Robin J. Leach, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Cellular & Structural Biology
Location: 552D-3 MED
Phone: (210) 567-6947
Fax: (210) 567-6781
E-mail: Leach@uthscsa.edu
Web links: http://www.uthscsa.edu/csb/faculty/leach.asp

For our studies of prostate cancer, we are looking at the role of genetic variation in prostate cancer risk. We are currently conducting a series of molecular epidemiological studies in an attempt to identify variants in prostate-related genes that increase an individual's risk for prostate cancer. In collaboration with Dr. Ian Thompson, we are studying three populations (Hispanic Caucasians, non-Hispanic Caucasians and African Americans) gathered from the San Antonio area. We have already identified variations in several prostate-related genes that increase an individual's risk of prostate cancer. We are now expanding these studies to look for markers of prognosis. This research is funded by the National Cancer Institute. In collaboration with Dr. Donna Lehman, we are looking at the role of copy number variants in prostate cancer risk. The focus is primarily on the Hispanic Caucasian population from South Texas and is funded by the Department of Defense.

In our studies with Dr. Theresa Johnson-Pais, we are using array based comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) to identify regions of loss and gain in prostate cancer specimens. We are currently characterizing these regions for putative tumor suppressor genes and/or oncogenes. Once genes are identified from these regions of loss and gain, we use a cell biology approach to manipulate the expression of these genes in established cell lines.

Selected Publications:
