The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting 2014 will provide researchers from Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) an opportunity to update colleagues from around the world on their latest collaborative efforts in the area of drug development.

Krista E. Pundt, a pre-doctoral trainee in RPCI's Department of Molecular Pharmacology & Cancer Therapeutics, is first author on "Preclinical efficacy of the novel PIM2 kinase inhibitor, JP_11646, in human acute leukemia models" (abstract 5459), to be presented Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from 8 a.m. to noon in Hall A-E, Poster Section 31.

PIM kinases have been implicated in tumor survival and development, and are found in abundance, preferentially, in blood-related malignancies. In this study, Pundt and colleagues aimed to investigate the effects of JP_11646 in blocking PIM kinase activity in human acute myeloid (AML), acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) and lymphoma cell lines. Their findings showed that JP_11646 is highly potent and achieves broad antitumor activity by triggering cell death across a wide range of human ALL and AML cell lines. Further investigation in animal models of AML is underway to confirm these findings, which would provide insights for a novel therapeutic approach in patients with the disease.