Distinguished Young Investigator Research Award – Grand Prize Winner

**Aaron Ring, MD, PhD**
Assistant Professor of Immunobiology
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT

“Decoy-resistant” Interleukin-18 Overcomes the Soluble Immune Checkpoint IL-18BP to Unlock a Potent Immunotherapeutic Cytokine Pathway”

1st Place – Anthony Rongvaux, PhD
Assistant Member
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Seattle, WA

“The Role of Macrophages in Metastatic Cancer”

2nd Place – Amaia Lujambio, PhD
Assistant Professor
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY

“β-catenin Activation Promotes Immune Escape and Resistance to Anti-PD-1 Therapy in Hepatocellular Carcinoma”

3rd Place – Sarwish Rafiq, PhD
Senior Research Scientist
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY

“Enhancing CAR T-cell Anti-tumor Efficacy Through Secreted Single-chain Variable Fragment (scFv) Immune Checkpoint Blockade”

Distinguished Young Investigator Research Award – Grand Prize Winner

**Robin Parihar, MD, PhD**
Assistant Professor
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

“Natural Killer Cells Targeting the Suppressive Immune Microenvironment Rescue the Impaired Activity of CAR T-cells within Solid Tumors”

1st Place – Sangeetha Meda Reddy, MD, MSCI
Research Instructor
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

“Phase II Trial of Neoadjuvant Followed by Adjuvant Checkpoint Blockade in High-Risk Resectable Melanoma”

2nd Place – Babak Moghimi, MD
BMT Clinical Instructor
Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA

“GD2 Specific Murine CAR T-cells Show Efficacy in Immunocompetent TH-MYCN Neuroblastoma Murine Model”

3rd Place – Rahul A. Sheth, MD
Assistant Professor
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

“Molecularly Targeted Photothermal Ablation for Tumor-specific Adaptive Immunity in Hepatocellular Carcinoma”
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<th><strong>PhD/Postdoctoral Fellow</strong></th>
<th><strong>Clinical Fellow</strong></th>
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<td><strong>1st Place – Triparna Sen, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Postdoctoral Scholar&lt;br&gt;MD Anderson Cancer Center&lt;br&gt;Houston, TX&lt;br&gt;“DNA Damage Repair Targeting Upregulates PD-L1 Level and Potentiates The Effect of PD-L1 Blockade in Small Cell Lung Cancer”</td>
<td><strong>1st Place – Tanner M. Johanss, MD, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clinical Fellow&lt;br&gt;Washington University School of Medicine&lt;br&gt;St. Louis, MO&lt;br&gt;“Identification of Neoantigen-specific T-cells Following a Heterologous Prime-boost Personalized Vaccination Strategy in a Patient with Glioblastoma”</td>
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<td><strong>2nd Place – Shabnum Patel, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Postdoctoral Fellow and Lab Manager&lt;br&gt;The George Washington University&lt;br&gt;Washington, D.C.&lt;br&gt;“Gene Modified HIV-specific T-cells Display Resistance to Infection: Therapeutic Applications for HIV+ Individuals with Malignancies Post-BMT”</td>
<td><strong>2nd Place – Ravi Bhasker Patel, MD, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clinical Instructor&lt;br&gt;University of Wisconsin&lt;br&gt;Madison, WI&lt;br&gt;“Systemic Delivery of Molecular Targeted Radiotherapy (MTRT) Improves Efficacy of Anti-CTLA-4 in a Murine Melanoma Model”</td>
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<td><strong>3rd Place (tie) – Netonia Marshall, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Postdoctoral Fellow&lt;br&gt;Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai&lt;br&gt;New York, NY&lt;br&gt;“Immunotransplant Modulates the IL-2/7/15 Axis and Increases Anti-cancer Efficacy Compared to Checkpoint Blockade or BMT Alone”</td>
<td><strong>3rd Place – Denis Migliorini, MD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Postdoctoral Fellow&lt;br&gt;University of Pennsylvania&lt;br&gt;Philadelphia, PA&lt;br&gt;“Universal Xenogeneic CAR T-cells: A Novel Translational Platform Using Gene Editing of Human CAR T-cells to Target Canine Tumors”</td>
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<td><strong>3rd Place (tie) – Meenu Sharma, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Postdoctoral Fellow&lt;br&gt;MD Anderson Cancer Center&lt;br&gt;Houston, TX&lt;br&gt;“NKTR-214, an Engineered IL-2 Cytokine, Synergizes with Vaccination to Promote Anti-tumor Immunity in Treatment of Melanoma and Colon Carcinoma”</td>
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