# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Member Sites Selected for the Cancer Immunotherapy Trials Network

*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center to lead 27 institutions in national research network*

**Seattle, March 29, 2011:** Twenty Seven (27) research institutions across North America have been selected to be a part of the Cancer Immunotherapy Trials Network (CITN), which is funded by the National Cancer Institute. As a new initiative in immunotherapy, the CITN will establish a network of top academic immunologists to conduct multicenter research on agents that boost patients' own immune systems to fight their cancer.

The Mission of the CITN is to select, design and conduct early phase trials using priority agents with known and proven biologic function and to provide the high quality immunogenicity and biomarker data essential to inform subsequent development pathways leading to the broad availability of these agents for treating patients with cancer.

By coordinating the efforts of academia, industry and philanthropic foundations the CITN is charged with accelerating the development of promising agents that have already been discovered but are not currently used to treat patients with cancer.

An open competition was held for institutions to apply for member site status in the CITN. A two-stage evaluation process has been completed by the NCI. Candidates were evaluated on the experience, participation and collaboration of the investigators and their institutions in immunotherapy trials and their ability to provide laboratory expertise in tumor immunology to support the trials. The institutions and their principal investigators are listed in the table below.

| Institution | Principal Investigator |
|---|---|
| Baylor University | Karolina Palucka, MD, PhD |
| Case Western Reserve University | Pierre Triozzi, MD |
| Dana Farber Cancer Center | Steven Hodi, MD |
| Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center | Marc Ernstoff, MD |
| Duke University Medical Center | Kim Lyerly, MD, FACS |
| Emory University | Edmund Waller, MD, PhD |
| Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center | John A. Thompson, MD |
| MD Anderson Cancer Center | Laurence J.N. Cooper, MD, PhD |
| H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center | Scott J. Antonia, MD, PhD |
| Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center | Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD |
| New York University Cancer Institute | Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD |
| Ohio State University | William E. Carson, MD |
| Providence Cancer Center | Walter J. Urba, MD, PhD |
| Roswell Park Cancer Center | Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD |
| Rush University Cancer Center | Howard Kaufman, MD |
| Stanford University | Ronald Levy, MD |

| Institution | Principal Investigator |
|---|---|
| University of California, San Diego | Thomas J Kipps, MD, PhD |
| University of California, San Francisco | Lawrence Fong, MD |
| University of Chicago | Thomas Gajewski, MD, PhD |
| University of Miami | Joseph D. Rosenblatt, MD |
| University of Minnesota | Jeffrey S. Miller, MD |
| University of Pennsylvania | Carl June, MD |
| University of Pittsburgh | Robert Louis Ferris, MD, PhD |
| University of Toronto Ontario Cancer Institute | Pamela Ohashi, PhD |
| University of Virginia | Craig Slingluff, MD |
| University of Wisconsin | Paul M. Sondel, MD, PhD |
| Yale University | Mario Sznol, MD |

In September 2010, funding was awarded to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle to serve as the network's Central Operations and Statistical Office (COSC). Directed by Principal Investigator Dr. Martin A. "Mac" Cheever and Co-Investigators Drs. Mary L. "Nora" Disis and Kim Margolin, the COSC will provide overall leadership and infrastructure for the network. The CITN will be managed in concert with the NIH/NIAID-funded HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), also based at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Data coordination will be operated by the NCI's Cancer Trials Support Unit, managed by Westat, a Washington-based contract research organization.

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CITN research will focus on testing high-priority agents, target antigens and regimens ranked by three NCI workshops beginning with the 2007 "NCI Immunotherapy Agent Workshop". Trials will be conducted by member sites supported by subcontracts within the COSC award, and several tumor immunology laboratories at the member sites will perform standardized immunomonitoring, biomarker assessments and correlative studies using patient samples.

An initial face-to-face meeting is scheduled for May 9-10, 2010, in Bethesda, to bring all members of the CITN together to discuss the operations of the network and to introduce the first concepts to be studied in this new cancer immunotherapy program.

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