



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Award ID:  
R1008

Project Title:  
Recruitment of Rising Stars

Award Mechanism:  
Recruitment of Rising Stars

Principal Investigator:  
Mendell, Joshua

Entity:  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Lay Summary:

Joshua Mendell will join The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in September 2011. Dr. Mendell is indeed a rising star in the conventional sense of the term. After graduation from the Physician Scientist Training Program at Johns Hopkins (2003), he joined the faculty of the McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine (2004). Having trained in the Dietz laboratory investigating regulation of translation and the function of nonsense mRNAs and their surveillance, he made a fundamental observation of great importance in microRNA biology that was presented in a Nature manuscript (O'Donnell, 2005) and described the regulation of E2F1 expression by c-myc regulated microRNAs. Dr. Mendell is leading efforts to define the roles of microRNAs in oncogenesis and tumor suppression.

Dr. Mendell quickly established a productive and cutting edge research program that led to his promotion to his current position of Associate Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Biology and Genetics within five years; and selection as an Early Career Scientist in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Most recently, Dr. Mendell was named the 2010 winner of the Outstanding Achievement in Cancer Research Award from the American Association of Cancer Research. These ongoing scholarly contributions indicate that he is, without question, one of the leading authorities in the roles of microRNAs in cancer biology.