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New Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowship Award Announced at Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer Annual Meeting

National Harbor, MD – Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) in partnership with EMD Serono, Inc., a subsidiary of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, announced a new one-year fellowship award designed to support the development of the next generation of immunotherapy experts with a vested interest in furthering the research and development of cancer immunotherapy.

“The future of cancer immunotherapy lies in research and education, primarily for early career scientists, and SITC is delighted to put forward this important fellowship opportunity to our membership,” Howard Kaufman, MD, FACS, Vice President, Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer, said. “SITC is excited to collaborate with EMD Serono as both are dedicated to establishing relationships with like-minded organizations and in creating diverse professional development opportunities for early career scientists involved in cancer immunotherapy.”

The EMD Serono-SITC Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship, available to individuals holding MD or joint MD/PhD degrees, will take place at leading cancer centers of excellence in the United States focused on researching and developing cancer immunotherapies. The fellowship provides a unique opportunity to spend time in both research and clinical settings, as fellows will spend half of their tenure focusing on translational research and the remaining half focusing on clinical development. At the culmination of the fellowship is the opportunity to present findings to the larger cancer immunotherapy community, including researchers, clinicians, industry leaders, and allied health professionals at the SITC Annual Meeting. Additional details about the EMD Serono-SITC Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship, including eligibility requirements and the application form, will be posted at: www.sitcancer.org.

“At EMD Serono, we truly believe that collaboration is essential to forge new discoveries and developments in the field of immuno-oncology,” said Helen Sabzevari, Senior Vice President, Immuno-Oncology, Global Research and Early Development at EMD Serono. “Our support of this new fellowship program with SITC is an expression of that belief and our deep commitment to supporting innovative research and development projects that continue to bring us closer to identifying new immunotherapies to help patients in need. This new fellowship complements our existing immuno-oncology postdoctoral program and demonstrates our continued focus on developing the next generation of leaders in the field.”

As an exciting area of research, cancer immunotherapy ultimately seeks to mount an immune response against cancer that can destroy tumors, enable long-lasting regression and prevent relapse in patients. This is a tremendous area of focus with involvement stemming from leading academia as well as research and industry organizations. The EMD Serono-SITC Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical fellowship was officially announced at the SITC 28th Annual Meeting & Associated Programs, currently taking place in National Harbor, MD through Sunday, November 10, 2013.

Disclaimer

Clinical candidates are currently under clinical investigation and have not been approved for use in the U.S., Europe, Canada, or elsewhere. These candidates have not been proven to be either safe or effective and any claims of safety and effectiveness can be made only after regulatory review of the data and approval of the labeled claims.

About the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

Founded in 1984, the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer is a non-profit organization of clinicians, researchers, students, post-doctoral fellows, and allied health professionals dedicated to improving cancer patient outcomes by advancing the development and application of cancer immunotherapy through interaction, innovation and leadership. For more information about SITC, please visit the Society website at: www.sitcancer.org.