



2018 Conquer Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award Recipients*†

**Reflects recipient institutions at the time of award; Listing current as of May 23, 2018*

†Reflects first time that endowed award is presented

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

Rajiv Agarwal, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Evaluating the impact of proactive palliative care in patients initiating phase I targeted or immune-based cancer therapeutics: a randomized controlled trial”

Mentored by: Judith Nelson, MD, Leonard Saltz, MD

David H. Aggen, MD, PhD

NewYork-Presbyterian and Columbia University Medical Center

“Targeting myeloid-derived suppressor cells in renal cell cancer with combination IL-1 beta and PD-1 blockade”

Mentored by: Charles Drake, MD, PhD

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

Kathryn C. Arbour, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Combination MEK and FGFR-1 inhibition in KRAS-mutant NSCLC: A phase I dose escalation trial of trametinib and ponatinib”

Mentored by: Gregory Riely, MD, PhD (2007 YIA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/AMMF – The Cholangiocarcinoma Charity, The Bili Project Foundation, The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, TargetCancer Foundation Young Investigator Award

Marina Baretta, MD

Johns Hopkins University

“A phase II clinical trial of entinostat in combination with rivolumab for patients with previously treated unresectable or metastatic cholangiocarcinoma and pancreatic adenocarcinoma”

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

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Amgen Young Investigator Award

Allison Betof Warner, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Exercise regulation of immune activation and response in cancer: implications for immunotherapy”

Mentored by: Jedd Wolchok, MD, PhD, FASCO

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

Andrew R. Bruggeman, MD

University of California, San Diego

“Integration of palliative care into the radiation oncology clinic”

Mentored by: Eric Roeland, MD

Zachary S. Buchwald, MD, PhD

Emory University

“The role of the tumor draining lymph node in induction of the abscopal effect”

Mentored by: Rafi Ahmed, PhD, Mohammad Khan, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/TESARO Young Investigator Award

Jad Chahoud, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Identification of viral and immune biomarkers for metastasis and poor survival in penile squamous cell carcinoma”

Mentored by: Curtis Pettaway, MD, Curtis Pickering, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/AstraZeneca Young Investigator Award

Huizi Chen, MD, PhD

The Ohio State University

“Research autopsy for characterization of recurrent small cell lung cancer”

Mentored by: Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD

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

Eric Christenson, MD

Johns Hopkins University

“Characterizing the impact of the APOBEC3A-B deletion in breast cancer development and probing therapeutic vulnerability”

Mentored by: Ben Park, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Puma Biotechnology, Inc. Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award

Jennifer L. Crombie, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“A phase II study of duvelisib and venetoclax in patients with relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukemia or small lymphocytic lymphoma”

Mentored by: Matthew Davids, MD (2014 CDA)

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

Anastasios Dimou, MD

University of Colorado Cancer Center

“MHC genotype in shaping the risk for EGFR mutation driven lung cancer”

Mentored by: Robert Doebele, MD, PhD

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

Adam D. Durbin, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Epigenetic dissection of core-regulatory circuitry in rhabdomyosarcoma”

Mentored by: Thomas Look, MD, Kimberley Stegmaier, MD

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

Hany Elmariah, MD, MS

Johns Hopkins University

“CD8 depleted, non-engrafting, HLA mismatched unrelated donor lymphocyte infusion for patients with MDS and secondary AML”

Mentored by: Amy DeZern, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Genentech BioOncology™ Young Investigator Award

Penny Fang, MD, MBA

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Microbiome profile as a predictive biomarker for cervical cancer response to chemoradiation and immunotherapy treatment”

Mentored by: Ann Klopp, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Association of Northern California Oncologists Young Investigator Award

Timothy T. Ferng, MD

University of California, San Francisco

“Identifying synthetic lethal interactions in FLT3-mutant acute myeloid leukemia using dynamic BH3 profiling”

Mentored by: Neil Shah, MD, Catherine Smith, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Estate of Darla C. Ellis Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award

Ana Christina Garrido-Castro, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Evaluating the immune landscape of metastatic triple-negative breast cancer and identifying predictive biomarkers of response to PD-1 inhibition”

Mentored by: Nancy Lin, MD (2005 YIA, 2007 CDA), Sara Tolaney, MD, MPH

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Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Lung Cancer Alliance Young Investigator Award

Carl M. Gay, MD, PhD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Targeting DNA damage response via ATR inhibition to enhance PARP and PD-L1 blockade in small cell lung cancer”

Mentored by: Lauren Byers, MD (2008 YIA), John Heymach, MD, PhD (2003 YIA, 2004 CDA)

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

Karthik V. Giridhar, MD

Mayo Clinic, Minnesota

“Comprehensive, serial androgen receptor variant profiling in peripheral blood and metastatic biopsies to identify predictive biomarkers to abiraterone acetate in metastatic castrate resistant prostate cancer”

Mentored by: Manish Kohli, MD

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

Colin D. Godwin, MD, MPhil

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

“Novel antibodies to the C2-set domain of CD33 for acute myeloid leukemia (AML) immunotherapy”

Mentored by: Roland Walter, MD, PhD, MS

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

Pedram Heidari, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital

“Enhancing anti-tumor effects of immune checkpoint inhibitors with molecular radiotherapy in neuroendocrine neoplasms”

Mentored by: Umar Mahmood, MD

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

Wade T. Iams, MD

Northwestern University

“Understanding dynamic somatic genomic changes and hereditary predisposition in patients with small cell lung cancer”

Mentored by: Jeffrey Sosman, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Genentech BioOncology™ Young Investigator Award

Megan Insko, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Investigating transcriptional CDK13 in melanoma”

Mentored by: Leonard Zon, MD



Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Genentech BioOncology™ Young Investigator Award

Russell W. Jenkins, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Effect of EZH2 Inhibition on De-Repression of Endogenous Retroviruses and Response to PD-1 Blockade in Melanoma”

Mentored by: David Barbie, MD (2009 YIA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Strike 3 Foundation Young Investigator Award

Allison June Kaeding, MD

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

“Validation of Mesothelin as a Novel Disease Marker and Therapeutic Target in acute myeloid leukemia”

Mentored by: Soheil Meshinchi, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/*Journal of Clinical Oncology* Young Investigator Award

Tyler G. Ketterl, MD

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

“Feasibility of a Resistance Training Intervention in Adolescent and Young Adult Hematopoietic Cell Transplant Survivors”

Mentored by: Kevin Baker, MD, MS, Eric Chow, MD, MPH (2007 YIA), Abby Rosenberg, MD, MS (2012 YIA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Gilead Sciences, Inc. Young Investigator Award

Niloufer Khan, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Impact of the intestinal microbiome on outcomes after autologous stem cell transplantation for hematologic malignancies”

Mentored by: Steven Horwitz, MD, Marcel van den Brink, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Norman Rales Young Investigator Award

Chul Kim, MD, MPH

Georgetown University

“Targeting the PD-1/PD-L1 pathway with durvalumab in virus-infected patients with NSCLC”

Mentored by: Giuseppe Giaccone, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Texas Society of Clinical Oncology Young Investigator Award

Paul B. Koller, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Defining the function and targeting HIF-2 alpha in acute myeloid leukemia”

Mentored by: Mien-Chie Hung, PhD, Marina Konopleva, MD, PhD



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

Andrew L. Laccetti, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Remote monitoring of patient reported outcomes with Fitbit to enable longitudinal predictive modeling in prostate cancer”

Mentored by: Christopher Logothetis, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Women Leaders in Oncology Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award

Lauren Levine, MD, MS

University of California, San Francisco

“Defining the contribution of systemic immunity to effective tumor rejection in advanced melanoma”

Mentored by: Adil Daud, MD (2000 YIA), Matthew Spitzer, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/TESARO Young Investigator Award

Ang Li, MD

University of Washington

“Real-world assessment of thrombosis in patients with multiple myeloma on immunomodulatory drugs (IMiD)”

Mentored by: Gary Lyman, MD, MPH

Eben I. Lichtman, MD

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Pre-clinical evaluation of B7H3-specific chimeric antigen receptor T-cells for the treatment of acute myeloid leukemia”

Mentored by: Gianpietro Dotti, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/AstraZeneca Young Investigator Award

Jessica J. Lin, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital

“Understanding the tumor heterogeneity and evolution of fusion-driven NSCLC”

Mentored by: Alice Shaw, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/AbbVie, Inc. Young Investigator Award

David Liu, MD, MPH, MS

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Dissecting response and resistance to immune and targeted therapies in metastatic melanoma through clinical computational oncology”

Mentored by: Keith Flaherty, MD, Eliezer Van Allen, MD (2013 YIA)

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Åke Bertil Eriksson Endowed Young Investigator Award

Sydney X. Lu, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Therapeutic targeting of RNA splicing factor mutant leukemias via inhibiting protein arginine methylation”

Mentored by: Omar Abdel-Wahab, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Kidney Cancer Association Young Investigator Award

Liam C. Macleod, MD, MPH

University of Pittsburgh

“Quality, regionalization and access in advanced kidney cancer”

Mentored by: Bruce Jacobs, MD, MPH

Fred J. Ansfield, MD, Endowed Young Investigator Award

Abhishek A. Mangaonkar, MBBS

Mayo Clinic, Minnesota

“To define the role of aberrant DNA methylation in chronic myelomonocytic leukemia”

Mentored by: Mrinal Patnaik, MBBS, MD, Keith Robertson, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Lilly Young Investigator Award

Steven Maron, MD

The University of Chicago

“Intra-patient tumor immune environment heterogeneity and immune checkpoint blockade resistance”

Mentored by: Daniel Catenacci, MD (2009 YIA)

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

Kamal Menghrajani, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Histone methyltransferase inhibitor (pinometostat) with azacitidine combination therapy in patients with relapsed / refractory MLL-rearranged acute myeloid leukemia”

Mentored by: Martin Tallman, MD

Douglas S. Micalizzi, MD, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital

“The role of the histone methyltransferase, NSD1, in circulating tumor cell survival and metastasis”

Mentored by: Daniel Haber, MD, PhD

Jane C. Wright, MD, Endowed Young Investigator Award

Brian C. Miller, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Dissecting exhausted T-cell subpopulations to improve anti-PD-1 treatment of metastatic melanoma”

Mentored by: W. Haining, MD (2000 CDA)

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Devarati Mitra, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Radiation therapy in immune checkpoint inhibitor resistant head and neck cancer”

Mentored by: Daphne Haas-Kogan, MD (1999 CDA), Ravindra Uppaluri, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Boehringer Ingelheim Endowed Young Investigator Award in Gastrointestinal Cancers†

Ankur Nagaraja, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Targeting the DNA damage response in gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma”

Mentored by: Adam Bass, MD (2008 YIA), Robert Mayer, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/The Sontag Foundation Young Investigator Award

Hong Ha Rosa Nguyen, MD

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

“Optimizing immunotherapy in neuroblastoma and understanding the role of NK cells”

Mentored by: Michael Dyer, PhD

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

Maliha Nusrat, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Modulation of anti-tumor immune response in colorectal cancer through PI3K-AKT pathway inhibition”

Mentored by: Scott Kopetz, MD, PhD (2008 CDA), Jennifer Wargo, MD

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

Daniel S. O'Neil, MD, MPH

NewYork-Presbyterian and Columbia University Medical Center

“Quality of breast cancer care in five public hospitals in South Africa and effects on survival”

Mentored by: Alfred Neugut, MD, PhD (2011 Improving Cancer Care Grant), Paul Ruff, MBCh, MMed, FCP

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/AstraZeneca Young Investigator Award

Eileen E. Parkes, MB BCh, PhD

Queen's University Belfast

“Activating the STING immune pathway in combination with anti-PD-1 agents in high grade serous ovarian cancer”

Mentored by: Richard Kennedy, MBBS, PhD



Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/The Hayden Family Foundation Young Investigator Award

Ravi B. Patel, MD, PhD

University of Wisconsin

“Determining the dose and timing of systemic targeted radiation therapy with dual systemic checkpoint blockade”

Mentored by: Zachary Morris, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Strike 3 Foundation Young Investigator Award

Zachary J. Reitman, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Identifying therapeutic dependencies in PPM1D-mutated diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma”

Mentored by: Pratiti Bandopadhyay, MBBS, PhD, Rameen Beroukhim, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Bristol-Myers Squibb Endowed Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award†

Rachael Rowswell-Turner, MD, PhD

University of Rochester Medical Center

“The role of HE4 in ovarian cancer immune suppression and its potential as a therapeutic target”

Mentored by: Richard Moore, MD

Alejandro Sanchez, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Mechanistic underpinnings of sarcopenia and adverse outcomes in renal cell carcinoma”

Mentored by: Ari Hakimi, MD, Helena Furberg, PhD

Harry F. Bisel, MD, Endowed Young Investigator Award

Shawn M. Sarkaria, MD

NewYork-Presbyterian and Columbia University Medical Center

“Targeting PDGFRa-expressing stromal cells in primary myelofibrosis”

Mentored by: Lei Ding, PhD

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

Alison M. Schram, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Predictors of response and mechanisms of resistance to TRK inhibition in TRK fusion-positive solid tumors”

Mentored by: David Hyman, MD



Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Ruth Rales Young Investigator Award

Eugene Shenderov, MD, DPhil

Johns Hopkins University

“Neoadjuvant B7-H3 blockade and immune marker analysis in men with localized intermediate and high-risk prostate cancer”

Mentored by: Emmanuel Antonarakis, MD (2009 YIA), Drew Pardoll, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Sarcoma Foundation of America Young Investigator Award

David S. Shulman, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Evaluation of ctDNA as a prognostic biomarker in patients with localized Ewing sarcoma”

Mentored by: Steven DuBois, MD (2007 YIA)

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

Adam S. Sperling, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Quantitative measurement of lenalidomide targets using a novel immunoaffinity enrichment and targeted mass spectrometry assay”

Mentored by: Benjamin Ebert, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Pharmacyclics LLC, an AbbVie Company and Janssen Biotech, Inc Young Investigator Award

Paolo Strati, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“A Phase I/Ib pilot study of combined trabectedin and venetoclax in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma resistant or intolerant to a BTK inhibitor”

Mentored by: William Wierda, MD, PhD

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

Brian Sworder, MD, PhD

Stanford University

“Determination of B-cell receptor antigen recognition as a framework toward patient-specific lymphoma therapy”

Mentored by: Arash Alizadeh, MD, PhD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Greg Parekh Young Investigator Award

Jessica J. Tao, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Augmenting the immune response to checkpoint blockade with PARP inhibition in tumors with homologous recombination deficiency”

Mentored by: David Michael Hyman, MD

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Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/AstraZeneca Young Investigator Award

Diane Tseng, MD, PhD

Stanford University

“Single-cell analysis of T-cell clonality and functional state in non-small cell lung cancer”

Mentored by: Crystal Mackall, MD, Joel Neal, MD, PhD

Sherilyn A. Tuazon, MD, MS

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

“Optimizing autologous stem cell transplantation in multiple myeloma using a novel 211 astatine radiolabeled anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody conditioning regimen”

Mentored by: Damian Green, MD (2007 YIA)

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

Neil Vasan, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“Dual compound PIK3CA mutations in the pathogenesis and treatment of metastatic breast cancer”

Mentored by: Jose Baselga, MD, PhD (1992 YIA, 1994 CDA)

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

Adrienne Gropper Waks, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Identifying mechanisms of resistance to DNA-damaging therapy in BRCA1/2-deficient metastatic breast cancer”

Mentored by: Nikhil Wagle, MD (2012 YIA), Eric Winer, MD

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

Audrey Wallace, MD, MSN

University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical Center

“Quantifying the burden of breast cancer decision making in older women”

Mentored by: Kimberly Keene, MD

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Twisted Pink Young Investigator Award

Seth A. Wander, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“Exploring retinoblastoma-dependent mechanisms of resistance to cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors in metastatic, hormone-receptor positive breast cancer”

Mentored by: Nikhil Wagle, MD (2012 YIA)

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Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Endowed Young Investigator Award in honor of Grant R. and Victoria A. Merryman†

Adam J. Waxman, MD

University of Pennsylvania

“Incidence and risk factors for cardiovascular toxicity among patients with multiple myeloma receiving proteasome inhibitors”

Mentored by: Bonnie Ky, MD, MS

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Ewa Maria Kukrika Young Investigator Award

Ruth A. White, MD, PhD

NewYork-Presbyterian and Columbia University Medical Center

“Cholinergic regulation of the neural microenvironment in pancreatic cancer”

Mentored by: Timothy Wang, MD

Clinton Yam, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Role of the PI3K pathway in promoting immune evasion and resistance to systemic therapy in triple negative breast cancer”

Mentored by: Stacy Moulder, MD, MSc (2002 CDA), Jennifer Wargo, MD

Funded through the Gianni Bonadonna Breast Cancer Research Fellowship

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Endowed Women Who Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award†

Jessica Yang, MD

NewYork-Presbyterian and Columbia University Medical Center

“Efficacy of bromodomain and extra-terminal (BET) protein inhibition in advanced uveal melanoma”

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

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/Genentech BioOncology™ Young Investigator Award

Daniel W. Yokom, MD

Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

“A prospective study of dynamic frailty monitoring in older adults receiving adjuvant cytotoxic chemotherapy”

Mentored by: Shabbir Alibhai, MD (2004 CDA), Monika Krzyzanowska, MD, MPH, FRCPC (2003 YIA)

Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO/ASCO Employee Young Investigator Award

Neeha Zaidi, MD

Johns Hopkins University

“Neoantigen-targeted combination immunotherapy in a murine model of pancreatic cancer”

Mentored by: Elizabeth Jaffee, MD (1992 YIA)