



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LEADING RESEARCHER TO DELIVER HIGHLY ANTICIPATED  
KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON GENE THERAPY AT SITC 2017**

MILWAUKEE – On the heels of the U.S. government’s approval of a groundbreaking gene therapy for treating cancer, a leading researcher in the field is set to deliver a highly anticipated keynote address on chimeric antigen receptor T cells, or ‘CAR T’ to kick off the [Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer’s \(SITC\) 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting](http://www.sitcancer.org).

Stephan Grupp, MD, PhD, the Director of Cancer Immunotherapy and Cell Therapy/Transplant Section at the Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, will deliver his keynote speech, “The CAR T Revolution in Leukemia” on Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 at SITC 2017. The Annual Meeting takes place Nov. 10-12 in National Harbor, Md. Dr. Grupp’s presentation will focus on CAR T, which is a historic, first-of-its-kind gene therapy approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Aug. 30, 2017 that supports the use of tisagenlecleucel in certain pediatric and young adult patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

“Knowing that incredible advances in CAR T cell therapies were being made by SITC member researchers like Dr. Grupp and Dr. Carl June of the University of Pennsylvania,” said SITC President Lisa H. Butterfield, PhD, “SITC leaders decided in January that a keynote lecture on CAR T cells would really kick off an exciting and productive Annual Meeting for our attendees.”

Preceded by two days of Pre-Conference Programs on Nov. 8-9, which include a basic primer course on tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy, a grant writing workshop, and other events, the three-day Annual Meeting will feature numerous cutting-edge presentations from leading experts in the field reporting the tremendous progress being made in cancer immunotherapy research.

Paul Sondel, MD, PhD, a professor and renowned researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will deliver the keynote speech on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017 entitled, “Activation of Innate and Adaptive Immunity as an *In Situ* Cancer Vaccine.” Dr. Sondel is the 2017 recipient of the Richard V. Smalley, MD Memorial Award and Lectureship, the society’s most distinguished award honoring a luminary in the field who has significantly contributed to the advancement of cancer immunotherapy research.

“The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Programs is set to become the most highly attended SITC meeting ever,” Butterfield said. “A major reason why is researchers like Stephan Grupp, who have made their life’s work using the immune system to find a cure for cancer.”

Learn more about SITC 2017 and register to join the society in National Harbor this November by visiting the [SITC 2017 Annual Meeting website](http://www.sitcancer.org).

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### **About SITC**

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) is the world's leading member-driven organization specifically dedicated to improving cancer patient outcomes by advancing the science and application of cancer immunotherapy. Established in 1984, SITC, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, serves scientists, clinicians, academicians, patients, patient advocates, government representatives and industry leaders from around the world. Through educational programs that foster scientific exchange and collaboration, SITC aims to one day make the word cure a reality for cancer patients everywhere. To learn more, visit [www.sitcancer.org](http://www.sitcancer.org).

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