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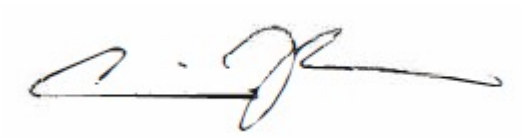
Dear Friend,

The field of cancer immunotherapy is evolving at lightning speed, with groundbreaking discoveries unfolding in labs, clinics, and conferences around the world. That's why we're launching **CRI's IO Insights**—a monthly email series designed to keep you informed and inspired.

This isn't just about what CRI is doing—it's about connecting you with the most important discoveries, trends, and stories shaping the fight against cancer everywhere. Join us as we spotlight the science, the people, and the progress driving this revolution forward.

Together, we'll make sense of what's next in IO—and why it matters to all of us.

Warm Regards,



Alicia Zhou, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Cancer Research Institute

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This Month's IO Insights

SITC 2024: How AI is Reshaping Cancer Immunotherapy

The SITC 2024 sessions on November 9-10 showcased cutting-edge innovations in cancer immunotherapy, including AI-driven breakthroughs. Researchers highlighted how AI is accelerating discoveries in tumor microenvironments, immune response regulation, and clinical trial design, paving the way for personalized therapies. Explore more about these exciting developments **here** and **here**.

Why it matters: AI is revolutionizing our lives in more than one way. SITC's 2024 sessions featuring AI underline these new initiatives in translating data into life-saving therapies.

COVID-19 Infection Triggers Immune Cells That Shrink Advanced Tumors

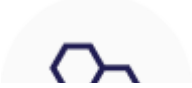
A new study reveals that severe COVID-19 infection triggers monocytes—specialized immune cells—that shrink advanced tumors by recruiting potent natural killer (NK) cells. Learn more from **Newsweek**.

Why it matters: COVID-19 was a global pandemic, and we continue to fight long-term health risks and secondary comorbidities. These findings show how our immune system, while learning to fight one type of threat like COVID-19, becomes better at tackling other threats, offering exciting implications for leveraging the immune system to fight multiple diseases.

Targeting IL-4: A Promising Development in Ovarian Cancer Immunotherapy

A study from the Icahn School of Medicine, that includes **research from several CRI-funded scientists**, reveals how ovarian cancer tumors create a protective environment using the molecule IL-4, which shields them from immune cells and resists immunotherapy. **Read more.**

Why it matters: This research identifies a new treatment strategy where common anti-inflammatory drugs can help in boosting the efficiency of immunotherapy and improve survival in ovarian cancer patients.



Takeda and Alloy Therapeutics Collaborate to

Develop Off-the-Shelf CAR-T Therapies

Takeda has partnered with Alloy Therapeutics to develop off-the-shelf CAR-T therapies. This collaboration aims to accelerate the creation of universal, ready-to-use therapies for cancer patients, addressing challenges in production and accessibility. **Learn more about this exciting partnership in the full article here**.

Why it matters: This approach uses induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) providing faster, off-the-shelf solutions to develop CAR-T therapy, eliminating the need for patients to donate their own white blood cells to develop CAR-T cells.

Expanding Global Access to Immunotherapy

Immunotherapy continues to transform cancer care, with recent milestones expanding global access to these life-saving treatments. In China, Akeso's bispecific antibodies, cadonilimab (PD-1/CTLA-4) and ivonescimab (PD-1/VEGF), **were added to the National Reimbursement Drug List**, enhancing affordability and accessibility. Similarly, India has introduced Toripalimab, a next-generation PD-1 inhibitor launched by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, **making it the third country to offer this breakthrough therapy** after China and the U.S.

Why it matters: These approvals and licensing agreements underscore critical progress in making cutting-edge immunotherapy accessible to millions of eligible patients worldwide.

This is more than a newsletter—it's your insider connection to the next great advances in cancer care. Don't miss out on the updates that are shaping the future of cancer treatment. **To opt out of receiving this email, please update your subscription settings.**

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