

# New American Cancer Society Research Grants

Fall 2024 Awards



Grants awarded and/or renewed in Fall 2024 can be found below, organized by grant mechanism. Additional information about all of the current research grants funded by the American Cancer Society can be found using our [Extramural Research Grants Database](https://www.cancer.org/research/currently-funded-cancer-research.html) which can be accessed at [cancer.org/research/currently-funded-cancer-research.html](https://www.cancer.org/research/currently-funded-cancer-research.html).

## **EDS Accelerator Awards**

### **Todd Aguilera, M.D.**

*University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

“Selecting T cell-activating nanobodies to modulate tumor immune responses”

### **Onyinye Balogun, M.D.**

*Weill Medical College of Cornell University*

“Improving cervical cancer patient treatment and outcomes with the development of a modernized, novel gynecologic brachytherapy device”

### **Nikki Delk, Ph.D.**

*University of Texas at Dallas*

“Customizable hyperbaric oxygen chamber to deliver adjuvant treatments in triple-negative breast cancer models”

### **Carolyn Lee, MD, Ph.D.**

*Leland Stanford Junior University*

“A novel topical formulation of pralsetinib for skin cancer prevention”

### **Zachary Lewis, Ph.D.**

*University of Georgia*

“DectiSomes: Dectin-targeted anticancer liposomes”

### **Mo Motamedi, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“Exploiting epigenetic plasticity to overcome chemotherapy resistance in triple negative breast cancer”

### **Xiaoyang Wu, Ph.D.**

*University of Chicago*

“Development of a novel drug delivery platform for cancer chemotherapy”

*Additional information about the EDS Accelerator Award grant mechanism can be found [here](#).*

## **Catalyst Awards**

### **Chandra Bartholomeusz, M.D., Ph.D.**

*University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

“Deciphering the role of MELK in tumor stemness and immune microenvironment in models of aggressive breast cancer”

### **Kathleen DelGiorno, Ph.D.**

*Vanderbilt University*

“Modulating eicosanoid signaling for the prevention and treatment of pancreatic cancer”

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**Robert Eil, M.D.**

*Oregon Health & Science University*

“Reprogramming potassium-sensitive T cell function for the TME”

**Bishoy Faltas, M.D.**

*Weill Medical College of Cornell University*

“Germline-somatic interactions as drivers and therapeutic targets in bladder cancer”

**Tanya Freedman, Ph.D.**

*University of Minnesota – Twin Cities*

“Lyn kinase and immune function in mammary cancer”

**Homa Ghalei, Ph.D.**

*Emory University*

“Towards targeting snoRNAs in lung cancer”

**Anum Glasgow, Ph.D.**

*Columbia University Irving Medical Center*

“Allosteric therapeutics to target tumor glycolysis”

**Enfu Hui, Ph.D.**

*University of California, San Diego*

“CD8+ T-cell-intrinsic CTLA4 function and CTLA4-PDL1 crosstalk in tumor immunity”

**Yoon A. Kang, Ph.D.**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

“Elucidating novel pathways that control myeloid cell production”

**Samantha Kendrick, Ph.D.**

*University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences*

“Impact of DNA topology on facilitating mutational events in lymphoma”

**Carolyn Lee, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Leland Stanford Junior University*

“Elucidating the function of OXA1L in High-Risk Skin Cancer”

**Rose Li, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Beckman Research Institute of The City of Hope*

“Combinatorial radiotherapy and CAR T cells targeting prostate stem cell antigen for metastatic prostate cancer”

**Li Liu, Ph.D.**

*University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

“Image guided optimization of lung cancer treatment with novel heme-targeting agents”

**David Long, Ph.D.**

*Medical University of South Carolina*

“How defects in BRD4 displacement drive genomic instability in ovarian cancer”

**Adam Mailloux, Ph.D.**

*University of Iowa*

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“Hypoxia induces a state of immunogenic dormancy in cancer cells”

**Yuchen Qiu, Ph.D.**

*University of Oklahoma*

“Development of a deep learning enhanced Fourier ptychography microscopic scanner to improve efficiency for on-site sample adequacy evaluation”

**Ryan Stowers, Ph.D.**

*University of California, Santa Barbara*

“The role of tumor microenvironment mechanics in driving epigenomic remodeling to promote malignant progression and metastasis”

**Jianjun Wu, Ph.D.**

*Cleveland Clinic Foundation*

“T cell intrinsic STING signaling in antitumor immunity”

**Sihan Wu, Ph.D.**

*University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

“Unbiased exploration of extrachromosomal DNA damage response pathway in cancer”

**Nan Zhu, Ph.D.**

*J. Craig Venter Institute*

“Targeting SWI/SNF chromatin remodeling subcomplexes in acute myeloid leukemia”

*Additional information about the Catalyst Award grant mechanism can be found [here](#).*

## **Cancer Health Equity Research Center (CHERC) Awards**

**Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Principal Investigator: Cardinale Smith, M.D.

**University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**

Principal Investigator: Darla Kendzor, Ph.D.

*Additional information about the CHERC grant program can be found [here](#).*

## **Clinician Scientist Development Grants (CSDGs) and ACS-ASTRO CSDGs**

**Zeba Ahmad, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“Adaptation and refinement of a psychosocial intervention to reduce post-traumatic stress in young adult cancer survivors”

**Joal Beane, M.D.**

*The Ohio State University*

“Targeting the IWS1/ENAH axis to prevent invasion and metastases of liposarcoma”

**Danielle Bitterman, M.D.**

*Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Inc.*

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ASTRO CSDG

“Artificial intelligence to identify and characterize cancer therapy-induced adverse sequelae”

**Laila Gharzai, M.D.**

*Northwestern University – Chicago Campus*

ASTRO CSDG

“Mitigating financial toxicity through patient-facing educational interventions”

**Matthew Grabowski, M.D.**

*Cleveland Clinic*

“Deciphering the role of lactotransferrin in the glioblastoma tumor immune microenvironment”

**Kelli Pointer, M.D.**

*Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic*

ASTRO CSDG

“Targeting cholinergic signaling to overcome radiation resistance in gliomas”

**Ji Yoon Yoon, B.M., B.Ch.**

*Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

“Targeted approach to upper gastrointestinal cancer screening”

*Additional information about the CSDG grant mechanism can be found [here](#). Additional information about the ACS-ASTRO CSDG RFA can be found [here](#).*

## **Discovery Boost Grants (DBGs)**

**Eran Andrechek, Ph.D.**

*Michigan State University*

“Lymph and liver metastasis in a immune competent mouse model of breast cancer.”

**Kara Bernstein, Ph.D.**

*University of Pennsylvania*

“High throughput analysis of RAD51 paralog cancer variants therapeutic response”

**David Bilder, Ph.D.**

*University of California, Berkeley*

“Ancient origins of the immune defense to tumors”

**Adam Binder, M.D.**

*Thomas Jefferson University*

“A pilot study of home blood transfusions for patient with cancer who have transfusion dependent cytopenias”

**Kyle Bohnert, Ph.D.**

*St. Ambrose University*

“Pharmacological inhibition of the IRE1a/XBP1s signaling axis to alleviate skeletal muscle wasting during cancer cachexia”

**Peter Campbell, Ph.D.**

*Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

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“Risk factors for early onset colorectal cancer: a step toward primary prevention”

**Jason Cantor, Ph.D.**

*Morgridge Institute for Research, Inc.*

“New tools for understanding cell-environment interactions relevant to brain tumors”

**Maximiliano DAngelo, Ph.D.**

*Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute*

“Identification of small molecule inhibitors of nuclear pore formation for cancer therapies”

**Manju Daniel, Ph.D.**

*Rush University Medical Center*

“Physical activity targeting metabolic syndrome for prevention of breast cancer in South Asian Indian immigrant women”

**Daniel Delitto, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Leland Stanford Junior University*

“Implantable hydrogel vaccine to sterilize surgical margins and prevent cancer recurrence”

**Ani Deshpande, Ph.D.**

*Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute*

“Multimodal investigation of risk-associated "stemness" attributes in AML”

**Prasenjit Dey, Ph.D.**

*Health Research Incorporated, Roswell Park Cancer Institute Division*

“Higher lung cancer incidences in younger females is driven by type 2 immune response”

**David Dominguez-Sola, Ph.D.**

*Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

“A genetic toolbox to engineer in vivo models of oncogene amplification and cancer progression”

**Caroline Dorfman, Ph.D.**

*Duke University School of Medicine*

“Development and pilot testing of a family building decision support intervention for female adolescent and young adult cancer survivors”

**Clark DuMontier, M.D.**

*Brigham and Women’s Hospital*

“Fidelity and responsiveness of home gait measurement in older adults with blood cancers treated in community oncology centers”

**Gloria Echeverria, Ph.D.**

*Baylor College of Medicine*

“Dissecting mitochondrial-nuclear crosstalk to overcome chemo-tolerance in residual triple negative breast cancer (TNBC)”

**David Fruman, Ph.D.**

*University of California, Irvine*

“Control of leukemia cell survival by the mevalonate pathway”

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**Pietro Genovese, Ph.D.**

*Boston Children's Hospital*

"B cell receptor gene editing for a combined humoral and cellular adoptive immunotherapy"

**Albert Gonzales, Ph.D.**

*University of Nevada, Reno*

"Cancer hijacking of the microcirculation"

**Brian Haab, Ph.D.**

*Van Andel Research Institute*

"Detection of all pancreatic cancer cases with high specificity: a new approach"

**Andras Heczey, M.D.**

*Baylor College of Medicine*

"Transcriptomic and epigenetic reprogramming of CAR T cells using the MOTOR platform: an unbiased forward genomics approach"

**Mirosław Janowski, M.D., Ph.D.**

*University of Maryland, Baltimore*

"Nanogel radiocARRIER-based labeling and PET imaging of T cells to capture their tumor penetration"

**Andrew Ji, M.D.**

*Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

"Investigating the effects of immunosuppression on carcinogenesis at single-cell spatiotemporal resolution"

**Hao Jiang, Ph.D.**

*University of Virginia*

"Dispersing specific nuclear condensates for cancer inhibition"

**Hung-Ying Kao, Ph.D.**

*Case Western Reserve University*

"Targeting promyelocytic leukemia protein (PML) to combat estrogen receptor (ER)-positive metastatic breast cancer (MBC)"

**Jennifer Kavran, Ph.D.**

*Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

"Mechanistic studies for targeting a new class of HER2 mutants"

**Shahla Masood, M.D.**

*University of Florida*

"Mobile ROSE unit for rapid breast cancer assessment"

**Marygorret Obonyo, Ph.D.**

*University of California, San Diego*

"A novel animal model for discovery of pathways/genes involved in Helicobacter-associated gastric cancer progression."

**Paolo Provenzano, Ph.D.**

*University of Minnesota – Twin Cities*

"Activating mechanical memory to enhance T cell function in solid tumors"

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**Pere Puigserver, Ph.D.**

*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*

“Mitochondrial protein immunogenicity and tumor rejection”

**Rebecca Riggins, Ph.D.**

*Georgetown University*

“Dynamic precision medicine for drug resistant HER2+/ER+ breast cancer”

**Darren Roblyer, Ph.D.**

*Boston University*

“Remote patient monitoring of breast cancer treatment using at-home optical imaging”

**Sarah Sartain, M.D.**

*Baylor College of Medicine*

“The role of KLK1 in hematopoietic stem cell transplant-associated thrombotic microangiopathy”

**Brian Strahl, Ph.D.**

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

“Unlocking the function and histone-interaction landscapes of oncohistones”

**Alessandro Vindigni, Ph.D.**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

“Overcoming genome instability in BRCA1 mutant carriers by increasing BRCA1 mRNA translation”

**Pavithra Viswanath, Ph.D.**

*University of California, San Francisco*

“Immunometabolic therapy and imaging of brain tumors”

**Yang Yang-Hartwich, Ph.D.**

*Yale University*

“The therapeutic potential of targeting endosomal trafficking and recycling in chemoresistant ovarian cancer”

*Additional information about the Discovery Boost Grant mechanism can be found [here](#).*

## **Institutional Research Grants (IRGs)**

**Dana-Farber Cancer Institute**

Principal Investigator: Jennifer Mack, M.D.

**Dartmouth College**

Principal Investigator: Steven Leach, M.D.

**Medical University of South Carolina**

Principal Investigator: Dennis Guttridge, Ph.D.

**University of California, San Diego**

Principal Investigator: Michael Bouvet, M.D.

**University of Chicago**

Principal Investigator: Samuel Armato, Ph.D.

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## **University of Iowa**

Principal Investigator: Jon Houtman, Ph.D.

## **University of Maryland, Baltimore**

Principal Investigator: Tonya Webb, Ph.D.

## **University of New Mexico Health Science Center**

Principal Investigator: Michelle Ozbun, Ph.D.

## **University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio**

Principal Investigator: Robin J. Leach, Ph.D.

## **University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center**

Principal Investigator: Melanie Cobb, Ph.D.

## **University of Utah**

Principal Investigator: Donald Ayer, Ph.D.

## **Virginia Commonwealth University**

Principal Investigator: David Gewirtz, Ph.D.

## **Washington University in St. Louis**

Principal Investigator: Jason Weber, Ph.D.

## **Yale University**

Principal Investigator: Daniel DiMaio, Ph.D.

*Additional information about the IRG program can be found [here](#).*

## **Mission Boost Grants (MBGs)**

*Note: All MBGs awarded in this cycle were MBG Stage I grants.*

### **Scott Floyd, M.D, Ph.D.**

*Duke University School of Medicine*

“Synthetic lethality with BET bromodomain inhibition”

### **Yoshihiro Izumiya, D.V.M., Ph.D.**

*University of California, Davis*

“Reverse hijacking KSHV oncogenic mechanism for drug development”

### **Shannon Stott, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“Validation of a blood-based microfluidic assay to predict adverse events in melanoma patients”

### **Jing Yang, Ph.D.**

*Methodist Hospital Research Institute*

“Targeting ACSS2 for improving multiple myeloma therapy”

*Additional information about the Mission Boost Grant mechanism can be found [here](#).*



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## **Postdoctoral Fellowships**

### **Mohamed Ashour, Ph.D.**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

“The role of DNA base damage repair in the development of Fanconi anemia”

### **Elizabeth Bailey, Ph.D.**

*Yale University*

“Visualizing control of protein synthesis at high resolution inside cells infected with an oncogenic virus”

### **Rowan Barker-Clarke, Ph.D.**

*Cleveland Clinic Foundation*

“Integrating free-living data into digital twin models of glioblastoma”

### **Tarun Bhatia, Ph.D.**

*Emory University*

“Impact of CNS niche-specific microenvironmental cues on glioblastoma cell fates”

### **Anlan Cao, Ph.D.**

*Yale University*

“Optimizing ovarian cancer chemotherapy dosing based on lean body mass”

### **Apoorvi Chaudhri, Ph.D.**

*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*

“The CD101 pathway promotes T cell dysfunction in cancer and its blockade represents a novel line of immunotherapy”

### **Yuxiang Chen, Ph.D.**

*Leland Stanford Junior University*

“Decipher the hidden role of rRNA in cancer”

### **Katarzyna Chojnacka, Ph.D.**

*Cedars-Sinai Medical Center*

“Cross-talk of hepatocyte and myeloid IL17 signaling in regulation of colorectal cancer metastasis”

### **Valerie De Luca, Ph.D.**

*The Translational Genomics Research Institute*

“Signatures of therapy-induced senescence in extracellular vesicle cargo”

### **Rachel Dittmar, Ph.D.**

*University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

“Delineating multi-organ metastasis in triple negative breast cancer with single cell genomics”

### **Stephanie Dobersch, Ph.D.**

*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center*

“LIN28B/HMGA2 drive basal PDA by hijacking a precise node of the translation machinery”

### **Stanislav Drapela, Ph.D.**

*H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute*

“Age-dependent targeting of TNBC metastasis”

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**Margarita Dzama, Ph.D.**

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

“Identification of epigenetic therapies for liver cancer”

**Jiayi Fan, Ph.D.**

*Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research*

“Mechanistic study of the Smc5/6 SUMO ligase function and auto-sumoylation”

**Celeste Giansanti, Ph.D.**

*Vanderbilt University*

“Functional analyses of PARP1-mediated ADP-ribosylation during DNA replication”

**Srikar Gopinath, Ph.D.**

*Yale University*

“Understanding the regulatory impact of 5'UTR variants in cancer”

**Xiaoran Guo, Ph.D.**

*Leland Stanford Junior University*

“Reconstruction of human alveoli from purified adult stem cells to study lung adenocarcinoma”

**Serafima Guseva, Ph.D.**

*Columbia University Irving Medical Center*

“Revealing Hoogsteen base pairs in DNA-protein complexes and their role in p53 gene regulation”

**Barnita Haldar, Ph.D.**

*University of Alabama at Birmingham*

“Role of Sialic acid-Siglec axis in pancreatic cancer immune evasion”

**Carly Harro, Ph.D.**

*University of Pennsylvania*

“Targeting epigenetic mediated repression to reverse T cell dysfunction in chronic lymphocytic leukemia CAR T cell therapy”

**Ian Hertzler, Ph.D.**

*University of Washington*

“Investigating the role of physical asymmetry of neural stem cell division in cell fate acquisition and brain development”

**Natalie Horvat, Ph.D.**

*Emory University*

“Immunomodulatory crosstalk between tumor associated macrophages and fibroblasts in pancreatic cancer”

**Songhua Hu, Ph.D.**

*Harvard Medical School*

“Investigating a novel role of NAD<sup>+</sup>-derived metabolite in tumor fat metabolism”

**Carlos Huesa-Berral, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“Computational modeling and simulation of hepatic tumors for enhanced transarterial radioembolization”

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**Sehbanul Islam, Ph.D.**

*University of Pennsylvania*

“Assessing the therapeutic potential of PARPi and PROTACs in BRCA-mutated cancers”

**Robert Jackson, Ph.D.**

*University of Arizona*

“Assessing human papillomavirus type 16 transforming vs productive infections in oral epithelia”

**Meghali Joshi, Ph.D.**

*Georgetown University*

“Childhood chemotherapy and infertility: The role of testicular cell reprogramming and sncRNA cargo in sperm”

**Anna Jussila, Ph.D.**

*Leland Stanford Junior University*

“Determining the influence of stromal cells on basal cell carcinoma growth”

**Jonathan Kastan, Ph.D.**

*Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory*

“Identification of functional and prognostic biomarkers for pancreatic cancer utilizing *in vivo* secretome labeling”

**Jessica Kelliher, Ph.D.**

*University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences*

“Exploiting DNA damage response machinery to combat T cell exhaustion”

**Sebastian Kenny, Ph.D.**

*University of Washington*

“Engineering virus-inspired cellular “glues” to efficiently target cancer-causing proteins”

**Nadine Koertel, Ph.D.**

*University of Colorado Denver, AMC and DC*

“RNA modification networks controlled by TRUB1 in cancer”

**Jonathan Lee, Ph.D.**

*Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center*

“Deciphering the transcriptomic basis of chemo fog”

**Jungmin Lee, Ph.D.**

*University of California, San Francisco*

“Engineering synthetic control over immune cell trafficking to improve cancer immunotherapy in solid tumors”

**Yixiang Li, Ph.D.**

*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*

“Targeting lineage plasticity of RB1/TP53 mutant lung cancer”

**Zongyu Li, Ph.D.**

*Harvard Medical School*

“Assessing the glycerol-3-phosphate shuttle and glycerol metabolism in obesity-related cancer”

**Alicia Llorente, Ph.D.**

*Sanford Burnham Presby Medical Discovery Institute*

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“Exploring PI5P4Kg as a novel molecular vulnerability of therapy-resistant breast cancer”

**Tamara Renata Machado Riberio, Ph.D.**

*Vanderbilt University Medical Center*

“Obesogenic diet links epithelial dysfunction, intestinal dysbiosis and colorectal cancer”

**Nathalia Machado, Ph.D.**

*University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute*

“Transforming quality metrics to improve tobacco treatment in Medicaid”

**Ambroise Manceau, Ph.D.**

*Sanford Burnham Presby Medical Discovery Institute*

“Establishing the therapeutic potential of targeting ATP2B1/4 in pancreatic cancer”

**Catia Marques, Ph.D.**

*University of Pennsylvania*

“Nitroarene proteomics and lung cancer”

**Marta Mastrogiovanni, Ph.D.**

*Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

“Defining drivers of HSC dysfunction in clonal hematopoiesis”

**Monica Mesa Perez, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“Role of SUV39H1/H2 in HIF-induced epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT)”

**Bidisha Mitra, Ph.D.**

*Brigham and Women’s Hospital*

“Characterization of key Epstein-Barr Virus oncogene LMP1 B cell transformation roles”

**Namrata Nilavar, Ph.D.**

*Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center*

“BRCA1 variants in stalled replication fork repair and tandem duplication suppression”

**Sehyun Oh, Ph.D.**

*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*

“Contribution of lipid metabolic processes to the tumorigenic potential of BRAF fusion oncoprotein in pediatric gliomas”

**Olasunkanmi Olaoye, Ph.D.**

*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*

“EWS-FLI1-driven upregulation of UGT3A2 unlocks drug sensitivity pathway for precision medicine in Ewing Sarcoma”

**Sangwoo Park, Ph.D.**

*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*

“Deciphering the combinatorial assembly and function of mSWI/SNF (BAF) chromatin remodelers in human cancer”

**Filippo Pederzoli, Ph.D.**

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*Weill Medical College of Cornell University*

“The role of stromal androgen receptor (AR) in the plasticity to advanced prostate cancer”

**Berney Peng, Ph.D.**

*University of California, Los Angeles*

“Mitochondrial transfer in tumor heterogeneity and acquired resistance to therapy”

**Roberta Peruzzo, Ph.D.**

*University of California, Berkeley*

“Dissecting and disabling oncogenic TFEB signaling in pancreatic cancer”

**Ariane Rocha Bartolomeu, Ph.D.**

*Research Institute of Fox Chase Cancer Center*

“Impact of folic acid supplementation on the induction of colitis-associated colon tumorigenesis”

**Zachary Rogers, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

“Generating a B-progenitor acute lymphoblastic leukemia cell library to study chimeric antigen receptor T cell-induced lineage switch”

**Victor Manuel Ruiz Arroyo, Ph.D.**

*University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

“Mechanisms of clustered microRNA processing in humans”

**David Salisbury, Ph.D.**

*University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

“Regulation of nucleotide metabolism by NORAD-Pumilio bodies”

**Nicole Renea Santos Jimenez, Ph.D.**

*University of Arizona*

“Elucidating the role of the endometrial microbiome in gynecologic cancer”

**Benjamin Schrank, M.D.**

*University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

“Listeria weaponizes antitumor immune responses to promote T cell immunity”

**David Severson, M.D.**

*Duke University School of Medicine*

“Decoding tumor-defining crosstalk between mesothelioma malignant cells and their microenvironment”

**Saurabh Sharma, Ph.D.**

*Stanford University School of Medicine*

“Smart polymeric immunopeptide nanoconjugates for targeting refractory melanoma brain metastases”

**Zhengzheng Shi, Ph.D., M.D.**

*Cedars-Sinai Medical Center*

“IL-27R signaling modulates protective versus pathogenic T cell responses in hepatocellular carcinoma”

**Deepika Singh, Ph.D.**

*University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio*

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“Antibody based therapy for treating triple negative breast cancer”

**Ezekiel C. Thomas, Ph.D.**

*University of Michigan*

“Structure- and biochemistry-guided optimization of microtubule targeting cancer drugs”

**Tuulia Vallius, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Harvard Medical School*

“Improved treatment and diagnostics with spatial profiling in cutaneous melanoma”

**Janek Walker, Ph.D.**

*Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN*

“Genetic and epigenetic mechanisms derived from deleterious SPEN mutations in aggressive diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL)”

**Steven Wall, Ph.D.**

*Baylor College of Medicine*

“Exploring the role of mitochondrial respiratory chain formation in promoting chemotherapy resistance in triple negative breast cancer”

**Anqi Wang, Ph.D.**

*Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

“The role of loss of Y chromosome in prostate cancer progression and survivorship”

**Yin Wang, Ph.D.**

*Brigham and Women’s Hospital*

“mTOR regulation by the CTLH ubiquitin ligase in Epstein-Barr virus gastric cancer”

**Yiqing Wang, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“Deciphering the role of carbohydrate-metabolizing microbiota in colorectal cancer”

**Ross Ward, Ph.D.**

*Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

“Engineering mRNA vaccine adjuvanticity to enhance local and systemic anti-tumor immunity”

**Kate Warde, Ph.D.**

*University of Utah*

“Uncovering the role of androgen mediated anti-tumor immunity”

**Shaowen White, Ph.D.**

*Brigham and Women’s Hospital*

“Metabolic control of the Epstein-Barr virus lytic switch”

**Samuel Witus, Ph.D.**

*University of California, Berkeley*

“Synthetic lethality in a single molecule as a new therapeutic modality against cancer”

**Tianchen Xiong, Ph.D.**

*Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope*

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“An oncolytic virus expressing fusion-associated small transmembrane (FAST) proteins 10 enhances antitumor immune response to glioblastoma”

**Wei-Ting Yueh, Ph.D.**

*Research Institute of Fox Chase Cancer Center*

“The role of pathogenic PALB2 mutations in breast cancer and mechanisms of chemoresistance”

**Tomas Zelenka, Ph.D.**

*H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute*

“Regulation of transcriptional programs in mouse and human tumor infiltrating CD8+ T cells”

**Meng Zhang, Ph.D.**

*Leland Stanford Junior University*

“Cancer ablation with RNA-based immunomodulatory circuits targeting overexpressed oncogenes”

**Fan Zhao, Ph.D.**

*Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*

“Mechanism of histone H2B monoubiquitination by RNF20-RNF40”

*Additional information about the Postdoctoral Fellowship mechanism can be found [here](#).*

## **Clinical Research Professorships**

**Owen O’Connor, M.D., Ph.D.**

*University of Virginia*

“Translating novel immunoepigentic concepts to treat the T-cell lymphomas”

*Additional information about ACS Professor Awards can be found [here](#).*

## **Research Scholar Grants (RSGs)**

**Maher Abdalla, Ph.D.**

*University of Nebraska Medical Center*

“Targeting heme oxygenase-1 enhances standard chemotherapy in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma”

**Mollie Barnard, Sc.D.**

*Boston University*

“Cardiometabolic health and risk of breast cancer in Black women”

**Sha Cao, Ph.D.**

*Indiana University*

“Computational modeling of cancer specific metabolic variations for improving therapeutic target detection”

**Edmond Chan, M.D.**

*Columbia University*

“A novel approach to potentiate monoclonal antibodies for gastric cancer and beyond”

**Rohit Chandwani, Ph.D.**

*Weill Medical College of Cornell University*

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“Defining Rac1-mediated bypass of senescence as a molecular vulnerability in pancreatic cancer”

**Irene Chiolo, Ph.D.**

*University of Southern California*

“Chromatin dynamics in heterochromatin repair: insights into cancer biology”

**Martin Conda Sheridan, Ph.D.**

*University of Nebraska Medical Center*

“PSMA-selective theranostic nanoparticles to improve surgical outcomes in prostate cancer”

**Ani Deshpande, Ph.D.**

*Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute*

“Investigating Chromatin Control of Leukemogenesis”

**Danielle Engle, Ph.D.**

*Salk Institute for Biological Studies*

“Identification of synergy and therapeutic index in pancreatic cancer”

**Ekrem Emrah Er, Ph.D.**

*University of Illinois - Chicago*

“Investigating the role of interferon stimulated gene 15 in mechanosurveillance and metastasis”

**Yanqing Gong, Ph.D.**

*University of Pennsylvania*

“Targeting endothelial plasticity for cancer immunotherapy”

**Gaurav Goyal, M.D.**

*University of Alabama at Birmingham*

“Burden of morbidity among individuals with Langerhans cell histiocytosis”

**Abby Green, M.D.**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

“Mechanisms of genome maintenance in tumors with active APOBEC3A”

**Joseph Greer, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“Randomized trial of a digital health intervention to improve physical function and wellness of lung cancer survivors”

**Christopher Halbrook, Ph.D.**

*University of California, Irvine*

“Targeting liver metastatic pancreatic cancer”

**Ryan Hobbs, Ph.D.**

*Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine*

“AIRE deficiency as a strategy for stress-induced apoptosis and regression of pre-cancerous skin lesions”

**Jeffrey Ishizuka, M.D., D.Phil.**

*Yale University*

“mRNA vaccine strategies to target virus-associated Merkel Cell Carcinoma”



# New American Cancer Society Research Grants

Fall 2024 Awards



**Robert Judson-Torres, Ph.D.**

*University of Utah*

“Red hair and Rho: exploring the intersection of genetic predisposition and carcinogenic signaling during melanoma initiation”

**Ian Kleckner, Ph.D.**

*University of Maryland, Baltimore*

“HEALED: Studying mind-body relations in chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) using functional near infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS)”

**Adam Kuchnia, Ph.D.**

*University of Wisconsin-Madison*

“Integrating automated opportunistic CT measures with MR proton density fat fraction: a novel approach for early detection of cancer cachexia”

**Jiong Li, Ph.D.**

*Virginia Commonwealth University*

“Deciphering the molecular mechanisms of KDM5 in Wnt-induced tumorigenesis in colorectal cancer”

**Yulin Li, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Methodist Hospital Research Institute*

“Targeting ERAD for cancer therapy”

**Chris Lim, Ph.D.**

*University of Arizona*

“Neighborhood built and social environments and cancer risk in the U.S”

**Shannon Lynch, Ph.D.**

*Research Institute of Fox Chase Cancer Center*

“Geospatial assessment of the role of exposome in early age at onset adult cancers”

**Zhipeng Meng, Ph.D.**

*Miller School of Medicine of the University of Miami*

“Interplay of mechanical cues and metabolisms by MAP4K-Hippo signaling in hepatocarcinogenesis”

**Giselle Perez, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“Facilitating the transition into post-treatment survivorship for lymphoma survivorship”

**Justin Perry, Ph.D.**

*Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*

“Metabolic adaptation at the interface of tumor-associated macrophage function, carcinoma growth, and treatment resistance”

**Ferdinando Pucci, Ph.D.**

*Oregon Health & Science University*

“Study of B cell anti-tumor activities”

**Yuchen Qiu, Ph.D.**

*University of Oklahoma*

# New American Cancer Society Research Grants

Fall 2024 Awards



“A deep learning enhanced Fourier ptychography microscopic scanner to facilitate adequacy assessment in rapid on-site evaluation”

**Margaret Raber, DrPH.**

*University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

“Examining the feasibility and impact of a safety net clinic-based Food Farmacy and digital culinary medicine program among cancer survivors”

**J. Bart Rose, M.D.**

*University of Alabama at Birmingham*

“Therapeutic modulation of calreticulin in pancreatic adenocarcinoma”

**Natalie Saini, Ph.D.**

*Medical University of South Carolina*

“Determining the mutation signature of and genome maintenance pathways that function to eliminate acrolein-induced DNA damage”

**Nilay Sethy, M.D.**

*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*

“Molecular mechanisms of aberrant SOX9 activity in colorectal cancer”

**Mary Kathryn Sewell-Loftin, Ph.D.**

*University of Alabama at Birmingham*

“The role of cancer-associated fibroblast biomechanical behaviors in triple negative breast cancer”

**Natalie Silver, M.D.**

*Cleveland Clinic Foundation*

“Intratumoral bacteria modulation of the tumor immune microenvironment in head and neck cancer”

**Shivani Srivastava, Ph.D.**

*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center*

“Enhancing CAR-T cell efficacy by optimally engaging tumor neutrophils”

**Kuo-Hui Su, Ph.D.**

*University of Toledo Health Science Campus*

“Targeting heat shock factor 1-mediated autophagy in pancreatic cancer”

**Peter van Galen, Ph.D.**

*Brigham and Women’s Hospital*

“Combined targeting of protein translation initiation and apoptotic machinery in cancer”

**Frederick Varn, Ph.D., M.S.**

*Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine*

“Neuronal involvement in glioma progression”

**Matthew Waitkus, Ph.D.**

*Duke University*

“Role of ATRX deficiency as a determinant of topoisomerase 1 inhibitor sensitivity in high grade gliomas”

**Hua Wang, Ph.D.**

# New American Cancer Society Research Grants

Fall 2024 Awards



*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

“Adjuvanting polypeptides for developing potent mRNA vaccines against solid tumors”

**Jared Weis, Ph.D.**

*Wake Forest University Health Sciences*

“Predicting cancer treatment-related cardiotoxicity by imaging cardiac mechanical stiffness”

**Kerri Winters-Stone, Ph.D.**

*Oregon Health & Science University*

“HEALED: Testing a socially-enhanced exercise program on social isolation, loneliness, and mental and physical health in older men with prostate cancer”

**Beshay Zordoky, M.Sc., Ph.D.**

*University of Minnesota – Twin Cities*

“Immunosenescence and cardiovascular complications of chemotherapy”

*Additional information about the Research Scholar Grant mechanism can be found [here](#).*

## **Real-World Data Impact Awards**

**Ann-Kathrin Eisfeld, M.D.**

*The Ohio State University*

“Establishing refined risk stratification for acute myeloid leukemia patients”

*More information about the Real-World Data Impact Awards and the partnership with Flatiron Health supporting these awards can be found [here](#).*

## **TheoryLab Collaborative (TLC) Grants**

*Note: TLC grants are co-awarded to two PIs for a single collaborative project.*

**Teresa Bowman, Ph.D.**

*Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

**Kira Gritsman, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

“Crosstalk between the cGAS/STING and PI3K/AKT/MTOR pathways in the initiation of myelodysplastic syndrome”

**Kasey Coutts, Ph.D.**

*University of Colorado Denver, AMC and DC*

**Sabrina Spencer, Ph.D.**

*University of Colorado Boulder*

“Evaluation of combination therapies to block off-target activation of GCN2 by BRAF and other kinase inhibitors”

**Liangliang Hao, Ph.D.**

*Boston University*

# New American Cancer Society Research Grants

Fall 2024 Awards



**Chao Zhang, Ph.D.**

*Boston University*

“Multi-layer data integration to inform activity-based diagnostics for colorectal cancer classification”

**Daniel Hertz, Ph.D., Pharm.D.**

*University of Michigan*

**Jai Patel, Pharm.D.**

*Wake Forest University Health Sciences*

“Establishing Oncology Pharmacogenomics Real-world Evidence Consortium (OPREC) to demonstrate clinical utility of pre-treatment DPYD testing”

*Additional information about TheoryLab Collaborative Grants can be found [here](#).*

## **Yosemite-ACS Awards**

**Cory Berkland, Ph.D.**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

“Engineering GM-CSF as tumor immunotherapy”

**Juan Cubillos-Ruiz, Ph.D.**

*The Ohio State University*

“Safeguarding T cell cytoskeletal integrity for improved cancer immunotherapy”

**Gautum Dantas, Ph.D.**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

“Engineering yeast as a novel oral delivery vehicle for immunomodulatory cancer therapies”

**Eric Duncavage, M.D.**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

“A machine learning based approach to identify dysplasia in blood and bone marrow specimens”

**Yi Fan, Ph.D.**

*University of Pennsylvania*

“Reverse the immunosuppressive vascular microenvironment for cancer immunotherapy”

**Saar Gill, M.D., Ph.D.**

*University of Pennsylvania*

“Restoration of response to immunotherapy by inhibition of suppressive myeloid cells”

**Brian Grindel, Ph.D.**

*University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

“Re-activating the anti-tumor immune microenvironment while limiting adverse events using a novel directed evolution process”

**Jeremiah Johnson, Ph.D.**

# New American Cancer Society Research Grants

Fall 2024 Awards



*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

“Overcoming therapeutic resistance through cell-specific targeting of the tumor microenvironment with antibody–bottlebrush prodrug conjugates”

**Roarke Kamber, Ph.D.**

*University of California, San Francisco*

“Bolstering effective anti-tumor phagocytosis through high-throughput design of multifunctional chimeric macrophage receptors”

**Dan Landau, Ph.D.**

*Weill Medical College of Cornell University*

“Harnessing innate immunity for next-generation immuno-oncology therapeutics”

**Mark Leick, M.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“CAR-T targeted delivery of a VEGF-blocking scFv by mesothelin CAR-T cells to enhance anti-tumor activity in solid tumors”

**Daniel Marcus, Ph.D.**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

“An open AI-powered multidisciplinary tumor board platform”

**Matthew Porteus, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Stanford University School of Medicine*

“Genome editing to create a stem-cell-based broad-spectrum immunotherapy for blood cancer”

**Anthony Rongvaux, Ph.D.**

*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center*

“Identifying actionable molecular mechanisms that modulate T cell infiltration in tumor microenvironments”

**Debattama Sen, Ph.D.**

*Massachusetts General Hospital*

“Epigenetic reprogramming of adoptive cell therapies to bolster tumor-specific memory formation”

**Claire Snyder, Ph.D.**

*Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*

“Improving the equity, effectiveness, and actionability of electronic patient-reported outcome feedback systems for clinical cancer symptom management”

**George Souroullas, Ph.D.**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

“Chromatin accessibility and its role in regulating tumor immunity and metastasis in melanoma”

**Edward Stites, M.D.**

*Yale University*

“Mechanism Informed Transformer (MI-T) Network for pharmaceutical characterization”

# New American Cancer Society Research Grants

*Fall 2024 Awards*



**Edus Warren, M.D.**

*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center*

“Understanding the grammar of T-cell antigen recognition using fine-tuned large language models”

**Eric Winer, M.D.**

*Yale University*

“Artificial Intelligence to reduce breast cancer overtreatment among older women: model development and patient perspectives”

*More information about the Yosemite-ACS Awards and the partnership with Yosemite supporting these awards can be found [here](#).*