**3.5. Overall Structure of Study Team**

The team for this clinical trial assessing the impact of AG on UC is exceptionally well-equipped with diverse and complementary expertise. The lead PI, Dr. Lorne Hofseth, alongside multi-PIs Drs. Angela Murphy and James Hebert will lead the USC team. Clinical collaborators are board-certified gastroenterologist, Dr. Joseph Meserve and his team at Prisma Health. Drs. Hofseth, Murphy, and Hebert have collaborated for almost two decades, and currently co-lead a U01-funded project (5U01CA272977) that encompasses similar techniques (6-month human intervention trial in collaboration with local Gastroenterologists providing colonoscopies). Dr. Hebert has over 850 publications, mostly focused on clinical trials and epidemiology studies (e.g. in colorectal cancer and IBD). Dr. Hofseth has led investigations into the ability of AG and its’ components to suppress colitis in mice since 2008. He also has carried out clinical trials since his Ph.D. Dr. Murphy has since led the investigations into the impact of Panaxynol on colitis, with her two recent publications. Dr. Meserve, our chief gastroenterologist, has 11 publications on clinical trials in IBD. Dr. Kubinak, an expert in gut microbiome research133-136, ensures accurate microbiome analysis, critical to the project's success. Dr. Leon is an expert natural product medicinal chemist and Kathy Moore is an expert in drug formulation and aseptic compounding. Dr. Chumanevich – who will lead the wet-bench experiments - brings extensive experience in identifying key molecules and pathways in colitis and colon cancer, particularly in evaluating potential drug candidates. He has experience in both human clinical trials and extensive experience in animal studies. Dr. Bo Cai (Professor, statistics, USC) will oversee all power calculations and biostatistical analysis. The team's collective strengths encompass preclinical research, clinical practice, cancer prevention, inflammation, microbiome, natural product development, and bioinformatics, providing a comprehensive and robust approach to the study's objectives.. A summary table of the team is as follows:

Dr. Hofseth (contact PI – expertise: clinical trials, animal models, colitis, ginsengs)

Dr. Murphy (multi-PI – expertise: animal models, microbiome, pathology, ginsengs)

Dr. Hebert (multi-PI – expertise: intervention trials, inflammation, statistics)

Dr. Kubinak (co-I – expertise: microbiome, bioinformatics)

Dr. Meserve (PI subcontract, board certified gastroenterologist, ulcerative colitis)

Dr. Cai (co-I, statistics)

Dr. Chumanevich (co-I – expertise: PK/PD/efficacy/toxicity American Ginseng)

Graduate Student (trained in microbiome and fecal microbiota transfer)

Study coordinator

Recruitment coordinator