



2016 Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO Young Investigator Award Recipients*

ASCO Clinical Practice Committee and ASCO State Affiliate Council Young Investigator Award

Erin Aakhus, MD

University of Pennsylvania

"Cost Transparency in Oncology"

Mentored by: Steven Joffe, MD, MPH

Pfizer Oncology Young Investigator Award

Lapo Alinari, MD, PhD

The Ohio State University

"Exploring a novel immune-modulatory approach to treat relapsed and refractory Hodgkin Lymphoma"

Mentored by: Kristie Blum, MD

AbbVie, Inc. Young Investigator Award

Noffar Bar, MD

Yale University

"Targeting the tumor microenvironment through PD1/PDL1 pathway for prevention of multiple myeloma"

Mentored by: Madhav Dhodapkar, MBBS (1997 CDA)

Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award

Reva Basho, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

"Mesenchymal triple-negative breast cancer: identifying a diagnostic tool and exploring PI3K pathway-directed therapy"

Mentored by: Stacy Moulder, MD (2002 CDA)

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

Connie Batlevi, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"Autologous CD19 targeted CAR T-cells for consolidation post salvage chemotherapy in transplant ineligible patients with relapsed DLBCL"

Mentored by: Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD

Takeda Oncology Young Investigator Award

Sheng Cai, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



“Targeting the histone demethylase LSD1 in acute myeloid leukemia”

Mentored by: Scott Armstrong, BS, MD, PhD

Lung Cancer Alliance Young Investigator Award

Tina Cascone, MD, PhD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Inhibition of nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (NMD) to enhance the immunogenicity of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and augment the efficacy of immunotherapy.”

Mentored by: John Heymach, MD, PhD (2003 YIA, 2004 CDA)

Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award

Sameer Chopra, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Investigation of FOXO3-dependent transcriptional activity as a therapeutic target in triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC)”

Mentored by: Peter Sorger, PhD

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Young Investigator Award

Louise Connell, MBBCh, BSc, BAO

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“A Phase I study of Nivolumab in combination with drug-eluting bead chemoembolization (DEB TACE) in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)”

Mentored by: Ghassan Abou-Alfa, MD

Amgen Young Investigator Award

Catherine Coombs, MD, MS

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Investigation of the impact of clonal hematopoiesis in patients with solid tumors without known hematologic disease”

Mentored by: Ross Levine, MD (2006 YIA)

Merck & Co., Inc. Young Investigator Award

Emily Curran, MD

The University of Chicago

“Targeting the STING pathway as immunotherapy for acute myeloid leukemia”

Mentored by: Justin Kline, MD (2007 YIA)



Genentech BioOncology™ Young Investigator Award

Diwakar Davar, MBBS

University of Pittsburgh

"Assessment of Tumor Micro-Environment and Type I IFN signaling with Pembrolizumab- Pegylated IFN Combination in Advanced Melanoma: Prognostic and Therapeutic Implications."

Mentored by: John Kirkwood, MD

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

Sarah Derks, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

"PD-L2, chronic inflammation and PD-1 blockade in esophageal adenocarcinoma"

Mentored by: Adam Bass, MD (2008 YIA)

Merck & Co., Inc. Young Investigator Award

Matthew Frank, MD, PhD

Stanford University

"A Bispecific Antibody Targeting CD20 and CD137 for the Eradication of B cell Lymphoma"

Mentored by: Ronald Levy, MD

The John and Elizabeth Leonard Family Foundation Young Investigator Award

Samuel Funt, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"The Immune Microenvironment's Role in Functionally Regulating Response to Cisplatin-based Chemotherapy in Bladder Cancer"

Mentored by: Dean Bajorin, MD, FACP

Merck & Co., Inc. Young Investigator Award

Karuna Ganesh, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"Therapeutically Targeting L1CAM in Metastatic Cancer Stem Cells"

Mentored by: Joan Massagué, PhD

Gilead Sciences, Inc. Young Investigator Award

Christopher Gibson, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

"The Role of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Mutations in the Pathogenesis of Therapy-Related Myeloid Neoplasm Following Treatment for non-Hodgkin lymphoma"

Mentored by: Benjamin Ebert, MD, PhD



Kidney Cancer Association Young Investigator Award

Raj Gopal, MD, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital

"Mitochondrial Profiling in Kidney Cancer"

Mentored by: Vamsi Mootha, MD

Amgen Young Investigator Award

Anna Halpern, MD

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

"Addition of Sorafenib to G-CSF, Cladribine, Cytarabine and Mitoxantrone (G-CLAM) in Adults with Newly-Diagnosed Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) Independent of FLT3-ITD status: A Phase 1 Study"

Mentored by: Roland Walter, MD, PhD

ASCO Clinical Practice Committee and ASCO State Affiliate Council Young Investigator Award

Ghayas Issa, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

"The Impact of Clonal Heterogeneity on Relapse after Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant in Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia"

Mentored by: Phillip Andrew Futreal, PhD, BS

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO Young Investigator Award in Memory of John R. Durant, MD

Scott James, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"Application of inhibitory chimeric antigen receptors (iCARs) in adoptive T cell immunotherapy of B cell leukemia"

Mentored by: Marcel van den Brink, MD, PhD

Genentech BioOncology™ Young Investigator Award

Emmet Jordan, MBBch, BAO

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"Assessment of genomic alterations in bladder adenocarcinoma and urachal adenocarcinoma"

Mentored by: David Solit, MD (2001 YIA, 2002 CDA)

Janssen Oncology Young Investigator Award

Danny Khalil, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"Potentiating PD-1 blockade in resistant cancers through enforced APC activation"

Mentored by: Taha Merghoub, PhD



Adi Klil-Drori, MD

Jewish General Hospital

"The Use of Metformin and the Incidence of Lymphoid Malignancies in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus"

Mentored by: Laurent Azoulay, PhD

Genentech BioOncology™ Young Investigator Award

Kimberly Komatsubara, MD

Columbia University Medical Center

"A Phase II Study of Epacadostat (IDO inhibitor) and Pembrolizumab in Patients with Imatinib-Refractory Advanced Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors"

Mentored by: Richard Carvajal, MD (2008 YIA, 2010 CDA)

Åke Bertil Eriksson Endowed Young Investigator Award

David Kurtz, MD

Stanford University

"Circulating tumor DNA dynamics for response forecasting and personalized therapy in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma"

Mentored by: Arash Alizadeh, MD, PhD

Pfizer Oncology Young Investigator Award

Daniel Landi, MD

Baylor College of Medicine

"Converting the inhibitory PD-1/PD-L1 checkpoint into a stimulatory signal in chimeric antigen receptor T cells"

Mentored by: Nabil Ahmed, MD, MSC

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

Xiuning Le, MD, PhD

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

"Understanding mechanisms of resistance to PI3K inhibition in breast cancer"

Mentored by: Levi Garraway, MD, PhD

QuadW Young Investigator Award in memory of Willie Tichenor

J. Andrew Livingston, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center



“Heat shock protein (HSP) 27 and autophagic fate in osteosarcoma”

Mentored by: Eugenie Kleinerman, MD

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

Benjamin Lok, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Evaluation of homologous recombination deficiency and SLFN11 as predictors of PARP inhibitor efficacy in small cell lung cancer”

Mentored by: Charles Rudin, MD, PhD (1997 YIA)

J. Edward Mahoney Foundation Young Investigator Award

Jonathan Loree, MD

University of British Columbia

“Impact of intratumor heterogeneity and low frequency RAS mutations on clinical outcome in colorectal cancer”

Mentored by: Scott Kopetz, MD (2008 CDA)

AstraZeneca Young Investigator Award

Kartik Mani, MD, PhD

Montefiore Medical Center

“Epigenetic Modulation Combined with Stereotactic Radiation and Novel Checkpoint Inhibition for Sustained Immune Response in Pancreatic Cancer”

Mentored by: Chandan Guha, MD, PhD

Strike 3 Foundation Young Investigator Award

Jonathan Marron, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Patient and Parent Understanding and Experiences with Genomic Tumor Profiling (GTP) in Pediatric Oncology”

Mentored by: Jennifer Mack, MD (2007 CDA)

Ines Menjak, MD, FRCPC

Sunnybrook Research Institute

“Impact of comprehensive geriatric assessment on decision-making for adjuvant chemotherapy in elderly breast cancer patients”

Mentored by: Maureen Trudeau, MD, BSc, MA, FRCPC



Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award

Zahi Mitri, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

"Investigating the Functional Impact of TP53 mutations in Triple Negative Breast Cancer"

Mentored by: Stacy Moulder, MD (2002 CDA)

ASCO and CCF Boards of Directors Young Investigator Award

Nima Nabavizadeh, MD

Oregon Health and Science University

"Use of circulating tumor DNA levels to gauge necessity of surgery for patients undergoing trimodality therapy for esophageal cancer"

Mentored by: Paul Spellman, PhD

ASCO and CCF Boards of Directors Young Investigator Award

Travis Osterman, DO

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

"Improving lung cancer screening rates through targeted electronic clinical decision support"

Mentored by: Joshua Denny, MD, MS, FACMI

EMD Serono Inc. Young Investigator Award

Carolyn Presley, MD

Yale University

"Identification and Characterization of Functional Trajectories Among Community-Living Older Persons with a New Cancer Diagnosis"

Mentored by: Thomas Gill, MD

Merck & Co., Inc. Young Investigator Award

Srivatsan Raghavan, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

"Extracellular matrix modulation of therapeutic sensitivity in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma"

Mentored by: William Hahn, MD, PhD

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

Sangeetha Reddy, MD, MSc

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

"Immune and molecular determinants of response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy in inflammatory breast cancer"

Mentored by: Jennifer Wargo, MD



Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award

Amanda Redig, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

"Genomic complexity and resistance mechanisms in non-small cell lung cancer"

Mentored by: Pasi Janne, MD, PhD (2001 YIA)

Nicholas Richardson, DO

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

"Targeting Early Cancer Prevention: Tobacco Screening and Cessation in Adolescents"

Mentored by: Hilary Tindle, MD, MPH

ASCO and CCF Boards of Directors Young Investigator Award

Matthew Rioth, MD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

"Bioinformatic data mining to prioritize genetic variants of unknown significance"

Mentored by: Jeremy Warner, MD, MS

Shella Saint Fleur-Lominy, MD, PhD

New York University School of Medicine

"Deciphering epigenetic markers of drug resistance in acute lymphoblastic leukemia"

Mentored by: William Carroll, MD (1988 YIA)

Daniel Shin, MD

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

"Regulation of PD-L1 expression in melanoma"

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

Journal of Clinical Oncology Young Investigator Award

Lillian Smyth, MD, MBBCh, BAO, MRCPI

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"AKT1 Mutations in the Pathogenesis and Treatment of Advanced Solid Tumors"

Mentored by: Sarat Chandarlapaty, MD, PhD (2007 YIA)

AstraZeneca Young Investigator Award

Chad Tang, MD, MS

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

"Development of immune pathology-based radiomics features to predict non-small cell lung cancer response to checkpoint inhibitors on prospective trials"



Mentored by: James Welsh, MD and Steven Spitalnik, MD

Strike 3 Foundation Young Investigator Award

Agne Taraseviciute, MD, PhD

Seattle Children's Research Institute

"A Non-Human Primate Model of Immunosuppression-Resistant CAR T Cells: Bringing CARs to the Immediate Post-Transplant Setting"

Mentored by: Leslie Kean, MD, PhD

Takeda Oncology Young Investigator Award

Santosha Vardhana, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

"Mechanisms of response and resistance to checkpoint blockade in Hodgkin Lymphoma"

Mentored by: Craig Moskowitz, MD

Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC Young Investigator Award

Rajwanth Veluswamy, MD, MSc

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

"Comparative Outcomes of Robotic-Assisted Thoracic Surgery for Early-Stage Lung Cancer in Older Patients"

Mentored by: Juan Wisnivesky, MD, DrPH

Jane C. Wright, MD, Endowed Young Investigator Award

Srinivas Viswanathan, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

"Exploring the Nonsense-mediated Decay Pathway as a Novel Cancer Vulnerability"

Mentored by: Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD

Genentech BioOncology™ Young Investigator Award

Daniel Wahl, MD, PhD

University of Michigan

"Targeting Wild Type Isocitrate Dehydrogenase 1 as a Metabolic Strategy to Improve Glioblastoma Therapy"

Mentored by: Theodore Lawrence, MD, PhD, FASCO (1988 YIA)

Farzana Walcott, MD, MPH

George Washington University

"Metabolomics Profiles of metformin chemoprevention in Li-Fraumeni Syndrome"



Mentored by: Eduardo Sotomayor, MD

ASCO and CCF Boards of Directors Young Investigator Award

Victoria Wang, MD, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

"Induction of YAP1 as a widespread resistance mechanism in cancer"

Mentored by: Frank McCormick, PhD, FRS, DSc (Hon)

Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award

Eric Wehrenberg-Klee, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital

"Optimizing Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Targeted-Therapy With Dynamic HER3 PET Imaging"

Mentored by: Umar Mahmood, MD, PhD

Lilly Young Investigator Award

Benjamin Weinberg, MD

Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University

"Combination CDK4/6 Inhibitor and mTOR Inhibitor in Metastatic Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma"

Mentored by: Michael Pishvaian, MD, PhD

Janssen Oncology Young Investigator Award

Kaveh Zakeri, MD, MAS

University of California, San Diego

"FLT-PET Delineation of Active Bone Marrow and Assessment of Compensatory Hematopoiesis after Chemoradiation for Gynecologic Malignancies: Prospective Imaging Substudy of a Phase III Randomized Trial"

Mentored by: Loren Mell, MD (2008 YIA)

**Reflects recipient institutions at the time of award; Listing current as of May 20, 2016*