

Sylvester Urologic Researcher Receives AUA Funding for Two-Year Research Project

Himanshu Arora, Ph.D., a research faculty member at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, is a recipient of the American Urological Association's Urology Care Foundation 2020 Research Scholar Award. The association's Southeastern Section is sponsoring funding for his two-year project, "Immune Modulatory Functions and Mechanism of Action of Nitric Oxide in Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer Micro-environment."



Dr. Himanshu Arora

The funding will allow Dr. Arora and his research partner, Ranjith Ramasamy, M.D., assistant professor of urology, to explore how nitric oxide could modulate the infiltration of

pro- and anti-inflammatory macrophages to the site of cancer. Additionally, this study will allow them to explore the preclinical efficacy of growth-hormone-releasing hormone receptor (GHRHR) antagonists in combination with nitric oxide to study the functional aspects of nitric oxide action as a therapy against castration resistant prostate cancer.

Dr. Arora's application for funding was selected from 83 applications, and the \$40,000-a-year award for two years was based on potential for a successful career in urologic research, quality of mentorship, and high scientific merit of the proposed research project.

The newest basic science research faculty member at Sylvester, Dr. Arora's project mentors include Dipen J. Parekh, M.D., chair of urology, director of robotic surgery and chief clinical officer of the University of Miami Health System; Joshua Hare, M.D., professor of medicine and director of the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute; and Bonnie B. Blomberg, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and immunology.

The AUA offers a portfolio of research training awards to recruit outstanding young investigators into urologic research while helping them foster their career success. About 25 awards are presented annually.