

# Letter: FTRP is one-of-a-kind biomedical research program

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(Photo: Democrat files)

The Florida State University College of Medicine is on its way to developing new drugs to treat cancer, a project that could not have happened without the help of the Florida Transitional Research Program (FTRP).

The FTRP affords scientists at Florida universities and nonprofit institutes access to the state-of-the-art drug discovery technologies at SBP at Lake Nona. This drug discovery center has been self-sustaining and with continued FTRP funding will remain a valuable asset to Florida's biomedical research enterprise.

My laboratory at FSU researches a particular protein kinase that controls the growth of cells. Blocking this protein's function kills cancer cells, but has no effect on normal cells. This precision medicine strategy would not be possible without FTRP.

Through the FTRP collaboration, my lab designed an experiment to test hundreds of thousands of molecules in search of the one that holds the potential to become a new life-saving medicine for patients with cancer.

This program is the only one of its kind in the nation. I encourage Florida lawmakers to continue to fund the FTRP this session so we can continue our important research.

*Daniel L. Kaplan, Ph.D., FSU College of Medicine*

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