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**Area of Expertise:**

- Early embryonic patterning
- Craniofacial genetics
- Cell adhesion, migration and communication during development

**Focus of Research:**

- Molecular mechanisms underlying neural crest and placode cell formation, and implications for craniofacial development and tissue repair and/or regeneration
- Modulation of cell adhesion during both the generation of migratory cells from immotile precursors and the formation of new tissues via intercellular interactions
- Molecular basis of cancer cell invasiveness (metastasis)
- Gap junction-mediated communication

**Current Funded Projects (Source):**

- Coordinated regulation of cadherins in the neural crest (American Cancer Society)
- Neural crest-placode interactions during cranial gangliogenesis (NIH)
- Cadherin endocytosis in the neural crest (NIH)