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September 2023

Exploring the roles of Kindlin 1 and Kindlin 2 in Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Citation of this paper:

Dutta, Anamika, "Exploring the roles of Kindlin 1 and Kindlin 2 in Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma" (2023). *Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 456.

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Anamika Dutta

The epidermis is the outermost layer of our skin and acts as a protective barrier between our body and the external environment, including solar UV radiation and pathogens. Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC) is cancer of the epidermal keratinocytes, the most abundant cell type in the epidermis. cSCC develops due to cumulative exposure to UV radiation throughout life. Although most cases can be effectively treated when detected early, advanced cSCC can spread throughout the body, is very difficult to treat, and is associated with poor outcomes. Abnormal cell proliferation and ability to spread (metastasis) are defining characteristics of tumours. My research aims at understanding how two proteins called Kindlin 1 and Kindlin 2 regulate growth and motility in cSCC cells. My project aims at better understanding the characteristics of cSCC to contribute to future therapies.