



# WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-being of All Cats

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## **Expression and Pharmacologic Inhibition of Anti-Apoptotic BCL-2 Family Members in Feline Tumors**

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Dr. Vail and colleagues were funded by Winn Feline Foundation to investigate a potential therapeutic drug for treatment of some cancers in cats. These researchers used cell lines derived from two types of feline tumors – oral squamous cell carcinoma and soft tissue sarcoma – for this investigation. These tumor types are important spontaneous tumors that occur in cats, and are similar to those seen in people.

A family of proteins produced by these tumor cells is believed to play a role in the development and survival of these cells. These cells were propagated in the laboratory and expression of these proteins was verified. Then inhibition of the action of these proteins was done using an investigatory drug, ABT-737. The researchers found that this drug was able to inhibit growth of these cells and actually induced cell death. In addition, this drug sensitized the cells to the effects of other cancer drugs (doxorubicin and carboplatin).

The investigators concluded that this drug in combination with other drugs will improve treatment of these tumors, and further research is warranted.

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*Summary prepared by: Melissa Kennedy, DVM, PhD*

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