

# Cancer Immune Responsiveness Workshop

Sept. 4 – 5, 2019 • Royal Sonesta Houston • Houston, Texas



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

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# Message from the Organizers

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2019 Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) Cancer Immune Responsiveness Workshop.

Today we commence a day-and-a-half of didactic sessions and working groups as we continue momentum first established during our 2018 workshop. These workshops are part of the society's long-term strategy of fostering a multidisciplinary effort to tackle the mechanism(s) of cancer resistance to immunotherapy.

Your contributions will be key in helping us address critical areas, including the role of host genetics and epigenetics in immune responsiveness; transcription patterns indicative of distinct tumor immune landscapes; novel therapeutic strategies and related analytical approaches that involve modification of the tumor microenvironment; and much more.

We value your contributions during the working groups, inviting your questions and comments to further our conversations. SITC is deeply committed to advancing the current state of research in our field by bringing leading experts together in ways that promote discussion and education. While you are here, we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity for professional networking with those in attendance.

We would like to thank the session and working group Co-Chairs and presenters involved in this program for their dedication to the field and to SITC. We hope you enjoy your time at this workshop and take the opportunity to interact with other researchers, scientists, clinicians and those at the forefront of the cancer immunotherapy field.

Sincerely,



**Alessandra Cesano,  
MD, PhD**  
*ESSA Pharma Inc.*



**Francesco M.  
Marincola, MD**  
*Refuge  
Biotechnologies, Inc.*

# Program Information

## Program Purpose

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Building upon the success of 2018's Interim Workshop on Cancer Immune Responsiveness (CIR), the goal of this year's CIR workshop is the continued advancement of knowledge in the field about interactions between the immune system and cancer that contribute to immunotherapy response and resistance.

Over this two-day workshop, participants will take part in both didactic sessions and working groups to identify and address key questions in the field concerning cancer immune responsiveness.

Topics to be discussed include:

- The role of host genetics and epigenetics in immune responsiveness
- Transcription patterns indicative of distinct tumor immune landscapes
- Novel therapeutic strategies and related analytical approaches that involve modification of the tumor microenvironment
- Circumstantial/environmental factors that may help determine the immunological constant of rejection in the context of cancer

Attendee participation will greatly assist in defining and expanding upon pivotal questions concerning mechanisms of cancer immune responsiveness/resistance in order to advance improved therapeutic strategies and patient benefit with immunotherapy. It is anticipated that the efforts of numerous attendee-driven working groups will further momentum in the field by continuing discussions aimed at addressing the critical questions generated within this workshop well into the future.

This second-year workshop will further the suggestions and recommendations derived from the 2018 workshop, help to educate the scientific community on the status and direction of immunotherapy research related to immune responsiveness, and will culminate in a manuscript to be submitted for publication in the *Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer* (JITC).

## Program Organizers

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Alessandra Cesano, MD, PhD – *ESSA Pharma Inc.*  
Francesco M. Marincola, MD – *Refuge Biotechnologies, Inc.*

## Intended Audience

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The intended audience for the one and a half day workshop includes scientists in the fields of immunology, cell biology, genetics and computational biology as well as clinicians and researchers from academia and industry who wish to address the main questions relevant to immune responsiveness and contribute to a guideline about the strategies to pursue these questions.

## Educational Objectives

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Upon completion of this meeting, participants will be able to:

- Summarize tumor and immune mechanisms contributing to immunotherapy response and resistance
- Discern the roles of the host's genetic background and environmental modifiers in cancer immune biology
- Describe methods used to characterize the genetic landscape of the tumor, host immune system (including roles of adaptive versus innate immunity), and the tumor microenvironment
- Summarize common predictors of immune responsiveness
- Describe in vivo models that can be used to develop novel immunotherapeutic strategies

# Schedule

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

## Registration

*Time:* 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center AB Pre-Function

## Breakfast

*Time:* 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center B

## Opening Remarks

*Time:* 8:00 – 8:20 a.m.

*Organizer:* Alessandra Cesano, MD, PhD – *ESSA Pharma Inc.*

## Session I: Germline, Somatic Genetics, and Epigenetics of Immune Landscapes

*Time:* 8:20 – 9:40 a.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center A

*Co-Chairs:* Davide Bedognetti, MD, PhD – *Sidra Medicine*  
Josue Samayoa, PhD – *AbbVie*

**8:20 a.m. Germline Genetic Variation Predicts Immune Signatures in The Cancer Genome Atlas**

Elad Ziv, MD – *University of California, San Francisco*

**8:40 a.m. Link Between Metastatic Genetic Heterogeneity and the Immune Contexture in Colorectal Cancer**

Jérôme Galon, PhD – *INSERM, Sorbonne Universites Paris*

**9:00 a.m. Germline Biomarkers of Metastatic Melanoma Immunotherapy: Pilot Results of International Consortium**

Tomas Kirchhoff, PhD – *NYU Langone Health*

**9:20 a.m. Mutation Drivers of Immunological Responses to Cancer**

Eduard Porta-Pardo, PhD – *Barcelona Supercomputing Center*

## Session II: Transcriptional Patterns of Distinct Immune Landscapes

*Time:* 9:40 – 10:40 a.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center A

*Co-Chairs:* Yana G. Najjar, MD – *University of Pittsburgh*  
Hua E. Yu, PhD – *City of Hope*

**9:40 a.m. STAT3: Targeting Master Regulator of Immune Checkpoints**

Marcin Kortylewski, PhD – *City of Hope*

**10:00 a.m. Immune Gene Expression as a Discovery Tool for Actionable Immunotherapy Resistance Mechanisms**

Randy F. Sweis, MD – *University of Chicago*

**10:20 a.m. Transcriptional Signatures of Immune Surveillance and a Favorable Tumor Immune Micro-environment**

Yvonne Saenger, MD – *Columbia University Irving Medical Center*

**10:40 a.m. Break**

# Schedule

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

## Session III: Therapeutic Interventions to Modify the Cancer Microenvironment and Related Experimental Systems for Validation

**Time:** 10:55 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Location:** Discovery Center A

**Co-Chairs:** Rongze O. Lu, PhD – *University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School*  
Sarah Warren, PhD – *NanoString Technologies, Inc.*

**10:55 a.m. Radiation Induced Viral Mimicry**

Sandra Demaria, MD – *Weill Cornell Medicine*

**11:15 a.m. Development of T cell-based Immunotherapy Against Glioma Antigens**

Hideho Okada, MD, PhD – *University of California, San Francisco*

**11:35 a.m. Macrophage Immune Checkpoint CD47 is a Novel Therapeutic Target**

Samuel H. Cheshier, MD, PhD – *The University of Utah*

**11:55 a.m. Highplex Profiling of Microsatellite Stable and Instable Human Colorectal Carcinoma**

Karin Pelka, PhD – *Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard*

## Lunch

**Time:** 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

**Location:** Discovery Center B

## Working Group Breakouts

**Time:** 1:15 - 4:15 p.m.

**Group: Working Group 1: Germline, Somatic Genetics, and Epigenetics of Immune Landscapes**

**Co-Chairs:** Davide Bedognetti, MD, PhD – *Sidra Medicine*  
Josue Samayoa, PhD – *AbbVie*

**Location:** Champions I & II

**Group: Working Group 2: Transcriptional Patterns of Distinct Immune Landscapes**

**Co-Chairs:** Yana G. Najjar, MD – *University of Pittsburgh*  
Hua E. Yu, PhD – *City of Hope*

**Location:** Champions III

**Group: Working Group 3: Therapeutic Interventions to Modify the Cancer Microenvironment and Related Experimental Systems for Validation**

**Co-Chairs:** Rongze Lu, PhD – *University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School*  
Sarah Warren, PhD – *NanoString Technologies, Inc.*

**Location:** Champions V

**4:15 p.m. Break**

# Schedule

## Wednesday, September 4, 2019

### Working Group Presentations

*Time:* 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center A

**4:30 p.m. Working Group 1: Germline, Somatic Genetics, and Epigenetics of Immune Landscapes**

Davide Bedognetti, MD, PhD – *Sidra Medicine*

Josue Samayoa, PhD – *AbbVie*

**5:00 p.m. Working Group 2: Transcriptional Patterns of Distinct Immune Landscapes**

Yana G. Najjar, MD – *University of Pittsburgh*

Hua E. Yu, PhD – *City of Hope*

**5:30 p.m. Working Group 3: Therapeutic Interventions to Modify the Cancer Microenvironment and Related Experimental Systems for Validation**

Rongze Lu, PhD – *University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School*

Sarah Warren, PhD – *NanoString Technologies, Inc.*

### Reception

*Time:* 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

*Location:* Champions Balcony

## Thursday, September 5, 2019

### Registration

*Time:* 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center AB Pre-function

### Breakfast

*Time:* 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center B

### Opening Remarks

*Time:* 8:00 – 8:05 a.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center A

*Organizer:* Francesco M. Marincola, MD – *Refuge Biotechnologies*

### Session I: State of the Field of Adoptive Cellular Therapy

*Time:* 8:05 – 9:35 a.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center A

*Co-Chairs:* Alessandra Cesano, MD, PhD – *ESSA Pharma Inc.*

Katayoun Rezvani, MD, PhD – *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

**8:05 a.m. Introduction**

Alessandra Cesano, MD, PhD – *ESSA Pharma Inc.*

Katayoun Rezvani, MD, PhD – *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

**8:25 a.m. T cells Recognizing Antigen Through Native or Chimeric Receptors**

Helen E. Heslop, MD – *Baylor College of Medicine*

**9:15 a.m. Q&A**

**9:35 a.m. Break**

# Schedule

Thursday, September 5, 2019

## Session II: External Circumstantial Factors

*Time:* 9:50 – 11:40 a.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center A

*Co-Chairs:* Alessandra Cesano, MD, PhD – ESSA Pharma Inc.  
Christine Spencer, PhD – *Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy*

**9:50 a.m. T cell-intrinsic and -extrinsic Determinants of Response to CAR T cell Therapy**

J. Joseph Melenhorst, PhD – *University of Pennsylvania*

**10:10 a.m. Effects of Co-Morbidities and Concomitant Medications on Immunotherapy Efficacy and Safety**

Michael N. Liebman, PhD – *IPQ Analytics, LLC*

**10:30 a.m. Learning to Harness Cancer-Curing Poop as a Group: Collaborative Microbiome Research and Beyond at the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy**

Christine Spencer, PhD – *Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy*

**10:50 a.m. Microbiome: Methods and New Technologies for Sample Collection and Assay Standardization**

Tessa Andermann, MD, MPH – *Stanford University*

**11:10 a.m. Panel Discussion**

*Moderators:* Alessandra Cesano, MD, PhD – ESSA Pharma Inc.  
Christine Spencer, PhD – *Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy*

*Panelists:* Tessa Andermann, MD – *University of North Carolina School of Medicine*  
Michael N. Liebman, PhD – *IPQ Analytics, LLC*  
J. Joseph Melenhorst, PhD – *University of Pennsylvania*  
Christine Spencer, PhD – *Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy*

**11:40 a.m. Break**

## Session III: Emerging Ideas and New Concepts

*Time:* 11:55 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center A

*Co-Chairs:* Kyung-Ho Roh, PhD – *The University of Alabama in Huntsville*  
Francesco M. Marincola, MD – *Refuge Biotechnologies, Inc.*

**11:55 a.m. Detection and Activation of CAR-T Cells Using Standardized Models**

Kyung-Ho Roh, PhD – *University of Alabama in Huntsville*

**12:15 p.m. Conditional Regulation of CAR T**

Stanley Qi, PhD – *Stanford University*

**12:35 p.m. T cell Reprogramming**

Luca Gattinoni, MD – *National Cancer Institute*

## Lunch

*Time:* 12:55 – 2:00 p.m.

*Location:* Discovery Center B

# Organizers and Faculty



**Alessandra Cesano, MD, PhD**  
ESSA Pharma Inc.  
Organizer, Co-Chair

Dr. Cesano recently joined ESSA as Chief Medical Officer.

From July 2015 until June 2019, Dr. Cesano was Chief Medical Officer of NanoString Inc. where she focused on the development of translational and diagnostic multiplexed assays for the characterization and measurement of mechanisms of immune response/resistance.

Prior to joining NanoString, Dr. Cesano was Chief Medical Officer at Cleave Biosciences, Inc. and before that she served as Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operations Officer at Nodality, Inc., where she built and led the R and D group, while providing the overall clinical vision for the organization. Between 1998 and 2008, Dr. Cesano held various management positions at Amgen, Biogen Idec and SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, where she helped to advance various oncology drugs through late stage development and FDA approvals.

Early in her professional career Dr. Cesano spent 12 years conducting research in tumor immunology, including nine years at the Wistar Institute, an NCI Basic Cancer Center connected with the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Cesano also holds membership in several professional and scientific societies including ASCO, ESMO, ASH, EHA, AACR and SITC. In the latter she serves as co-chair in the SITC Industry Committee, Associate Editor for the Biomarker section of JITC and is an active member of the SITC Biomarker Working Group.

Over her career she has been an author on over 100 publications.

Dr. Cesano received an MD summa cum laude, a Board Certification in Oncology, and a PhD in Tumor Immunology from the University of Turin.



**Francesco M. Marincola, MD**  
Refuge Biotechnologies  
Organizer, Co-Chair

Dr. Marincola is Chief Scientific Officer at Refuge Biotechnologies, Menlo Park, California. He was previously Distinguished Research

Fellow at AbbVie Corporation; Chief Research Officer at Sidra Research, Qatar; and Tenured Investigator at the National Institutes of Health, Maryland. Dr. Marincola founded in 2003 the *Journal of Translational Medicine* and is the Editor-in-Chief. He is also Editor-in-Chief of *Translational Medicine Communications* and *Clinical and Translational Medicine*. He is past-president of the *Society for the Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)* and the *International Society for Translational*

*Medicine*. He edited several books including the SITC-affiliated *Cancer Immunotherapy Principles and Practice Textbook*. Dr. Marincola is an award winning author of *The Wise Men of Pizzo* and *Cat Behind the Window*.



**Tessa Andermann, MD, MPH**  
University of North Carolina School of Medicine  
Faculty

Dr. Tessa Andermann is a physician-scientist with a strong commitment to applying translational approaches to better understand

the microbially-related complications of hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) and cellular immunotherapy. In addition to her other contributions to microbiome research, Dr. Andermann worked under the mentorship of Dr. Ami Bhatt at Stanford to develop the Stanford Blood and Marrow Transplant Division biobank of over 1800 stools from more than 800 HCT patients that continues to serve as an essential resource for ongoing research in the Bhatt Lab. She has also designed the stool and urine biobanking collection and processing protocols for the new multi-institutional Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network study 1703/1801. In her new role as Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she will continue her work investigating the role of the gut microbiome in chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell persistence and therapeutic efficacy in patients with treatment-refractory acute leukemia and lymphoma. Through her research, she hopes to understand how broad-spectrum antibiotics impact intestinal microbiome structure and function to influence clinical outcomes and infectious complications in patients with hematologic malignancies. Ultimately, she aims to develop microbiome-targeted therapies for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases in these and other immunocompromised patient populations.



**Davide Bedognetti, MD, PhD**  
Sidra Medicine  
Co-Chair

Dr. Bedognetti is the Director of Cancer Program at the Sidra Medicine Research Branch and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Hamad

Bin Khalifa University in Doha, Qatar. Dr. Bedognetti received his MD and PhD in Clinical and Experimental Oncology and Hematology from the University of Genoa, Italy. After obtaining the Board Certification in Medical Oncology by the University of Genoa and Italian National Cancer Institute (IST) in 2008, he joined the Infectious Disease and Immunogenetics Section (IDIS) of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) where he completed his post-doctoral fellowship. From 2013 to 2014, he served also as the Director of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) Center of Excellence at the NIH Clinical Center. Dr. Bedognetti joined Sidra in 2014. As a physician scientist in Italy, he has been involved

## Organizers and Faculty

in several clinical-translational studies in melanoma, breast, lymphoma and other solid tumors, covering aspects spanning from clinical trial monitoring to biomarkers identification. At NIH he primarily focused on defining molecular mechanisms associated with immune-mediated rejection in solid tumors. At Sidra, the main focus of Dr. Bedognetti's research is to define determinants of immune responsiveness in solid tumors by using state of the art technologies.

The Cancer program is based on the following pillars: i) identification of genetic determinants of cancer immune responsiveness, ii) implementation of genomic pipelines and biobanking to guide treatment selection, iii) harmonization of multi-omics approaches for the identification of non-invasive prognostic, predictive and mechanistic biomarkers, and iv) development of proof-of-principle studies for the implementation of advanced immunotherapeutic approaches. The program has an emphasis on breast cancer and pediatric tumors.

The ultimate goal is to develop novel and more efficient immunotherapeutic strategies. The team employs high-throughput approaches to dissect the molecular network of host-tumor interactions, and to understand its relationship with treatment effectiveness. They use samples from clinical studies as starting point of their analyses. Dr. Bedognetti received several awards including the Merit and Young Investigator Awards of the Conquer Cancer Foundation of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Dr. Bedognetti is Member of the FOCIS Centers of Excellence Steering Committee, past Chair of the SITC Early Career Scientist Committee, and Member of the SITC Cancer Immune Responsiveness Taskforce. He currently serves as Editor of the Tumor Microenvironment Section for the Journal of Translational Medicine and as Editorial Board Member of Cancer Treatment Reviews. He is also a member of The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) Panimmune working group and Chair of the TCGA Panimmune Germline Working group.

Dr. Bedognetti's research has been presented at several international meetings including the ones organized by the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), the American Association of Immunologists (AAI), ASCO, and SITC. His research has been published in prestigious scientific journals including *Cell*, *Nature*, *Nature Communications*, *Immunity*, *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, *Blood*, *Journal of Immunology*, *Journal of Clinical Investigations*, *PNAS*, *Clinical Cancer Research*, *Cancer Immunology Research*, and *British Journal of Cancer*.



**Samuel H. Cheshier, MD, PhD**  
*The University of Utah*  
Faculty

I performed my undergraduate studies at UCLA, MD PhD at Stanford University, followed by neurosurgery residency at Stanford. After residency, I studied midbrain stem cells in Lund, Sweden, and then completed my pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at SickKids, Toronto. As a pediatric neurosurgeon, I witness firsthand the devastation that malignant brain tumors cause both the patients and families. The desire to help these people motivates me to conduct basic science research, with the goal of translating experiments into therapies. My laboratory has been utilizing a powerful immune-therapy strategy where CD47-SIRPα interactions between tumor cells and macrophages are blocked by Hu5F9-G4 in combination with potent immunotherapies including anti-cancer targeted monoclonal antibodies (anti-PDL1, anti-CD44, anti-Her2/Neu, anti-GD2), and modulators of macrophage activity (anti-CD40). My clinical practice specializing in brain tumor surgery has provided my laboratory with a large number of patient derived malignant brain tumors from both pediatric and adult patients, which have already been used to conduct an excellent preclinical evaluation of Hu5F9-G4 against five pediatric malignant primary CNS tumors. While I was faculty at Stanford, I was in charge of the preclinical development of Hu5F9-G4 against malignant brain tumors, and I was a participant in the anti-CD47 Disease Team that helped develop the therapy into Phase 1 clinical trial. Since accepting my position at the Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah School of Medicine as Director of Pediatric Surgical Neuro-Oncology, my laboratory focus has been to enhance anti-CD47 mediated phagocytosis by promoting the expression of pro-phagocytosis signals on brain cancer cells by irradiation. Irradiation is a well-known enhancer of pro-phagocytosis signal presentation on tumor cells. For example, calreticulin and phosphatidylserine are key pro-phagocytosis signals and are elevated in response to irradiation. I have developed preliminary data demonstrating Hu5F9-G4 in combination with irradiation increased macrophage phagocytosis of human glioblastoma in vitro and increased survival in human glioblastoma-mouse orthotopic PDX models. Given the known efficacy of irradiation against malignant brain tumors, and the large medical infrastructure already present to deliver irradiation to patients, I feel my studies to combine this treatment modality with Hu5F9-G4, will provide significant data to justify clinical trials utilizing this combination. My current and previous research history have provided me a deep understanding (mechanism, efficacy, toxicity, combinatorial strategies) of anti-CD47 therapy in general and Hu5F9-G4 therapy specifically, which would be an asset to CTEP as Hu5F9-G4 therapy developed further. My laboratory can conduct the entire range of preclinical experiments testing Hu5F9-G4 in vitro, as well as, in mouse models (human-mouse PDX, mouse models of primary brain tumors) to obtain data to justify and help design human trials in brain tumor patients.

# Organizers and Faculty



**Sandra Demaria, MD**  
*Weill Cornell Medicine*  
Faculty

Dr. Demaria, a native of Turin, Italy, obtained her MD from the University of Turin, and then moved to New York for her post-doctoral training in immunology as a Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Cancer Research Fund awardee, followed by a residency in anatomic pathology at NYU School of Medicine (NYU SoM). She remained on the faculty at NYU SoM until 2015 raising to the rank of Professor. She is currently Professor of Radiation Oncology and Pathology at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. Dr. Demaria is internationally known for her studies demonstrating the synergy of local radiation therapy with different immunotherapeutic agents in pre-clinical models of cancer. She was the first to show that radiotherapy can convert tumors unresponsive to immune checkpoint inhibitors into responsive ones, a finding being translated in several clinical trials at multiple institutions. Her current work is aimed at identifying the molecular mechanisms that regulate ionizing radiation's ability to generate an in situ tumor vaccine in both preclinical tumor models as well as cancer patients treated in clinical trials testing various combinations of radiation and immunotherapy. As a breast cancer pathologist, Dr. Demaria has also studied the immunological microenvironment of breast cancer in patients, and therapeutic strategies to modulate the immune infiltrate in preclinical breast cancer models. She holds leadership positions in national professional societies, including the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) where she currently serves on the Board, and has served as a member of the Steering Committee of the AACR Cancer Immunology Working Group. Her current work is funded by the US National Cancer Institute and several private foundations. She has been the recipient of awards from the American Cancer Society, the Department of Defense CDMRP, and NIH and has served as a reviewer for several private Foundations, for the DOD Breast Cancer program, and NIH, and currently is a member of the CII NIH study section.



**Jérôme Galon, PhD**  
*INSERM, Sorbonne Universites Paris*  
Faculty

Dr. Galon is Director of Research at INSERM (French NIH), and Head of the laboratory of Integrative Cancer Immunology in Paris, France. Dr. Galon was trained as an immunologist at the Pasteur Institute and at the Curie Institute (Paris, France). He holds a PhD degree in Immunology (Jussieu University, Paris, France, 1996). Between 1997 and 2001 he worked at the NIH (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA). Since his full-tenured position at INSERM in 2001, he directs interdisciplinary research programs on tumor-Immunology. He is Associate Director and co-founder of European Academy of Tumor Immunology (EATI) and board director for the

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC). His work on the comprehensive analysis of the tumor microenvironment and the role of T-cells in human cancer led to the demonstration of the importance of adaptive pre-existing immunity in human cancer, and the concept of cancer *immune-contexture*. He pioneered the *Immunoscore*. He is the co-founder of HaliuDx company and the chairman of its scientific council. His contributions have been recognized with numerous awards, including the *William B. Coley Award*, an international prize which honors the best scientists in the fundamental and cancer immunology, an Award from the *National Academy of Science* and from the *National Academy of Medicine*. This year, he was the winner of the prestigious European Inventor Award from the European Patent Office.



**Luca Gattinoni, MD**  
*National Cancer Institute*  
Faculty

Dr. Gattinoni received his M.D. from the Università degli Studi of Milan, Italy. Following the completion of his residency in medical oncology at the Istituto Nazionale Tumori in Milan, he joined the NCI in 2003 as a Visiting Fellow and became a Staff Scientist in 2008.

In 2013, Dr. Gattinoni was appointed as NIH Stadtman Investigator at the Experimental Transplantation and Immunology Branch. His honors include the 2004 SITC Presidential Award, the 2012 Wilson S. Stone Memorial Award and the 2013 NCI Director's Intramural Innovation Award.



**Helen E. Heslop, MD**  
*Baylor College of Medicine*  
Faculty

Dr. Heslop is Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, and Director of the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Methodist Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital. She is also Associate Director for Clinical Research at the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Comprehensive Center. Dr Heslop is a physician scientist engaged in translational research focusing on adoptive immunotherapy with gene-modified effector cells, to improve hemopoietic stem cell transplantation and cancer therapy. An additional focus is in reconstituting antiviral immunity post-transplant and she has led an NHLBI-funded multicenter trial of allogeneic multivirus specific T cells. She has extensive experience in developing and conducting transplant studies and cell and gene therapy studies and currently holds over 20 INDs. She was a Doris Duke distinguished clinical research scientist and is an elected member of the American Association of Physicians. She serves as Principal Investigator on several peer-reviewed research programs, including an NCI-funded program project grant (Enhancing T-Cell Therapy of Cancer) a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Specialized Center

## Organizers and Faculty

of Research (SCOR) award (Immunotherapy of Lymphoma), the Meg Vosberg Stand Up to Cancer Dream Team in T cell lymphoma and a SPORE in lymphoma from the NCI. She is also the principal investigator on an NHLBI-funded training grant in Cell and Gene Therapy and Chair-elect of the BMT-CTN. She is a past President of the American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy (ASGCT), the American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplant (ASBMT) and the Foundation for Accreditation of Cell Therapy (FACT).



**Tomas Kirchhoff, PhD**  
NYU Langone Health  
Faculty

Dr. Kirchhoff is Associate Professor at Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU School of Medicine in New York where he leads a program and a laboratory of cancer genetic susceptibility. He is an internationally recognized cancer geneticist with the primary research interest in the identification and characterization of the inherited genetic factors contributing to melanoma risk, outcome and treatment response. Since his 9- year training and faculty appointments at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Kirchhoff's extensive contributions include the discoveries of novel inherited loci involved in cancer susceptibility. After joining faculty at NYU School of Medicine, these efforts expanded to investigation of genetic basis of survival and melanoma immunotherapy efficacy using the methods of GWAS and next generation sequencing (NGS). Through the collaboration with international consortia, his ongoing research extends to the area of personalized genomics of melanoma. He is a principal investigator on several NIH grant awards that address the role of germline and somatic alterations in immunotherapy response and melanoma recurrence. His current efforts expand towards understanding how germline genetics impacts host immune capacity in patients treated with immune checkpoint inhibition with a goal of personalized improvement of current immunotherapy treatments.



**Marcin Kortylewski, PhD**  
City of Hope  
Faculty

Dr. Kortylewski focuses on the development of novel cancer immunotherapies based on targeting transcription factors, such as STAT3 or NF- $\kappa$ B, which are convergence points for cross-talk signaling in the tumor microenvironment. His group invented several oligonucleotide-based approaches (siRNA, miRNA, Decoy, ASO) for targeting transcriptional regulators specifically in myeloid immune cells in vivo. Their two-step strategy is first to disarm tumor defense systems by targeting immune checkpoint regulators and then to unleash potent antitumor immune responses by stimulation of Toll-like Receptor signaling. Oligonucleotide therapeutics from his lab are currently in final

IND-enabling studies before clinical trials for treatment of leukemia, lymphoma and certain solid tumors, such as glioma and prostate cancers.

Dr. Kortylewski received his PhD in molecular biology from the University School of Medical Sciences in Poznan (Poland). He then completed two postdoctoral fellowships: in cancer biology at the Institute of Biochemistry (Aachen, Germany) and in tumor immunology at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center (Tampa, FL). He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Immuno-Oncology at the Beckman Research Institute and a member of City of Hope Cancer Center (Duarte, CA). Research from Dr. Kortylewski's laboratory has earned him an Outstanding New Investigator Award from the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy (2016) and notable funding from major federal and private sources, including the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute, Department of Defense (Prostate Cancer Program) and Prostate Cancer Foundation.



**Michael N. Liebman, PhD**  
IPQ Analytics, LLC  
Faculty

Dr. Liebman is the Managing Director of IPQ Analytics, LLC and Strategic Medicine, Inc. after serving as the Executive Director of the Windber Research Institute (now Chanoon-Shiong Institute for Molecular Medicine) from 2003-2007. He is an Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology at Drexel College of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Drug Discovery, First Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University and also Fudan University. He serves on the Advisory Board for the International Park for Translational Biomedicine (Shanghai) and the Center of Biomedical and Health Research in Data Sciences, University of Massachusetts (Lowell). Previously, he was Director, Computational Biology and Biomedical Informatics, University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center 2000-2003. He served as Global Head of Computational Genomics, Roche Pharmaceuticals and Director, Bioinformatics and Pharmacogenomics, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, and Director of Genomics for Vysis, Inc. He is a co-founder of ProSano, Inc. (now United BioSource) (2000). He was Associate Professor of Pharmacology and of Physiology/Biophysics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He serves on 14 scientific advisory boards, including digital health and quantum computing and the Board of Directors of the Nathaniel Adamczyk Foundation in Pediatric ARDS. Dr. Liebman is Chair of the Informatics Program and also Chair of Translational Medicine and Therapeutics for the PhRMA Foundation and a member of their Scientific Advisory Board. He is on the Advisory Board of the International Society for Translational Medicine and on the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Translational Medicine*, for *Clinical and Translational Medicine* and for *Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics*, for *Clinico-Economics and Outcomes Research* and *Biomedicine Hub*. He is a member of the IUPAC Division

# Organizers and Faculty

on Human Health's Medicinal Chemistry subcommittee. He has served on the External Advisory Board for the INBRE (NIH) program for the state of Delaware since 2000. He is an Invited Professor at the Shanghai Center for Bioinformatics Technology and of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research focuses on computational models of disease progression that stress risk detection, disease processes and clinical pathway modeling, and disease stratification from the clinical perspective. He utilizes systems-based approaches and design thinking to represent and analyze risk/benefit analysis in pharmaceutical development and healthcare.



**Rongze Lu, PhD**  
*University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School*  
Co-Chair

Dr. Lu is a tenure track assistant professor of Neurosurgery at Dell Medical School,

University of Texas, Austin. Through close collaboration with clinicians at Dell Medical School and Dell Children's hospital, her research is focused on investigating the molecular mechanisms of immune suppression and evasion in the brain tumor microenvironment with the goal to develop novel immunotherapeutics for brain tumors. Dr. Lu's research has identified that protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A) regulates immune suppression in T cells in multiple tumor models including brain tumors. Based on those findings, a Phase Ib/II trial is being planned by the NCI to study combining PP2A and PD-1 inhibitors to treat brain tumors.

Dr. Lu received her Ph.D in Cancer Immunology from Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope. She then pursued postdoctorate studies at Genentech under the mentorship of Dr. Napoleone Ferrara. Her postdoc research focused on the role of myeloid derived suppressor cells in tumor angiogenesis and resistance to anti-VEGF therapy. After her postdoc training, she joined Medimmune and later on Abbvie to lead multiple drug discovery programs for inflammatory diseases and cancer. Dr. Lu has published in high profile journals including Nature, Nature Communications, Plos Pathogen, Cancer Research and Journal of Biological Chemistry. Dr. Lu has served as section editor for Journal of Translational Medicine and organized a Society of Immunotherapy of Cancer workshop as session chair.



**J. Joseph Melenhorst, PhD**  
*University of Pennsylvania*  
Faculty

Dr. Melenhorst obtained his PhD at the LUMC (Department of Hematology) on the pathogenesis of Aplastic Anemia. In 1998 he moved to Bethesda, Maryland, where he did his research - first as a postdoc, later as a staff scientist - in the laboratory of Dr. John Barrett at the National Institutes of Health, on the immunobiology of marrow failure syndromes, leukemic

disorders, and allogeneic stem cell transplantation. In 2012 he was recruited by Dr. Bruce Levine and Dr. Carl June to the University of Pennsylvania, first as Deputy Director of their clinical manufacturing (cGMP) facility. After a year he was promoted to Director of Product Development & Correlative Sciences. In this role, he was at the cusp of the first ever CAR T cell therapy approved by FDA: Kymriah. Dr. Melenhorst is interested in understanding and improving the anti-tumor efficacy and safety of adoptively transferred chimeric antigen receptor-modified T cells through correlative, mechanistic, and functional genomics approaches.



**Yana G. Najjar, MD**  
*University of Pittsburgh*  
Co-Chair

Yana Najjar, MD is physician-scientist whose chief research interests are in melanoma and immunotherapy. She is currently Assistant

Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Najjar obtained her medical degree from the American University of Beirut, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute. She pursued residency in internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic, and completed a fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Najjar's research focuses on the development of novel combination strategies for the treatment of advanced melanoma and evaluating mechanisms of tumor environment remodeling to render it less hostile to the host immune system. She has designed and obtained funding for several investigator-initiated trials in patients with advanced melanoma, and her lab is focused on translational correlative analyses. Dr. Najjar is a 2018 Hillman Fellow for Innovative Early-Career Cancer Research and recent recipient of a DOD Translational Team Science Award.



**Hideho Okada, MD, PhD**  
*University of California, San Francisco*  
Faculty

As a physician-scientist, Dr. Okada has been dedicated to brain tumor immunology and development of effective immunotherapy for brain tumor patients for over 20 years. His team was one of very first to discover cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) epitopes in glioma-associated and glioma-specific antigens. Dr. Okada also found critical roles for the integrin receptor very late activation antigen (VLA)-4 and the chemokine CXCL10 in facilitating entry of CTLs to the brain tumor site. Dr. Okada has translated these discoveries into a number of innovative immunotherapy clinical studies in both adult and pediatric brain tumor patients. Dr. Okada's discoveries have also led to two currently active multicenter trials (NCT02078648 and NCT02960230), each involving 15 or more sites. Most recently, Dr. Okada has developed a novel chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) against epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)viii

# Organizers and Faculty

and cloned a high affinity T-cell receptor against H3.3K27M, both of which are glioma-specific antigens. Dr. Okada's team has also pioneered in discoveries of novel immunoregulatory mechanisms in gliomas, such as one mediated by myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSC) and mutations of the isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH) enzymes IDH1 and IDH2. To improve radiologic evaluation criteria for brain tumor patients undergoing immunotherapy, Dr. Okada leads an international group of brain tumor immunotherapy experts to develop novel iRANO criteria.

Dr. Okada is a Professor of Neurosurgery at University of California, San Francisco, and a member of Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. Dr. Okada serves as an associate editor for Neuro-Oncology.



**Karin Pelka, PhD**  
*Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard*  
Faculty

Dr. Pelka is a research fellow of the German Research Foundation and currently performing her postdoctoral training with Dr. Nir Hacohen at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. By combining systems biology approaches with mechanistic studies, she aims to understand the general principles that shape the immunological states of human colorectal cancer. Karin is the recipient of the first Stand Up To Cancer Peggy Prescott Early Career Scientist Award in Colorectal Cancer Research and selected as member of the 2019 BroadIgnite cohort, a program supporting early career scientists working on high-risk, high-reward projects. Karin was a scholar of the German National Academic Foundation and received her PhD in 2016 from the University of Bonn where she trained with Dr. Eicke Latz at the Institute of Innate Immunity.



**Eduard Porta-Pardo, PhD**  
*Barcelona Supercomputing Center*  
Faculty

Dr. Porta-Pardo obtained his PhD in Biomedicine and Computational Biology in Barcelona on 2013. Then he moved to San Diego to work with Adam Godzik at SBP Medical Discovery Institute, where they worked on the integration of protein structures and cancer genomics data to identify new drug biomarkers, cancer driver genes and cancer immunity drivers. As a result of this work, he joined the TCGA PanCancer Atlas project where he contributed to various working groups, including the ones dedicated to cancer driver genes and cancer immunology. Since 2017, he is at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center working with Alfonso Valencia on cancer immunogenomics where he is currently a La Caixa Junior Leader Fellow.



**Stanley Qi, PhD**  
*Stanford University*  
Faculty

I obtained my Ph.D. in Bioengineering from UC Berkeley, co-advised by Adam Arkin and Jennifer Doudna. During my Ph.D. training, I was among the first to engineer the CRISPR-Cas system for synthetic genome regulation in cells. I engineered synthetic noncoding RNA molecules as biosensors of intracellular or environmental signals, as gene regulators of transcription or translation, or as genetic parts to form complex genetic circuitries. After Ph.D., I immediately started my research lab as a Systems Biology Faculty Fellow at UCSF as Principle Investigator in 2012. Our lab led the first development of the nuclease-deactivated Cas9 (dCas9) and used it for sequence-specific gene regulation. After I joined the Stanford faculty in 2014, we subsequently developed a CRISPR-dCas toolbox, covering broad technologies including CRISPRi for gene interference, CRISPRa for gene activation, CRISPR imaging in living cells, CRISPRi/a pooled genetic screens. Recently, we developed the use of CRISPR for the control of 3-dimensional (3D) genome organization. Beyond technology development, my lab also applies CRISPR genome manipulation technologies to studying genomics, engineer therapeutic immune cells, and control stem cell maintenance and differentiation. Examples include we combine CRISPR with G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) and created a set of ligand-dependent GPCR-dCas fusion molecules that expanded engineering immune cells for therapies of cancer; we identified alternative pathways that mediate neuronal cell differentiation; we also elucidated the roles of nuclear compartments in gene regulation under certain circumstances. We are working towards the next-generation genome engineering technologies for studying genomics, cell biology, and cell engineering.



**Katayoun Rezvani, MD, PhD**  
*The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*  
Organizer, Co-Chair Faculty

Dr. Rezvani is Professor of Medicine, Director of Translational Research, Medical Director of the MD Anderson GMP and Cell Therapy Laboratory and Chief, Section of Cellular Therapy, Department of Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapy, MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Rezvani has an active research laboratory program in tumor immunology where the focus of her research group is to study the role of natural killer cells (NK) cells in mediating immunity against cancer, and to understand the mechanisms of tumor-induced NK cell dysfunction. The goal of these studies is to develop strategies to enhance NK cell effector function against tumors by genetically engineering the cells to enhance their in vivo anti-tumor activity and persistence. Dr. Rezvani leads the NK immunotherapy program at MD Anderson and has translated multiple innovative strategies from bench to

# Organizers and Faculty

bedside. She is co-leader of the Adoptive Cell Therapy platform for the MD Anderson Moonshots Program.



**Kyung-Ho Roh, PhD**  
*The University of Alabama in Huntsville*  
Co-Chair, Faculty

Professor Roh is the principal investigator for the Molecular and Cellular Immunoengineering Laboratory (MCIL) at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). He is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Chemical and Materials Engineering Department at UAH since 2016. Immediately before joining UAH, Dr. Roh worked as a Research Scientist in the Biomedical Engineering Department at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University, and he also served as a Program Manager for the National Cell Manufacturing Consortium. Before then, he studied for 5 years in the School of Medicine at Stanford University for his postdoctoral study on T cell immunology (PI: Dr. Mark M. Davis). He received his PhD in Macromolecular Science and Engineering from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

He is interested in both biomaterials and immunology. Some examples of his strategies to connect these two disciplines include: i) development of artificial microenvironments for effective regeneration and induction of adaptive immunity using naïve, stem, or progenitor cells; ii) targeted delivery of therapeutics for controlled immuno-activation or modulation in selective immune cell populations; iii) engineering receptor-ligand interactions within the immunological synapse in healthy and diseased states using molecular devices. The common end goal of these research topics is the development of biomaterials-based translational cellular and molecular immunotherapies for cancers, infections, and autoimmune diseases.



**Yvonne Saenger, MD**  
*Columbia University Irving Medical Center*  
Faculty

Dr. Saenger, Director of Melanoma Immunotherapy at Columbia University and Co-Director of the Human Immune Monitoring Core, is a medical oncologist who leads a research program focused on immune biomarkers in cancer patients. Dr. Saenger has developed a NanoString based 53-gene immune panel predictive of outcomes in early stage melanoma and she has received National Cancer Institute funding to validate this panel on samples from the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group trial E1697 of one month high dose interferon compared with no treatment for the purpose of ultimately applying the panel to routine clinical care. Dr. Saenger has in addition pioneered novel qIF and machine learning based prognostic biomarkers in early stage melanoma and is working on developing biomarkers in gastrointestinal cancers, specifically in pancreatic cancer where she

is leading a federally funded study to develop biomarkers in patients treated using endoscopic injection of oncolytic virus. Dr. Saenger collaborates with computational scientists and pathologists to develop clinically applicable tools to characterize the tumor immune micro-environment.



**Josue Samayoa, PhD**  
*AbbVie*  
Co-Chair

Dr. Samayoa completed his PhD in Bioinformatics at the University of California Santa Cruz with an emphasis on comparative genomics, protein biochemistry and three-dimensional protein structure modeling. He conducted his post-doctoral research work with Professor Rachel Karchin at Johns Hopkins University focusing on integrating computational and experimental biology to elucidate the mechanisms for activating mutations in PIK3CA. Since joining AbbVie in 2012 as a member of the immune oncology team based in Redwood City, CA, he has worked collaboratively with experimental, computational, translational and clinical teams to advance several investigational therapeutic candidates. Currently he leads the computational immunology and oncology group whose focus is to better understand the genomic correlates of the cancer immune landscape and how they relate to the question of why patients respond or do not respond to IO therapies. Dr. Samayoa participated as a session chair in the inaugural Cancer Immune Responsiveness workshop held in San Francisco, CA last year.



**Christine Spencer, PhD**  
*Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy*  
Co-Chair, Faculty

Dr. Spencer is a research scientist in the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI) Department of Informatics. At PICI, Chris works with academic and industry partners around translational research projects and also currently leads translational analysis for PICI-sponsored clinical trials, one of which is testing the impact of microbiome intervention in combination with anti-PD-1 in melanoma patients along with MD Anderson and Seres Therapeutics (PICI McGRAW). Chris came to PICI from the laboratory of Dr. Jennifer Wargo at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she studied how host lifestyle factors and characteristics of the gut microbiome influence response to checkpoint blockade immunotherapy in melanoma patients. Chris earned her PhD from the department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics & Environmental Science (minor in Biostatistics & Data Science) at the University of Texas School of Public Health in 2018.

# Organizers and Faculty



**Randy F. Sweis, MD**  
*University of Chicago*  
Faculty

Dr. Sweis obtained bachelor's degrees in Biological Chemistry and Economics from the University of Chicago. He then worked in drug development as a medicinal chemist for Merck Research Laboratories, before receiving his M.D. degree from the Pritzker School of Medicine. His internal medicine residency training was completed at the University of Michigan before returning to the University of Chicago to complete a combined fellowship in Hematology/Oncology and Clinical Pharmacology & Pharmacogenomics. During that time, he trained in the laboratory of renowned cancer immunologist Dr. Thomas Gajewski. He then transitioned to faculty at the University of Chicago in the Department of Medicine, Section of Hematology/Oncology. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the AACR-BMS Fellowship in Translational Immuno-Oncology and the ASCO-Conquer Cancer foundation Young Investigator Award. In 2018 he was elected to co-lead TimIOs, an organization aimed at identifying mechanisms of resistance to cancer immunotherapy, which was supported by the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer. He has focused his career on cancer immunology, developmental therapeutics, and biomarker development, with a particular interest in genitourinary malignancies and phase I trials. His research involves the identification and targeting of tumor-intrinsic immunotherapy resistance pathways.



**Sarah Warren, PhD**  
*NanoString Technologies, Inc.*  
Co-Chair

Dr. Warren's focus is on developing and applying NanoString platforms to address key research areas in immuno-oncology. As part of that mission, she works with academics, biopharmas, and clinicians to identify unmet needs in translational research and create novel products for transcriptional and proteomic profiling. She oversees the collaborations network for the company to help investigators utilize NanoString tools in their research with the goal of developing new biomarkers that can be deployed as clinical diagnostics. She is also active in the immuno-oncology research community to promote the science and application of cancer immunotherapy to improve patient outcomes.

Prior to joining NanoString, Dr. Warren was a founder and director of research at Oncofactor Corp., a biotech focused on developing therapeutics which targeted novel immune checkpoints. She has a PhD in immunology from the University of Washington and a BS in biochemistry and English from Iowa State University.



**Hua E. Yu, PhD**  
*City of Hope*  
Co-Chair

Dr. Yu is Billy Wilder Endowed Professor, Co-Leader of Cancer Immunotherapeutics Program, City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center and Associate Department Chair of Immuno-Oncology. Dr. Yu is a noted expert and pioneer on the cancer-promoting protein STAT3 and was the first to uncover and define the protein's effect on the immune system. Dr. Yu's studies have laid the foundation for a new generation of molecular targeted cancer therapy approaches that disable both tumor cells and the tumor stromal cells, which are critical for tumor growth. She has developed potentially paradigm-shifting novel siRNA and antibody delivery technology platforms to inhibit STAT3 and other challenging targets.

Dr. Yu received her bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Columbia University in NYC. She completed fellowships with the American Cancer Society and the National Institutes of Health. The fundamental discoveries from her laboratory have been well supported continuously by grants from the National Institutes of Health. Her recent studies have been published extensively in such prestigious biomedical/cancer research journals as *Nature Medicine*, *Cancer Cell*, *Nature Biotechnology*, *Immunity* and *Cell Metabolism*.



**Elad Ziv, MD**  
*University of California, San Francisco*  
Faculty

Elad Ziv is a professor of medicine, a member Institute for Human Genetics and of the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCSF. He completed his undergraduate degree at Yale University and received his M.D. at UCSF where he also completed clinical training in internal medicine and a fellowship in clinical research. He has been on faculty at UCSF since 2001 where he has focused his research on human genetics, particularly on cancer susceptibility. His group identified the genetic variant underlying benign ethnic neutropenia in African Americans. They were also the first to identify an association between genetic ancestry and breast cancer risk in Latinas. They then used a combination of admixture mapping and genome wide association to find the locus underlying this association. More recently his group has been pursuing whole exome sequencing of breast cancer in Latinas and studying genetics of the immune response to cancer. His research is funded by the National Cancer Institute, the California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine.

# Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer requires instructors, planners, managers and other individuals who are in a position to control the content of this activity to disclose any real or apparent conflicts of interest (COI) they may have as related to the content of this activity. All identified conflicts of interest are thoroughly vetted and resolved according to SITC policy.

## **Tessa Andermann, MD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Davide Bedognetti, MD, PhD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Alessandra Cesano, MD, PhD**

Salary from Nanostring Inc., ESSA Pharma  
Consulting fees from Nanostring Inc.  
Ownership interest from Nanostring Inc., ESSA Pharma

## **Samuel H. Cheshier, MD, PhD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Sandra Demaria, MD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Jérôme Galon, PhD**

Receipt of intellectual property rights/patent holder INSERM  
Consulting fees from BMS, Sanofi, AstraZeneca  
Contracted research from Perkin-Elmer, IObiotech, MedImmune, Janssen, AstraZeneca, Imcheck  
Other from BMS, MedImmune, IObiotech, Northwest Biotherapeutics, Amgen, Gilead, CatalYm GmbH

## **Luca Gattinoni, MD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Helen E. Heslop, MD**

Consulting fees from Tessa Therapeutics, Gilead, Marker Therapeutics, Cytosin  
Contracted research from Tessa Therapeutics, Cell Medica  
Ownership interest from Allovir, Marker Therapeutics

## **Tomas Kirchhoff, PhD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Marcin Kortylewski, PhD**

Ownership interest from ISTAT Therapeutics Inc.

## **Michael N. Liebman, PhD**

Consulting fees from Excelra, United Cancer Centers  
Ownership interest from BP, Pfizer

## **Rongze Lu, PhD**

Ownership interest from Abbvie stocks

## **Francesco M. Marincola, MD**

Salary from Refuge Biotechnologies  
Royalty from Biomed Central

## **Jan Joseph Melenhorst, PhD**

Royalty from Novartis  
Receipt of intellectual property rights/patent holder Novartis  
Consulting fees from Shanghai Unicar Therapy, Co., Simcere of America, Inc., IASO Biotherapeutics  
Contracted research from Incyte, Novartis

## **Yana G. Najjar, MD**

Consulting fees from Array Biopharma  
Contracted research from Merck, Array Biopharma

## **Hideho Okada, MD, PhD**

Royalty from Stemline, Inc., Novartis Pharma, and Intrexon Corporation  
Receipt of intellectual property rights/patent holder Tmunity, Inc., Stemline, Inc., Novartis Pharma, Intrexon Corporation  
Consulting fees from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Gerson Lehrman Group, Amal Therapeutics, Agios Pharmaceuticals, Eureka Therapeutics, INC Research, LLC, LifeSci Capital, LLC  
Contracted research from Tmunity, Inc., Ono Pharmaceutical, Co. Ltd., Agios Pharmaceuticals, Midatech Pharma

## **Karin Pelka, PhD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Eduard Porta-Pardo, PhD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Stanley Qi, PhD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Katayoun Rezvani, MD, PhD**

Consulting fees from EMD Serono, Onkimmune, Formula Pharma, Synthrox  
Contracted research from Pharmacyclics, EMD Serono, Affimed, CytoMx  
Other from OSMB, Kiadis

## **Kyung-Ho Roh, PhD**

Contracted research from Refuge Biotechnologies, Inc.

## **Yvonne Saenger, MD**

Contracted research from Amgen, Regeneron

## **Josue Samayoa, PhD**

Contracted research from Amgen, Regeneron

## **Christine Spencer, PhD**

Salary from Abbvie  
Ownership interest from Abbvie

# Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

## **Randy F. Sweis, MD**

Consulting fees from AstraZeneca, BMS, Exelixis, Eisai, Mirati, Puma

Fees for non-CME/CE services received directly from a commercial interest or their agents from BMS, Exelixis

## **Sarah Warren, PhD**

Salary from NanoString Technologies

Receipt of intellectual property rights/patent holder

NanoString Technologies

Ownership interest from NanoString Technologies

## **Hua E. Yu, PhD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

## **Elad Ziv, MD**

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

# Onsite Logistics and Maps

## Internet Access

SITC is pleased to offer complimentary Wi-Fi in the meeting spaces and guest rooms at the Royal Sonesta Hotel to all SITC attendees. On your device, select the internet network "Sonesta Guest", launch your browser, and log in using the following case sensitive password:

Password: SITC2019

## Photo/Video Policy

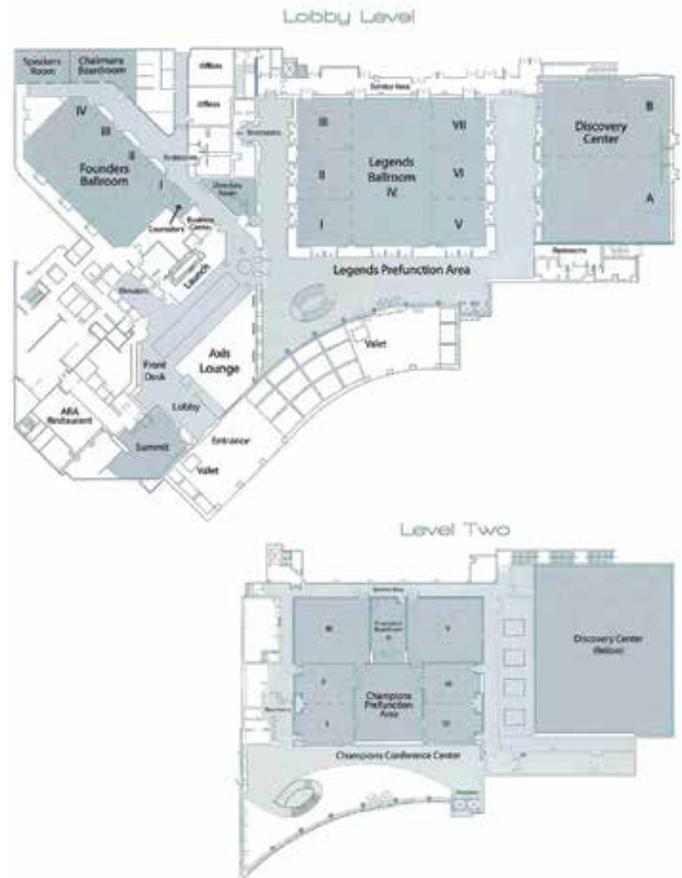
Photography and videography are prohibited other than for personal use in all SITC sessions, unless prior written approval is received from the SITC office.

SITC often employs the services of a professional photographer/videographer at SITC events to capture images and audiovisual (AV) recordings for use in society archival and promotional material. Your attendance at SITC events implies your permission for images and an AV recording captured to be used for purposes of SITC archival materials, promotional materials, and publications, and waives your rights for compensation or ownership of these images and recordings.

## Evaluation Information

Registered participants will receive an email to complete the online evaluation form after the conclusion of the Cancer Immune Responsiveness Workshop.

## Maps



# About SITC

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) is the world's leading member-driven organization specifically dedicated to professionals working in the field of cancer immunology and immunotherapy. Established in 1984, SITC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit medical professional society comprised of nearly 3,000 influential research scientists, physician scientists, clinicians, patients, patient advocates, government representatives and industry leaders dedicated to improving cancer patient outcomes by advancing the science and application of cancer immunotherapy.

Through emphasis on high-caliber scientific meetings; dedication to education and outreach activities; focus on initiatives of major importance in the field; and commitment to collaborations with like-minded domestic and international organizations, government and regulatory agencies, associations and patient advocacy groups, SITC brings together all aspects of the cancer immunology and immunotherapy community. SITC aims to make cancer immunotherapy a standard of care and the word "cure" a reality for cancer patients everywhere.

## Mission Statement

It is the mission of the society to improve cancer patient outcomes by advancing the science, development and application of cancer immunology and immunotherapy through our core values of interaction/integration, innovation, translation and leadership in the field.

## Core Values

- **Interaction/Integration:** Facilitate the exchange of information and education among basic and translational researchers, clinicians, young investigators, patients, societies and groups sharing the mission of SITC
- **Innovation:** Challenge the thinking and seek the best research in the development of cancer immunotherapy
- **Translation:** Facilitate the transfer of cancer immunology and immunotherapy research from the bench to the clinic and back
- **Leadership:** Define what is new and important and effectively communicate it to all relevant stakeholders

## Goals

- **Education and Scientific Exchange:** Serve as the leading resource for information and education on cancer immunotherapy
- **Professional Standards:** Set industry standards for the field of cancer immunotherapy in order to position SITC as the authority on immunotherapy of cancer
- **Global Access and Impact:** Advance the science and application of cancer immunotherapy worldwide
- **Policy and Advocacy:** Inform and influence the science and research, regulation, as well as quality of care and quality of access impacted by public policy, ensuring the patient voice is heard and recognized
- **Science and Research:** Challenge the thinking and seek the best research in the exploration and development of tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy
- **Leadership Development:** Cultivate the next generation of leaders and innovators in tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy

## Disease States Represented by SITC Constituents

SITC covers the full spectrum of both solid tumors and hematologic malignancies including:

- Bladder
- Brain/Central Nervous System
- Breast
- Colon/Rectum
- Genitourinary
- Glioblastoma
- Gynecological
- Head and Neck
- Leukemia
- Liver
- Lung
- Lymphoma
- Melanoma
- Mesothelioma
- Myeloma
- Neuroblastoma
- Pan-tumor
- Pancreas
- Prostate
- Renal

## Sample of Medical Specialties Represented by SITC Constituents

- Antibody Based Therapies
- Biochemistry
- Bioinformatics
- Cellular Biology
- Cellular Therapies
- Clinical Investigations/ Clinical Trials
- Cytokines
- Dermatology
- Drug Development
- Gastroenterology
- Genetics and Genomics
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Hematology
- Immuno-oncology
- Immunology
- Immunotherapy
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Oncology
- Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
- Molecular Biology
- Neuro-oncology
- Oncolytic Viruses/ Vaccines
- Pathology
- Pediatric Oncology
- Pharmacology/Toxicology
- Radiation Biology/ Radiation Oncology
- Research Administration
- Stem Cell Biology
- Surgical Oncology
- Transplantation
- Urology







# Advance Your Career with SITC

## Stay Informed

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### **Cancer Immunotherapy Winter School**

Led by cancer immunotherapy experts, Cancer Immunotherapy Winter School is an in-depth, five-day program for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and clinical fellows in the field of cancer immunotherapy as well as those new to the field, focused on the core principles of tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy. Stay tuned to the SITC website for details about the 2020 program at [sitcancer.org/WinterSchool](https://sitcancer.org/WinterSchool).

### ***Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer (JITC)***

Publish your latest research in JITC, the society's open access, peer-reviewed online journal with an impact factor of 8.676. Learn more at [sitcancer.org/JITC](https://sitcancer.org/JITC).

## Expand Your Network

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### **Career Connections Initiative**

SITC's new Career Connections initiative connects you with talent seekers in the cancer immunotherapy field. Through an enhanced year-round online platform and in-person networking opportunities at SITC 2019, Career Connections will be your go-to resource for employment opportunities. Start your search at [sitcancer.org/CareerConnections](https://sitcancer.org/CareerConnections).

### **Meet-the-Experts Webinars**

Inspired by SITC's popular annual Meet-the-Expert Lunch, these free webinars virtually connect early career scientists with field experts for career guidance. Register for an upcoming webinar at [sitcancer.org/MTEwebinar](https://sitcancer.org/MTEwebinar).

### **SITC Professional Interest Communities**

Expand your professional network and converse online with colleagues about your career and solve hurdles in the field in SITC Professional Interest Communities. Join a community today at [sitcancer.org/professional-interest-communities](https://sitcancer.org/professional-interest-communities).

### **SITC Volunteer Portal**

To gain valuable experience in the field and expand your professional network, members can apply to open volunteer opportunities in the society via the SITC Volunteer Portal. Learn more at [sitcancer.org/volunteer](https://sitcancer.org/volunteer).

## Funding Opportunities

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To celebrate the achievements of young investigators in cancer immunotherapy, SITC annually honors dozens of early career scientists with SITC Abstract Travel Awards, Winter School Travel Awards and SITC Fellowships. Learn more about these initiatives at [sitcancer.org/funding/awards](https://sitcancer.org/funding/awards) or [sitcancer.org/fellowships](https://sitcancer.org/fellowships). Stay tuned for future SITC Fellowship announcements at [sitcancer.org/fellowships](https://sitcancer.org/fellowships).



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

# Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer

*Official Journal of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer*

## ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Online • Open Access • Peer Reviewed

The *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* (JITC), the open access, peer-reviewed online journal of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC), is currently indexed in six major databases including PubMed, PubMed Central, Medline, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Elsevier's Scopus database and Clarivate Analytics' Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE).

As a way to thank the SITC members who work tirelessly to advance the science and improve the lives of cancer patients, **SITC will provide SITC members with a 60 percent discount on processing fees for all JITC articles accepted in 2019.**

## JITC Impact Factor of 8.676.

The impact factor places JITC in the top 3 percent of all fully open access oncology journals and ranks it in the top 8 percent of all journals published in the oncology and immunology categories.



## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Pedro J. Romero, MD, JITC Editor-in-Chief, welcomes submissions on all aspects of tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy. Content areas include:

- Basic Tumor Immunology
- Case Reports
- Clinical Trials Monitor
- Clinical/Translational Cancer Immunotherapy
- Commentary/Editorials
- Guidelines and Consensus Statements
- Immunotherapy Biomarkers
- Reviews

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# Why I'm a SITC Member



*“SITC is a different type of society because it focuses on immuno-oncology in a holistic way through a cross-functional approach that connects a variety of different stakeholders. The result is a 360 degree view, incorporating all perspectives, which has a substantial impact on patient outcomes.”*

**Alessandra Cesano, MD, PhD**  
*ESSA Pharma Inc.*

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