OUR MISSION: SAVE MORE LIVES
by fueling the discovery and development
of powerful immunotherapies for all types
of cancer.

Established in 1953, the Cancer Research Institute (CRI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to harnessing our immune system’s power to control and potentially cure all types of cancer. To accomplish this, we fund the most innovative clinical and laboratory research around the world, support the next generation of the field's leaders, and serve as the trusted source of information on immunotherapy for cancer patients and their caregivers.
Carol Roth was diagnosed with stage 4 glioblastoma, an aggressive form of terminal brain cancer, in the fall of 2015. After standard treatments failed, she enrolled in a Cancer Research Institute Clinical Accelerator immunotherapy trial testing a combination of treatments—the anti-PD-L1 checkpoint inhibitor durvalumab (Imfinzi™) and the anti-angiogenic drug bevacizumab (Avastin®). Within 8 months, one of Carol’s tumors completely disappeared and the other shrunk by 80%. Today, Carol considers her condition very stable and remains busy at work and enjoying time off with her family and friends.

Watch Carol’s immunotherapy story at bit.ly/CarolsCRIStory
TOWARD A FUTURE IMMUNE TO CANCER

An unprecedented transformation in cancer treatment is under way. Many patients with previously untreatable cancers are living longer and with a better quality of life, and some remain free of disease indefinitely thanks to a new treatment approach called immunotherapy. While not all patients have such robust responses to treatment, these clinical successes demonstrate immunotherapy’s potential to provide lasting protection against many types of cancer.

This revolution originates in one of the Cancer Research Institute’s core beliefs—that our own immune system can be instrumental in controlling and eliminating cancer. This once obscure idea, nurtured by CRI since 1953, is now the primary driver of progress in cancer treatment, and has the potential to treat all types of cancer.

In fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017), we awarded $17.5 million of donor support to fund the highly promising laboratory and clinical research of 56 scientists at 35 institutions in 7 countries, and continued to support another 166 active investigators awarded in previous years. Their work draws upon insights from diverse disciplines to deepen our understanding of the science behind immunotherapy and inform the next generation of lifesaving treatments.

In addition to our longest-standing funding programs like our CRI Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and our Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program, we launched several new programs and partnerships in 2017 to speed the development of promising therapies in a variety of rare or hard-to-treat cancers, including fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma—a rare form of liver cancer—colorectal cancer, and pancreatic cancer. We awarded a $1 million Technology Impact Award for the development of innovative microchip-based cancer models that mimic the ways tumors grow, spread, and interact with the immune system in the body. We also launched the Cancer Research Institute iAtlas project, a collaboration with Sage Bionetworks and the Institute for Systems Biology, to build an online database and web resource to help researchers navigate massive stores of immunological data across 33 cancer types.

Through the Anna-Maria Kellen Clinical Accelerator, our unique model for nonprofit-academic-industry collaboration to speed the development of promising immunotherapy combinations, we formed several powerful new partnerships, including one involving more than 30 research groups that aims to establish optimal computational methods to identify potential targets for personalized immunotherapy, and an agreement to conduct trials including Bristol-Myers Squibb drugs across CRI and Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy investigator networks.

Earlier this year we bolstered our clinical efforts by recruiting a new chief medical officer, Aiman Shalabi, Pharm.D., MBA, BCOP, who has 20 years’ experience developing transformative medicines within private and public research institutions including AstraZeneca and the National Cancer Institute. A pioneer in cross-sector R&D collaborations, Dr. Shalabi brings a unique leadership and business skillset to our clinical program that will keep CRI at the forefront of collaborative research in immuno-oncology.
FROM CRI’S LEADERSHIP

Filling out our core commitments are our efforts to serve as a trusted source of information to patients and caregivers that are learning about immunotherapy for the first time. We provided information on immunotherapy to millions through our website, educational webinars, videos, and patient stories. In June, our 5th annual Cancer Immunotherapy Month enabled our donors and partners to help spread the word about the latest advances in immuno-oncology, reaching more than 5 million people online via social media and other digital platforms.

We matched more than 1,500 patients with clinical trials through our Immunotherapy Clinical Trial Finder, which helps patients and their caregivers navigate an otherwise daunting search process. We also hosted our first Immunotherapy Patient Summit in New York City, where patients and caregivers engaged with immunotherapy experts who discussed the latest advances, learned from fellow patients treated with immunotherapy, and gained 1-on-1 access to our clinical trial navigators. The event was so well received that we have since expanded the program to five U.S. cities for fiscal year 2018.

There has never been more optimism and hope that we will rein in cancer once and for all. With more research, we can discover why immunotherapy works for some patients but not others, and can develop new strategies to overcome these challenges so that more patients benefit. We at the Cancer Research Institute look forward to realizing this vision with the continued generous support of our donors and partner organizations.
POWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTIFIC LEADERS

The CRI Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship Program provides training and financial support to the most promising young scientists working in the labs of world-leading cancer immunologists. CRI fellows are deepening our knowledge of the immune system, laying the foundation for tomorrow’s immunotherapy breakthroughs. In the past year:

**Hsin Chen, Ph.D.**, of the University of California, San Francisco, identified a gene that—when mutated—impairs the ability of immune cells to migrate to different tissues and mount quick immune responses.

**Jonathan M. Clingan, Ph.D.**, of the University of Washington, in Seattle, WA, revealed an unexpected role of an RNA enzyme that could redefine its potential applications in cancer immunotherapy.

**Carmen Gerlach, Ph.D.**, of Harvard Medical School, in Boston, MA, discovered a new type of memory T cell that—due to its proliferative and migratory abilities—may have great potential in future immunotherapies.

**Matthew Gubin, Ph.D.**, of Washington University in St. Louis, MO, used genetic engineering and vaccines to highlight the existence of immunodominance in tumor antigens, which could help improve personalized immunotherapy for patients.

**Adam Williamson, Ph.D.**, of the University of California, San Francisco, created a new type of CAR (chimeric antigen receptor) that enables innate immune cells to recognize and take “bites” out of cancer cells.

**Zhenyu Zhong, Ph.D.**, of the University of California, San Diego, identified an important master regulator of liver disease and cancer as well as two different methods by which its effects could be prevented.

"**CRI’s support of postdoctoral research fuels a crucial training period for biomedical scientists. The funding enables trainees from diverse corners of the research community to carry out pioneering work and test the most innovative hypotheses.**"
Work led by former CRI postdoctoral fellows E. John Wherry, Ph.D. (2000-2003) and Kristen Pauken, Ph.D. (2014-2016) revealed an association between the vigor of T cells relative to the size of a tumor and anti-PD-1 immunotherapy benefits for melanoma patients. The team is using these insights to explore new strategies to improve combination immunotherapy involving checkpoint blockade.
The Clinical and Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP) supports scientists conducting translational research aimed at improving the effectiveness of immunotherapies. By providing up to $200,000 over two years, CLIP grants enable investigators to derive insights from dialogue between the lab and the clinic, ultimately leading to improved treatments for patients.

ENGINEERING NANOPARTICLES TO PREVENT METASTASIS

Michael S. Goldberg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Metastatic tumors that have spread to other organs cause more than 90% of cancer-related deaths. To address this, Dr. Goldberg developed nanoparticles equipped with specialized enzymes that degrade metastasis-promoting structures produced by neutrophils, and was able to use this technology to prevent lung metastases in a preclinical model of breast cancer.

TARGETING MYELOID IMMUNE CELLS WITH IMMUNOTHERAPY

Susan Kaech, Ph.D., Waldemar Von Zedwitz Professor of Immunobiology, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Dr. Kaech characterized how immunotherapies that target myeloid cells can improve immune responses against tumors. She found that “hitting the gas pedal” via activation of the CD40 pathway can create tumor-killing myeloid cells that suppress melanoma growth. Meanwhile, “releasing the brakes” via inhibition of CSF1R limited expansion of pro-tumor macrophages. In combination, these two treatments produced more effective immune responses against tumors.

My personal goal is to deeply understand how the immune system recognizes cancers and eliminates it, and then to use that knowledge to develop increasingly specific and powerful therapies to control cancer. Support from CRI is empowering me to take on this basic question with the most modern tools available.”
IMPACT

ZEROING IN ON RESISTANCE TO TREATMENT

CLIP investigator Nir Hacohen, Ph.D., of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, found that certain mutations were associated with melanoma patients who developed resistance to checkpoint immunotherapy, and identified differences in the tumor-infiltrating immune cells between responders and non-responders. Moving forward, these insights could help doctors predict which patients are most likely to benefit from immunotherapy and lead to new ways to improve immunotherapy’s effectiveness for more patients.

— NIR HACOHEN, PH.D.

Co-Director, Cell Circuits Program
Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
CLIP Investigator

IMMUNOTHERAPY COMBINED WITH CHEMORADIOThERAPY IN CERVICAL CANCER

W. Martin Kast, Ph.D., Walter A. Richter Cancer Research Chair, Director of Medical Biology Graduate Program, Professor, University of Southern California School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Kast found that the combination of chemotherapy and radiation therapy, known as CRT, followed by treatment with ipilimumab, a checkpoint immunotherapy that targets the CTLA4 pathway, appeared to lead to improved anti-tumor immune activity in patients with cervical cancer. In a small study with twelve patients, all but one of the patients with locally advanced cervical cancer who completed their treatment experienced complete elimination of their tumors after this combination treatment strategy.
COLLABORATION TO ACCELERATE CANCER CURES

The Anna-Maria Kellen Clinical Accelerator is a unique partnership model designed to develop, organize, and de-risk clinical study of next-generation combination cancer immunotherapies in collaboration with other nonprofits, academic institutions, and companies active in the immuno-oncology space.

CRI’s clinical research platform is powered by a comprehensive set of resources that includes a global clinical trials network, landscape intelligence, a nonprofit venture fund, access to a menu of experimental agents, bioinformatics and translational resources, and clinical trials management.

To design and carry out the most innovative immunotherapy combination trials, we partner with nonprofits like Ludwig Cancer Research and the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI), along with 15 industry companies providing access to more than 50 promising reagents, and our international network of more than 80 immunotherapy experts throughout the world.

“The most important inventions I have witnessed in my career resulted from collaborating with experts from academia. Having this opportunity to build on these experiences will help us achieve our common goal—finding cures for patients with cancer.”
2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- We announced the Tumor Neoantigen Selection Alliance (TESLA), a collaboration with PICI and more than 30 world-leading neoantigen research groups. TESLA teams are working to establish optimal computational methods to identify markers found on individual patients’ tumors that are likely to be good targets for effective personalized cancer immunotherapy.

- We deepened our collaboration with PICI with the announcement in March of a multi-year clinical research partnership with Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) designed to initiate clinical immuno-oncology studies rapidly across the CRI and PICI networks.

- Our current portfolio now includes 11 open or active clinical trials, with 4 additional trials expected to open in fiscal year 2018. Over 300 patients were enrolled in these trials in 2017 involving 20 different types of cancer.

IMPACT

NEW TREATMENT OPTION FOR PANCREATIC CANCER PATIENTS

The first trial to stem from our newly announced collaboration with BMS and PICI offers patients with pancreatic cancer—one of the deadliest forms of cancer—a unique combination of two immunotherapies provided by BMS and the biotech company Apexigen, and two standard-of-care chemotherapy drugs. The study will advance our understanding of how these two classes of cancer treatment can work together to improve responses in patients with this difficult-to-treat cancer.

— AIMAN SHALABI, PHARM.D., MBA, BCOP
Chief Medical Officer, CRI

Click to see all Clinical Accelerator grants
Through Impact Grants, CRI funds projects aimed at advancing defined scientific and technological goals and addressing major challenges that would otherwise limit progress in cancer immunotherapy research and drug development.

**TECHNOLOGY IMPACT AWARD**

Dongeun “Dan” Huh, Ph.D.
Wilf Family Term Assistant Professor of Bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Huh—the recipient of the $1 million CRI Technology Impact Award, the largest award CRI has ever provided to a single investigator—is creating a “cancer-on-a-chip” device capable of mimicking the complex structure and dynamic environment of tumors. The project will draw upon multiple disciplines of expertise, including cancer biology, tumor immunology, and microengineering. Importantly, the novel model of tumor-immune system interaction will contain blood vessels allowing immune cells to circulate as they do in our bodies. Dr. Huh and his colleagues also aim to explore the model’s potential as a drug-screening platform that could better predict the effectiveness of cancer treatments.

"I believe that new biological insights and novel research tools resulting from this study will potentially make significant contributions to cancer immunology and eventually enable more effective and personalized immunotherapies for cancer patients."

— Dan Huh, Ph.D.
Insights derived from these data will be critical to improving the effectiveness of current cancer immunotherapy treatments and developing new immune-based treatment strategies.”

— JUSTIN GUINNEY, PH.D.
Principal Investigator, Director of Computational Oncology, Sage Bionetworks
CRI has long championed cancer immunology research with the ultimate goal of developing immunotherapies for all forms of cancer. Other nonprofits looking to make immunotherapy available to their communities are invited to partner with us, combining our resources and expertise for maximum impact. In 2017, CRI launched several new collaborations with nonprofit organizations in an effort to expand immunotherapy’s benefits to even more patients around the world.

FIBROLAMELLAR CANCER FOUNDATION

CRI and the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation teamed up to fund four scientists working to better understand how immunotherapy might be able to help treat this rare but deadly form of liver cancer that primarily affects adolescents and young adults with no prior history of liver disease.

“This support will allow me to undertake preclinical studies that will be the first steps toward bringing the lasting protection provided by immunotherapy to patients suffering from this rare cancer.”

— KEVIN C. BARRY, PH.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, San Francisco
**FIGHT COLORECTAL CANCER**

CRI and Fight Colorectal Cancer (CRC) co-funded a grant to support the work of Cynthia Sears, M.D., a professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, who is studying the role bacteria play in impeding or enhancing the immune system’s ability to target and eliminate colorectal tumors. Later in 2017, the two organizations published a “blueprint” to advance colorectal cancer immunotherapies¹, a result of a series of workshops bringing together immunotherapy and CRC experts.

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**FOCUSED ULTRASOUND FOUNDATION**

Focused ultrasound (FUS) offers a non-invasive alternative to surgery, especially for hard-to-reach tumors, and has significant potential to enhance the effectiveness of immunotherapies such as checkpoint blockade. In 2017, CRI formalized its longstanding relationship with the Focused Ultrasound Foundation to establish a fund to support research to advance this combination approach to treating various cancers. Previously, the two organizations co-sponsored workshops bringing together FUS and immunotherapy experts and co-funded research in this area.

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**ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND**

In partnership with the Israel Cancer Research Fund, CRI has established The Immunotherapy Promise™, a first-of-its-kind initiative dedicated exclusively to identifying and funding the most promising cancer immunotherapy research in Israel. The two organizations have begun raising funds for this important initiative and expect to make the first grants in fiscal year 2018.

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"Colorectal cancer has historically been understudied and underfunded even though it’s the second-leading cause of cancer deaths. We are committed to funding research and thrilled to partner with CRI to award vital work in immunotherapy targeting this disease.”

— ANJEE DAVIS
President, Fight CRC

"Drawing on the expertise of our two organizations and our diverse research communities, we expect to advance more streamlined and rigorous research that will enable quicker progress toward clinical trials, while also enabling better standardization in the field and increased consistency of protocols.”

— JESSICA FOLEY, PH.D.
Chief Scientific Officer,
Focused Ultrasound Foundation

"We are in the midst of a watershed era for immunotherapy, and this groundbreaking partnership has the potential to yield breakthrough research while building long-overdue appreciation and recognition for Israeli cancer research.”

— ROB DENSEN
President, Israel Cancer Research Fund

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HARNESSING INDUSTRY EXPERTISE

The Cancer Immunotherapy Consortium (CIC) is a think tank of industry leaders from the cancer immunotherapy field who seek solutions to challenges in late-stage drug development.

The CIC was founded in 2002 as an international membership association of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and academic institutions with a common interest in immunotherapy research and development, with the ultimate goal of making cancer immunotherapies part of the standard of care in oncology.

With the 2011 FDA approval of ipilimumab (Yervoy®), an immune checkpoint inhibitor drug, the first milestone toward this goal was achieved. Given the substantial increase in development activity and clinical success of other immunotherapy agents that followed, and in an effort to continue to provide maximum value to the rapidly evolving field, the direction of the CIC was re-set to become a “think tank” that would convene and tackle topics of importance to the continued development of cancer immunotherapies.

The CIC now acts as a neutral platform whereby industry representatives work together to discuss important issues and collectively facilitate solutions to challenges in late-stage drug development, with the goal of accelerating patient benefit. Outcomes will be available to all stakeholders in the field through publishing of CIC proceedings.

Current topics under review include application of immune-related Response Criteria (irRC) across clinical studies in multiple tumor types, and second-generation biomarkers.

CIC member companies that run large trials have access to the quantity of clinical data needed to identify alternative endpoints that capture the full benefit of immunotherapy.”
CIC members have organized a workshop for academic, industry, and regulatory stakeholders to discuss key topics in the clinical development of cancer immunotherapies. Taking place in January 2018, workshop discussions will focus on existing and developing strategies to capture the full response to immunotherapy with an aim to identify clinical trial endpoints that can serve as surrogates for overall survival. An additional output will be a CIC plan for a collaborative approach moving forward on pre-competitive biomarkers that can help to identify patients more likely to respond to immunotherapy.

— AXEL HOOS, M.D., PH.D.
Senior Vice President, Oncology R&D, GSK
Co-Chairman, CIC Steering Committee
The CRI-CIMT-EATI-AACR International Cancer Immunotherapy Conference is a scientific meeting devoted to exploring the latest research in cancer immunotherapy. It attracts clinicians, scientists, drug developers, government regulators, and patient advocacy groups.

In fiscal year 2017, CRI once again joined forces with the Association for Cancer Immunotherapy (CIMT), the European Academy of Tumor Immunology (EATI), and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), to host the second CRI-CIMT-EATI-AACR International Cancer Immunotherapy Conference, held September 25-28, 2016, in New York City.

The conference, themed “Translating Science into Survival,” provided a premier platform for experts in immunology and immunotherapy—including many of CRI’s scientific advisors, clinical collaborators, and research fellows—to present the latest findings from the frontiers of the field.

Meeting highlights included: personalized immunotherapies for patients; strategies to enhance the anti-cancer activity of T cells; the impact of non-cancer cells in the tumor environment; the microbiome of bacteria within our bodies and how it affects anti-tumor immunity; and finally, new technologies that facilitate research and hopefully are leading to improved treatments.

Our international conference is the premier forum for all stakeholders in the field of cancer immunotherapy to come together, share ideas and data, and network with one another, laying the groundwork for future collaborations leading to new discoveries.”
The September 2016 conference brought together 1,400 scientists from all around the world, who attended plenary lectures given by 50 expert speakers. The conference also showcased nearly 300 poster presentations of cutting-edge research, and featured a Facebook Live broadcast of expert panelists moderated by CRI chief executive officer and director of scientific affairs, Jill O'Donnell-Tormey, Ph.D. The third conference in the series, occurring in fiscal year 2018, took place September 6-9, 2017, in Mainz/Frankfurt, Germany.

— JILL O’DONNELL-TORMEY, PH.D.
Chief Executive Officer
and Director of Scientific Affairs, CRI
BRINGING THE SCIENCE OF IMMUNOTHERAPY TO PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

As the trusted source of information on cancer immunotherapy, CRI is committed to educating patients, caregivers, and broader audiences about important developments in this rapidly evolving field of research and cancer treatment.

Cancer immunotherapy is a fast-moving field, and keeping up can be challenging for patients and their caregivers who are facing a cancer diagnosis. We provide educational programs designed to reach people who are unaware of immunotherapy’s promise and connect them to resources and communities that can help them on their treatment journeys.

"Immunotherapy was just a word to me. I am so grateful for having the opportunity to hear the scientists who are doing the work, and get an understandable overview of the subject. I’m ready to read more!"

― IMMUNOTHERAPY PATIENT SUMMIT ATTENDEE
Immunotherapy Patient Summit Series
In September 2016, we hosted our first-ever Immunotherapy Patient Summit in New York City. The half-day event, offered free of charge to attendees, connected patients and caregivers to leading immunotherapy experts, who provided basic information on how different types of immunotherapy work and discussed the latest in research and treatment. We also presented a session devoted to demystifying clinical trials and featured a panel of patients sharing their experiences in immunotherapy trials. The event was so well received, we have expanded the following year’s series to five U.S. cities, including San Francisco, Chicago, New York, Tampa, and Houston.

Immunotherapy Clinical Trial Finder
As part of our ongoing commitment to saving more lives, we offer a free, one-of-a-kind clinical trial finder service that helps patients navigate what can be a daunting process of finding immunotherapy trials for which they might be eligible. In 2017, nearly 1,500 patients using our fully-supported service were matched to trials, bringing the total helped to-date to just over 6,000 patients.

Cancer Immunotherapy and You Webinar Series
These free monthly webinars for patients and caregivers feature immunotherapy experts and interactive Q&A on a range of topics including: immunotherapy for bladder, breast, colorectal, head and neck, lung, pancreatic, pediatric, and prostate cancers, multiple myeloma, and clinical trials, along with a glance at the year ahead. Our webinars produced in 2017 have been viewed more than 305,000 times.

Preferred Destination for Trusted Information
More than 1 million website visitors per year rely on free information CRI provides on immunotherapy research and treatment for more than 20 different types of cancer.
CELEBRATING PROGRESS, URGING ACTION

One of the ways CRI advances immunotherapies for all cancers is by calling the public’s attention to the breakthrough treatments now available to patients as well as highlighting the urgent need to fund research so that more patients benefit.

Cancer Immunotherapy Month™
Each year in June, CRI amplifies online and offline conversations about cancer immunotherapy through a series of educational, social, and athletic events designed to promote awareness of this revolutionary approach to treatment and raise funds to support lifesaving research. In 2017, our 5th annual Cancer Immunotherapy Month featured:

- **Immunotherapy Patient Stories**: Five inspiring videos of patients sharing their experiences with cancer immunotherapy
- **Cancer Immunotherapy Trials - Patient Perspectives**: Webinar featuring three patients treated with immunotherapy in clinical trials sharing their experiences and answering audience questions
- **Ask a Scientist**: Short videos featuring an immunotherapy expert who answers patients’ most frequently asked questions about immunotherapy and clinical trials
- **Latest Immunotherapy News from ASCO**: Blog series reporting on latest developments in immunotherapy coming out of the world’s largest cancer conference

On behalf of all the survivors, I just want to say thank you. Without you, we would not be here.”

— SHARON BELVIN
Stage 4 melanoma survivor
Social Media and Offline Special Events

- **Immunotherapy Fact of the Day**: 30 unique facts about cancer immunotherapy, one per day throughout the month of June, in the form of shareable social media assets

- **#WearWhite Day**: A global social media event inviting people to show their support for cancer immunotherapy research by wearing white and posting a “selfie” to their social media channels

- **Answer to Cancer Cycling Event**: A ride with more than 400 participants through historic West Point and the surrounding Lower Hudson Valley on June 10, 2017, sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb. The event also featured a 5K Family Fun Run and Walk, live entertainment, and great food. The event raised more than $875,000 to support cancer research.

- **Corporate Events**: Day-long awareness, education, and fundraising activities to promote corporate commitment to social responsibility and employee health with participating companies around the world

Thank you to all our generous partners and supporters:

Abbvie; Advaxis Immunotherapies; Agenus; Basin Holdings; Bristol-Myers Squibb; Brooklyn Brewery; Clayton, Dubilier & Rice; Coalition for Clinical Trials Awareness; Debevoise & Plimpton; Juno Therapeutics; Genentech; Hudson Valley Harvest; Marriot Marquis New York; Merck, MUFG; Regeneron; Remedy Partners; PPD; PIMCO Foundation; USA Cycling; and VBT.

SHARON BELVIN welcomes participants at our 2017 Answer to Cancer cycling event
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

Each year, the Cancer Research Institute honors individuals and organizations that have made important contributions to the field of cancer immunotherapy.

THE WILLIAM B. COLEY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH IN BASIC IMMUNOLOGY

Dan R. Littman, M.D., Ph.D., New York University, for his work on immune cell differentiation and his contributions to the identification and biology of unique immune cell subsets and their underlying interaction with the microbiome

THE WILLIAM B. COLEY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH IN TUMOR IMMUNOLOGY

Ton Schumacher, Ph.D., Netherlands Cancer Institute, for his work that helped advance our understanding of how immune cells use tumor-specific neoantigens to recognize and attack cancer cells

THE FREDERICK W. ALT AWARD FOR NEW DISCOVERIES IN IMMUNOLOGY

E. John Wherry, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, for his work characterizing how T cell exhaustion is influenced by changes in gene expression

THE AACR-CRI LLOYD J. OLD AWARD IN CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

Olivera J. Finn, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, for pioneering work throughout her career, especially her discovery of the tumor-associated T cell target MUC1 and naturally produced anti-MUC1 antibodies

THE OLIVER R. GRACE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN ADVANCING CANCER RESEARCH

Robert A. Bradway, chairman and chief executive officer, Amgen, for advancing immuno-oncology research and drug development
1. JAMES ALLISON and TON SCHUMACHER
2. JILL O’DONNELL-TORMEY, OLIVERA FINN, and LAURIE GLIMCHER
3. E. JOHN WHERRY and ELLEN PURÉ
4. JAMES ALLISON and DAN LITTMAN

(FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT)
IN 2017:

56 NEW GRANTEES AT
35 INSTITUTIONS IN
11 STATES AND
7 COUNTRIES WITH
20+ CANCERS UNDER STUDY
In fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017), the Cancer Research Institute awarded $17.5 million for cancer immunology research and immunotherapy clinical development.

An * denotes grants newly awarded in fiscal year 2017. All others are active grants awarded in previous years.
CRI IRVINGTON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Boston Children’s Hospital, Boston, MA
Sadeem Ahmad, Ph.D.*
Non-canonical activation of the innate immune receptor MDA5 in immune disorder and cancer therapy

Zhaoqing Ba, Ph.D.
Mechanisms that mediate intra-locus and inter-locus regulation of V(D)J recombination at immunoglobulin light chain loci
Samuel and Ruth Engelberg Fellow

Bradley Wayne Blaser, M.D., Ph.D.
Immunologic regulation of hematopoietic stem cell engraftment

Ross W. Cheloha, Ph.D.*
Study of B cell antigen receptor trafficking

Jiazhi Hu, Ph.D.
Mechanisms that target AID for antibody gene diversification and for oncogenic chromosomal translocations
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Jun Hu, Ph.D.*
Targeting Gasdermin D for potential therapeutic interventions
Margaret Dammann Eisner Fellow

Cheng-Sheng Lee, Ph.D.
Elucidating the mechanism and the impacts of RAG tracking

Mohammad Rashidian, Ph.D.
Non-invasive imaging of immune responses for early detection of cancer and to monitor immunotherapy

Heng Ru, Ph.D.
Structural and biochemical studies of the antigen receptor gene recombination machinery

Liman Zhang, Ph.D.
Structural studies of NAIP/NLRC4 inflammasomes in immunity and cancer

Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA
Le Cong, Ph.D.
Dissection of cellular states and transcriptional networks regulating innate immunity during tumorigenesis

Livnat Jerby, Ph.D.
Integrating CRISPR with single-cell RNA-sequencing to map the underlying circuits of immune evasion mechanisms in melanoma
The Hearst Foundations Fellow

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA
Andrew I. Flyak, Ph.D.
The structural basis of HCV neutralization by broadly neutralizing human antibodies

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
Nathan Roy, Ph.D.
Modulation of T cell trafficking by Crk adapter proteins

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
Adam N. R. Cartwright, Ph.D.
Systematic discovery of combination immunotherapy targets

Carina C. de Oliveira Mann, Ph.D.*
Mechanism of STING activation of distinct immune signaling outputs
Eugene V. Weissman Fellow

Bo Hu, Ph.D.*
Investigate the role of Prdm16 in the immunoregulation of tumorigenesis
Leonard Kahn Foundation Fellow

Hidetoshi Nakagawa, M.D., Ph.D.*
Helios, Treg stability, and cancer immunotherapy

Deng Pan, M.D., Ph.D.*
Systematic discovery of immune modulators in tumor cells
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Emory University, Atlanta, GA
William H. Hudson, Ph.D.
Deciphering the role of IncRNAs in CD8+ T cell differentiation

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA
Shivani Srivastava, Ph.D.*
An autochthonous solid tumor model to evaluate strategies for enhancing CAR-T cell therapy

Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
Carmen Gerlach, Ph.D.
Differentiation, function, and dynamic behavior of transitional memory cells (TTM): A novel subset of CD8+ memory T cells

Jason Edward Hudak, Ph.D.
Understanding microbial sensing in colorectal cancer using bioorthogonal chemistry

Chaoran Li, Ph.D.
Differentiation and accumulation of adipose-tissue Tregs: Important players in the immunological control of metabolism and obesity-associated cancer

Kathleen A. McGuire, Ph.D.
The role of the PD-1/PD-ligand pathway in anti-tumor immunity

Kristen Elaine Pauken, Ph.D.
Anti-PD-1 immunotherapy: Mechanisms and impact on sustainability of CD8+ T cell responses
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Nisarg J. Shah, Ph.D.*
Designing a synthetic bone marrow niche to overcome immunodeficiency

Alexandra M. Whiteley, Ph.D.
The role of Ubiquilin-1 in BCR-driven lymphoma proliferation
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA
Lior Lobel, Ph.D.
Identifying novel effectors of the gut microbiota that modulate cancer cells killing by CD8+ T cells using functional metagenomics

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
Helene M. Salmon, Ph.D.
Contribution of the cutaneous myeloid network to melanoma response to therapy
Robertson Foundation Fellow

La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, La Jolla, CA
Christophe Pedros, Ph.D.
Control of regulatory T cell function by protein kinase C-eta (PKC): A novel target for cancer immunotherapy

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Alexandra Boussommier, Ph.D.
Characterizing the role of macrophages in breast cancer cell extravasation and recolonization in organ-specific 3D microfluidic models

Maria P. Frushicheva, Ph.D.
ZAP-70 and Syk regulation in B cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia

Padmini Sushila Pillai, Ph.D.*
Oral delivery of inflammation-targeting resolvin nanoparticles to treat IBD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Simone Becattini, Ph.D.
Exploring colonization resistance against Listeria monocytogenes in cancer patients

Zihou Deng, Ph.D.*
Roles of macrophage subsets in tumorigenesis

Pu Gao, Ph.D.
Structural and functional studies of cytosolic DNA sensing pathway
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Jing-Ping Hsin, Ph.D.
The effects of cellular context on miR-155 mediated regulation of gene expression
Young Philanthropists Council Fellow

Wei Hu, Ph.D.
Tissue repair function of regulatory T cells during infection and cancer progression

Alejandra Mendoza, Ph.D.*
Role of “non-immune” functions of regulatory T cells in tissue homeostasis and cancer development
Bristol-Myers Squibb Fellow

Fella Tamzalit, Ph.D.
The role of the centrosome in cytotoxic T cell function
Lloyd J. Old Fellow

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH, Bethesda, MD
Michael G. Constantinides, Ph.D.
Role of the microbiome in lung cancer
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Ivan Vujkovic-Cvijin, Ph.D.
Identifying novel microbiome-based immunotherapeutics for melanoma

National Institute on Aging, NIH, Bethesda, MD
Geoffrey Lovely, Ph.D.
Watching RAG recombinase assembly on the IgH locus and off-target assembly in live pro-B cells

The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Chong Sun, Ph.D.*
Unraveling the biology of CMTM6, a novel regulator of PD-L1 identified through genome-wide genetic screening

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Elizabeth M. Steinert, Ph.D.*
Mitochondrial respiration in CD8 T cell-mediated immune responses to solid tumors

NYU Langone Medical Center, New York, NY
Priya Darshinee A. Issuree, Ph.D.
Roles of Runx3 in inflammatory T cells and colorectal cancer

Ranit Kedmi, Ph.D.*
Antigen presenting cells as coordinators of T cell responses to gut microbiota

Hao Xu, Ph.D.
Identification of the RORt ligands, protein complexes and targeting signals involved in Th17 cell-mediated homeostasis and pathogenesis
Mo Xu, Ph.D.
Intestinal microbiota-induced Th17 responses in systemic inflammatory disease
Margaret Dammann Eisner Fellow

The Rockefeller University, New York, NY
Rony Dahan, Ph.D.
Enhancing monoclonal antibody-mediated immune responses within the tumor microenvironment

Jonatan Ersching, Ph.D.*
Molecular control of B cell proliferation in germinal centers
The Hearst Foundations Fellow

Harald Hartweger, Ph.D.
The effect of replicative stresses on the genesis of chromosome translocations

Qiang Li, Ph.D.*
Chemical biology of anti-inflammatory lipids

Yen-Chih Wang, Ph.D.
Chemical biology of microbiota protection against gastrointestinal cancer

Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA
Liang Chen, M.D., Ph.D.*
Systemic identification of melanoma-specific antigens that can elicit cytotoxic T cell responses following anti-PD1 immunotherapy
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Polimyr Caesar Dave Pelisco Dingal, Ph.D.
Programmable cancer recognition using a chimeric system of notch and CRISPR

Julia Kennedy-Darling, Ph.D.
Spatially defined immune cell distribution within tumor microenvironments before and after PD-L1 inhibitor treatment

Monica M. Olcina, Ph.D.
Innate immunity and cancer: Targeting the complement system to improve treatment response

Ansuman T. Satpathy, M.D., Ph.D.*
Single cell epigenomics in cancer immunity and immunotherapy

Qian Yin, Ph.D.
Activation of endogenous anergic self-specific CD8+ T cells by polymeric nanoparticles for enhanced cancer immunotherapy
Lloyd J. Old Fellow

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Rockville, MD
Maria Kathleen Traver, Ph.D.
Macroautophagic control of lymphocyte activation and proliferation

University Health Network, Toronto, Canada
Christian Bassi, Ph.D.
Role of HMGB1 in breast cancer resistance to chemotherapy

Julie Leca, Ph.D.*
Therapeutic implications of altered epigenetics and DNA damage responses in IDH2-mutated hematologic diseases

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
Rutger David Luteijn, Ph.D.*
Inflammatory pathways in senescence-induced tumor formation

Olivia Majer, Ph.D.
Dysregulated Toll-like receptor responses as an oncogenic driver

Kathleen Pestal, Ph.D.*
The regulation of apoptotic cell-clearance identity in tissue-resident macrophages

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA
Sascha Hans Duttke, Ph.D.
Reprogramming macrophage phenotypes during immunosurveillance and neoplastic progression

KEVIN MICHAEL SULLIVAN, M.D.*

Bengt Martin Gustavsson, Ph.D.
Structural basis of CXCR7 ligand binding and signaling
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Claudia Han, Ph.D.*
Epigenomic modulation of microglia function in homeostasis and gliomas

Shabnam Shalapour, Ph.D.
Development of immunosuppressive plasma cells that interfere with T cell-dependent immunogenic cancer chemotherapy

Zhenyu Zhong, Ph.D.
Identification of key immune homeostatic regulators that control obesity-induced liver inflammation and disease

University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Kevin C. Barry, Ph.D.*
Interrogation of immune responses to fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma
CRI Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation Fellow

En Cai, Ph.D.*
Understanding the fundamental processes of T cell immunity through high precision 3D dynamic imaging of antigen recognition
Hsin Chen, Ph.D.
Mechanisms controlling lymphocyte retention in and egress from tissue

Adam H. Courtney, Ph.D.
Elucidation of Lck feedback mechanisms
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Brian R. Graziano, Ph.D.
Using optogenetics to probe the in vivo biochemistry of cell movement

Rogelio Antonio Hernandez-Lopez, Ph.D.
Engineering antigen density sensors for T cell immunotherapy
Merck Fellow

Adam Jacob Litterman, Ph.D.
A global map of mRNA regulatory elements in CD8+ T cells

Dan Liu, Ph.D.
LysoPS and its receptors as regulators of T cell responses and tumorigenesis
Astra Zeneca Fellow

Edward W. Roberts, Ph.D.
Lifespan, fate, and function of immune cells educated in primary tumors

Megan K. Ruhland, Ph.D.
Mechanisms of peripheral self-tolerance contribute to immune tolerance to cancer

Xiaolei Su, Ph.D.
Mechanisms underlying the dynamic organization of T cell microclusters
Eugene V. Weissman Fellow

Adam Williamson, Ph.D.
Activation of corpse engulfment to alleviate tumor-induced neurotoxicity

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Pamela C. Rosato, Ph.D.
Harnessing tissue resident memory T cells to combat solid tumors

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Mohamed Abdel Hakeem, Ph.D.
Reprogramming of exhausted T lymphocytes following cure of chronic viral infection: Implications for immunotherapy

Anthony Tsai-Chieh Phan, Ph.D.
Redefining the T cell-intrinsic role of IL-27 signaling in the tumor microenvironment
Robertson Foundation Fellow

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas TX
Tuo Li, Ph.D.
Roles of mammalian cyclic dinucleotide signaling in cancer therapies

Ka Ho Stephen Mok, Ph.D.
Effects of anti-CTLA-4 and anti-PD-1 on memory T-cell differentiation

Xiaojun Tan, Ph.D.
Phosphoinositide regulation of STING trafficking and cancer immunity

Haidong Tang, Ph.D.
Tumor-specific LIGHT targeting for cancer immunotherapy

University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Jonathan M. Clingan, Ph.D.
Integration of transcriptional and translational control of the antiviral response

Marc Joseph Lajoie, Ph.D.
Protein nanoparticles to elicit defined T cell response against cancer cells

Kevin Michael Sullivan, M.D.
T cell immunotherapy in fibrolamellar cancer
CRI Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation Fellow

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Sofia L. Novais de Oliveira, Ph.D.
The role of the innate immune system in fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma (FL-HCC): FHL2 as a putative molecular target
CRI Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation Fellow

Davalyn Renee Powell, Ph.D.
The role of neutrophils and CXCL8-CXCR1/2 signaling in glioblastoma cell invasion

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Katy Beckermann, M.D., Ph.D.
Metabolic barriers to T cell function and immunotherapy in renal cell carcinoma
Merck Fellow

Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
Jennifer Kaoru Bando, Ph.D.
Immune modulation of dormant skin tumor development and persistence

Matthew Michael Gubin, Ph.D.
Using genomics to identify targets of checkpoint blockade cancer treatment and to identify optimal target antigens for vaccination
Danielle M Lussier, Ph.D.*
Broadening the cancer immunotherapeutic window via subclinical irradiation
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY
Chang-Suk Chae, Ph.D.*
Incessant ER stress responses promote dendritic cell dysfunction in ovarian cancer
Dr. Keith Landesman Memorial Fellow

Li Zhang, Ph.D.*
Type I interferon control of macrophage cell death
Robertson Foundation Fellow

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, MA
Yang Eric Guo, Ph.D.
Biogenesis and regulatory functions of super-enhancer RNAs in cancer cells of the immune system

Kehui Xiang, Ph.D.
Investigate the importance and mechanism of poly(A) tail length-mediated translational control in different immune cells

Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
Najla Arshad, Ph.D.
The effect of tumor-associated mutant calreticulin on antigen presentation and tumorigenesis

Will Harrison Bailis, Ph.D.
Identification and characterization of immune escape mechanisms in leukemia

Guoliang Cui, Ph.D.
The influence of nutrient availability in the tumor microenvironment on CD8+ T cell survival and function

Ruth A. Franklin, Ph.D.
The role of macrophages in tissue homeostasis and tumor progression
Donald J. Gogel Fellow

Guangchuan Wang, Ph.D.*
Genetic dissection of PD-1 pathway immune checkpoint blockade in liver cancer

CLINIC AND LABORATORY INTEGRATION PROGRAM (CLIP)

Austin Health/Ludwig Cancer Research, Melbourne, Australia
Jonathan S. Cebon, Ph.D., FRACP
Evaluation of ROPN & SPANX as targets for antigen-specific immunotherapy
Wade F. B. Thompson CLIP Investigator

Brigham and Women’s Hospital/ Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
Niroshana Anandasabapathy, M.D., Ph.D.
Actioning a newly-defined target of peripheral tumor-immune surveillance in dendritic cells

Lydia Lynch, Ph.D.*
The relationship between metformin, obesity, and cancer immunotherapy success

Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA
Nir Hacohen, Ph.D.
Unbiased single cell analysis of the lung tumor microenvironment to understand failure modes of checkpoint blockade inhibitors
Wade F. B. Thompson CLIP Investigator

City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, CA
Markus Muschen, M.D., Ph.D.
Targeted hyperactivation of B cell receptor signaling to amplify therapeutic responses to CART19-treatment

Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY
David M. Owens, Ph.D.
Therapeutic targeting of intrinsic T cell suppression during anti-tumor immunity

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
Philip J. Kranzusch, Ph.D.*
Controlling activation of STING responses in cancer immunotherapy

Fundación para la Investigación Médica Aplicada (FIMA), Pamplona, Spain
Ignacio Melero, M.D., Ph.D.*
Functional expression of PD-L1 on professional cross-priming dendritic cells

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
Nina Bhardwaj, M.D., Ph.D.
Analysis of immune responses induced by in situ, autologous therapeutic vaccination against solid cancers with intratumoral hiltonol (Poly-ICLC)

Joshua D. Brody, M.D.
Understanding a novel in situ lymphoma vaccine: Neo-antigen discovery with whole exome sequencing and neo-antigen-reactive T cell checkpoint molecule profiling with CyTOF

La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, La Jolla, CA
Stephen P. Schoenberger, Ph.D.
Exome-guided neoantigen discovery and validation in HNSCC
Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands
Ferry A. Ossendorp, Ph.D.
Novel vaccine nanoformulations for clinical mutanome-based cancer immunotherapy

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
Shadmehr Demehri, M.D., Ph.D.*
CD4+ T cell immunity against early skin carcinogenesis

Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D.
Improving immunotherapy for metastatic breast cancer via normalization of the tumor microenvironment

Andrew D. Luster, M.D., Ph.D.
Targeting the CXCR3 chemokine system to improve anti-PD-1 immunotherapy

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Haidong Dong, M.D., Ph.D.
Monitoring T cell responses during anti-PD-1 therapy

Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
Li Wang, Ph.D.*
Defining the role of a novel T cell-regulatory receptor in the development of anti-tumor immunity

Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
Mark P. Rubinstein, Ph.D.
Generating human tumor-reactive T cells with high levels of IL-2Ra for adoptive T cell therapy

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Alexander Y. Rudensky, Ph.D.
Immunoregulatory correlates of a phase I/II study of mogamulizumab (KW-0761) in subjects with advanced and/or metastatic solid tumors

Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Derek Alan Wainwright, Ph.D.
IDO1 in glioblastoma; translating work from mouse to man
Wade F. B. Thompson CLIP Investigator

NYU Langone Medical Center, New York, NY
John Carucci, M.D., Ph.D.
Targeting the immune system to treat aggressive squamous cell carcinoma

Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR
Amanda Lund, Ph.D.
FasL expressing lymphatic vessels in melanoma

Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ontario, Canada
John C. Bell, Ph.D.
Bio-engineering an oncolytic vaccinia virus to augment the anti-tumor immune response in human cancers

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia
Mark John Smyth, Ph.D., FAHMS
(1) The pre-clinical validation of CD96 as a checkpoint target for cancer immunotherapy
Wade F. B. Thompson CLIP Investigator;
(2) Targeting NK cell differentiation in cancer

Saint Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
Ryan M. Teague, Ph.D.
Defining the mechanisms of human T cell rescue by checkpoint blockade immunotherapy

San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy
Matteo Bellone, M.D.
Combining adoptive T cell therapy to tumor vessel targeting and checkpoint blockade for cancer therapy

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
Bruno Sainz, Jr., Ph.D.
Role of the innate immune system in promoting cancer stem cells

Universita di Verona, Verona, Italy
Vincenzo Bronte, Ph.D.*
Neutralizing human arginase to enhance cancer immunotherapy

Universite de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
Ping-Chih Ho, Ph.D.*
UCP2-regulated immunostimulatory shift of the tumor microenvironment in melanomas

University Health Network, Toronto, Canada
Tak W. Mak, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.C.
Evaluating the role of Toso-mediated inflammation in anti-tumor responses

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Hilary Ann Coller, Ph.D.*
Testing stromal autophagy as a predictor of melanoma immunity

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Stephen J. Kron, M.D., Ph.D.*
Radiation-enhanced delivery of checkpoint blockade antibodies

The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia
Jose A. Villadangos, Ph.D.
Characterization and prevention of “Stunning,” a cytotoxic T lymphocyte inactivating program that impairs adoptive cell therapy against cancer
University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
Paul Klenerman, M.D., Ph.D.
Licensing human MAIT cells to kill hepatocellular carcinomas

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
W. Martin Kast, Ph.D.
Anti-CTLA-4 immune modulation following chemoradiation in cervical cancer patients

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Michael A. Curran, Ph.D.
Hypoxia drives tumor immune suppression and immunotherapy resistance

University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France
Roland S. Liblau, M.D., Ph.D.
EVER proteins: Immune control of skin infection by beta-human papillomaviruses and skin cancer

University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA
Craig L. Slingluff, Jr., M.D.
(1) Retention integrins: induction and function on cancer-reactive T lymphocytes

Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
Sidi Chen, Ph.D.
Systematic identification of druggable targets for enhancement of PD-1 checkpoint blockade therapy in melanoma

Susan M. Kaech, Ph.D.
(1) Enhancing immunotherapy-based cancer treatments through CD40-dependent immunomodulation of the tumor microenvironment
Wade F. B. Thompson CLIP Investigator;
(2) Elucidating cellular and genetic factors associated with tumor resistance to immunotherapies
Oliver R. Grace CLIP Investigator

COORDINATED CANCER INITIATIVES

Institut Gustave-Roussy, Villejuif, France
Maha Ayyoub, Ph.D.
Role of the gut microbiota in the ontogeny and homeostasis of regulatory CD4 T cells and in their alteration along immune responses to ovarian cancer

CLINICAL ACCELERATOR

CLINICAL STRATEGY TEAM GRANTS

Team Leads: Nina Bhardwaj, M.D., Ph.D., and Sacha Gnjatic, Ph.D.
Investigators: Eric Schadt, Ph.D., Rachel Sabado, Ph.D., Matthew D. Galsky, M.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
The mutation-derived tumor antigen landscape of advanced bladder cancer: A platform to optimize cancer immunotherapy

Team Leads: Hideho Okada, M.D., Ph.D., and Lawrence Fong, M.D., University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Investigators: Robert P. Edwards, M.D., Pawel Kalinski, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA; Kunle Odunsi, M.D., Ph.D., Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY
Enhancing T-cell homing to solid cancers by stimulating proper chemokines
Team Lead: Andrew Sikora, M.D., Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Investigators: Sacha Gnjatic, Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY; Christine Chung, M.D., Ph.D., Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL; Nham Tran, Ph.D., University of Technology, Sydney, Australia; Cornellis J.M. Melief, M.D., Ph.D., Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands
Targeting the tumor immune microenvironment to enhance immune-stimulating effects of chemoradiotherapy

Team Lead: Craig L. Slingluff Jr., M.D.
Investigators: Victor Engelhard, Ph.D., Timothy Bullock, Ph.D., and Mark Kester, Ph.D., University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA; Jamal Zweit, Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Immunotherapeutic targeting cell surface neoantigen SAS1B (Ovastacin, ASTL)

Team Lead: Mark J. Smyth, Ph.D., FAHMS, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia
Investigators: Scott J. Antonia, M.D., Ph.D., Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL; Georgina V. Long, Ph.D., M.B.B.S., and Richard Scolyer, M.B.B.S., M.D., Melanoma Institute of Australia and University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia; John Stagg, Ph.D., University of Montréal, Montréal, Canada
Targeting adenosine in the tumor microenvironment

Team Leads: Hassane M. Zarour, M.D., and John M. Kirkwood, M.D.
Investigators: James J. Lee, M.D., Mark A. Socinsky, M.D., Adam M. Brufsky, M.D., Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA; Alan J. Korman, Ph.D., Bristol-Myers Squibb, Redwood City, CA
Targeting multiple inhibitory receptors in cancer patients

Team Lead: Lei Zheng, M.D., Ph.D.
Investigators: Elizabeth Jaffee, M.D., Eric Lutz, Ph.D., Todd Armstrong, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
Tipping the balance in the tumor microenvironment as a next generation platform for pancreatic cancer immunotherapy

CLINICAL TRIALS FUNDED
An open label, phase I study of TESLA-001, with checkpoint inhibitor, in patients with metastatic cancer
• Nina Bhardwaj, M.D., Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
• Gavin Dunn, M.D., Ph.D., Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
Multi-center phase I study of NY-ESO-1 vaccine in combination with ipilimumab in patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma, for whom treatment with ipilimumab is indicated
• Jonathan S. Cebon, Ph.D., FRACP, Austin Health/Ludwig Cancer Research, Melbourne, Australia
• Craig E. Devoe, M.D., North Shore LJI, North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, NY
• Philip Friedlander, M.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
• Michael A. Postow, M.D., Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
• Craig L. Slingluff Jr., M.D., University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA
• Hussein Tawbi, M.D., Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
A phase I study to assess safety and tolerability of Tremelimumab in combination with MEDI4736, administered after high dose chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplant in subjects with multiple myeloma who are at high risk of relapse
• Hearn Jay Cho, M.D., Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
• Alexander M. Lesokhin, M.D., Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
A phase I study to evaluate the safety and tolerability of anti-PD-L1, MEDI4736, in combination with Tremelimumab in subjects with advanced solid tumors
• Henry Koon, M.D., University Hospitals, Cleveland, OH
• Dale Shepard, M.D., Ph.D., Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
• Jedd D. Wolchok, M.D., Ph.D., and Margaret Callahan, M.D., Ph.D., Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
A phase I/II dose escalation study with expansion cohorts to investigate the safety, biologic and anti-tumor activity of ONCOS-102 in combination with durvalumab in subjects with advanced peritoneal malignancies
• Dmitriy Zamarin, M.D., Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York NY
A phase I study of combination immunotherapy and mRNA vaccine in subjects with non-small cell lung cancer
• Leena Gandhi, M.D., Ph.D., NYU Langone Medical Center, New York NY
A phase I study of ALK inhibitor, ensartinib (X-396), and anti-PD-L1, durvalumab (MEDI4736), in subjects with ALK-rearranged (ALK-positive) non-small cell lung cancer
• Leena Gandhi, M.D., Ph.D., NYU Langone Medical Center, New York NY
A phase I study of combination immunotherapy and mRNA vaccine in subjects with non-small cell lung cancer
• Leena Gandhi, M.D., Ph.D., NYU Langone Medical Center, New York NY
A phase I/II study of in situ vaccination with checkpoint antibodies tremelimumab and MEDI4736 plus the toll-like receptor agonist PolyICLC in subjects with advanced, measurable, biopsy-accessible cancers
• Nina Bhardwaj, M.D., Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
• Craig L. Slingluff Jr., M.D., University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA
A phase II study to evaluate the clinical efficacy and safety of MEDI4736 in patients with glioblastoma
• David Allen Reardon, M.D., Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston MA
A phase 1/2 study of chemo-immunotherapy with anti-PD-L1 antibody Durvalumab/MEDI4736 in subjects with recurrent, platinum-resistant ovarian cancer for whom PLD is indicated

• George Coukos, M.D., Ph.D., Ludwig Centre for Cancer Research of the University of Lausanne, Lausanne Switzerland

Open-label, multicenter, phase Ib/II clinical study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of CD40 agonistic monoclonal antibody (APX005M) administered together with gemcitabine and nab-paclitaxel with or without PD-1 blocking antibody (Nivolumab) in patients*

• Robert H. Vonderheide, M.D., D.Phil., Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

CORRELATIVE AND LABORATORY STUDIES

Sacha Gnjatic, Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY

Immunological monitoring for the CVC trials

Maha Ayyoub, Ph.D., University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France

Contribution of tumor antigen-specific adaptive immunity to responsiveness to immune checkpoint blockade

REAGENT PRODUCTION

Production of NY-ESO-1 overlapping peptides for use in a variety of trials Polypeptide Laboratories, San Diego, CA

IMPACT GRANTS

American Association for Cancer Research
Collaboration on Cancer Immunology Research

Technology Impact Award

Dongeun Huh, Ph.D.*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

A microengineered biomimetic model of tumor-immune cell interactions

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

James P. Allison, Ph.D., The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, and Antoni Ribas, M.D., Ph.D., UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

Cancer Immunology Translational Research Dream Team: Immunologic checkpoint blockade and adoptive T cell transfer in cancer therapy

In partnership with the Entertainment Industry Foundation/Stand Up To Cancer

Timothy N.J. Bullock, Ph.D., University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA

Enhancing immune therapy for brain metastases with focused ultrasound

In partnership with the Focused Ultrasound Foundation

Carl H. June, M.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Mesothelin-specific chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy for pancreatic cancer

In partnership with the Lustgarten Foundation

Amy K. Kim, M.D.*, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

Investigating immune checkpoint biomarkers in tissue and peripheral blood of patients with fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma

In partnership with the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation

George Klein, M.D., D.Sc†, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Studies on Epstein-Barr virus, oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes, tumor immunology, and inhibition of tumor cell growth by stroma cells

In partnership with the Concern Foundation

Malcolm A.S. Moore, D.Phil., Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

The study of hematopoietic stem cells and progenitor populations in normal and cancer cells

Gar Reichman Laboratory

Cynthia L. Sears, M.D.*, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

Gut microbiome and the immune microenvironment of human primary and metastatic colorectal cancer

In partnership with Fight Colorectal Cancer

† deceased

ANNUAL AWARDS

Olivera J. Finn, Ph.D.*
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA

CRI-AACR Lloyd J. Old Award in Immunotherapy

Dan R. Littman, M.D., Ph.D.*
NYU Langone Medical Center, New York, NY

William B. Coley Award for Distinguished Research in Basic Immunology

Ton N. Schumacher, Ph.D.*
The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

William B. Coley Award for Distinguished Research in Tumor Immunology

E. John Wherry, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Frederick W. Alt Award for New Discoveries in Immunology
FUELING SCIENCE TO SAVE LIVES

All we do at the Cancer Research Institute would not be possible if it weren’t for the generous support of individual, foundation, and corporate donors who contribute to our research and education programs and sustain the organization’s day-to-day operations. Together, we are making history as we usher in the era of cancer immunotherapy.

In fiscal year 2017, donors provided $23 million in support, trusting CRI to make a real difference in the fight against cancer. We are deeply grateful for every dollar donated, and remain dedicated to using those dollars efficiently to achieve the greatest impact possible.

CRI won the $1 million grand prize in the Revlon LOVE IS ON Million Dollar Challenge, presented by Revlon CEO Lorenzo Delpani and Revlon brand ambassador Halle Berry.
1. MARLO SMITH raised funds for CRI in the TCS New York City Marathon
2. CRI joined Loncar Investments to open the morning bell at NASDAQ
3. SUSAN CROW and TONY BENNETT go “Through the Kitchen” to benefit CRI
4. The family of DONNIE GILLESPIE hosted a memorial golf tournament
5. Six-time Jeopardy! champion CINDY STOWELL donated her winnings to CRI shortly before colon cancer took her life
POWERING THE ONE CAUSE TO CURE ALL CANCERS

Our ability to advance important science and facilitate the development of immunotherapies for all types of cancer is only possible with generous donor support. Acknowledgements listed here reflect contributions of $1,000 or more made to CRI between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

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Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, Inc.
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The Wildflower Foundation

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F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.
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Edmond J. Safra Foundation
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Mr. Greg S. Feldman
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 WEAR WHITE DAY

 2016 TCS NEW YORK CITY MARATHON
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

CRI continues to receive the highest marks from charity watchdogs thanks to our commitment to transparency and accountability.”

— ALFRED R. MASSIDAS
Chief Financial Officer

$21.2 MILLION INVESTED IN RESEARCH & PATIENT EDUCATION

$357 MILLION IN PROGRAM SUPPORT SINCE 1953

YOUR GIFT AT WORK

We value donor trust above all else. To earn and maintain this trust, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of accountability and transparency when communicating the financial health of this organization. Our financial records are kept according to best practices, and we open our books annually for inspection and verification by independent auditors.

Eisner Amper has conducted an independent audit of the Cancer Research Institute’s financial activities for fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017). We provide highlights here, and you can access our complete audited financial statements on our website at cancerresearch.org/financials.

ALFRED R. MASSIDAS
Chief Financial Officer
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES
$29.0 MM

- Contributions
  $18.1 MM, 72%
- Investments and Other
  $6.0 MM, 21%
- Bequests and Memorials
  $2.5 MM, 10%
- Special Events
  $2.4 MM, 10%

TOTAL EXPENSES
$27.9 MM

- Research
  $16.4 MM, 59%
- Education
  $4.8 MM, 17%
- Marketing and Development
  $2.8 MM, 10%
- Administration
  $1.3 MM, 5%
- Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts
  $2.6 MM, 9%

END OF YEAR NET ASSETS
$54.7 MM
Volunteer scientific and business leaders help the Cancer Research Institute, not only through academic and financial support, but also through astute governance and active participation in the organization’s initiatives.

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WAYS TO GIVE

The Cancer Research Institute has a long tradition of responsible stewardship of donor funds. We receive the highest marks from charity watchdog groups, including four out of four stars from Charity Navigator and an “A” grade from CharityWatch. CRI also meets all 20 standards of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance. Donors to CRI can be confident that their donation, in any amount, will do the most good possible.

CASH

Donations by check or credit card may be sent directly to the Cancer Research Institute or processed through our secure website at cancerresearch.org/donate.

PROPERTY OTHER THAN CASH

Donating securities, automobiles, and similar properties can often be a tax-efficient method for making a meaningful gift to CRI. Visit cancerresearch.org/ways-to-give.

WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAMS

Ask your human resources department if your company has a plan through which you can contribute to CRI, or contact us to learn how to set up a program at your workplace.

MATCHING GIFTS

Contact your human resources department to inquire if your employer matches contributions, or browse our online matching gift database to see if your company is listed at cancerresearch.org/matching-gifts.

PLANNED GIFTS

Make a bequest to CRI through a living trust or in your will as a beneficiary of cash, securities, or personal property. Your bequest should include the Institute’s federal tax ID number (13-1837442) and a statement such as the following:

“I bequeath to the Cancer Research Institute, a not-for-profit corporation of the State of New York, having its principal office at 29 Broadway, Floor 4, New York, New York 10006-3111, the sum of $ __________ for its general operating purposes.”

You should, of course, always consult your attorney and tax advisor for the formal writing of your will and to discuss the tax implications of any form of planned giving. Learn more online at legacy.cancerresearch.org.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Want to hold a bake sale to raise money for cancer research? How about a fashion show, dinner, or a concert? Maybe you’re getting married and would prefer guests give to charity in lieu of gifts. We offer support for these and other fundraising ideas. To learn more about how you can organize your own special event and become a part of Team CRI, visit cancerresearch.org/fundraise.

FOR CORPORATE PARTNERS

No one organization, company, or group can solve the cancer problem alone. It takes collaboration to change the course of cancer. CRI actively seeks out and welcomes opportunities to work with others to develop educational and awareness-building programs designed to advance the pace of progress in cancer immunotherapy research. Contact Sharon Slade at sslade@cancerresearch.org or (212) 688-7515 x230 to learn more.
Faced with a diagnosis of stage 3 melanoma, Janie Ferling explored all her treatment options. After standard treatments failed, she enrolled in an immunotherapy clinical trial under the leadership of CRI-funded scientist Antoni Ribas, M.D., Ph.D., at the University of California, Los Angeles, and today remains active and healthy.

Watch Janie’s Immunotherapy Story at cancerresearch.org/janie
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