



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

**Forward**  **Fund**

*Advancing Cancer Immunotherapy*

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

**2023 Awards**



## About the Awards

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer's 2023 awards celebrate the achievements of current and future leaders in the cancer immunotherapy field. The work of these dedicated individuals that include young investigators, luminaries, leading organizations, regulatory agencies and industry seeks to propel the field forward and build a solid foundation for future advances and soon, a cure.

## About the *Forward* Fund

The future of cancer immunotherapy lies in research and education, primarily by early career scientists. The *Forward* Fund was established to stimulate the future of the science, development and application of cancer immunotherapy through financially supporting its education and research.

The *Forward* Fund provides grants that will help attract the brightest young minds in cancer and/or immunology research to the cancer immunotherapy domain. It informs those outside of the cancer immunotherapy field about the huge promise of this modality, which offers the potential of creating long-term remissions and/or prolongation of survival for people suffering from an expanding array of advanced cancer types.

The *Forward* Fund relies on the generosity of our members, foundations, industry partners and others to make these awards possible. Please contribute to ensure that we can keep providing these awards and ensure the future success of immunotherapy.



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

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# Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer's 2023 Awards

## Fellows of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology

### SITC Annual Awards

Richard V. Smalley, MD, Memorial Award and Lectureship  
SITC Lifetime Achievement Award  
Tara Withington Public Service Award  
Pedro J Romero Service to *JITC* Award

### 2023 *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer (JITC)* Best Paper Awards

*JITC* Best Basic Tumor Immunology Paper  
*JITC* Best Clinical/Translational Cancer Immunotherapy Paper  
*JITC* Best Immune Cell Therapies and Immune Cell Engineering Paper  
*JITC* Best Immunotherapy Biomarkers Paper  
*JITC* Best Oncolytic and Local Immunotherapy Paper

### Steven A. Rosenberg Scholars Award

### Martin “Mac” Cheever Excellence in Clinical Trial Design Travel Award

### SITC Fellowships

SITC-Bristol Myers Squibb Postdoctoral Cancer Immunotherapy Translational Fellowship  
SITC-AstraZeneca Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer Clinical Fellowship  
SITC-Merck Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship  
SITC-Genentech Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowship  
SITC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowship  
SITC-Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals Adverse Events in Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship  
NCI Immunotherapy Fellowships

### Young Investigator Travel Awards

SITC Presidential Travel Awards  
SITC Abstract Travel Awards  
Spring Scientific Travel Awards  
Winter School Travel Awards  
WIN Leadership Institute Travel Awards

### SITC Sparkathon Class of 2023

### World Immunotherapy Council Scholars

### *JITC* Peer Review Mentorship Program Graduates

### Connect-a-Colleague Top Referrer

# Award Presentation Schedule

**Friday, Nov. 3, 2023**

**7:45-8:20 a.m.**

## **Presidential Welcome & Awards Ceremony**

- Fellows of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology (FAIO) Recipients Recognition
- SITC Lifetime Achievement Award
- Tara Withington Public Service Award
- Pedro J. Romero Service to *JITC* Award
- Steven A. Rosenberg, MD, PhD, Scholars Award

**8:20-9:10 a.m.**

## **Session 102: 2023 Richard V. Smalley Memorial Award and Lectureship**

- Richard V. Smalley Memorial Award and Lectureship

**Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023**

**6:30-7:00 p.m.**

## **Awards Ceremony**

- Connect-a-Colleague Award
- *JITC* Best Paper Awards
- *JITC* Peer Review Mentorship Program Class of 2023 Graduates
- Young Investigator Awards
- Martin "Mac" Cheever Excellence in Clinical Trial Design - Travel Award
- SITC Fellowships
- Sparkathon Class of 2023 Recognition
- Presidential Travel Awards
- Presidential Award

# Fellows of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology



## 2023 Fellows

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) is pleased to announce the 2023 Class of Fellows of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology (FAIO), one of the society's most prestigious honors. The Academy of Immuno-Oncology was established by SITC to honor individuals who have launched the field of cancer immunotherapy into the breakthrough cancer treatment it is today and bring together the brightest minds in the field to continue to advance SITC, the field, and the next generation of immuno-oncologists.



**Michael B. Atkins, MD**  
*Georgetown Lombardi  
Comprehensive Cancer  
Center*



**Crystal Mackall, MD**  
*Stanford University*



**Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD**  
*Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai*



**Miriam Merad, MD, PhD**  
*Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai*



**Douglas Lowy, MD**  
*National Cancer Institute*



**Jeffrey S. Weber, MD, PhD**  
*Laura and Isaac Perlmutter  
Cancer Center at NYU  
Langone Health*

# 2023 Richard V. Smalley Memorial Award and Lectureship

## About the Smalley Award



The Richard V. Smalley Memorial Award and Lectureship is named in honor and memory of the past SITC president and charter member. A charter member of the society, Dr. Smalley was an integral part of SITC's fabric from its inception, serving on the original Board of Directors from 1984 - 1990, and as the society's third President from 1988 - 1990, leading the society through some of its most formative years.

Established in 2005, the SITC Smalley Award is given to a recognizable clinician/scientist and luminary in the field that has significantly contributed to the advancement of cancer immunotherapy research. The award honors those who have been pioneers in their work and made a notable impact worthy of high regard and recognition by their peers.

## SITC is proud to recognize Robert D. Schreiber, PhD as the 2023 recipient of the Richard V. Smalley Memorial Award and Lectureship.

### About Dr. Schreiber



Robert D. Schreiber, PhD is the Andrew M. and Jane M. Bursky Distinguished Professor in the Department of Pathology and Immunology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is also the Founding Director of the Bursky Center for Human Immunology and Immunotherapy Programs, Co-Leader of the Tumor Immunology Program at the Siteman Comprehensive Cancer Center at Washington University, an Extramural Member Researcher of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, an Associate Director of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Cancer Research Institute, and a member of the Board of Scientific Advisors to the National Cancer Institute. He is co-Editor-in-Chief of Cancer Immunology Research. Schreiber is a co-founder of three biotech companies: Jounce Therapeutics (Boston MA), Neon Therapeutics, Inc (now BioNTec USA (Cambridge MA) and Asher Biotherapeutics (So. San Francisco CA) and a member of Scientific Advisory Boards for A2 Biotherapeutics, Arch Oncology, BioLegend, Codiak Biosciences, GlaxoSmithKline, NGM Biopharmaceuticals, Sensei Biotherapeutics, Ludwig Institute, and the Osteosarcoma Institute.

# 2023 SITC Annual Awards

## 2023 SITC Lifetime Achievement Award

This nominated award recognizes an outstanding SITC member or collaborator who has made significant impact on SITC's development and mission.



**Kim A. Margolin, MD**  
*Saint John's Cancer Institute*

## 2023 Pedro J. Romero Service to JITC Award

This nominated award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions and demonstrated outstanding commitment to the *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer (JITC)* — the official journal of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer.



**Jeffrey S. Weber, MD, PhD**  
*Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU  
Langone Health*

# 2023 SITC Annual Awards

## Tara Withington Public Service Award

This award is given to an individual or group who fosters and enhances the field through increasing public understanding, awareness, research efforts and/or funding.

### Stand Up To Cancer Founders:



**Katie Couric**



**Sue Schwartz**



**Sherry Lansing**



**Pamela Oas  
Williams**



**Kathleen Lobb**



**Ellen Ziffren**



**Lisa Paulsen**



**Noreen Fraser\***



**Rusty Robertson**



**Laura Ziskin\***

*\*Deceased*



# 2023 *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* (JITC) Best Paper Awards

The annual *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* (JITC) Best Paper Awards celebrate excellence in scientific research and are awarded to researchers demonstrating leadership in the field as well as innovation and high-quality execution and discussion in their manuscripts. Original research published between August 16, 2022, and August 15, 2023, were eligible for nomination of these awards.

## JITC Best Basic Tumor Immunology Paper

Articles nominated in this category cover tumor antigens, innate and adaptive anti-tumor immune mechanisms, immune regulation, immune response, cancer and inflammation, preclinical models, chemotherapy and radiotherapy interactions/combinations of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and other combination treatments with the antitumor immune response.

### “Dual TLR9 and PD-L1 targeting unleashes dendritic cells to induce durable antitumor immunity”

Fernandez-Rodriguez L, Cianciaruso C, Bill R, et al Dual TLR9 and PD-L1 targeting unleashes dendritic cells to induce durable antitumor immunity *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* 2023;11:e006714. doi: 10.1136/jitc-2023-006714



## Presented to First Authors:



**Laura Fernandez-Rodriguez, PhD**  
*University of Basel and University Hospital of Basel*



**Chiara Cianciaruso, PhD**  
*AGORA Cancer Research Center*

**Journal for  
ImmunoTherapy of Cancer**

# 2023 *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* (JITC) Best Paper Awards

(continued)

## JITC Best Clinical/Translational Cancer Immunotherapy Paper

Articles in this category present clinical research that has a clear potential to optimize patient care, with particular emphasis on high-quality randomized control trials, novel combination therapies, novel diagnostic or prognostic insights, and new insights into mechanisms of action.

### “Phase II study of durvalumab (anti-PD-L1) and trametinib (MEKi) in microsatellite stable (MSS) metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC)”

Johnson B, Haymaker CL, Parra ER, et al Phase II study of durvalumab (anti-PD-L1) and trametinib (MEKi) in microsatellite stable (MSS) metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* 2022;10:e005332. doi: 10.1136/jitc-2022-005332



### Presented to First Author:



**Benny Johnson, DO**

*The University of Texas MD Anderson  
Cancer Center*



**Journal for  
ImmunoTherapy of Cancer**

# 2023 *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* (JITC) Best Paper Awards

(continued)

## JITC Best Immune Cell Therapies and Immune Cell Engineering Paper

Articles in this category discuss approaches, new targets, novel functionalities, clinical trial results, correlative studies in patients who have received cell-based therapies, novel engineering strategies (molecular switches, conditional expression, logic gating), gene-edited cells to knock out or knock in novel functions, and/or synthetic gene circuits.

### “Production and characterization of virus-free, CRISPR-CAR T cells capable of inducing solid tumor regression”

Mueller KP, Piscopo NJ, Forsberg MH, et al Production and characterization of virus-free, CRISPR-CAR T cells capable of inducing solid tumor regression *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* 2022;10:e004446. doi: 10.1136/jitc-2021-004446



### Presented to First Authors:



**Katherine P. Mueller, PhD**  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison*



**Nicole J. Piscopo, PhD**  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison*

**Journal for  
ImmunoTherapy of Cancer**

# 2023 *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* (JITC) Best Paper Awards

(continued)

## JITC Best Immunotherapy Biomarkers Paper

Articles in this category present predictive/prognostic biomarker studies, gene expression studies in cancer immunotherapy, serological immune biomarkers, multiparameter flow cytometry-defined immune biomarkers, high content immunohistological studies, and/or clinical trial analyses and identification of novel immune biomarkers.

### “Spatially resolved proteomic profiling identifies tumor cell CD44 as a biomarker associated with sensitivity to PD-1 axis blockade in advanced non-small-cell lung cancer”

Moutafi MK, Molero M, Martinez Morilla S, et al Spatially resolved proteomic profiling identifies tumor cell CD44 as a biomarker associated with sensitivity to PD-1 axis blockade in advanced non-small-cell lung cancer *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* 2022;10:e004757. doi: 10.1136/jitc-2022-004757



### Presented to First Authors:



**Myrto K. Moutafi, MD**  
*Yale University School of Medicine*



**Magdalena Molero-Abraham, PhD**  
*Instituto de Investigación Hospital 12 de Octubre*



**Journal for  
ImmunoTherapy of Cancer**

# 2023 *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* (JITC) Best Paper Awards

(continued)

## JITC Best Oncolytic and Local Immunotherapy Paper

Articles in this category focus on the role of therapeutic agents designed for targeting tumor cells and/or the tumor microenvironment. This includes oncolytic viruses, microbial agents, innate immune agonists, direct and systemically delivered proteins and DNA/RNA products that act within established tumors. Articles on translational and clinical investigation involving new oncolytic immunotherapy agents or those that include an oncolytic approach as part of combination therapeutic regimens are also represented.

### **“Intratumoral administration of CD1c (BDCA-1)+ and CD141 (BDCA-3)+ myeloid dendritic cells in combination with talimogene laherparepvec in immune checkpoint blockade refractory advanced melanoma patients: a phase I clinical trial”**

Schwarze JK, Tijtgat J, Awada G, et al Intratumoral administration of CD1c (BDCA-1)+ and CD141 (BDCA-3)+ myeloid dendritic cells in combination with talimogene laherparepvec in immune checkpoint blockade refractory advanced melanoma patients: a phase I clinical trial *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* 2022;**10**:e005141. doi: 10.1136/jitc-2022-005141



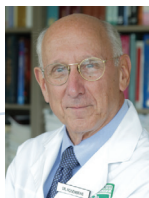
### Presented to First Author:



**Julia Katharina Schwarze, MD, MSc**  
*Universitair Ziekenhuis (UZ Brussel)*

**Journal for  
ImmunoTherapy of Cancer**

# Steven A. Rosenberg Scholars Award



In honor of his many contributions to cancer immunotherapy, **The Steven A. Rosenberg Endowed Scholars Fund** was established in 2020 to provide research support to emerging leaders in the field.

After completing surgical residency training in 1974, Dr. Rosenberg became the Chief of Surgery at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health - a position he still holds today. As Chief of Surgery, he oversees an extensive clinical program to translate scientific advances into effective immunotherapies for patients with cancer.

Dr. Rosenberg pioneered the first effective immunotherapies and gene therapies for patients with advanced cancers, resulting in durable complete remission for patients with metastatic melanoma. He has also inspired and mentored hundreds of early career scientists. SITC is pleased to recognize him with this lasting legacy of science.

## 2023 Rosenberg Scholar



**Jessica Stark, PhD**  
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

# 2023 Martin “Mac” Cheever Excellence in Clinical Trial Design - Travel Award



Established in 2022 in loving memory of Dr. Martin “Mac” Cheever, this fund recognizes his many contributions to the field of cancer immunotherapy by providing travel awards to deserving early career investigators pursuing excellence in clinical trial design.

Each year, SITC will seek the best and brightest in the field to continue Dr. Cheever’s passion for improving clinical trials through the Dr. Martin “Mac” Cheever Excellence in Clinical Trial Design - Travel Award. Recipients will look to advance the science of immunotherapy through simple and elegant trial design.

## 2023 Cheever Award Recipient



**Alaa Ali, MD**  
*Georgetown University*

# 2023 SITC Fellowships

The SITC *Forward* Fund is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 Fellowships, to support the next generation of cancer immunotherapy and tumor immunology experts through dedicated funding of impactful research.

This year's Fellowships were made possible through the generosity of AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Bristol Myers Squibb, Genentech, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, Merck & Co., Inc. and the National Cancer Institute.

## 2023 SITC Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowships

### SITC-Bristol Myers Squibb Postdoctoral Cancer Immunotherapy Translational Fellowship

**"Identifying interventions that target the immunosuppressive microenvironment in solid tumors"**



**Tyler E. Miller, MD, PhD**  
*Massachusetts General Hospital*

Award Amount: \$200,000 (two-year)



### SITC-AstraZeneca Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer Clinical Fellowship

**"Development of Cellular Therapies Targeting Aberrant Glycosylation in Lung Adenocarcinoma"**



**Pamela Basto, MD, PhD**  
*Stanford University*

Award Amount: \$100,000 (one-year)





# 2023 SITC Fellowships *(continued)*

## SITC-Genentech Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowship

“Vagal-CD8+ T cell axis: Harnessing neuroimmune circuits to alter anti-tumor immunity in liver cancer”



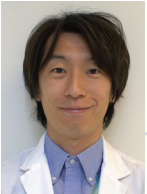
**Kylynda C. Bauer, PhD**  
*National Cancer Institute*

Award Amount: \$100,000 (one-year)

**Genentech**  
*A Member of the Roche Group*

## SITC-Merck Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship

“Elucidation of the role of EphA2 in the immune evasion of bladder cancer to overcome resistance to immune-checkpoint inhibitors”



**Eisuke Tomiyama, MD, PhD**  
*University of British Columbia*

Award Amount: \$100,000 (one-year)

 **MERCK**

# 2023 SITC Fellowships *(continued)*

## SITC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowship

**“Targeting nerve-mediated immunosuppression in the tumor microenvironment for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma”**



**Shaquia L. Idlett-Ali, PhD**  
*University of Colorado*

Award Amount: \$100,000 (one-year)

## SITC-Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals Adverse Events in Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship

**“The role of lymphodepletion in CAR T cell-associated toxicities”**



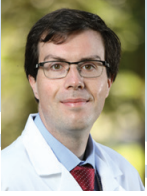
**Guido Ghilardi, MD**  
*University of Pennsylvania*

Award Amount: \$40,000 (one-year)



# 2023 SITC Fellowships *(continued)*

## 2022-2024 NCI Immunotherapy Fellowship



**Dara Bracken-Clarke, BMed, BCh, BAO**  
*Waterford University Hospital, Ireland*

## 2024 NCI Immunotherapy Fellowship



**Julie Ma, MD**  
*Children's Hospital Los Angeles*

Co-Sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and SITC, made possible in part by an educational grant from EMD Serono. This program allows the fellow to have exposure to multiple clinical immunotherapeutic approaches and also to key opinion leaders in the field of clinical immunotherapy.

# 2023 SITC Presidential Travel Awards

Presidential Travel Award recipients' abstracts are the top scoring among those submitted for the Annual Meeting by young investigators, based on quality of research, excellence in results and methods, and the potential of their work to advance the field. Of the four recipients pictured below, one is selected to receive the SITC Presidential Award.

**Of the four recipients pictured below, one is selected to receive the SITC Presidential Award recognizing the most outstanding oral abstract presentation.**



**Kelsey Bennion, BS**  
*Emory University*



**Carlos Wagner de Souza Wanderley, PhD**  
*Brigham and Women's Hospital*



**Hussein Sultan, PhD**  
*Washington University School of Medicine*



**Elise Wilcox, PhD**  
*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center*

## 2023 SITC Presidential Award

**The Presidential Award recipient will be announced at the Award Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 at 6:30–7 p.m.**

# 2023 SITC Abstract Travel Awards

Created in 2007, the Abstract Travel Award highlights promising young investigators who submitted high-scoring abstracts to the SITC Annual Meeting, based on the quality of their research and potential to advance the field. In 2023, 41 young investigators will receive travel awards in the abstract travel and presidential travel categories.



**Santiago Acero-Bedoya, MS**  
*University of Chicago*



**Zhiliang Bai, PhD**  
*Yale University*



**Joao Alessi, MD**  
*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*



**Mohamed-Reda Benmebarek, PhD**  
*National Cancer Institute*



**Jonathan Anker, MD, PhD**  
*Mount Sinai Hospital*



**Matthew Brown, MS**  
*Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*



**Kerryan Ashley, MS**  
*Yale University*



**Kelly Burke, MD, PhD**  
*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School*

# 2023 SITC Abstract Travel Awards

*(continued)*



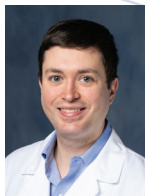
**Daniela Cerezo-Wallis, PhD**  
*Yale University*



**Ashwani Kesarwani, PhD**  
*Washington University in  
St. Louis*



**Mara De Martino, PhD**  
*Weill Cornell Medicine*



**John Ligon, MD**  
*University of Florida*



**Alexander Doan**  
*Stanford University School  
of Medicine*



**Guolan Lu, PhD**  
*Stanford University*



**Melanie Herpels**  
*Imperial College London  
and the Institute of Cancer  
Research*



**Leyuan Ma, PhD**  
*University of Pennsylvania*



**Yinghui Jane Huang, BS**  
*University of Pennsylvania*



**James Maiarana, MD**  
*Vanderbilt University  
Medical Center*

# 2023 SITC Abstract Travel Awards

*(continued)*



**Lisa Mielke, PhD**  
*Olivia Newton-John  
Cancer Research Institute  
and La Trobe University*



**Juan Osorio, MD**  
*Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center*



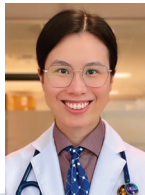
**Tara Muijlwijk, MSc**  
*Cancer Center  
Amsterdam, Amsterdam  
UMC*



**Abby Overacre, PhD**  
*University of Pittsburgh*



**Takahide Nejo, MD, PhD**  
*University of California,  
San Francisco*



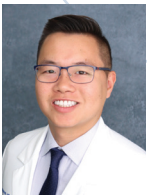
**Steph Pang, MD, CM**  
*McGill University*



**Adam Nelson, PhD**  
*Brigham and Woman's  
Hospital, Harvard Medical  
School*



**James L. Reading, PhD**  
*UCL Cancer Institute*



**Anthony T. Nguyen, MD,  
PhD**  
*Cedars-Sinai Medical  
Center*



**Melissa Reeves, PhD**  
*University of Utah  
Huntsman Cancer Institute*

# 2023 SITC Abstract Travel Awards

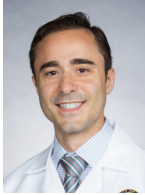
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**Malte Roerden, MD, PhD**  
*Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology*



**Kellie Spahr, BS**  
*University of Pittsburgh*



**Robert Saddawi-Konefka,  
MD, PhD**  
*UC San Diego, Gleiberman  
Head and Neck Cancer  
Center*



**Elen Torres, PhD**  
*Koch Institute for  
Integrative Cancer  
Research at MIT*



**Laura Sanz Ortega, PhD**  
*Karolinska Institutet*



**Michelle Tran**  
*Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai*



**David Schoenfeld, MD,  
PhD**  
*Yale University*



**Yingxi Xu, PhD**  
*University of Lausanne*



**Sean-Luc Shanahan, BA**  
*Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology*



# 2023 Spring Scientific Abstract Awards



**Nathan Reticker-Flynn, PhD**  
*Stanford University*



**Tarun Tyagi, PhD**  
*Yale University*



**Rahul Shinde, DVM, PhD**  
*The Wistar Institute*



**Kyuson Yun, PhD**  
*Houston Methodist/Weill  
Cornell Medicine*

## 2023 Spring Scientific Abstract Award – Honorable Mentions

**Masao Hashimoto, MD, PhD** – *Emory University*

**Thomas Marron, MD, PhD** – *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

**Golnaz Morad, DDS, PhD** – *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

**Ronal Peralta, BS** – *University of Pittsburgh*

**Fanny Polesso, MS** – *Oregon Health and Science University*

**Zuzana Tatarova, PhD** – *Brigham and Women's Hospital*

**Denise Cecil, PhD** – *University of Washington*

**Manoj Chelvanambi, PhD** – *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

**Lanette Christensen, PhD** – *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*

**Arielle Elkrief, MD** – *University of Montreal*

# 2023 Cancer Immunotherapy Winter School Travel Award Recipients

SITC hosted its fourth annual Cancer Immunotherapy Winter School virtually, Jan. 17–21, 2023. Taught by leading experts in the field, this program provided a deep understanding of the core principles of tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy as well as developing areas in the field including biomarker technology, validation and clinical integration; clinical trial design, data analysis and considerations for combination therapies.

SITC awarded travel reimbursement to five early career scientists who showed attendance at this program would help them reach their current and future cancer immunotherapy career objectives.



**Alexander Benton, BA**  
*University of Pennsylvania*



**Sepideh Gholami, MD,  
FACS, FSSO**  
*University of California  
Davis*



**Vinh Dao, MD, PhD**  
*Stanford University*



**Saurav Haldar, MD**  
*Johns Hopkins Hospital*



**Chinwe Ewenighi-  
Amankwah, PhD**  
*University of Illinois  
Chicago*

# 2023 Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Network (WIN) Leadership Institute Travel Awards

On September 28 and 29, 2023, SITC hosted the Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Network's Leadership Institute (WIN) in Chicago, IL. The program develops and enhances leadership skills, as well as addresses topics around diversity, inclusivity, conflict management and negotiation. SITC awarded travel awards to five female scientists as emerging leaders in the field of cancer immunotherapy.



**Daisy Escobar, MD**  
*University of South  
Alabama*



**Lisa Sudmeier, MD, PhD**  
*Emory University School of  
Medicine, Winship Cancer  
Institute*



**Lilit Karapetyan, MD, MS**  
*UPMC Hillman Cancer  
Center*



**Elen Torres, PhD**  
*Koch Institute for  
Integrative Cancer  
Research at MIT*



**Rebecca Porter, MD, PhD**  
*Dana-Farber Cancer  
Institute*

# SITC Sparkathon Class of 2023

SITC is pleased to announce the Sparkathon Class of 2023, an innovative program designed to foster leadership development, collaborations and scientific exchange among early career investigators who are emerging leaders in the field of cancer immunotherapy:

The accepted applicants below will participate in a two-year program sponsored by the *Forward* Fund.



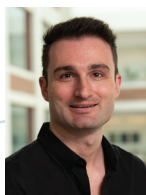
**Steven Blum, MD**  
*Harvard Medical School/  
Massachusetts General  
Hospital*



**Guido Ghilardi, MD**  
*University of Pennsylvania*



**Kelly Burke, MD, PhD**  
*Dana-Farber Cancer  
Institute*



**Felix Korell, MD**  
*Massachusetts General  
Hospital Cancer Center*



**Simon Deycmar, PhD**  
*Wake Forest University*



**Caleb Lareau, PhD**  
*Stanford University*

# SITC Sparkathon Class of 2023

*(continued)*



**Margaret Ottaviano, MD, PhD**  
*UOSC Melanoma,  
Immunotherapy,  
Development therapeutics  
INT Fondazione Giovanni  
Pascale*



**Yapeng Su, PhD**  
*Fred Hutchinson Cancer  
Center*



**Alexander Rankin, MD**  
*National Cancer Institute*



**Deanne Tibbitts, PhD, MCR**  
*Oregon Health and Science  
University*



**Saurabh Sharma, PhD**  
*Stanford University*



**Aleksei Tikhonov, PhD**  
*Gustave Roussy*

# 2023 World Immunotherapy Council Scholars

The World Immunotherapy Council (WIC)—a collaborative group of organizations from the U.S. and abroad with a shared interest in promoting research and translation of cancer immunotherapy—selected the young investigators below to present during the 5<sup>th</sup> World Immunotherapy Council Young Investigators Symposium, part of SITC's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Programs.

Chosen for exemplary work in the field, these scholars contributed insights and perspectives into future issues, challenges and improvements as cancer immunotherapy is integrated into mainstream cancer treatment.



**Hiroyasu Aoki, MD, PhD**  
*Japanese Association of  
Cancer Immunology (JACI)*



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*KWF working society-  
Dutch Tumor Immunology  
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MD, PhD**  
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*Spanish Group of Immuno-Biological Therapeutics in Cancer (GETICA)*



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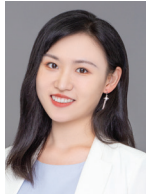
**Parthiban Periasamy, PhD**  
*Singapore Society of Oncology - Cancer Immunotherapy Consortium (SSO-CIC)*



**Lesley Wu, MD**  
*Chinese American Hematology Oncology Network (CAHON)*



**Federica Riccardo, PhD**  
*Progress in Vaccination Against Cancer (PIVAC)*



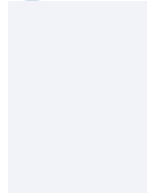
**Jiachen Xu, MD**  
*Chinese Society for Clinical Oncology (CSCO)*

# 2023 *JITC* Peer Review Mentorship Program Graduates

Graduates of the inaugural class of *JITC*'s Peer Review Mentorship Program worked with mentors to learn the basics and best practices in scientific peer review with hands-on, real-time experience that has prepared them for future success in scientific writing and evaluation.



**Yash Agarwal, PhD**  
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*



**Elham Beyranvand Nejad, PhD**  
*École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne*



**Vaishali Aggarwal, PhD**  
*University of Pittsburgh*



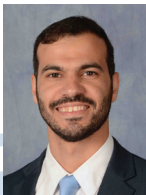
**Avik Dutta, PhD**  
*National Institute of Child Health and Human Development/NIH*



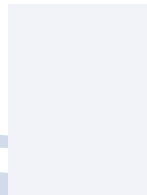
**Babajide Ajayi, PhD**  
*Ajayi Crowther University Oyo*



**Jinesh Gheeya, MD, PhD**  
*The Ohio State University*



**Muhammad Awidi, MD**  
*Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center*



**Katja Harbst, PhD**  
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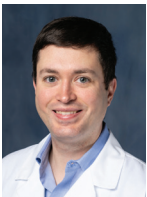
**Kishu Ranjan, PhD**  
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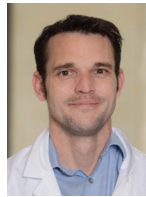
**John Ligon, MD**  
*University of Florida*



**Aditi Singh, MD**  
*Ascension St. John Hospital*



**Elise Nassif, MD**  
*The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*



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**Eric Vick, MD, PhD**  
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Esra A. Akbay, PhD; Alessio Cortellini, MD, PhD; Sofia Gameiro, PhD; Khashayarsha Khazaie, PhD; Il Minn, PhD; Ravi Patel, MD, PhD; Graham Pawelec, PhD; Nirali Shah, MD; Walter Storkus, PhD

# 2023 Connect-a-Colleague Top Referrer

The Connect-a-Colleague campaign is designed to encourage members to personally reach



**CONNECT  
A COLLEAGUE**

out and invite potential members to join the society. An online tool makes it easy for members to refer multiple potential members at a time. New members are also encouraged to indicate SITC members who referred them for membership. Over 340 individuals have participated in the campaign during 2023, referring 17% of all new members.



**Chrystal M. Paulos, PhD**

*Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University*

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