



## VITALS

### GRANT AMOUNT

\$255,528

### ECONOMIC IMPACT

A potential new anti-cancer drug for a local biotech company

### HEALTH IMPACT

Patients treated for a rare cancer

### OTHER IMPACT

Increased international visibility for UW's Merkel cell carcinoma treatment program

## New Hope for Cancer Patients

Immune therapy could be a new weapon in fighting Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC), a rare skin tumor with a low patient survival rate if it spreads. When Johnny Crowell received his MCC diagnosis, he did what we all do: he Googled it, only to find the University of Washington (UW)'s Drs. Shailender Bhatia and Paul Nghiem pop up repeatedly. He was soon on a plane from California, enrolled in a small clinical trial, and after treatment, his primary tumor achieved complete remission.

Pictured above with his wife Christine at a recent MCC patient dinner, Johnny says, "If not for the Life Sciences Discovery Fund supporting researchers like Dr. Bhatia, the clinical trials we patients are desperate for wouldn't be available. With the LSDF grant, the UW, in collaboration with a Seattle biotech, has been able to experiment with this potential cancer therapy for MCC, and in my case, it helped me fight the disease and hopefully prevent its recurrence."

Early clinical trials using the immune system to fight cancer are paving the way for new cancer therapies, and one day, patients like Johnny may benefit from a new alternative to chemotherapy.

Life Sciences

DISCOVERY FUND

[www.lsdfa.org](http://www.lsdfa.org)