



# METIOR INCUBATOR

(Mentoring Early Translational Immuno-Oncology Researchers)



# Sparkathon 2017

- Tackling the challenge of education for early career scientists in immuno-oncology.



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

# The Sparkathon 2017 Team-METIOR Incubator



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**Contact**



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**Project Co-Lead**  
**Contact**



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U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
(Silver Spring, Md.)



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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
(New York City, N.Y.)



**Brian Henick, MD**  
Yale University  
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**Giedre Krenciute, PhD**  
St. Jude Children's Hospital  
(Memphis, Tenn.)



**Saman Maleki, PhD**  
Lawson Health Research Institute  
(London, Ontario, Canada)



**Mahmoud Mohamed, R.Ph, MSc**  
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**David Page, MD**  
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Providence Cancer Center  
(Portland, Ore.)



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University of Pennsylvania  
(Philadelphia, Pa.)



**Claire Vanpouille-Box, PhD**  
Weill Cornell Medicine  
(New York City, N.Y.)



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# METIOR Incubator

## Project Goal

*to offer mentored training in immuno-oncology to 10 young scientists (2 teams) to develop inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary grant applications*



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# Participants (team Checkpoint)

(physicians, industry, basic scientists)



**Arnab Ghosh, MD, PhD**  
*Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*



**Charles Ishak, PhD**  
*Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*



**Jacob Shabason, MD**  
*Pearlman School of Medicine,  
University of Pennsylvania*



**Grey Wilkinson, PhD**  
*Oncolytics Biotech Inc.*



**John Yi, PhD**  
*Duke University Medical Center*



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# Participants (team CAR T)

(physicians, industry, basic scientists)



**Nikhil Hebbar, PhD**  
*St. Jude Children's Research  
Hospital*



**Bhannu Koppolu, PhD**  
*BTG International Inc.*



**Shunichiro Kuramitsu, MD,  
PhD**  
*Pearlman School of Medicine,  
University of Pennsylvania*



**Shannon Lange, PhD**  
*St. Jude Children's Research  
Hospital*



**Mary Kathryn McKenna, PhD**  
*Texas Children's Hospital*



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# Mentors

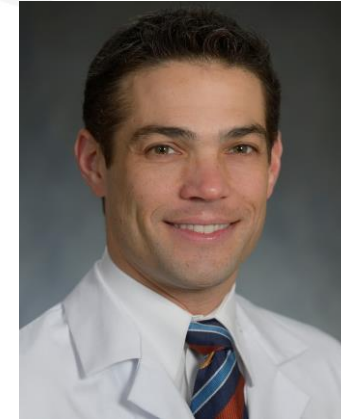
**Dr. Kristen Hege**

VP of Translational Development, Hematology/Oncology,  
Celgene



**Dr. Saar Gill**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Penn Medicine



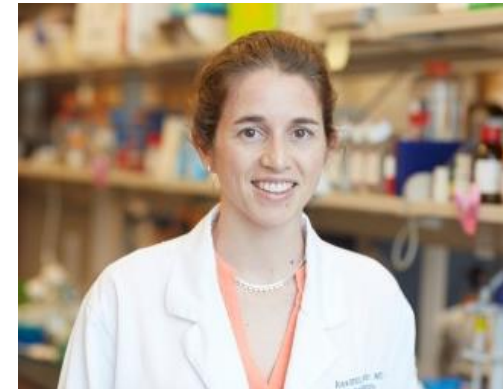
**Dr. Daniel Powell**

Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Director, Cellular Therapy Tissue Facility  
Director of Education, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy



**Dr. Alexandra Snyder**

Head, Translational Oncology  
Merck



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# Year 1 Timeline and Summary

- March 2018, UPenn Meeting, Philadelphia (PA)
  - Each team collaboratively develops a project to tackle throughout the nine months of mentoring.
  - By the end of the third day, each team presents its final draft to obtain feedback.
- March 2018 - Sept 2018
  - Teams receive \$20,000 each
  - Teams work on the preliminary data needed for the grant
  - Teams meet regularly via WebEx and update mentors/SITC/METIOR on the project status
- September 2018, Lawson Health Research Inst. Meeting, London (ON)
  - Teams present the current status of their project
  - Teams work with mentors to shape it as potentially fundable project
  - Teams presented their one page “specific aims” and obtain official feedback from the mentors in a “mock study session”
- September 2018 - November 2018
  - Teams keep working on the preliminary data based on the feedback received
  - Teams refine their project and the grant layout
  - Teams meet regularly via WebEx and update mentors/SITC/METIOR on the project status
- Washington D.C. SITC Annual Meeting
  - Teams present their projects at the SITC Annual meeting





# Year 1 achievements

- Checkpoint team:
  - Established successful collaboration between industry (Oncolytics biotech), experimental scientist (Princess Margaret, Duke University) and MD fellows (MSKCC, UPenn)
  - Generate preliminary data on the role of oncolytic viruses and dsRNAs in ovarian cancer to support their project/potential grant application
- CAR T team:
  - Established successful collaboration between industry (BGT International), experimental scientists (St. Jude, Texas Children's hospital) and MD fellows (UPenn)
  - Developed a beta platform to offer centralized access to samples from immuno-oncology trials (clinical, pre-clinical)
  - Platform expected to be functional by SITC's annual meeting



# Program Feedback

MENTORS	PARTICIPANTS
"Great collaborative spirit amongst participants."	"I would enthusiastically recommend this program to my colleagues"
"Interesting and distinct projects that move the needle forward"	"Great networking opportunity and unique experience to get insight from industry and meet early career scientists from different background and expertise"
"Amazing support from SITC staff"	"No other program that mentors early researchers in 'soft skills' this is great!"
	"Network expansion across multiple institutions more efficient compared to the classic channels"



# Year 2 and beyond

- Request for extension submitted to SITC Executive Committee
- METIOR 2019 applications will be announced by SITC
- Participants will have:
  - Unique multi-disciplinary mentorship opportunity
  - High ratio number of participants to number of mentors
  - Travel and lodging expenses covered
  - SITC 2019 registration included







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

# Virtual ImmunoTherapy Connection

A centralized virtual platform for investigators  
to share resources & establish collaborations focused on  
immuno-oncology research

*The Cure is through Collaboration*

Developed by Team CAR-T (SITC METIOR Incubator Program)

Sign up at Sparkathon Booth # 132



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# Thank You and Acknowledgements

- Thank you to the amazing SITC Staff that helped us make this initiative possible and to our wonderful 1<sup>st</sup> year participants.
  - *Donnette*
  - *Anne*
  - *Rebecca*
  - *Alicia*
- The METIOR Incubator Team: *Rukmini, Claire, Marco, Sam, Mahmoud, Brian, David, Claire F.*

