

555 East Wells St., Suite 1100 Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823 Phone: (414) 271-2456 Fax: (414) 276-3349 <u>www.sitcancer.org</u>

Media Contact: Julia Schultz, Director of Communications Email: jaschultz@sitcancer.org Phone: (414) 271-2456 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Aug. 24, 2018

## Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer Launches Convergence Fellowship Awards in New Collaboration with Stand Up To Cancer

MILWAUKEE – Early career scientists can now apply for any of four fellowship opportunities for training in physical and biomedical sciences to better understand the immune system's response to cancer in a new Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) collaboration with Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C).

Part of the Stand Up To Cancer Convergence research initiative, young investigators can now apply to participate in the following four unique SU2C-SITC Convergence Scholar Awards:





- Single Cell Functional Multi-omics to Characterize and Monitor CAR-T Therapy
- <u>Connecting Immune Health and Tumor Biology in Gynecologic Cancers</u>
- <u>Computational Deconstruction of Neoantigen-TCR Degeneracy for Cancer Immunotherapy</u>
- <u>Correlating Immunological Health to Cancer Susceptibility</u>

The Scholar Awards will team postdoctoral fellows with leading experts in the fields of life and physical sciences, mathematics and engineering. Young investigators are encouraged to apply for this new opportunity by Sept. 28, 2018. Project and application information are available on <u>SITC Cancer</u> <u>Immunotherapy CONNECT</u>, the society's official website.

"This Convergence Fellowship provides innovative opportunities for early career scientists to contribute toward scientific breakthroughs in cancer immunotherapy. This program also spurs cross-institutional data sharing and collaboration among researchers," said SITC President Lisa H. Butterfield, PhD. "SITC is proud to collaborate with Stand Up To Cancer to provide such creative opportunities for young investigators that will help create the future leaders of our field."

The overall goal of this SITC and SU2C collaboration is to create the next generation of researcher – the convergence investigator – who is trained to recognize and include all relevant scientific knowledge, no matter the specialty. The Convergence Fellowship initiative will help train young scientists in both biomedical and physical science approaches that heavily contribute towards development of novel immunotherapeutic approaches.

The application period for the remaining award will soon be announced. The award will be for the following project:

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• Machine Learning for Cancer Immunotherapy

The SU2C-SITC Convergence Scholars will join a host of leading researchers in cancer immunotherapy, including SITC members Carl June, MD, of University of Pennsylvania; Vinod Balachandran, MD, of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; E. John Wherry, PhD, of University of Pennsylvania; and Claire Friedman, MD, of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

For more information about the awards and to apply, please visit <u>SITC Cancer Immunotherapy</u> <u>CONNECT</u>.

## About SITC

Established in 1984, the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) is a nonprofit organization of medical professionals dedicated to improving cancer patient outcomes by advancing the development, science and application of cancer immunotherapy and tumor immunology. SITC is comprised of influential basic and translational scientists, practitioners, health care professionals, government leaders and industry professionals around the globe. Through educational initiatives that foster scientific exchange and collaboration among leaders in the field, SITC aims to one day make the word "cure" a reality for cancer patients everywhere. Learn more about SITC, our educational offerings and other resources at <u>sitcancer.org</u> and follow us on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u>.

## About Stand Up to Cancer

Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) raises funds to accelerate the pace of research to get new therapies to patients quickly and save lives now. SU2C, a division of the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was established in 2008 by film and media leaders who utilize the industry's resources to engage the public in supporting a new, collaborative model of cancer research, and to increase awareness about cancer prevention as well as progress being made in the fight against the disease. As SU2C's scientific partner, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and a Scientific Advisory Committee led by Nobel Laureate Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, conduct rigorous, competitive review processes to identify the best research proposals to recommend for funding, oversee grants administration, and provide expert review of the research progress.

Current members of the SU2C Council of Founders and Advisors (CFA) include Katie Couric, Sherry Lansing, Lisa Paulsen, Rusty Robertson, Sue Schwartz, Pamela Oas Williams, Ellen Ziffren, and Kathleen Lobb. The late Laura Ziskin and the late Noreen Fraser are also co-founders. Sung Poblete, PhD, RN, has served as SU2C's president since 2011.

For more information on Stand Up To Cancer, visit <u>www.StandUpToCancer.org</u>

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