

# Your Support & How It Was Used

FISCAL YEAR 2024 IMPACT REPORT (JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024)



#### **FINANCIAL SCALE**

### Investing in Cancer Immunotherapy Research



"Immunotherapy is one of the most significant advances for treating cancer in the modern era. The field is what it is today because CRI continues to be laser-focused on **breakthrough immunotherapy research."** 

> - James P. Allison, PhD 2018 Nobel Laureate The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center CRI Scientific Advisory Council Director

#### PROGRAM SCALE Building a Community of Scientific Talent

32 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS\*

CLIP AWARDS (Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program) 5 STARS (Scientists TAking Risks)

5 TECHNOLOGY IMPACT AWARDS

CLINICAL INNOVATOR TRIALS BIOINFORMATICS

\*Includes 3 Fellowships to Promote Racial Diversity and 4 Immuno-Informatics Fellowships

#### **OUR MISSION:**

SAVE MORE LIVES by fueling the discovery and development of powerful immunotherapies for all cancers.



**Chi-Yun Wu, PhD** The David J. Gladstone Institutes

# **CRI Immuno-Informatics Fellow**

Chi-Yun Wu, PhD, has developed a cutting-edge computational algorithm to map intricate interactions within tumor microenvironments. Her algorithm uncovers cellular programs and networks to shed light on how various cell types interact within colorectal tumors. Dr. Wu's pioneering approach will pinpoint key interactions that influence patient outcomes that could have broad applications across different cancer types.

### HUMAN SCALE

#### Bringing the Promise of Immunotherapy to More Patients

29 CANCERS NOW TREATABLE WITH IMMUNOTHERAPY



13 NEW FDA APPROVALS



"Immunotherapy actually saved my life when I had no other options." - Karen Peterson, Breast Cancer Survivor



Gavin Dunn, MD, PhD Massachusetts General Hospital

# CRI Lloyd J. Old STAR

Gavin Peter Dunn, MD, PhD, is a neurosurgeonscientist studying how the immune system responds to brain tumors, a largely uncharted area of cancer research. While immunotherapies have revolutionized treatment for certain cancers, they have yet to make a significant impact on brain tumors, partly due to the complex biology and unique barriers present in the brain. Recently, Dr. Dunn made a groundbreaking discovery, identifying a subset of immune cells that behave differently in brain tumors–a finding that could be leveraged for developing new therapies. In addition to his research, Dr. Dunn is also developing personalized vaccines to treat glioblastoma, one of the most aggressive and treatment-resistant forms of brain cancer. Using advanced sequencing technology, these vaccines target the unique features of each patient's tumor. Early clinical results are promising, showing that the vaccines can elicit a strong immune response. Dr. Dunn's efforts are laying the foundation for future clinical trials, offering renewed hope for patients facing this devastating disease.

# **CRI Postdoctoral Fellow**

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most aggressive and deadly forms of cancer, with a grim prognosis and few effective treatment options. Its tumor environment cleverly evades the body's immune response, rendering many therapies ineffective—a challenge scientists are still working to fully understand. Chiara Falcomatà, PhD, is at the forefront of research aimed at uncovering how pancreatic cancer cells outmaneuver the immune system. By identifying critical signals within tumors and blood, she is shedding light on pathways for earlier diagnosis and more effective treatments. Dr. Falcomata's groundbreaking work has the potential to transform the way we approach this formidable disease, providing more hope for life-saving treatment breakthroughs for pancreatic cancer patients.



Chiara Falcomatà, PhD Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY Investing in Impact

