

4TH ANNUAL
IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY
Young Investigators' Forum

April 19-22, 2018
The Houstonian Hotel
Houston, TX

JUNIOR FACULTY – RESEARCH SCIENTIST



**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”

JUNIOR FACULTY – CLINICIAN SCIENTIST



**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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PHD/POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



1st Place – Triparna Sen, PhD

Postdoctoral Scholar
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

“DNA Damage Repair Targeting Upregulates PD-L1 Level and Potentiates The Effect of PD-L1 Blockade in Small Cell Lung Cancer”



2nd Place – Shabnum Patel, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow and Lab Manager
The George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

“Gene Modified HIV-specific T-cells Display Resistance to Infection: Therapeutic Applications for HIV+ Individuals with Malignancies Post-BMT”



3rd Place (tie)– Netonia Marshall, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY

“Immunotransplant Modulates the IL-2/7/15 Axis and Increases Anti-cancer Efficacy Compared to Checkpoint Blockade or BMT Alone”



3rd Place (tie)– Meenu Sharma, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

“NKTR-214, an Engineered IL-2 Cytokine, Synergizes with Vaccination to Promote Anti-tumor Immunity in Treatment of Melanoma and Colon Carcinoma”

CLINICAL FELLOW



1st Place – Tanner M. Johanns, MD, PhD

Clinical Fellow
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO

“Identification of Neoantigen-specific T-cells Following a Heterologous Prime-boost Personalized Vaccination Strategy in a Patient with Glioblastoma”



2nd Place – Ravi Bhasker Patel, MD, PhD

Clinical Instructor
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

“Systemic Delivery of Molecular Targeted Radiotherapy (MTRT) Improves Efficacy of Anti-CTLA-4 in a Murine Melanoma Model”



3rd Place – Denis Migliorini, MD

Postdoctoral Fellow
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

“Universal Xenogeneic CAR T-cells: A Novel Translational Platform Using Gene Editing of Human CAR T-cells to Target Canine Tumors”