



SPECIAL EDITION  
IMMUNE MONITOR

SITC 2015, November 2015

An Overview of SITC's 30th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Associated Programs



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year, SITC welcomed more than 2,400 meeting attendees representing 36 different countries, more than 475 total accepted abstracts, and a record number of exhibitors, making it the largest meeting in Society history!

During the meeting, SITC opened the dialogue on hot topics such as a debate on the utility of

biomarkers in cancer immunotherapy and was among the first to address the value of cancer immunotherapy.

In addition to the informative talks, there were

several activities at the meeting, including the announcement of additional SITC membership categories, an award ceremony honoring a number of those who have made a remarkable impact in the field, and the Milestones & Momentum 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reception held at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

**SITC WELCOMED MORE THAN 2,400 MEETING ATTENDEES REPRESENTING 36 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, MORE THAN 475 TOTAL ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS**

We are pleased to offer you access to the valuable information and informative presentations that SITC 2015 had to offer.

**Presentation slides will be available by the end of year, as permitted by presenters.** SITC members will receive access to these materials free of charge, and nonmembers may access for a fee.

There will be an email sent with additional information once slides are available. In the meantime, visit the [live tab](#) on the website for videos, press releases, and tweets.

View all abstracts submitted in conjunction with the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in the [special supplement](#) of the *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* (JITC). Thank you for your commitment to the field—I look forward to seeing you at SITC 2016!

**- Howard L. Kaufman, MD, FACS, SITC President**

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We extend a special thank you to our SITC 2015 supporters, without whom our record-breaking meeting would not have been possible!

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# SITC 2015 OVERVIEW

## The Goal

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting & Associated Programs provided a multidisciplinary educational and interactive environment focused on advancing the science and application of immunotherapy to ultimately improve outcomes for patients with cancer. In addition to cutting-edge research sessions and oral and poster abstract presentations, updates on major national and international initiatives coming from academia, governments and industry, as well as Society projects were presented.

Attendees included practitioners, basic and translational researchers, regulatory agencies, industry representatives, payers, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, pharmacists and allied health professionals involved in cancer research.

## SITC 2015 Materials

We are pleased to provide you with the following materials as they become available. Watch your inbox for updates!

### Available Now!

- ✓ JITC Abstract Supplement
- ✓ SITC 2015 Live Tab
- ✓ SITC Thought Leader Teaser
- ✓ SITC 2015 Award Winners Booklet
- ✓ CME- claim it now!

### Coming Soon!

- ✓ Meeting Summary published in JITC
- ✓ Faculty Slide deck presentations
- ✓ Presentation Videos
- ✓ Photo Gallery

## Poster and Session Topics

The meeting consisted of lectures, oral abstracts and poster presentations addressing the latest developments in the following areas:

- Adoptive Immunotherapy
- Animal Models
- Basic Immunology
- Biomarkers
- CARs and T Cell Receptor Transduction
- Clinical Studies
- Clinical Trials in Progress
- Coinhibition and Costimulation
- Combination Immunotherapy
- Cutting-Edge Clinical Trials
- Dendritic Cells
- High Throughput Technologies
- Immune Modulation, Cytokines, Antibodies, and Immune Receptors
- Immune Monitoring
- Immune Suppression
- Immunogenomics and Oncogenetics
- Innate Immunity
- Mechanisms and Response to Immune Therapy
- New Insight into T Cell Function
- Oncolytic Viruses
- Precision Immunology
- Tumor Imaging
- Tumor Microenvironment
- Vaccines

## SITC 2015 OVERVIEW



"SITC is important, it's different than most other meetings particularly in immunology and cancer therapy . . . this meeting brings together scientists, clinicians, the pharma industry, government, and increasingly, in the last few years, a lot of people from Wall Street that are investing and contributing to the development of this blossoming field of oncology."

James P. Allison, PhD – *University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*



Want more  
information about  
the associated  
programs? Visit  
[sitcancer.org/2015](http://sitcancer.org/2015)

### The Associated Programs

The **Global Regulatory Summit** provided attendees with key information from regulatory agencies in cancer immunotherapy product development from various regions of the world and promoted scientific exchange between academia, government regulatory bodies and industry. Speakers focused their presentations on their country's regulatory perspectives and requirements as well as addressed audience questions.

The **International Symposium on Cancer Immunotherapy: Featuring Today's Innovators, Tomorrow's Leaders** provided the opportunity for young scientists and future leaders from throughout the world to interact, fulfilling the World Immunotherapy Council's mission to facilitate rapid development and global dissemination of cancer immunotherapies through scientific exchange.

The **SITC Primer on Tumor Immunology and Cancer Immunotherapy™** provided a foundation for understanding core immunology principles as they relate to basic and clinical research in immunotherapy of cancer.

The **Workshop on New Perspectives for Target Antigens in the Changing Cancer**

**Immunotherapy Landscape** provided a comprehensive picture of current efforts that utilize emerging technologies to gain a better understanding of the nature of clinically effective anti-tumor immune responses.

The **Immunotherapy Patient Forum for the Treatment of Melanoma, Leukemia, Lymphoma, Lung and Genitourinary Cancers**

educated cancer patients and their caregivers about the latest advances in immunotherapy treatment. Leading experts in the cancer immunotherapy field presented on how immunotherapy works and explained the latest treatment options available now and on the horizon.

**Biomarkers in Cancer Immunotherapy: Oasis or Mirage?** New this year, SITC held a point-counterpoint debate surrounding the utility of biomarkers in cancer immunotherapy, complete with audience Question & Answer and extended panel discussion about the future of biomarkers and clinical development.

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Precision Immunology

Precision Immunology, like the broader field of Precision Medicine, seeks to customize therapies based on genetic or phenotypic groups in patients. In the case of Precision Immunology, this is based on immunological phenotypes, which are of particular interest for the application of new immunologically-based cancer therapies. For example, recent approvals have illustrated that PD-L1 expression at tumor sites was predictive for melanoma patient responsiveness to PD-1 based immunotherapy.

The session expanded on the concept with speakers discussing a range of concepts within this field. The invited speakers have recently engaged in work demonstrating the importance of the location specific immune cell subsets in tumor biopsies and the predictive power of neoepitope signatures derived from tumor DNA sequencing.

## Hot Topic Session on the Value of Cancer Immunotherapy

This final session of SITC 2015 brought together leaders in the field to initiate important dialogue on the value of cancer immunotherapy treatment. A variety of stakeholders, including academic physicians, industry experts, patient advocates and regulatory agencies shared their diverse perspectives about this important discussion. In addition to articulating the unique features of tumor immunotherapy and the value proposition for this form of treatment, the session resulted in a referendum on future directions and priorities for better defining the full value of tumor immunotherapy for patients with cancer. For further insight into this session, please [view our press release here](#).

## New Insights into T Cell Function

Generating a successful T cell-mediated, anti-tumor response is a multistep process and one with diverse challenges. Understanding ways to optimize T cell function and overcome various inhibitory mechanisms inherent in the immune response and within the tumor microenvironment is imperative for generating improved longer-lasting therapies. The session covered some of the newest insights into the cellular and molecular regulators of T cell immunity and how these factors can impact tumor clearance.





### Adoptive Immunotherapy

Recent publications have demonstrated remarkable successes of adoptive T cell therapy for cancer, such as the use of T lymphocytes genetically engineered to express chimeric antigen receptors (CAR) or T Cell Receptors. Adoptive immunotherapy targeting viruses may be leveraged to include CARs targeting B cell malignancies. Regulatory T cells have applications in the reduction of morbidity and mortality following stem cell transplantation. The session featured recent studies using multiple approaches to improve the efficacy of immunotherapies and the path forward from B cell malignancies to developing successful therapies for solid cancers.

### Cutting Edge Clinical Trials

Antibodies targeting immune checkpoint receptors on T cells and their ligands in the tumor microenvironment have shown unprecedented ability to cause durable tumor regression in advanced metastatic cancers refractory to other treatments. Importantly, for a long time, only tumors considered relatively immunogenic such as melanoma and renal cell carcinoma were considered good candidates for immunotherapy. We are now learning that the immunologic phenotype of a tumor, as reflected by the nature and extent of the immune infiltrate, may be more important than its histogenesis in predicting response to immunotherapy. We have also learned that conventional cytotoxic treatments can promote anti-tumor immune responses and potentially synergize with immunotherapy. The session provided examples of cutting edge clinical trials informed by this new knowledge and testing the benefits of immunotherapy in novel combinations and in new tumor types. Immune biology-driven early clinical trials are showing promising results auspicious of a truly revolutionary change in cancer treatment.

## Mechanisms and Responses to Immune Therapy

Major advances in cancer therapy have been made in the past several years through the use of immunotherapy; however, limitations still exist. To address these limitations, there are ongoing efforts to better understand mechanisms of response and resistance to these forms of treatment. The session focused on the above-mentioned efforts, and highlighted contributions of both host and tumor-related factors to responses to immunotherapy. Topics covered in the dynamic sessions included the use of host genomic and immune data to predict and modulate responses to therapy, as well as host and tumor-specific contributions to responses in animal models as well as in longitudinal samples from patients on therapy. Lastly, specific insights into how to improve responses to therapy was also discussed.

## Milestones in Immunotherapy

The Milestones in Immunotherapy session took a comprehensive look at 30 years of advancing the science and application of cancer immunotherapy worldwide. The presenters reflected on the pathways that led to key contributions in the field, including: targeting immune checkpoints in cancer therapy, moving from immune surveillance to personalized cancer vaccines, therapeutic cancer vaccines, and the curative potential of cell transfer therapy for cancer.



Session topics were presented by luminaries in the field such as James P. Allison, PhD of University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; Robert D. Schreiber, PhD of Washington University School of Medicine; Cornelis J. Melief, MD, PhD of Leiden University Medical Center; and Steven A. Rosenberg, MD, PhD of The National Institutes of Health. The presenting topics that focused on milestones and momentum demonstrated to attendees not only how far the field of cancer immunotherapy has come, but how much further it can go.

## Looking for More?

For more content, including video interviews, SITC2015 social media coverage, press releases, and our teaser video featuring cancer immunotherapy luminaries for SITC's upcoming six-part series on cancer immunotherapy, please visit the [SITC2015 Live page!](#)



## 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AWARD WINNERS

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award Ceremony celebrated the current and future leaders in the cancer immunotherapy field. The award winners were recognized for seeking to propel the field forward and build a solid foundation for future advances and soon, a cure. While there were several awards, two that honor extraordinary commitment to the field were the Richard V. Smalley, MD Memorial Award and the Presidential Award.

Established in 2005, the Richard V. Smalley, MD Memorial Award is presented to a luminary who has significantly contributed to the advancement of cancer immunotherapy research. Named in memory of former Society President and SITC charter member, Richard V. Smalley, MD, this is the Society's most prestigious award. SITC is proud to recognize Tasuku Honjo, MD, PhD of Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine as the 2015 Richard V. Smalley, MD Memorial Award Recipient for his work in the discovery of PD-1 and its role in regulating T cell response.

The Presidential Award, established in 1991, is the most prestigious Young Investigator Award and recognizes the young investigator deemed to have the most outstanding oral abstract presentation among those delivered in the Presidential Session of the SITC Annual Meeting. SITC proudly awarded David Clever of National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health-Surgery Branch with the 2015 Presidential Award.

View all 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting award winners in our [award ceremony booklet](#).



# MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

## Join Today!

SITC is the world's leading member-driven society dedicated to professionals working in the field of cancer immunotherapy. As a member, you will join a growing network of over 1,200 basic and translational scientists, practitioners, government leaders and industry professionals worldwide. There are several membership categories including: Regular, Affiliate, Allied Health, Emeritus, Nurse and Physician Extender, Patient and Patient Advocate, Pharmacist, and Scientist-in-Training/Student memberships. To learn more about these categories visit the [Membership page](#).

## Already a Member? Don't Forget to Renew!

Continue receiving the valuable benefits listed below by [renewing for 2016 now](#).

- Waived article processing charges when you submit research to the [Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer](#) (JITC)—SITC's official open access, peer reviewed journal (\$2,500 USD value)
- Reduced registration rates for all [SITC educational programs and activities](#), including our Annual Meeting & Associated Programs, and free access to speaker presentations and slide decks from archived SITC live events
- Access to our membership directory, available only through the "Members Only" section of our website

## Connect-A-Colleague

“New members often join SITC because a current member has invited them. Please encourage your colleagues, including nurses, pharmacists and students to become official SITC members. If each SITC member recruits two other, we could quickly grow to 3,000 members!”  
Howard L. Kaufman, MD, FACS, *SITC President*

### 2 Ways to Connect-A-Colleague

1. Log into your member profile and use the [Connect-A-Colleague Tool](#) to send email invitations to your friends and colleagues. Individuals automatically receive follow-up from SITC staff and begin to receive SITC communications.
2. Ask your colleagues to join online and list your name when prompted on the membership applications.

The top referrers will receive recognition for their recruitment efforts. To Connect-A-Colleague, [log in to your profile](#)!



# SAVE THE DATE!

# SITC 2016

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

NOVEMBER 10 - 13, 2016

*Thank You to Our 2016 Organizers and Keynote Speakers!*

## SITC 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

### ORGANIZERS

James L. Gulley, MD, PhD, FACP – *National Cancer Institute*  
Holbrook E. Kohrt, MD, PhD – *Stanford Cancer Institute*  
Elizabeth A. Repasky, PhD – *Roswell Park Cancer Institute*  
Laura S. Wood, RN, MSN, OCN – *Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute*

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ira Mellman, PhD – *Genentech*  
Suzanne L. Topalian, MD – *Johns Hopkins University*

## Workshop on Challenges, Insights, and Future Directions for Mouse and Humanized Models in Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy

### ORGANIZERS

Marcus W. Bosenberg, PhD – *Yale Cancer Center*  
A. Karolina Palucka, MD, PhD – *The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine*  
Andrew Zloza, MD, PhD – *Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey*

## Primer on Tumor Immunology and Cancer Immunotherapy™

### ORGANIZERS

Margaret K. Callahan, MD, PhD – *Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*  
Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD – *Tisch Cancer Institute at the Mount Sinai Medical Center*