during my recovery, I became fascinated with the biological phenomena involved in human health. I am now interested in studying the behaviors and interactions of various nervous system cell types during normal development, as well as in the context of disease. My current work focuses on modeling a type of pediatric brain tumor that can arise with mutations in a variety of signaling pathways.

I chose to pursue a PhD at Gerstner Sloan Kettering to gain experience that will propel me toward a career in biomedical research. Outside of the lab, I try to pick up a guitar once in a while despite my remarkable lack of any musical talent!

Fellowships

[Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award \(NIH F31\)](#) (2016-2019)

Grayer Fellowship (2015-2016)

[Geoffrey Beene Graduate Student Fellowship](#) (2014-2015)

Publications

[Funato K, Smith RC, Saito Y, Tabar V. \(2021\) Dissecting the impact of regional identity and the oncogenic role of human-specific NOTCH2NL in an hESC model of H3.3G34R-mutant glioma. *Cell Stem Cell*.](#)

[Smith RC, Tabar V. \(2019\) Constructing and Deconstructing Cancers using Human Pluripotent Stem Cells and Organoids. *Cell Stem Cell* . 24, 12-24. PMID: PMC6516073.](#)

[Phillips RE, Yang Y, Smith RC, Thompson BM, Yamasaki T, Soto-Feliciano YM, Funato K, Liang Y, Garcia-Bermudez J, Wang X, Garcia BA, Yamasaki K, McDonald JG, Birsoy K, Tabar V, Allis CD. \(2019\) Target identification reveals lanosterol synthase as a vulnerability in glioma. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 116, 7957-7962. PMID: PMC6475387.](#)

[Heller BA, Ghidinelli M, Voelkl J, Einheber S, Smith R, Grund E, Morahan G, Chandler D, Kalaydjieva L, Giancotti F, King RH, Fejes-Toth AN, Fejes-Toth G, Feltri ML, Lang F, Salzer JL. \(2014\) Functionally distinct PI 3-kinase pathways regulate myelination in the peripheral nervous system. *J Cell Biol.*, 204, 1219-36. PMID: PMC3971744.](#)

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