

***2020 ABTA Alumni
Research Network
Annual Meeting***

Wednesday – Friday
September 9-11, 2020
Virtual Meeting



American
Brain Tumor
Association®



American
Brain Tumor
Association®

ALUMNI RESEARCH NETWORK MEETING



Colleagues & Friends,

On behalf of the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2020 ABTA Alumni Research Network (AARN) Annual Meeting.

The AARN Annual Meeting serves as a unique opportunity for brain tumor researchers across the country to convene and exchange scientific discoveries to accelerate brain tumor research to help the thousands of children and adults impacted by a primary or metastatic brain tumor. We are grateful for the work that you do, especially during these trying times.

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed our world. It has impacted how we at the ABTA deliver upon our mission and how our researchers are able to do their work in their lab. As we face these new challenges, we continue to revise and adapt our practices and procedures so that our work and mission continues to meet the needs of our community. While we understand the value of the personal connections made each year at the ABTA National Conference and AARN meeting, the decision to convert the meeting to a virtual format was a natural choice given the risks involved with travel and gathering. We hope the online format allows you to learn from each other and to forge connections in a new way.

I am grateful to our co-chairs, Dohoon Kim, PhD and Jane Ishmael, PhD for their flexibility and ingenuity in reformatting the program for a virtual format. They have been instrumental in their guidance to ensure an intellectually stimulating and engaging meeting program.

Please remember that you all are invited to attend the virtual patient-focused program at the ABTA National Conference immediately following the AARN Annual Meeting to hear from other neuro-oncology experts on the latest research with respect to patient care. I hope you enjoy the meeting and look forward to engaging with you at the 2020 ABTA Alumni Research Network meeting.

I hope you enjoy the meeting, and thank you for your partnership.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph A. DeVitto".

Ralph A. DeVitto
President & CEO
American Brain Tumor Association

WELCOME FROM MEETING CO-CHAIRS

Dear AARN Members,

Welcome to the 9th Annual Meeting of the American Brain Tumor Association Alumni Research Network! We are thrilled to host a meeting that assembles such a talented group of researchers. We hope that you are as excited as we are to convene on important advances in brain tumor research and on our collective goal to improve outcomes for brain tumor patients.

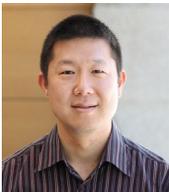
With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are presented with a new challenge to keep our research going while having limited access to our laboratories. Just as our research continues, albeit with some changes, we aim to continue the AARN Annual Meeting's tradition of inspiring new collaborations and ideas among its members through a remote setting.

We hope you will network with one another and create new opportunities for collaboration despite not being together in Chicago. This year, we will offer virtual meeting rooms where you can participate in gatherings to engage with each other between meeting sessions. We hope that you will take advantage of the online space to meet new people and to catch up with old friends and acquaintances.

We would also like to extend a special welcome to the AARN members who are joining us for the first time. Although we are unable to meet you in person this year, we hope the virtual experience at your first AARN Annual Meeting will be of value and look forward to meeting you in person at a future event.

Thank you all for attending. Most of all, thank you for your unwavering conviction to change the trajectory of this disease. We look forward to engaging with you at this year's meeting!

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dohoon Kim".

Dohoon Kim, PhD
University of Massachusetts Medical School



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. E. Ishmael".

Jane Ishmael, PhD
Oregon State University

Please use #AARN20 and #ABTAResearcher when posting to social media.



PROGRAM AGENDA

The 2020 ABTA Alumni Research Network meeting will be conducted virtually. Please note that all times shown are in Central Daylight Time (CDT).

Wednesday, September 9

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.

ABTA Welcome & Overview

Nicole Willmarth, PhD, *Chief Mission Officer,*
American Brain Tumor Association

1:15 – 1:30 p.m.

AARN Highlights

2020 AARN Meeting Co-Chairs
Jane Ishmael, PhD, *Oregon State University*
Dohoon Kim, PhD, *University of Massachusetts Medical School*

1:30 – 3:20 p.m.

AARN Member Introductions

3:20 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Real World Experience – Getting and Renewing an R01

AARN Member Panel: Deliang Guo, PhD, Jane Ishmael, PhD,
Forrest Kievit, PhD, Justin Lathia, PhD

4:30 – 4:45 p.m.

President's Welcome

Ralph DeVitto, *ABTA President & CEO*
Lou Jacobs, *AARN Supporter*

4:45 – 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Networking Breakout Session

Thursday, September 10

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Keynote Address

Cell of Origin: New Targets for Inhibiting Glioblastoma

Luis Parada, PhD, *Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*

11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Intro to Cancer Metabolism

Dohoon Kim, PhD, *University of Massachusetts Medical School*

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Metabolic Dependencies of Breast Cancer Brain Metastasis

Michael Pacold, MD, PhD, *New York University Langone Medical Center*

12:15 – 12:45 p.m.

Break/Lunch on your own

12:45 – 1:15 p.m.

Continuation of AARN Member Introductions



1:15 – 2:00 p.m.

Interface of Tumors and Normal Neurobiology

Shawn Hervey-Jumper, MD, FAANS
University of California, San Francisco

2:00 – 2:10 p.m.

Break

2:10 – 2:40 p.m.

Patient Journey

Jeanneane Maxon and Jenny Entsminger

2:40 – 3:10 p.m.

Virtual Networking Break

Friday, September 11

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Epigenetics Overview

Will Flavahan, PhD, *University of Massachusetts Medical School*

10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Epigenetics – From Bench to Clinic

Gelareh Zadeh, MD, PhD, *Princess Margaret Cancer Institute*

11:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Closing Remarks

Jane Ishmael, PhD, *Oregon State University*
Dohoon Kim, PhD, *University of Massachusetts Medical School*
Heather Calderone, PhD, *ABTA, Director of Research and Grants*

11:30 a.m.

Join patient-focused sessions already in progress

Note: AARN members and speakers must register separately for the patient-focused sessions

Virtual Networking will be available until 12:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT ABTA PATIENT MEETING SCHEDULE

10:00 – 10:20 a.m.

Welcome

Ralph DeVitto, *ABTA President & CEO*
Jim Reilly, *ABTA Board Chair*

10:20 – 10:50 a.m.

ABTA Session: Who We Are, What We Offer, and How to Get Involved

Nicole Willmarth, PhD, *ABTA Chief Mission Officer*
Alicia Morris, *ABTA Director, National Volunteers*

10:55 – 11:25 a.m.

Brain Tumor Network: Guiding and Empowering Patients & Caregivers

Sontag Foundation and Brain Tumor Network



CONT'D CONCURRENT ABTA PATIENT MEETING SCHEDULE

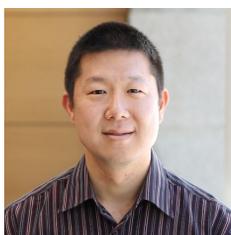
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Bench to Bedside: How Does Science Impact Brain
Tumor Patient Care**

Shawn Hervey-Jumper, MD, FAANS
University of California, San Francisco

Patient-focused sessions continue through 4:45 p.m. Friday, September 11, and resume Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CDT.

2020 AARN Invited Speakers



Dohoon Kim, PhD

Assistant Professor

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Dohoon Kim completed his BS and MS degrees at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, his PhD at Harvard University, and his postdoctoral research at the Whitehead Institute. In 2015 he became an Assistant Professor in the Dept of Molecular, Cell and Cancer Biology at UMass Medical School. His lab investigates strategies for selectively killing cancer cells through their accumulation of toxic metabolites. He is a Suh Kyungbae Foundation (SUHF) Young Investigator.



Jeanneane Maxon and Jenny Entsminger

Brain Tumor Patient and Care Partner

Over two years ago, Jeanneane was unexpectedly diagnosed with grade 4 Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM). Currently Jeanneane serves as an Ambassador for the Optune program, sponsored by Novocure. She authors and manages a blog, *Cancer, Courage and Christ*. Jeanneane lives with her dad, Chris, and her cat, Frankie, in Wylie, TX.



Jenny Entsminger is the mother and caregiver of Jeanneane Maxon. Jenny is an author and serves as the director of the West Virginia Pregnancy Center Coalition. She lives in Charleston, West Virginia and loves to spend time with her four grandkids.



Will Flavahan, MD

Assistant Professor

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Dr. Flavahan just started an Assistant Professor at U Mass Med, studying epigenetics and the three dimensional genome in cancer. Dr. Flavahan did his postdoc with Brad Bernstein at MGH, studying how insulator dysfunction acted as a non-genetic driver of hypermethylator tumors such as IDH-mutant glioma. He did his Ph.D. with Jeremy Rich at the Cleveland Clinic, studying glucose uptake in glioma stem cells.



Shawn Hervey-Jumper, MD, FAANS

Assistant Professor

University of California, San Francisco

Dr. Shawn Hervey-Jumper is an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery and Principal Investigator in the Brain Tumor Center at the University of California, San Francisco. His research focuses on the bidirectional mechanisms by which low- and high-grade gliomas interface with functional cognitive networks, studying glial-neural network connections using functional imaging and molecular biology. His goal is to arrive at a clearer understanding of how gliomas integrate into neural networks in order to develop interventional strategies focused on both eradicating tumor and repairing healthy brain.



Michael Pacold, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor

New York University Langone Medical Center

Michael Pacold is an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology at NYU Langone Medical Center. He is interested in the adaptation of tumor cells to unusual metabolic environments, targeting these adaptations with small molecules, and developing improved metabolomics techniques. He also maintains a limited practice in Gamma Knife Radiosurgery.



Luis F. Parada, PhD

Director, Brain Tumor Center

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Parada has lead the interdisciplinary Brain Tumor Center at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center since 2015. His laboratory uses genetically engineered mouse models to study human disease including neurofibromatosis, brain tumors, cancer stem cells, and tumor progression.



Gelareh Zadeh, MD

Program Medical Director, Krembil Brain Institute, Head, Division of Surgical Oncology, Senior Scientist

Princess Margaret Cancer Institute

Dr. Gelareh Zadeh is a Professor at the Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, Head of Division of Neurosurgery and Senior Scientist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Research Institute. Her research focuses on genomic and epigenomics of brain tumors to establish better prognostic and predictive modelling, together with biomarkers of disease. A second stream of research focuses on exploring molecular mechanisms of angiogenesis and regulators of tumor microenvironment, angiogenesis and metabolism in gliomas. She also has a clinical practice that focuses on Skull Base Neuro-oncology with collaborations in clinics that include skull base, pituitary, brain metastases, gamma knife, and neurofibromatosis.

2020 AARN Member Participants



Marta M. Alonso, PhD
University Hospital of Navarra

2015 Basic Research Fellowship
mmalonso@unav.es

Research Interests

Our laboratory is focused on developing new advanced therapies for pediatric brain tumors specially using oncolytic virus with a special focus in high-risk pediatric tumors including (DIPGs, AT/Rts and PNETS).



Christian Badr, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School

2011 Basic Research Fellowship, 2019 Discovery Grant
badr.christian@mgh.harvard.edu

Research Interests

My lab is focused on studying tumor plasticity and genetic drivers of malignancy and treatment resistance in brain-tumor initiating cells, in order to develop targeted and experimental therapeutics for brain tumors.



Milan G. Chheda, MD
Washington University School of Medicine

2008 Basic Research Fellowship
mchheda@wustl.edu

Research Interests

I am a neuro-oncologist who treats patients with primary brain tumors and neurological complications of cancer. Our lab uses functional genomics, biochemical assays, and oncolytic strategies to target brain tumors.



Henk De Feyter, PhD
Yale University

2013 Discovery Grant
henk.defeyter@yale.edu

Research Interests

My research is focused on metabolic imaging, using magnetic resonance-based methods and stable isotopes such as ¹³C and ²H. We focus on the application of such novel imaging techniques in pre-clinical and clinical research.



Loic Deleyrolle, PhD

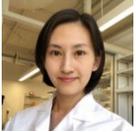
University of Florida

2018 Discovery Grant

loic.deleyrolle@neurosurgery.ufl.edu

Research Interests

Our research effort focuses on characterizing the unique pathways driving the stem cell state in malignant brain tumors and identifying cancer stem cell dependencies and vulnerabilities that can be exploited therapeutically to specifically target these clinically relevant cells.



Wei Du, MD, PhD

Charleston Area Medical Center

2018 Basic Research Fellowship

vita.duw@gmail.com

Research Interests

My research project is to examine the function of regulatory T cells in brain metastasis. We aim to develop new interventions for brain metastasis prevention and treatment.



Benjamin Ellingson, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles

2017 Research Collaboration Grant

BEllingson@mednet.ucla.edu

Research Interests

Development, implementation and validation of novel imaging techniques for quantifying brain tumor biology and response to novel therapies.



William Flavahan, PhD

University of Massachusetts Medical School

2015 Basic Research Fellowship

william.flavahan@umassmed.edu

Research Interests

My research is focused on understanding how cryptic DNA mutations without obvious tumorigenic potential (such as mutant IDH1) can cause defects in the epigenome to drive transformation and tumor progression.



Catherine Flores, PhD

University of Florida

2017 Research Collaboration Grant

catherine.flores@neurosurgery.ufl.edu

Research Interests

Dr. Flores is interested in determining biological interactions between various cellular compartments involved in adoptive immunotherapy. Her studies also focus on leveraging systemic toxicity of clinical treatments in order to further enhance anti-tumor efficacy of immunotherapy.



Galina Gabriely, PhD

Mass General Brigham Hospital

2007 Basic Research Fellowship

ggabriely@bwh.harvard.edu

Research Interests

My research is focused on tolerogenic mechanisms that impair anti-tumor immunity to identify new targets for the therapy of GBM. I am particularly interested in myeloid cells and CD8 T cells that promote glioma growth.



Javier Ganz, PhD

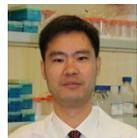
Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School

2019 Basic Research Fellowship

javierganz@gmail.com

Research Interests

I aim to understand how normal human brain development and aging might contribute to tumor initiation. Using ultra-deep sequencing and single-cell whole-genome analysis, I am working on elucidating the dynamics of the accumulation of cancer-associated mutations in the brain of normal individuals.



Deliang Guo, PhD

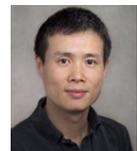
The Ohio State University

2010 Translational Grant

deliang.guo@osumc.edu

Research Interests

My research has focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms that drive GBM pathogenesis and metabolism alterations and identifying effective molecular targets for cancer treatment.



Yiping He, PhD

Duke University

2019 Discovery Grant

yiping.he@duke.edu

Research Interests

My research focuses on genetic alterations and epigenetic dysregulation in brain tumors.



Anita Hjelmeland, PhD

University of Alabama at Birmingham

2005 Basic Research Fellowship

hjelmea@uab.edu

Research Interests

The Hjelmeland laboratory seeks to investigate and target the effects of the tumor microenvironment on glioblastoma metabolism and stem cell state.



Lan Hoang-Minh, PhD

University of Florida

2016 Basic Research Fellowship

hoang@ufl.edu

Research Interests

Dr. Hoang-Minh's research focuses on enhancing adoptive T cell immunotherapy strategies against adult and pediatric brain tumors.



Craig Horbinski, MD, PhD

Northwestern University

2008 Basic Research Fellowship

craig.horbinski@northwestern.edu

Research Interests

My research focuses on how IDH1 mutations affect the glioma microenvironment. I also have new lines of investigation into novel meningioma therapies and mechanisms of GBM dissemination.



Xi Huang, PhD

The Hospital for Sick Children

2016 Discovery Grant

xi.huang@sickkids.ca

Research Interests

My lab studies how ion channels perceive physiochemical information (mechanical force, membrane voltage, temperature, pH etc.) to regulate bioelectrical and biophysical signaling and brain tumor growth.



Christopher Hubert, PhD

Cleveland Clinic

2018 Discovery Grant

hubertc@ccf.org

Research Interests

My research begins by preserving the diversity of cells present in clinical tumors by using 3-dimensional organoid "mini-tumors" that retain different tumor environments as found in patient tumors. We then study the different kinds of tumor cells in 3D, dividing up the complex tumor into smaller pieces that we can treat and kill. By combining therapies that target separate types of tumor cells, we believe we will be able to more completely destroy the whole tumor.



Jane Ishmael, PhD

Oregon State University

2014 Discovery Grant

jane.ishmael@oregonstate.edu

Research Interests

My laboratory studies the action of chemical structures that have arisen in nature as secondary metabolites of marine organisms living in diverse ecological niches. We are particularly interested in mechanisms of ER stress and death in brain tumor cells and the potential utility of these structures to probe cell signaling, reveal new druggable targets and inspire future drug development.



Lohitash Karumbaiah, PhD

University of Georgia

2019 Discovery Grant

lohitash@uga.edu

Research Interests

Research in my lab is focused on investigating the role of extracellular sulfated glycosaminoglycans in the brain tumor microenvironment. We employ a host of tools including tissue engineered glycomaterials, microphysiological systems, and animal models in order to better understand the role of these sugars in promoting stem cell maintenance and tumor invasion.



Forrest Kievit, PhD

University of Nebraska

2013 Basic Research Fellowship

fkievit2@unl.edu

Research Interests

My research focuses on the development of nanoparticle-based delivery vehicles for transport into the brain to improve current brain cancer treatments, with the overall goal of translating nanomedicine into clinical use.



Albert Kim, MD

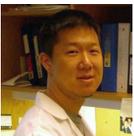
Massachusetts General Hospital

2019 Basic Research Fellowship

akim46@mgh.harvard.edu

Research Interests

My research interests are in genetic/epigenetic mechanisms of immunotherapy response/resistance to brain metastases, and to correlate these salient genomic features to imaging.



Dohoon Kim, PhD

University of Massachusetts Medical School

2010 Basic Research Fellowship

dohoon.kim@umassmed.edu

Research Interests

We have found that cancer cells are dependent on metabolic pathways which involve the transient formation of toxic intermediates. We aim to understand the role of these pathways and to exploit them to poison cancer cells with their own metabolites.



Gary Kohanbash, PhD

University of Pittsburgh

2020 Discovery Grant

gary.kohanbash2@chp.edu

Research Interests

My lab focuses on improving peptide vaccines for brain tumor patients. More recently, we have been working on theransotic approaches for brain tumors including delivering targeted radiation to block myeloid cells and imaging T-cell activity as a predictor of response to immunotherapy.



Giedre Krenciute, PhD

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
2016 Basic Research Fellowship
giedre.krenciute@stjude.org

Research Interests

My research focuses on genetic engineering approaches to improve T cell based therapies for brain tumors.



Albert Lai, MD, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles
2005 Basic Research Fellowship, 2012 Translational Grant
albertlai@mednet.ucla.edu

Research Interests

My lab is interested in the role of IDH1 mutation in promoting DNA and RNA hypermethylation in glioma.



Justin D. Lathia, PhD

Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic
2009 Basic Research Fellowship, 2019 Research Collaboration Grant
lathiaj@ccf.org

Research Interests

We are focused on tumor microenvironment interactions, cancer stem cells, and myeloid-derived suppressor cells. We make use of a variety of pre-clinical models integrated with human samples to test hypotheses with the hopes of translating therapeutic approaches into early stage clinical trials.



Hernando Lopez-Bertoni, PhD

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
2015 Basic Research Fellowship
mherna16@jhmi.edu

Research Interests

My research focuses on understanding how reprogramming mechanisms that control the stem-like phenotype of GBM cells contribute to GBM biology and using this knowledge to develop new therapeutics to treat the disease.



Braden McFarland, PhD

University of Alabama at Birmingham
2012 Basic Research Fellowship
bdcox@uab.edu

Research Interests

My current research interests are centered around discovering new therapies for patients with GBM, which include pharmacological inhibition of the JAK/STAT pathway in patient-derived xenograft models, exploiting inflammatory (anti-tumor) macrophages to enhance standard of care in immunocompetent models, and understanding how the gut microbiome is altered by the diet as well as by certain drug therapies in mouse models of glioma.



Vedrana Montana, PhD

University of Alabama at Birmingham

2009 Basic Research Fellowship

vedranam@uab.edu

Research Interests

One of the hallmarks of glioma growth is its migration into healthy brain tissue. The focus of my research is to study the role of exocytotic proteins in migration of glioma cells and glioma-glioma interactions.



Josh Neman, PhD

University of Southern California

2016 Discovery Grant

ybrahim@usc.edu

Research Interests

My current research at USC investigates the biology of brain metastases and pediatric brain tumors medulloblastoma. My lab's focus is to raise awareness that transdisciplinary research between neurobiology and cancer foundations can advance our current understanding of how the nervous system contributes to primary and metastatic brain tumors.



Ethel Ngen, PhD

John Hopkins University School of Medicine

2014 Basic Research Fellowship

engen1@jhmi.edu

Research Interests

My research focuses on developing cellular/molecular imaging biosensors and drug/nanoparticle delivery strategies for applications in precision oncology and regenerative medicine.



Thi Thu Trang Nguyen, PhD

Columbia University

2019 Basic Research Fellowship

tn2387@cumc.columbia.edu

Research Interests

Enhance the apoptosis of solid tumors by selective novel drug combinations treatment. Understanding the underlying mechanism of these drug combinations.



Christine O'Connor, PhD

Cleveland Clinic

2019 Discovery Grant

oconnoc6@ccf.org

Research Interests

Emerging data implicate human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) in GBM progression, including findings that HCMV drives GBM cell proliferation, and my lab has found that the viral-encoded GPCR, US28 influences this phenotype. Our goal is to elucidate the contribution(s) of US28-mediated signaling that leads to cancer stem cell expansion and GBM progression.



Chirag Patel, MD, PhD

Stanford University, School of Medicine

2017 Basic Research Fellowship

cbpatel@stanford.edu

Research Interests

My lab studies novel mechanisms of action of tumor treating fields (TTFields) that may be utilized to improve anti-GBM efficacy. We also study how mechanical properties of the tumor microenvironment affect GBM.



Francisco Puerta-Martinez, PhD

University of Minnesota

2015 Basic Research Fellowship

fpuertam@umn.edu

Research Interests

My current research focuses on immunotherapy of solid tumors, especially brain tumors, targeting the CD200/CD200R immune checkpoint. I am also interested in the potential interference of opioid-based pain medications with cancer immunotherapy given its immunosuppressive side effects.



Renee Read, PhD

Emory University School of Medicine

2015 Discovery Grant

renee.read@emory.edu

Research Interests

My goal is to determine how aspects of glioblastoma cell biology and genetics can be effectively pharmacologically targeted to actively eliminate these tumor cells in the brain. To achieve this goal, my research program uses multidisciplinary approaches and model systems, including mouse genetic models of GBM, primary patient-derived human GBM stem cells, and novel tumor models in *Drosophila melanogaster*.



Jan Remsik, PhMD, PhD

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

2019 Basic Research Fellowship

remsikhj@mskcc.org

Research Interests

I am a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Adrienne Boire at MSKCC. My research focuses on the crosstalk between immune system and metastatic cells.



Hanna Sabelström, PhD

Denali Therapeutics

2017 Basic Research Fellowship

Sabelstroem@dnli.com

Research Interests

I am studying a novel pressure-reducing therapy to abrogate tumor invasiveness and immune infiltration in glioblastoma.



Pilar Sanchez-Gomez, PhD

Instituto de Salud Carlos III

2002 Basic Research Fellowship

psanchezg@isciii.es

Research Interests

We look into the interplay between cancer cells and their surrounding microenvironment, with a special focus on vascular remodeling and its relevance for other components of the niche (immune cells and neurons).



Gangadhara Sareddy, PhD

University of Texas Health San Antonio

2014 Discovery Grant

sareddy@uthscsa.edu

Research Interests

My current research is focused on the role of lysine demethylase KDM1A/LSD1 in stemness and therapy resistance of glioblastoma.



Matthew Sarkisian, PhD

University of Florida

2018 Discovery Grant

msarkisian@ufl.edu

Research Interests

My lab studies the role of primary cilia signaling in brain development and brain tumors. Cilia are tiny microtubule-based antennas that we think glioma cells exploit to promote tumor growth or recurrence.



Morgan Schrock, DVM, PhD

The Ohio State University

2018 Basic Research Fellowship

morgan.schrock@osumc.edu

Research Interests

My research focuses on understanding the efficacy of MKlp2 inhibition as a treatment for GBM. As a veterinarian, I am also interested in the use of pet dogs with brain cancer as a model for human cancers.



Stephanie Seidlits, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles

2018 Discovery Grant

seidlits@g.ucla.edu

Research Interests

My lab works to develop biomaterial-based models of the tissue microenvironment, and in particular the extracellular matrix, to identify (and evaluate the clinical relevance of) features driving glioblastoma resistance, invasion and recurrence.



Martyn Sharpe, PhD

Houston Methodist Research Institute

2011 Discovery Grant

masharpe@houstonmethodist.org

Research Interests

Co-inventor of Oncomagnetic Therapy and co-inventor of three new families of chemotherapeutics. Investigation of pan-cancer vaccines.



Markus Siegelin, MD

Columbia University Medical Center

2013 Translational Grant, 2017 Discovery Grant

ms4169@columbia.edu

Research Interests

Our lab is interested in glioblastoma metabolism and epigenetics and how these processes intersect and influence proliferation and cell death in glioblastoma models.



Massimo Squatrito, PhD

Spanish National Cancer Centre (CNIO)

2008 Basic Research Fellowship

msquatrito@cniio.es

Research Interests

The main focus of our group is to uncover the genetic alterations present in glioma patients that are responsible for the aggressiveness and the poor treatment response of these tumors.



Min Tang-Schomer, PhD

The Jackson Laboratory

2019 Discovery Grant

Min.Tang-Schomer@jax.org

Research Interests

My research focuses on developing 3D patient-derived brain tumor tissue models to recapitulate complex cell-cell and cell-matrix interactions in vitro. Another integral aspect is to develop functional assay systems for in vitro tissue models to study physiological, biological and drug responses of brain tumors.



An-Chi Tien, PhD

Ivy Brain Tumor Center, Barrow Neurological Institute

2012 Basic Research Fellowship

An-Chi.Tien@ivybraintumorcenter.org

Research Interests

My lab is focusing on identifying pharmacodynamic endpoint and biomarkers for any targeted combination therapy in a phase 0 trial.



Anh N. Tran, PhD

Northwestern University

2019 Basic Research Fellowship

trannhatanh89@gmail.com

Research Interests

I am interested in the biology and therapeutic targets of glioblastoma and meningioma.



Monica Venere, PhD

The Ohio State University

2010 Basic Research Fellowship

monica.venere@osumc.edu

Research Interests

The Venere laboratory is investigating mechanisms of radioresistance and pathways involved in fate switch from invasion to proliferation in glioblastoma.



Derek Alan Wainwright, PhD

Northwestern University

2013 Discovery Grant

derekwainwright@northwestern.edu

Research Interests

My group focuses on elucidating a new mechanism of action as mediated by the immunosuppressive factor, IDO, which is expressed in >90% of patient-resected GBM, as well as the role of advanced age in GBM cell initiation and response to immunotherapy.



Kyle Walsh, PhD

Duke University

Brain Tumor Epidemiology Consortium Junior Investigator

kyle.walsh@duke.edu

Research Interests

Dr. Walsh's research program focuses on genetic and epigenetic factors contributing to cancer predisposition in children and adults, with a special interest in brain tumors.



Zhaohui Wang, PhD

Woo Center for Big Data and Precision Health at Duke

2016 Basic Research Fellowship

zhaohui.wang@duke.edu

Research Interests

My current research mainly focuses on establishing the ex vivo cancer models for high-throughput drug and epigenetic screening. I am also interested in establishing the mini-brain and glioma co-culture model for studying DIPG.



Lee Wong, PhD

Monash University

2019 Discovery Grant

lee.wong@monash.edu

Research Interests

My research aims to identify new epigenetic factors and pathways that control genome stability and telomere function. I also investigate chromatin and transcriptional defects linked to chromatin remodeller ATRX and histone H3.3 mutations in brain cancers.



Qian Xie, MD, PhD

East Tennessee State University

2013 Discovery Grant

xieq01@etsu.edu

Research Interests

The Xie lab is focused on understanding the mechanisms of MET pathway activation in glioblastoma, to accelerate strategies to improve therapeutic efficacy targeting brain tumors, and to establish preclinical models for targeted therapy.



Odessa Yabut, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

2018 Research Collaboration Grant

odessa.yabut@ucsf.edu

Research Interests

My research is primarily centered on gaining mechanistic insights on how neural stem/progenitor cell developmental processes are co-opted to drive brain tumor formation. Additionally, I am developing rational in vivo models for pediatric and adult brain tumors for use in preclinical testing of novel therapeutics.



Eunhee Yi, PhD

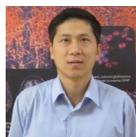
The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine

2018 Basic Research Fellowship

Eunhee.Yi@jax.org

Research Interests

I am exploring the biological features of extrachromosomal DNA which is suggested as a major source of intratumoral heterogeneity in glioblastoma. I am mostly focusing on visualization of extrachromosomal DNA using CRISPR-based genome labeling technique to trace their behavior in living cells.



Mingyao Ying, PhD

Kennedy Krieger Institute

2012 Discovery Grant

ying@kennedykrieger.org

Research Interests

My laboratory uses brain tumor stem cells and human pluripotent stem cells to study the molecular mechanisms and targeted therapies for glioblastoma and medulloblastoma. We focus on the EGFR, Hippo and chemokine signaling pathways.



Jennifer Yu, MD, PhD

Cleveland Clinic

2015 Discovery Grant

yuj2@ccf.org

Research Interests

Our lab is focused on understanding mechanisms underlying GSC tumorigenic properties including co-option of core development pathways, survival under hypoxic stress, and resistance to radiation, with the long-term goal of uncovering potential therapeutic targets.



Kyuson Yun, PhD

Houston Methodist Research Institute

2013 Discovery Grant

kyun@houstonmethodist.org

Research Interests

My laboratory studies spatial and temporal heterogeneity of cancer stem cells and tumor-infiltrating immune cells and their roles in tumor progression and therapy resistance in gliomas and medulloblastoma. We use single cell sequencing and mouse genetics to identify potential novel therapeutic targets.



Fan Zhang, PhD

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

2018 Basic Research Fellowship

zfan.eng@gmail.com

Research Interests

My research is focused on developing new nanotherapeutic strategies for effective combination therapy in the treatment of malignant brain tumors. Our aim is to conduct translational research to improve the therapeutic outcome of immunotherapy, gene therapy, and radiotherapy for glioblastoma.



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