



2017 Conquer Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award Recipients*†

**Reflects recipient institutions at the time of award; Listing current as of May 23, 2017*

†Reflects first time that award is presented

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Breast Cancer Research Foundation® Young Investigator Award

Prasanna G. Alluri, MD, PhD

University of Michigan

"Targeting Estrogen Receptor mutations for treatment of endocrine therapy resistance"

Mentored by: Arul Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD, Daniel F Hayes, MD, FACP, FASCO

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO Endowed Young Investigator Award *in memory of Sally Gordon*

Kalyan Banda, MD

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

"Dissecting the interface between androgen signaling and mRNA translation in androgen receptor (AR) negative, castration resistant prostate cancer (CRPC)."

Mentored by: Andrew Hsieh, MD (2010 YIA)

Timothy G. Bowler, MBBCH, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"Molecular mechanisms of clinical response to CDK4 inhibition in well-differentiated/dedifferentiated liposarcoma"

Mentored by: William Tap, MD

Andrew G. Brandmaier, MD, PhD

Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University

"Combining Radiation Therapy and PTEN Targeting to Reprogram Tregs and Promote Anti-Tumor Immunity"

Mentored by: Sandra Demaria, MD

Anna Braglia Endowed Young Investigator Award in Cancer Supportive Care, *supported by HELSINN†*

Sarah A. Buckley, MD

University of Washington

"Validation of a Disease-Specific Quality of Life Instrument in Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia"

Mentored by: Stephanie Lee, MD, MPH, Roland Walter, MD, PhD, MS

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Amgen Young Investigator Award

Huynh Cao, MD

Loma Linda University

"CYP27B1 transduced mesenchymal progenitor cell for Vitamin D delivery in acute myeloid leukemia"

Mentored by: David Baylink, MD



Conquer Cancer Foundation/Breast Cancer Research Foundation® Young Investigator Award

Jennifer L. Caswell-Jin, MD

Stanford University

“Genomic Characterization of Exceptional Responders to Capecitabine in Metastatic Breast Cancer”

Mentored by: Christina Curtis, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Pfizer Oncology Young Investigator Award

Michael Cecchini, MD

Yale University

“A Mutational Signature as a Biomarker for Response to Olaparib and Ramucirumab for Metastatic Gastric Cancer”

Mentored by: Jill Lacy, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Takeda Oncology Young Investigator Award

Aadel A. Chaudhuri, MD, PhD

Stanford University

“Circulating tumor DNA quantitation and modeling to predict response to chemoradiotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer”

Mentored by: Maximilian Diehn, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Amgen Young Investigator Award

Ibiayi Dagogo-Jack, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital

“Plasma Genotyping to Monitor Response and Resistance in ALK+ NSCLC”

Mentored by: Alice Shaw, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Scopus Foundation Young Investigator Award

Anthony F. Daniyan, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“The Development of a Genetically Engineered Dendritic Cell-based Immunotherapy Platform for the Treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia”

Mentored by: Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/AstraZeneca Young Investigator Award

Nicholas C. DeVito, MD

Duke University Medical Center

“Investigating Oncogenic Signaling Pathways that Drive Wnt Ligand-mediated Immune Tolerance in Melanoma”

Mentored by: Brent Hanks, MD, PhD



Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO Endowed Young Investigator Award *in memory of Evelyn H. Lauder*

Joshua M. Donaldson, MD, PhD

Johns Hopkins University

“Resistance mechanisms to palbociclib in hormone positive breast cancer”

Mentored by: Ben Park, MD, PhD

Jane C. Wright, MD Endowed Young Investigator Award†

Benjamin J. Drapkin, MD, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital

“Co-Clinical Trial of Combination Olaparib and Temozolomide in Patient Derived Xenograft Models of Small Cell Lung Cancer”

Mentored by: Nicholas Dyson, PhD, Daniel Haber, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Amgen Young Investigator Award

Andrew Dunbar, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Role of concurrent ASXL1 and JAK2 mutations in myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN)”

Mentored by: Ross Levine, MD (2006 YIA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Merck & Co., Inc. Young Investigator Award

Claire F. Friedman, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“The tumor immune microenvironment and response to CTLA-4 blockade in PD-1 refractory metastatic melanoma”

Mentored by: Jedd Wolchok, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Bristol-Myers Squibb Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award

Erin F. Gillespie, MD

University of California, San Diego

“Closing the quality of care gap in radiation oncology”

Mentored by: Arno Mundt, MD

Aaron David Goldberg, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Development of combination epigenetic therapy and immunotherapy as a novel therapeutic modality to eradicate minimal residual disease in acute myeloid leukemia”

Mentored by: Martin Tallman, MD

Nicole R. Grieselhuber, MD, PhD

The Ohio State University

“Investigation of synergistic activities of an inhibitor of bromodomain and extra terminal domain (BET) proteins combined with dinaciclib in a pre-clinical model of acute myeloid leukemia”

Mentored by: John Byrd, MD



Conquer Cancer Foundation/Breast Cancer Research Foundation® Young Investigator Award

Joshua J. Gruber, MD, PhD

Stanford University

“Immunological Determinants of Cancer Onset in High-risk Patients”

Mentored by: Michael Snyder, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Bristol-Myers Squibb Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award

Catherine E. Handy, MD, MPH

Johns Hopkins University

“Pre-diagnostic Cardiorespiratory Fitness Testing and Cancer Incidence in Men and Women: The FIT-Cancer Cohort”

Mentored by: Kala Visvanathan, MD, MHS (2005 CDA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Young Investigator Award

Matthew L. Hemming, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Using the sarcoma enhancer landscape to identify sarcoma-specific vulnerabilities.”

Mentored by: Scott Armstrong, MD, PhD, George Demetri, MD, FASCO

Conquer Cancer Foundation/AbbVie, Inc. Young Investigator Award

Brian Samuel Henick, MD

Yale University

“Understanding the role of macrophages as determinants of sensitivity and resistance to PD-1 axis therapy in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)”

Mentored by: Roy Herbst, MD, PhD (1997 YIA, 1999 CDA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Strike 3 Foundation Young Investigator Award

Sébastien Héritier, MD, PhD

University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

“Predictive and prognostic molecular markers for langerhans cell histiocytosis”

Mentored by: Jean-François Emile, MD, PhD

Jonathan M. Iaccarino, MD

Boston University School of Medicine

“Effect of serious comorbidities on lung cancer screening decision-making and outcomes”

Mentored by: Renda Wiener, MD, MPH

Wen Jiang, MD, PhD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“High throughput multiplexed immunological profiling of glioblastoma”

Mentored by: Erik Sulman, MD, PhD



Conquer Cancer Foundation/Journal of Clinical Oncology Young Investigator Award

Burles Johnson III, MD, PhD

Johns Hopkins University

“Targeting indoleamine 2,3 dioxygenase to augment invariant natural killer T cell immunity”

Mentored by: Elizabeth Jaffee, MD (1992 YIA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award *in memory of Inger Marianne Peterson*

Ciara Kelly, MBBS

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Sequenced Cell Free DNA (cfDNA) in the Management of Patients with Advanced Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)”

Mentored by: Ping Chi, MD, PhD (2008 YIA), William Tap, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/ASCO Clinical Practice Committee & State Affiliate Council Young Investigator Award

Chrisann Kyi, MD

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

“Intratumoral Talimogene Laherparepvec (Oncolytic Virus) in the Treatment of Unresectable Refractory Head and Neck Squamous Cell Cancers: A Platform to Optimize Cancer Immunotherapy”

Mentored by: Nina Bhardwaj, MD

Wei-Chu Victoria Lai, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Combining a WT1 Cancer Vaccine (SLS-001) with Checkpoint Inhibition (Nivolumab) in Patients with WT1-Expressing Pleural Malignant Mesothelioma: A Phase I Study”

Mentored by: Mark Kris, MD, FASCO

Angela Lamarca, MD, PhD

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

“Trans-ABC06: Understanding the role of DNA-damage repair mechanisms in patients with cholangiocarcinoma and other biliary tract cancers: translational research in the context of the ABC06 randomised phase III clinical trial.”

Mentored by: Juan Valle, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Robin Zon & Family Young Investigator Award *in memory of Stella and Allyce Zon*

Rajarsi Mandal, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Investigating the Genomic and Immunologic Determinants of Response to Anti-PD-1 and Anti-CTLA-4 Therapy using CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing”

Mentored by: Timothy Chan, MD, PhD (2007 YIA)



Kristen A. Marrone, MD

Johns Hopkins University

“Predictive and prognostic significance of mutation-associated neoantigen recognition in early stage and metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients treated with nivolumab monotherapy”

Mentored by: Julie Brahmer, MD, FASCO

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Merck & Co., Inc. Young Investigator Award

Meredith A. McKean, MD, MPH

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Investigation of in situ predictors of response to immune therapy in metastatic melanoma”

Mentored by: Gordon Mills, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Pfizer Oncology Young Investigator Award

Miloš Miljkovic, MD, MSc

National Cancer Institute

“Using Tbeta to enhance response to cancer immunotherapy and chemotherapy”

Mentored by: Francis Flomerfelt, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/The John and Elizabeth Leonard Family Foundation Young Investigator Award

Alexandra M. Miller, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Effectors of mutant IDH in glioma”

Mentored by: Ingo Mellinger, MD (2003 YIA, 2009 ACRA in Glioma)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/ASCO Clinical Practice Committee & State Affiliate Council Young Investigator Award

Aaron P. Mitchell, MD

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Relationships with the pharmaceutical industry and prescribing patterns in oncology”

Mentored by: Ethan Basch, MD, FASCO (2007 CDA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/QuadW Young Investigator Award *in memory of Willie Tichenor*

Yvonne M. Mowery, MD, PhD

Duke University Medical Center

“Dissecting the Interplay between Tumor Mutational Load and the Immune System in Response of Primary Sarcomas to Radiation Therapy”

Mentored by: David Kirsch, MD, PhD (2004 YIA, 2010 ACRA in Sarcoma)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Kidney Cancer Association Young Investigator Award

Pavlos Msaouel, MD, PhD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Targeting the EZH2-STAT3 Pathway in Renal Medullary Carcinoma”

Mentored by: Nizar Tannir, MD, FACP



Conquer Cancer Foundation/Florida Society of Clinical Oncology Young Investigator Award

George Robert Nahas, DO

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

“Novel targeting of alloreactive T cells to improve GVHD outcomes in allogeneic transplants for blood cancers”

Mentored by: Krishna Komanduri, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Greg Parekh Young Investigator Award

Samuel Y. Ng, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Translational Discovery in Angioimmunoblastic T-cell Lymphoma”

Mentored by: David Weinstock, MD (2006 YIA)

Harry F. Bisel, MD Endowed Young Investigator Award

David Y. Oh, MD, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

“Clonotypic and phenotypic characteristics of T cell responses to checkpoint blockade in bladder cancer”

Mentored by: Lawrence Fong, MD (1997 YIA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Bristol-Myers Squibb Young Investigator Award

Dwight Owen, MD

The Ohio State University

“A phase II study of atezolizumab as neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy in patients with resectable non-small cell lung cancer.”

Mentored by: David Carbone, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/AstraZeneca Young Investigator Award

Jason Paik, MD, PhD

Stanford University

“Allogeneic Antibodies As Immunotherapy Against Genitourinary Cancers”

Mentored by: Edgar Engleman, MD

Åke Bertil Eriksson Endowed Young Investigator Award†

Philip D. Poorvu, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Genomic Risk Prediction Assay Use and Outcomes in Young Women with Early-Stage Breast Cancer”

Mentored by: Ann Partridge, MD, FASCO (2001 YIA, 2003 CDA, 2010 Improving Cancer Care Grant)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Breast Cancer Research Foundation® Young Investigator Award *in honor of Susan Hirschhorn and in memory of her mother*

Jennifer M. Rosenbluth, MD, PhD

Harvard Medical School

“Targeting premalignant mammary progenitor cells in an organoid-based model of BRCA1 breast cancer”

Mentored by: Joan Brugge, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Strike 3 Foundation Young Investigator Award



Jeffrey H. Rubens, MD

Johns Hopkins University

“Targeting mTORC2 to combat drug resistance and enhance cisplatin induced cytotoxicity”

Mentored by: Charles Eberhart, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Gateway for Cancer Research Young Investigator Award

Rachael A. Safyan, MD

NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center

“Translational Evaluation of Combination Hypomethylation with Immune Checkpoint Blockade in Advanced Pancreatic Cancer”

Mentored by: Paul Oberstein, MD (2013 YIA), Gary Schwartz, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Takeda Oncology Young Investigator Award

Joshua P. Sasine, MD

University of California, Los Angeles

“Bone Marrow Vascular Niche Regulation of Multiple Myeloma”

Mentored by: John Chute, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Ewa Maria Kukrika Young Investigator Award

May Tun Saung, MD

Johns Hopkins University

“Modulating Tumor-Associated Macrophages with Combination Immunotherapy in a Preclinical Model of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma”

Mentored by: Lei Zheng, MD, PhD (2008 YIA)

Fred J. Ansfield, MD Endowed Young Investigator Award

Stephen M. Schleicher, MD, MBA

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Defining the early impact of Accountable Care Organizations on cancer care”

Mentored by: Peter Bach, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO Endowed Young Investigator Award *in memory of John R. Durant, MD*

Nicholas J. Short, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Improving Prediction of Relapse in Philadelphia Chromosome-Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Using Next-Generation Sequencing”

Mentored by: Farhad Ravandi, MD



Conquer Cancer Foundation/Merck & Co., Inc. Young Investigator Award

Surbhi Sidana, MD

Mayo Clinic

“Impact of clinical trial participation on quality of life, financial burden and perception of care in patients with multiple myeloma and lymphoma”

Mentored by: Shaji Kumar, MD (2006 CDA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Lung Cancer Alliance Young Investigator Award

Robert Smyth, MB, MSc

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

“Detection of T790M mutations in the exhaled breath condensate of patients with EGFR mutant NSCLC on TKI therapy”

Mentored by: Bryan Hennessy, MD (2007 YIA, 2008 CDA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Genomic Health, Inc. Young Investigator Award

Laura Spring, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital

“Tracking circulating tumor cells during neoadjuvant therapy for localized breast cancer”

Mentored by: Aditya Bardia, MD, MPH (2010 YIA), Daniel Haber, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Lilly Young Investigator Award

Randy F. Sweis, MD

The University of Chicago

“Targeting the non-T cell inflamed tumor microenvironment in urothelial bladder cancer”

Mentored by: Thomas Gajewski, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/AACR Young Investigator Translational Cancer Research Award

Justin Taylor, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Spliceosomal Modulation in the Therapy of Spliceosomal Mutant Myeloid Neoplasia”

Mentored by: Omar Abdel-Wahab, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/AstraZeneca Young Investigator Award

Davis Torrejon Castro, MD

University of California, Los Angeles

“Understanding resistance mechanisms to PD-1 blockade therapy”

Mentored by: Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD (2000 CDA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Michiana Hematology Oncology Young Investigator Award *in memory of Dr.*

Juan Garcia and Dr. Michael Rodriguez

Jennifer Veneris, MD, PhD

The University of Chicago

“Glucocorticoid receptor-mediated chemotherapy resistance in ovarian cancer”

Mentored by: Suzanne Conzen, MD



Conquer Cancer Foundation/Tomasello Family Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award

Samantha L. Vogt, MD, MPH

Johns Hopkins University

“Multicenter Study of Pomalidomide Monotherapy in HIV-Infected Individuals with Kaposi Sarcoma (KS) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)”

Mentored by: Richard Ambinder, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Merck & Co., Inc. Young Investigator Award

Michael J. Wagner, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Overcoming Primary Resistance to VEGF/VEGFR Targeted Agents in Angiosarcoma by Targeting the Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase (MAPK) Pathway”

Mentored by: Anil Sood, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO Endowed Young Investigator Award *in memory of Sally Gordon*

Joshua M. Walker, MD, PhD

Oregon Health & Science University

“Restimulation of tumor-specific T cells using radiotherapy in a murine T cell energy model”

Mentored by: William Redmond, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Norman Rales Young Investigator Award

Jonathan A. Webster, MD

Johns Hopkins University

“Manipulating the Immune System to Improve Responses to Blinatumomab in Relapsed/Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)”

Mentored by: Ivana Gojo, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Vicky Merryman Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award

Melisa L. Wong, MD

University of California, San Francisco

“Characterization of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy in older cancer survivors”

Mentored by: Christine Miaskowski, PhD, MS, BSN

Conquer Cancer Foundation/Ruth Rales Young Investigator Award

Mark Yarchoan, MD

Johns Hopkins University

“A phase 2 study of a GM-CSF Secreting Allogeneic Colon Cancer Vaccine (GVAX) with an Anti-PD-1 Antibody (Pembrolizumab) in Patients with Mismatch Repair-Proficient (MMR-p) Advanced Colorectal Cancer”

Mentored by: Nilofer Azad, MD (2007 YIA, 2010 CDA)



Conquer Cancer Foundation/Kelly Cares Foundation Young Investigator Award

Oladapo O. Yeku, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"Modulation of the tumor microenvironment by IL-12 secreting CAR T cells"

Mentored by: Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD