

Seattle Children's Research Institute

Ben Towne Center for Childhood Cancer Research

Our Mission

The Ben Towne Center for Childhood Cancer Research's mission is to translate scientific discoveries into therapies that seek to cure pediatric cancer with minimal side effects and improve the quality of life of childhood cancer survivors.

Director

Michael Jensen, MD

Associate Directors

Haim Burstein, PhD

Leslie Kean, MD, PhD

Members

Courtney Crane, PhD

Rebecca Gardner, MD



Revolutionizing cancer treatment

The center is spearheading research on cellular immunotherapy, a treatment that uses the body's immune system to eliminate cancer, ideally without chemotherapy or radiation. Immunotherapy takes T-cells — white blood cells that wipe out infections — from a patient's blood, then inserts DNA that instructs the T-cells to attack cancer cells. The goal is for the modified cells to be reinfused into the body and eradicate the cancer, with side effects similar to having a cold.

This therapy is remarkably effective at curing cancer in mice and the center's researchers are translating that success into potentially lifesaving treatments.

Translating laboratory discoveries into lifesaving treatments

Our team of world-class investigators is led by Center Director Dr. Michael Jensen, a leading expert in guiding new cancer immunotherapies through clinical trials. Dr. Jensen led the first-ever FDA-authorized human trials of T-cell therapy in adults with lymphoma and in children suffering from recurrent neuroblastoma.

Dr. Jensen and his colleagues plan to conduct advanced human trials on T-cell therapies for many types of cancer, including leukemia/lymphoma, brain tumors, neuroblastoma and sarcomas.

Learn More:

www.seattlechildrens.org/research/childhood-cancer

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Seattle Children's[®]
HOSPITAL • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

Hope. Care. Cure.™

**Ben Towne Center for
Childhood Cancer Research**

“Ben Towne Foundation was founded with a mission to help find a cure for pediatric cancer. Our financial support of this center confirms our commitment to cancer research at Seattle Children’s that will ultimately benefit children everywhere.”

— Jeff and Carin Towne,
Ben Towne Pediatric Cancer
Research Foundation



Partners in Research

- Ben Towne Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation
- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
- University of Washington

Areas of Focus

- Immunotherapy
- Therapeutic Cell Production
- Translational research

State-of-the-art manufacturing facility accelerates progress

To ensure our new cancer therapies are as safe and effective as possible, Seattle Children’s Research Institute has completed a multi-million dollar “therapeutic cell production core” in downtown Seattle. This cutting-edge facility is among a small handful of pediatric facilities that meet the FDA’s strict requirements for manufacturing therapies. Its amenities include:

- High-tech clean rooms where therapies are made.
- A quality control lab that works to ensure product safety.
- A process development lab where manufacturing experts help researchers create standardized processes, guaranteeing that therapies are of the highest quality.

Owning this facility gives Seattle Children’s strict control over the manufacturing process and propels our investigators toward cures for a variety of pediatric cancers and many other diseases.

A history of world-class cancer care and research

The center’s immunotherapy research is only the latest chapter in Seattle Children’s long history as a world leader in cancer care and research.

Together with our core partners at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the University of Washington, Seattle Children’s played an instrumental role in advancing bone marrow and stem cell transplants for childhood cancer patients. This continuing partnership allows our researchers to draw on a variety of disciplines, accelerating the process of discovering, manufacturing and testing new therapies and techniques.

On the clinical side, Seattle Children’s is regularly recognized as one of U.S. News & World Report’s top hospitals for pediatric cancer care. Working closely with the hospital’s leading cancer doctors and nurses gives our researchers valuable input from cancer’s front lines, and provides opportunities to patients and families to participate in clinical trials.