

## AACR Scholar-in-Training Awards

### 2024 AACR SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS SUPPORTED BY A GIFT FROM ALFRED AND CATHY FRASER

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024 were generously supported by a gift from Alfred and Cathy Fraser.

**Jaewoo Choi, PhD**, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. **Abstract 3913.** Molecular mechanism of action and targets of glucocorticoids in lymphoma therapy.

**Jing Yi Lee, BS**, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore. **Abstract 7276.** Potent anti-proliferative activity of brincidofovir in Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma with overexpression of transcriptional repressor TLE1.

**Rita Leporati, MD**, Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milan, Italy. **Abstract 3702.** Dissecting circulating tumor cells phenotype in a cohort of locally advanced non-small cell lung cancer patients undergoing neoadjuvant chemotherapy.

**Olivia Sirpilla, BS**, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. **Abstract 3841.** Tumor-derived microRNA125a induces CART cell apoptosis and failure in B cell malignancies.

### 2024 AACR SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM DAIICHI SANKYO

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024 were generously supported by a grant from Daiichi Sankyo.

**Lindsay A. Caprio, BS**, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 5360.** Relief of chromosomal instability-induced cGAS-STING signaling sensitizes STK11-mutant non-small cell lung cancer to immune checkpoint blockade.

**Tasneem Cheytan, MS**, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany. **Abstract 3940.** Nuclear translocation of HER3 promotes breast cancer progression and dissemination recruiting immune cells via CXCL1 and CXCL8.

**Yue Feng, PhD**, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China. **Abstract 828.** Associations of perfluoroalkyl substances with breast cancer incidence risk and mediation role of mitochondrial DNA copy number: A prospective case-cohort study.

**Chenxu Guo, PhD**, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 3015.** HD-PTP mediates tumor suppression via modulation of anti-tumor immunity.

**Zhou Jiang, PhD**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 33.** Revitalizing CAR-T cells for TNBC: Targeting phosphorylation of TCF7 to overcome T cell exhaustion.

**Laura Kaiser, MS**, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. **Abstract 6943.** Evolutionary dynamics under chemotherapy in small cell lung cancer: Insights from patient-derived xenotransplant models.

**Seunghyun Lee, BS**, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 3925.** Cancer-associated fibroblast-derived Dickkopf-1 impairs anti-tumor immunity in breast cancer by suppressing NK cell-mediated cytotoxicity.

**Lavanya Sivapalan, PhD**, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 6557.** Longitudinal cell-free tumor load dynamics represent an early endpoint for immunotherapy response in non-small cell lung cancer.

**2024 AACR SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS SUPPORTED BY AN INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL GRANT FROM ABBVIE**

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024 were generously supported by an independent educational grant from AbbVie.

**Aftab Alam, PhD**, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY. **Abstract 6674**. Fungi utilizes exocytosis pathway to facilitate the release of DAMPs from pancreatic cancer cells.

**Emily G. Caggiano, BS**, The UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, UT Health Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Houston, TX. **Abstract 692**. Uncoupling protein 2 (Ucp2) loss of function enhances mitochondrial ROS and sensitizes PDAC to radiation therapy.

**Jason E. Chan, MD, PhD**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 6626**. Functional and molecular interrogation of a high-plasticity cell state in lung cancer.

**Caleb Cheng, BS**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 2087**. Targeting lipid metabolism in pancreatic cancer.

**Antoine Desilets, MD, MSc**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 6568**. PTCH1 loss-of-function alterations: Mutational landscape and therapeutic outcomes to hedgehog pathway inhibitors in non-canonical histologies.

**Sanjana Eyunni, MS**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 1433**. FOXA1 alterations distinctively drive prostate tumorigenesis or therapy resistance in mice.

**Kyriaki Founta, BS**, Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, Hempstead, NY. **Abstract 6115**. Genetic ancestry specific meQTLs control immune function regulation in a breast cancer cohort of African and European patients.

**Wang Gong, DDS, PhD**, University of Michigan School of Dentistry, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 3927**. Metabolic inhibition of BATF2 dampens type-I interferon-mediated immune sensing of cancer.

**Tonči Ivanišević, MS**, VIB-KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Leuven, Belgium. **Abstract 3941**. Wild-type KRAS dosage in mutant KRAS lung cancer: Implications for tumorigenesis and therapeutic response.

**Chinmay T. Jani, MBBS**, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at University of Miami, Miami, FL. **Abstract 803**. Disparities unveiled: A comprehensive analysis of evolving trends in lung cancer risk factors in the ten most populous countries.

**Juntae Kwon, PhD**, Georgetown University, Washington, DC. **Abstract 4294**. The emerging role of deubiquitinase enzymes in lung cancer plasticity.

**Jiye Liu, PhD**, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA. **Abstract 1223**. KDM6A orchestrates NK cell response via CD38/48 regulation in multiple myeloma.

**Leandro M. Martinez, DVM, PhD**, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 272**. Novel role for eIF4E in homing of acute myeloid leukemia cells.

**Jade Moore, PhD**, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 6651**. Compromised TGF $\beta$  signaling and DNA repair primes immune poor tumors response to immune checkpoint blockade by activating NK cells.

**Sushmitha Sriramulu, PhD**, Henry Ford Health, Detroit, MI. **Abstract 689**. BUB1 interferes with the repair of radiation-induced DNA damage to radiosensitize triple-negative breast cancer.

**Thinh N. Tran, PhD**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 1252**. AI-derived predictions improve identification of real-world cancer driver mutations.

**Abhishek Tyagi, PhD**, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC. **Abstract 5515**. Low body mass index (BMI) induces neuronal NPY and promotes brain metastasis of lung cancer.

**Xinan Wang, PhD**, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA. **Abstract 2151**. Additional impact of genetic ancestry over self-reported race/ethnicity to prevalence of KRAS mutations and allele-specific subtypes in non-small cell lung cancer.

**Laura C. Woodhouse, MBBS**, Manchester Cancer Research Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom. **Abstract 1746**. KRAS mutant lung adenocarcinoma is associated with distinct mutational signature profiles.

**Liping Yang, PhD**, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Frederick, MD. **Abstract 6594**. 4-1BB: A double-edged sword for T cells.

**Qingmei Zhang, BS**, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong. **Abstract 2703**. Targeting STING pathway as a therapeutic strategy against  $\beta$ -catenin driven immune escape and resistance to anti-PD1 therapy in hepatocellular carcinoma.

### **2024 AACR-AMERICAN BRAIN TUMOR ASSOCIATION SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS**

The American Brain Tumor Association has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting high quality abstracts in brain cancer research for both primary and secondary (metastatic) brain tumors at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Elizabeth A.R. Garfinkle, PhD**, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH. **Abstract 1174**. Incorporation of multisector analysis into the design of personalized DNA vaccines for patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma.

**Darwin W. Kwok, MS**, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 3907**. Novel public and tumor-wide neoantigens arising from clonal aberrant splicing events drive tumor-specific T-cell responses across diverse cancer types.

**Golnaz Morad, DDS, PhD**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 1283**. Digital spatial profiling of metastatic brain tumors reveals association of the tumor microbiome with immune alterations in the tumor microenvironment.

**Viral Oza, MEng**, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. **Abstract 1126**. Extracellular vesicle mediated radioresistance in H3K27M-diffuse midline glioma.

**Andrew J. Scott, PhD**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 1801**. Rewiring of cortical glucose metabolism fuels human brain cancer growth.

**Shih-Ying Wu, PhD**, Wake Forest University, Clemmons, NC. **Abstract 5521**. Nicotine promotes perineural brain metastasis of lung cancer by activating GABAergic neurons.

### **2024 AACR-BARBARA CAMPBELL CREIGHTON SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS**

These awards were funded by a generous donation from the Barbara Campbell Creighton Award Fund to support early career scientists presenting exceptional research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Isaraphorn Pratumchai, PhD**, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA. **Abstract 4063**. SAR445877, an anti-PD-1 antibody-IL-15 mitein fusion protein restores function to exhausted T cells.

**Samuel T. Roach, BA**, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL. **Abstract 1496**. The role of endothelial ACKR1 in breast cancer metastasis.

**Alessandro Vasciaveo, PhD**, Columbia University, New York City, NY. **Abstract 6545**. Reversing lineage plasticity and drug resistance in lethal prostate cancer.

**Gulum Yenisehirli, BA**, University of Miami, Miami, FL. **Abstract 4581**. Identifying class 1 HDACs as a vulnerability for aggressive uveal melanoma.

## 2024 AACR-BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS

### *in Memory of Rebecca Scheinkman*

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting high quality abstracts in breast cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024. This year, this funding has been given by the Breast Cancer Research Foundation to honor the memory of Rebecca Scheinkman.

**Natalia Krawczynska, PhD**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL. **Abstract 1258**. A cholesterol metabolite can modulate neutrophil-derived extracellular vesicles to promote breast cancer cell epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT) and stemness.

**Tanmoy Saha, PhD**, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 3935**. Involvement of nanoscale physical communication in obesity-associated breast cancer severity.

## 2024 AACR-DOREEN J. PUTRAH CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS

These awards are presented to early career investigators of meritorious abstracts to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024. These awards are made possible through a gracious donation from the Doreen J. Putrah Cancer Research Foundation.

**Stephanie L. Alden, MD**, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 3846**. The obesity paradox in immune checkpoint blockade: A pan-tumor analysis.

**Jamie O. Brett, MD, PhD**, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA. **Abstract 4425**. Metabolic vulnerabilities of dedifferentiated liposarcoma.

**Monica F. Chen, MD**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 6570**. HLA genotyping and HLA-based clinical trial matching using MSK-IMPACT, a targeted next-generation sequencing assay.

**Nicole Dam, MS**, Leiden University Medical Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands. **Abstract 2025**. Zeb1 downregulation sensitizes pancreatic cancer-associated fibroblasts to killing by oncolytic reovirus through upregulation of the reovirus receptor junction adhesion molecule A.

**Melody Di Bona, PhD**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 1260**. Collapse of cancer cell micronuclei from oxidative damage.

**Wendy Effah, BS**, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN. **Abstract 6281**. Context dependent role of glucocorticoids in breast cancer.

**Petros Fessas, MBBChir**, University College London, London, United Kingdom. **Abstract 2926**. The effect of cancer research autopsy parameters on DNA and RNA sequencing quality.

**Koelina Ganguly, PhD**, NYU Langone Health, New York, NY. **Abstract 1591**. Hepatocytes compensate for the loss of PHGDH in pancreatic cancer cells during liver metastasis.

**MD Obaidul Islam, PhD**, University of Miami, Miami, FL. **Abstract 5583**. Helicobacter pylori induces the wee1, promoting immune suppressive in human gastric adenocarcinoma.

**Kassidy M. Jungles, BS**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 708**. Targeting aurora kinase B (AURKB) as a radiosensitizing strategy in syngeneic models of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC).

**Soyoung Kwak, PhD**, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 6617**. Oral microbiome and subsequent risk for head and neck squamous cell cancer development.

**Xiaoqi Li, MS**, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. **Abstract 1594**. Pancreatic cancer and T-cell crosstalk-induced MUC4 expression attenuates T-cell-mediated response.

**Darren Liu, BS, BA**, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Cleveland, OH. **Abstract 979**. Cell-free DNA fragmentomics and second malignant neoplasm risk in patients with PTEN hamartoma tumor syndrome.

**Shyamananda Singh Mayengbam, PhD**, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY. **Abstract 6818**. Obesity-mediated perineural invasion promotes PDAC tumorigenesis.

**Julia V. Milne, PhD**, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, VIC, Australia. **Abstract 5578**. Multi-omics approach reveals a SMAD4-deficiency signature, translational reprogramming and synthetic lethality in esophageal adenocarcinoma.

**Ido Nofech-Mozes, BSc**, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 5552**. Uncovering clinically significant tumor microenvironment interaction programs across diverse cancers.

**Ganesh Kumar Raut, PhD**, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 2956**. Chemotherapy-induced adipocyte senescence triggers bone loss through osteoclast activation.

**Sarah Short, BA**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 982**. Variation of cell-free DNA concentrations in liquid biopsies.

**Shuo Wang, PhD, MPH**, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. **Abstract 3452**. Senescence-associated secretory phenotype (SASP) aging index is associated with cancer risk in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study.

**Wyatt Wofford, BS**, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC. **Abstract 1570**. Lipid metabolism alterations promote TNBC metastasis and immunotherapy resistance via PD-L1 internalization and signaling.

**Xinmiao Yan, PhD**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 2702**. Hyperprogression due to myeloid mimicry in renal medullary carcinoma treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

**Shahriar A. Zamani, PhD**, National Cancer Institute, Rockville, MD. **Abstract 6155**. Germline variants in cancer susceptibility genes and subsequent neoplasm risks after childhood cancer: A pooled analysis of two large-scale cohorts.

**Shuming Zhang, MS**, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 2312**. Integrating spatial multi-omics data with spatial quantitative pharmacology (spQSP) model to simulate human neoadjuvant immunotherapy clinical trial of hepatocellular carcinoma.

## 2024 AACR-GILEAD AND KITE SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS

These awards were funded by a generous donation from Gilead and Kite support to early career scientists presenting exceptional research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Batel Blechter, PhD**, National Cancer Institute, Rockville, MD. **Abstract 6149**. Polygenic risk score and lung adenocarcinoma risk among never-smokers by EGFR mutation status.

**Manoj Chelvanambi, PhD**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 5486**. Spatial profiling reveals unique immune-transcriptomic features of tertiary lymphoid structures in melanoma.

**Megha Das, PhD**, University of Miami, Miami, FL. **Abstract 179**. Identification of a novel crosstalk between MDSC and NKregs in immunotherapy resistant triple negative breast cancer.

**Vaishnavi Devarakonda, MS**, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 6645**. Temporal immune profiling reveals systemic anti tumor immunity in triple negative breast cancer(TNBC) patients treated with immunotherapy and radiation.

**Ingrid Aukje Franken, MD**, UMC Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands. **Abstract 2496**. Molecular characterization of stage III colon cancer patients with recurrence after adjuvant chemotherapy.

**SeongJun Han, PhD**, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. **Abstract 6592**. Deciphering the effects of age on T cell immunity and immunotherapy.

**Christy Hong, PhD**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 6598**. Inhibition of cGAS as a strategy to restore anti-tumor immunity response to STING agonist in chromosomally unstable tumors.

**Bitta P. Kahangi, BA**, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 4266**. Evaluation of integrin alpha v beta 5 as a novel target for non-small cell lung cancer via tumor intrinsic and host immune regulation.

**Zhijie Li, MEng**, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. **Abstract 6605**. Understanding the role of sumoylated Etv1 in mammary oncogenesis.

**Wing Kin Liu, MBBS**, University College London Cancer Institute, London United Kingdom. **Abstract 4136**. Tracking metastatic dissemination and tumor growth using longitudinal imaging and ctDNA.

**Gopika Nandagopal, MSc**, The University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. **Abstract 2751**. Functional assessment of STK11 C-terminal domain variants.

**Alice E. Shin, PhD**, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 4125**. Exploring the efficacy of alpelisib and combined PI3K $\alpha$ -S6K inhibition in LIN28B-mediated colorectal cancer metastasis.

**Xiyin Wang, MS**, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. **Abstract 1878**. CTPS1: An unexplored vulnerability in breast and ovarian cancer.

**Yu Wang, MS**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL. **Abstract 1409**. The role of liver receptor homolog 1<LRH-1>in regulating breast cancer progression by modulating the immune response.

**Kafayat A. Yusuf, MSc**, University Of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas. **Abstract 6885**. Investigating a novel role of DCLK1 isoforms in colitis and colitis associated colon cancer.

## **2024 AACR-GLENN SYKES KIDNEY CANCER SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARD**

An early career investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract focused on kidney cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024 was generously supported by a gift from Glenn Sykes.

**Joanna Lima, PhD**, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom. **Abstract 6622**. Identification of early oncogenic lesions following concomitant Vhl and Pbrm1 loss in the murine kidney.

## **2024 AACR-JAMES V. BUZZITTA, MD FAMILY FUND SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARD**

An early career investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024 was generously supported by a gift from the James V. Buzzitta, MD Family Fund.

**Vera Thiel, PhD**, DKFZ, Heidelberg, Germany. **Abstract 4225**. Analysis of the landscape of cancer-associated neurons (CANs) in diverse cancers through retrograde tracing and single cell molecular profiling.

## **2024 AACR-JOHN AND JOE WARNER SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARD**

This award was funded by a generous donation from John and Joe Warner to support an early career scientist presenting a high quality abstract related to cholangiocarcinoma at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Mahmoud Yousef, MD**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 2547**. KRAS Q61 mutations in patients with gastrointestinal malignancies and association with real-world clinical outcomes.

## 2024 AACR-JOHN KINCADE SCHOLARSHIP FUND SCHOLAR-IN- TRAINING AWARDS

Early career investigators who will be a presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024 were generously supported by a donation from the John Kincade Scholarship Fund.

**Reed I. Ayabe, MD**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.

**Abstract 3574.** Cancer testis antigen expression correlates with stromal natural killer cell activation and longer overall survival in small bowel neuroendocrine tumors.

**Nabamita Boruah, PhD**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 3018.** Transcriptional dysregulation in germline TP53-driven breast cancers.

**Saikat Chowdhury, PhD**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 1250.** Activating PIK3CA mutations and hedgehog signaling may confer resistance to KRAS inhibition in colorectal cancer.

**Gizem Efe, MA, MPhil**, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 1270.** p53-R172H mutation confers gain-of-function properties and promotes metastasis in squamous cell carcinoma.

**Stefanie Gerstberger, MD PhD**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 2796.** Colibactin mutation signatures are associated with younger age of onset in colorectal cancer.

**Samantha Guinn, PhD**, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 1577.** Cancer associated fibroblast - tumor cell crosstalk enhances epithelial to mesenchymal transition and promotes a classical to basal switch in human pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

**Nicholas Hornstein, MD, PhD**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 881.** Cell-type-specific gene programs suggest immune and stromal drivers of relapse in colorectal cancer.

**Maarten Huismans, MD**, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands. **Abstract 2386.** Meta-analysis of efficacy and safety in early-phase clinical trials for refractory colorectal cancer.

**Jiahui Jiang, MS**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 7412.** METI: Deep profiling of tumor ecosystems by integrating cell morphology and spatial transcriptomics.

**Christian W Johnson, PhD**, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA. **Abstract 6623.** Ala59 mutants of KRAS cooperate with Nf1 loss to enhance colon tumorigenesis.

**Manendra Babu Lankadasari, PhD**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 6596.** BRMS1 downregulation alters the tumor microenvironment and induces immunotherapy resistance in lung adenocarcinoma.

**Xiuting Liu, PhD**, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 2899.** Combined inhibition of RAF, MEK and FAK increases PDAC responsiveness to cytotoxic- and immune therapy.

**Yiling Liu, BS**, UNSW Sydney, Kensington, Australia. **Abstract 6896.** Biomimetic hydrogels at physiological stiffness reprogram patient derived melanoma cells.

**Olivia Lombardi, PhD**, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom. **Abstract 6944.** Transcriptional programs underpinning reoccurring cancer cell states, plasticity and tumour phylogenies in clear cell kidney cancer.

**Aram Lyu, PhD**, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 6857.** Evolution of myeloid-mediated mechanisms of immunotherapy resistance at single-cell resolution with prostate cancer progression.

**Renyta Moses, BS**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 3025.** Germline p53 R181 variants and DNA binding cooperativity in tumorigenesis.

**Takahiko Murayama, PhD**, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 5268**. Targeting DHX9 triggers interferon response and replication stress in small cell lung cancer.

**Athanasios Papadas, MD, PhD**, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. **Abstract 4210**. Stromal remodeling danger signals regulate “second-touch” antigenic encounters and promote CD8+ T cell effector differentiation in the TME.

**Kateryna Petrykey, PhD**, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. **Abstract 6382**. Risk prediction of dyslipidemia in long-term survivors of childhood cancer: A report from the St. Jude Lifetime Cohort.

**Jin Qian, MD, PhD**, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 3917**. A CXCR4 partial agonist TFF2-MSA improves anti-PD-1 immunotherapy in advanced gastric cancer by selectively targeting PMN-MDSC.

**Peter Yu, MD**, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 4440**. Topographical investigation of metabolites in excised squares (TIMES2): Comprehensive cross-sectional metabolite quantification of pancreatic cancer in vivo.

**Fangcheng Yuan, MS**, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. **Abstract 4429**. Plasma metabolic profiles in association with subsequent risk of colorectal cancer in the UK Biobank cohort.

### **2024 AACR-JUNE L. BIEDLER SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS**

These awards are presented to authors of meritorious abstracts in the field of drug resistance to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024. These awards are made possible through the Estate of Dr. June L. Biedler. The late Dr. Biedler was a dedicated member of AACR and a distinguished scientist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Biedler believed that science communication is a cornerstone to the acceleration of progress.

**Jenny Hogstrom, PhD**, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School, Boston MA. **Abstract 1222**. Mechanisms of succinate-mediated drug resistance in ER+ breast cancer.

**Chendi Li, PhD**, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 5825**. Non-genetic determinants driving the evolutionary trajectories of drug-tolerant-persisters in KRAS Non-small cell lung cancer.

**Esther Rodman, BA**, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. **Abstract 1224**. 3D models of chemotherapy- and PARPi-resistant ovarian cancer indicate essential roles for JAK/STAT signaling in mediating drug resistance.

### **2024 AACR-KIDNEYCAN SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARD**

An early career investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract focused on kidney cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024 was generously supported by a donation from KidneyCAN.

**Samvid Advait Kurlekar, DPhil**, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom. **Abstract 3024**. HIF1A and HIF2A differentially contribute to early and adaptive changes following in vivo Vhl inactivation in the kidney.

### **2024 AACR-LUDWIG INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS**

These awards were funded by a generous donation from Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research to support early career scientists presenting exceptional research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Kamal M. Al-Shami, MS**, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany. **Abstract 3063**. Defining oncogene-specific metabolic vulnerabilities in a mouse model of hepatocellular carcinoma.



**Bayu B. Bekele, MPH, PhD**, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 2153.** The impact of socioeconomic and racial segregation on cancer stage at diagnosis, treatment and mortality among patients with small cell lung cancer.

**Mohamed Gaber, BPharm**, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC. **Abstract 2179.** Microbiome-derived metabolites mediate carcinogenic alterations of breast tissue in the context of obesity.

**Jennifer G. Haag, MD, MPH**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. **Abstract 2168.** Intermittent fasting in combination with carboplatin in a pre-clinical model of obesity-driven endometrial cancer.

**Abram Bunya Kamiza, PhD**, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. **Abstract 6145.** A trans-ethnic meta-analysis identified additional novel genomic loci associated with cervical cancer.

**Melissa Jie-Sze Khaw, BS**, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. **Abstract 1241.** Enhancing NK cell therapy for head and neck cancer within the solid tumor microenvironment using a B7H3-targeting tri-specific killer engager (TriKE).

**Kenneth Kin Leung Kwan, PhD**, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR. **Abstract 433.** BCAT1 promotes HCC metabolic reprogramming and survival through HIF-1 $\alpha$  stabilization.

## **2024 AACR-MARGARET FOTI FOUNDATION SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS**

Through a generous gift from The Margaret Foti Foundation, these awards recognize outstanding young investigators who are authors of meritorious abstracts in the fields of data science, immuno-oncology, and breast, ovarian, or pediatric cancer research to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Rachel Occhiogrosso Abelman, MD**, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 3888.** TOP1 mutations mediate cross resistance to ADCs in metastatic breast cancer.

**Xiangqi Bai, PhD**, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 4920.** A nanopore sequencing approach characterizes cell-free DNA methylation-fragmentomics profiles indicative of breast cancer in a large cohort.

**Subhamoy Chakraborty, PhD**, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY. **Abstract 6554.** Lurbinectedin induces multimodal immune activation and augments the anti-tumor immune response in small-cell lung cancer.

**Ekaterina Chirikova, MAS**, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 800.** Spatial accessibility of gynecologic oncologists and time to surgery in a diverse cohort of women with ovarian cancer in Northern California.

**Yibo Dai, MBBS, MS**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 5656.** Longitudinal spatial profiling reveals chemoresistance mechanisms and characteristics of minimal residual disease in high-grade serous ovarian cancer.

**Samar M.I. Elorbany, MBBCh, MSc, MD, PhD**, Barts Cancer Institute, London, United Kingdom. **Abstract 6553.** Targeting macrophages and regulatory T cells improves response to chemotherapy in high-grade serous ovarian cancer.

**Guochong Jia, PhD**, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN. **Abstract 6119.** Association of genetic African ancestry and triple-negative breast cancer risk: Findings from the African-ancestry breast cancer genetics consortium.

**Blair V. Landon, BS**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 6551.** Comprehensive genomic and transcriptomic analyses capture the effects of epigenetic therapy priming on immune checkpoint blockade response in non-small cell lung cancer.

**Randolph K. Larsen IV, MS**, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. **Abstract 5463**. Germline DICER1 loss promotes rhabdomyosarcoma via innate immune system.

**Maryam Pourmaleki, PhD**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 3875**. Glioblastoma mutational profiles drive cancer cell signaling and immune evasion.

**Sara Sartini, PhD**, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 3027**. p53 aggregation promotes transformation from non-malignant lesions to high-grade serous ovarian carcinomas.

**Rawan Shraim, MEng**, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 1090**. GPC2 directed CAR T cells are efficacious against fusion-positive and fusion-negative rhabdomyosarcomas.

## **2024 AACR-PEZCOLLER FOUNDATION SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS**

The Pezcoller Foundation supports these awards to enhance participation in the programs and activities of the AACR by early career investigators residing in Europe and to provide these outstanding Scholar-in-Training Awardees with an opportunity to share their research findings with the international cancer research community at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Stefanie Baerthel, PhD**, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg/Munich, Germany. **Abstract 1587**. Multimodal spatial transcriptomics uncover distinct tumor microenvironment states and cell-cell communication networks in molecular pancreatic cancer subtypes.

**Giancarla Bernardo, MSc**, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milan, Italy. **Abstract 1281**. Antibiotics aerosolization shrinks intratumoral Tregs and impairs lung tumor growth by perturbing the taxonomic structure of tumor-associated microbiota.

**Kok Haw Jonathan Lim, MRCP, PhD**, The Francis Crick Institute, London, United Kingdom. **Abstract 1540**. The dendritic cell receptor DNGR-1 shapes immunity to cancer.

**Federica Malighetti, MS**, University of Milano Bicocca, Monza, Italy. **Abstract 987**. Novel ALK mutations in EML4::ALK+ NSCLC resistant to TKIs identified by liquid biopsy.

**Luca Tiraboschi, MS**, Humanitas Research Hospital, Milan, Italy. **Abstract 1277**. Unveiling the impact of intratumoral microbiota in the treatment efficacy of soft tissue sarcoma.

## **2024 AACR-PROSTATE CANCER FOUNDATION SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS**

The Prostate Cancer Foundation has graciously donated funds to support early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts in prostate cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**CheukMan Cherie Au, PhD**, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 1231**. First-in-class AR-V7/AR-fl small molecule molecular glue degrader for prostate cancer treatment.

**Sampreeti Jena, PhD**, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. **Abstract 6625**. Development of novel mixed-cell models to capture heterogeneity in castration-resistant prostate cancer.

**Dallin Lowder, BS**, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX. **Abstract 2077**. Exploring the multifaceted efficacy of de novo lipogenesis inhibitor in cancer therapy.

**Mostafa Nasr, BS**, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL. **Abstract 5539**. PRDM16 is an intrinsic regulator of dormancy in bone disseminated prostate cancer cells.

## 2024 AACR-SANOFI SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS

Sanofi has graciously donated funds to support early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious work in cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Oluwole A. Babatunde, MD, MPH, PhD**, Prisma Health, Greer, SC. **Abstract 825**.

Adverse childhood experiences and history of depression among cancer survivors.

**Ivana Barravecchia, PhD**, Sant' Anna School of Advances Studies, Pisa, Italy and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 6841**.

Mutation specific mechanisms of resistance to oncogenic KRAS inhibition.

**Maria Fatteh, MD**, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 970**. Liquid biopsy-informed precision oncology clinical trial to evaluate the utility of ctDNA comprehensive genomic profiling.

**Estefania Fernandez, MD, PhD**, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 2806**. A single dose of perioperative cefazolin disrupts the gut microbiome and immunity in patients (pts) with early-stage melanoma.

**Gianmarco Leone, MD**, University College of London, London, United Kingdom. **Abstract 973**. Plasma androgen receptor (AR) copy number gain at progression in patients randomized in the STAMPEDE phase 3 abiraterone acetate, prednisolone (AAP) and enzalutamide (ENZ) trial: An ancillary biomarker study.

**Xiaoling Li, PhD**, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX. **Abstract 4311**. The interplay of SYNCRIP deficiency, APOBEC activity, and extrachromosomal DNA in castration-resistant prostate cancer drug resistance.

**Himil Mahadevia, MBBS**, University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO. **Abstract 6293**. Influence of prescription opioids and recreational cannabis use on efficacy outcomes and adverse events related to immune checkpoint inhibitors.

**Deepti Mathur, PhD**, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA, and Memorial Sloan

Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY.

**Abstract 6610**. Metabolic patterns of pancreatic cancer cachexia: Cross-tissue lipid networks predict cachexia progression.

**Shee Kwan Phung, BS**, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. **Abstract 1240**. Enhancing NK cell function in the 'cold' tumor microenvironment of prostate cancer with a novel tri-specific killer engager.

**Shannon M. Prior, BS**, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. **Abstract 1791**. Metabolic rewiring promotes metastatic potential upon glutamine deprivation in STK11 null KRAS-driven lung adenocarcinoma.

**Cheng-Kai Shiau, PhD**, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL. **Abstract 7418**. LongFuse: Detecting gene fusion transcripts from high throughput long-read single cell RNA sequencing data.

**Alka Singh, PhD**, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. **Abstract 3933**. Comprehensive molecular characterization of mitochondrial mutational landscape across the evolution of lung adenocarcinoma.

**Krupa Thakkar, MSc**, University College London (UCL) Cancer Institute, London, United Kingdom. **Abstract 2507**. Drivers of immunotherapy response within the CPI3000+ cohort.

**Ruiyi Tian, MPH**, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 846**. Rising accelerated aging in recent generations associated with elevated risk of early-onset cancers.

**2024 AACR-SYGNATURE DISCOVERY  
SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS**  
*in Association with the CICR Working Group*

Sygnature Discovery has graciously donated funds to support early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious work in the field of chemistry at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Max M. Wang, PhD**, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL. **Abstract 3882**. Targeted degradation of undruggable proteins using a novel heterobifunctional proteomimetic platform.

**Na Wang, PhD**, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 1463**. Characterizing inflammation-induced epigenetic and transcriptomic alterations driving NSCLC using lung organoid models.

**AACR Global Scholar-in-Training Awards**

Funds were graciously donated by AbbVie, Daiichi Sankyo, and The Victoria Secret Global Fund for Women's Cancers in partnership with Pelotonia for Global Scholar-in-Training Awards (GSITA) to support the participation of meritorious early-career scientists from countries building cancer research capacities who wish to participate in the AACR Annual Meeting 2024.

**Mutsa Monica Takundwa, PhD**, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa. **Abstract 3074**. 2D Tumor cell culture-based Ex vivo drug sensitivity screening platform for South African patient samples (leukemia, multiple myeloma and ovarian cancer) demonstrate potential for targeted cancer therapies.

**Sofia Bruni, MS**, Instituto de Biología y Medicina Experimental (IBYME-CONICET), Argentina. **Abstract 3361**. INB03: A new immune checkpoint inhibitor that reprograms macrophage polarization, boosts ADCP and reverts T-cell exhaustion markers.

**Li-Fang Yeo, PhD**, Cancer Research Malaysia, Malaysia. **Abstract 2617**. Tumor microbiota associated with immune enrichment in breast tumor.

**Yvonne Nartey, MD, PhD**, Cape Coast Teaching Hospital/University of Cape Coast, Ghana. **Abstract 2220**. Accuracy of the GALAD serologic model in the diagnosis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Ghanaian patients

**Divpreet Kaur, MS**, Dr B.R. Ambedkar Center for Biomedical Research (ACBR), University of Delhi, India. **Abstract 2833**. Identification of novel lead compounds and repurposing FDA-approved drugs as telomerase inhibitors using a structure-based drug designing approach and their evaluation using in-vitro and ex-vivo assays.

**Diana Carolina Aguilar Cortes, BSc**, Fundación Instituto Leloir, Argentina. **Abstract 2060**. Development of novel mono and bivalent nanobodies against EGFR for targeted cancer therapy.

**Viktor Kalbermatter Boell, MS**, Institute of Chemistry, University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil. **Abstract 3198**. DUSP12 in glioblastoma: Insights into nucleolar stress and DNA damage response.

**Seifegebriel Teshome Feleke, MSc**, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. **Abstract 2751**. Profiling the CpG methylation patterns of Epstein-Barr Virus DNA in lymphoma patients from Ethiopia.

**Yucheng Dong**, Peking Union Medical College, China. **Abstract 3203**. Single-cell sequencing identification of malignant cell subpopulations linked to recurrence in hepatocellular carcinoma.

**Ankit Mathur, PhD**, Delhi School of Public Health, Institution of Eminence, University of Delhi, India. **Abstract 2932**. Differentiation therapy: Esculetin as a potent agent to alter cellular plasticity of leukemic and solid tumor stem cells.

**Balachander Kannan, MS**, Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), Saveetha University, Chennai, India. **Abstract 3049**. Silencing of novel m6A reader PRRC2A as a therapeutic strategy for oral cancer.

**Gaston Mario Pascual, MS**, University of Buenos Aires, (CONICET – IQUIBICEN), Argentina. **Abstract 3138.** Androgen receptor (CAG)<sub>n</sub> polymorphism: A genomic marker for prostate cancer prognosis independent of histopathological parameters.

**Yuli Thamiros Magalhaes, PhD**, Institute of Chemistry, University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil. **Abstract 3145.** Unraveling the Role of F-actin in resistant GBM: Insights into DNA repair, GSC phenotype, and therapeutic implications.

**Obada Ehab Ababneh**, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan. **Abstract 2927.** The predictive role of TNF-related genes in patients receiving immune checkpoint inhibitor.

**Mohammad Nitham Almajali**, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan. **Abstract 3254.** Exploring genetic determinants: A comprehensive analysis of SERPINB family variants and prognosis in Jordanian Glioblastoma Multiforme patients.