AACR Scholar-in-Training Awards

2025 AACR Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 were generously supported by a gift from a donor.

Joshua Kofi Ablordeppey, BS, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL. **Abstract 6828.** Therapeutic potential of novel polyisoprenylated phosphonyl ester inhibitors in triple-negative breast cancer.

Sharafudeen D. Abubakar, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 7105.** Analyses of real-world clinico-genomic and demographic data highlight the multifactorial causes of poor colorectal cancer outcomes in patients of African ancestry.

Jonathan M. Downie, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 2359.** Age-dependent transcriptional changes in colonic fibroblasts revealed through single-cell RNA sequencing.

Fahriye Duzagac, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 6424.** Harnessing circulating neoantigen-specific T cells for immune surveillance and cancer prevention in Lynch syndrome.

Andrew E. Evans, BA, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. **Abstract 2358.** XPO1 inhibition serves as an effective chemoprevention strategy in colorectal cancer mouse models.

Yuanyuan Fu, PhD, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI. **Abstract 1196.** Race-specific genetic and immunologic insights into colorectal cancer among Hawaiians.

Flavia Genua, PhD, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, Ireland. **Abstract 7181.** Gene enhancers as novel rationale therapeutic targets for impeding colorectal cancer progression.

Natsuki Nakagawa, PhD, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan. **Abstract 362.** Prevention of centrosome clustering by targeting the motor protein X: A promising therapeutic strategy for small cell lung cancer.

Malene Krabbe Østergaard, MSc, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark. **Abstract 1952.** Circulating tumor DNA for assessing neoadjuvant treatment response and recurrence risk in rectal cancer patients.

Mark Primeaux, BSc, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. **Abstract 55.** A Claudin-1 near-infrared fluorescent antibody conjugate for in vivo primary and metastatic colorectal cancer detection.

Dayanara Ruiz, MPH, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 4026.** The Bench with Bedside Initiative™: an unconventional collaborative approach between scientists and research participants.

Paulino Tallón de Lara, MD, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 5246.** Chromosomal instability promotes colorectal cancer progression through manipulation of gamma delta T cells.

Nicholas A. Vulpescu, MS, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 1958.** Chromatin accessibility landscapes of colorectal cancer development and genome-wide cell-free DNA fragmentation.

Nai Yang Yeat, PhD, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. **Abstract 6562.** Bro1 proteins govern a multivesicular bodies fate switch to regulate exosome secretion, metastasis and tumor immune evasion.

2025 AACR Scholar-In-Training Award Supported by a Gift from Ajit Singh, PhD

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 were generously supported by a gift from Dr. Ajit Singh.

Abbas Jawadwala, MS, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. **Abstract 6823.** Dynamics of KMT2D modulation of the PI3K-Akt pathway and the impact on metastasis in prostate cancer.

Jessica D. Kindrick, DPhil, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. **Abstract 5659.** High-throughput screening reveals novel synergistic drug combinations for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.

2025 AACR Scholar-In-Training Awards Supported by a Gift from Alfred and Cathy Fraser

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 were generously supported by a gift from Alfred and Cathy Fraser.

Maare Arffman, MSc, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland. **Abstract 1942.** Copy number aberrations in the ctDNA uncover clinical and biological heterogeneity in aggressive B-cell lymphomas.

Noorhan Ghanem, MS, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 4498.** Drug screens identify new therapeutic targets that synergize with EZH1/2 inhibition in adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma.

Christoph Weigel, PhD, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. **Abstract 3242.** DNA methylation profiling of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) in lymphoproliferative disease reveals diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

2025 AACR Scholar-In-Training Award Supported by a Gift from Steve and Nancy Reyda

This award was funded by a generous gift from Steve and Nancy Reyda to support an early career scientist presenting exceptional research in the field of breast cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Renyta Moses, BS, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 259.** Germline p53 R181 mutants and DNA binding cooperativity in tumorigenesis.

2025 AACR Scholar-In-Training Award Supported by a Gift from Stan Divorski and Nancy Staisey

This award was funded by a generous gift from Stan Divorski and Nancy Staisey to support an early career scientist presenting exceptional research in the field of prostate cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Shiv Shankar Verma, PhD, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH. **Abstract 1915.** A plasma biomarker panel of microRNAs miR-133-3p and miR-153-3p for diagnosis of prostate cancer.

2025 AACR Scholar-in-Training Award Supported by an Independent Educational Grant from AbbVie

Early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 were generously supported by an independent educational grant from AbbVie.

Elliot Akama-Garren, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. **Abstract 6408.** Stromal cell PD-L1 potentiates epitope spreading in the germinal center.

Alexander A. Azizi, MBBChir, The Francis Crick Institute, London, United Kingdom. **Abstract 7140.** Non-synonymous mutations in the IFN-γ pathway are predictive of response to immune checkpoint inhibition in NSCLC.

Allison Carr, BS, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. **Abstract 1380.** Role of cytokine-induced cell death on efficacy of teclistamab-mediated T cell killing of multiple myeloma cells.

Juliana Cazarin de Menezes, PhD, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY. **Abstract 6710.** The oncogene MYC drives circadian clock disruption and regulates cell plasticity in early lung carcinogenesis.

Syed M. Faisal, PhD, Children's Mercy Research Institute, Kansas City, MO. **Abstract 3153.** High-throughput identification of radiosensitizers and synergistic drug combinations with potent therapeutic efficacy against diffuse midline glioma.

Dalia Tarek Fleifel, BSc, UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. **Abstract 5408.** Unraveling c-MYC role in DNA replication origin licensing through non-canonical pathways.

Fabio Hecht Castro Medeiros, PhD, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. **Abstract 4155.** Catabolism of extracellular glutathione supplies amino acids to support tumor growth.

Yi Hsiao, MS, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 3749.** A unified view of proteogenomic and metabolomic complexity in acute myeloid leukemia.

Chirayu Mohindroo, MD, MBBS, National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. **Abstract 3771.** Non invasive monitoring of relapsed SCLC using cell free fragmentomes and peripheral blood immunophenotyping.

Ariana Naaseh, MD, MPHS, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 2264.** Disparities in perceptions and uptake of genetic testing among the United States population: trends from 2011-2022.

Kayla O'Toole, BS, Huntsman Cancer Institute/University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. **Abstract 4127.** Oncogenic BRAF suppresses p53 function in melanoma through direct protein protein interaction.

Zahraa Rahal, MD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 6384.** CD24 promotes development of KRAS-mutant lung adenocarcinoma and response to KRAS-targeted therapy.

John-William Sidhom, MD, PhD, NYP - Weill Cornell, New York, NY. **Abstract 3744.** Learning the language of somatic mutations: A large language model approach to precision oncology.

Yizhe Song, MBBS, Washington University, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 2261.** Distinct genomic and high-risk cytogenetic features in black multiple myeloma patients: Insights from the PE-CGS network.

Brian J. Thomas, BS, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO. **Abstract 7298.** DUSP11 is an intracellular innate immune checkpoint in lung adenocarcinoma.

2025 AACR-American Brain Tumor Association Scholar-in-Training Awards

The American Brain Tumor Association has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting high quality abstracts in brain cancer resarch for both primary and secondary (metastatic) brain tumors at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Alexander Tumer Bahcheli, MSc, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 6623.** Ultra-deep multi-omics sequencing to identify drivers of glioblastoma recurrence and evolution.

Ylenia Cendon Florez, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 7033.** Unraveling Kiaa1549-Braf driven brain tumors: From modeling to therapy.

Mariam Lotfy Khaled, PhD, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL. **Abstract 3804.** Accumulation of branched chain keto acids promotes immunosuppression and neurodegeneration in leptomeningeal disease.

Xuan Cindy Li, PhD, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD. **Abstract 2494.** Elucidating developmental methylation programs and cell type compositions in glioblastoma using combinatorial optimization.

Aurosman Pappus, Sahu, MS, Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, PA. **Abstract 3973.** Tumor-associated macrophages protect glioblastoma cells from ferroptotic stress in a sex-biased manner by inducing ferritin-bound iron release from cancer cells.

Ebru Yilmaz, BS, Koc University, Istanbul, Turkiye. **Abstract 2744.** Interrogating the functional roles of differential CTCF-binding sites in IDH-mutant gliomas using a novel CRISPR library.

2025 AACR-Barbara Campbell Creighton Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards were funded by a generous donation from the Barabara Campbell Creighton Award Fund to support early career scientists presenting exceptional research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Nivedeta Krishna Kumar, MS, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. **Abstract 122.** Novel role of SLC22A3 in serotonin transport and subsequent regulation of the pancreatic cancer stemness machinery.

Soyoung Kwak, PhD, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 3579.** Racial disparity in microbial risk score for predicting subsequent risk of head and neck squamous cell cancer.

Kevin J. Liu, MS, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 3773.** Urine cell-free RNA analysis for bladder cancer detection and monitoring.

Jiaqian Luo, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 495.** Impact of lineage plasticity on regulating target expression for antibody-drug conjugate therapy in urothelial bladder cancer.

Sathya Neelature Sriramareddy, PhD, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Tampa, FL. **Abstract 2578.** GDF15 reprograms the microenvironment to drive the development of uveal melanoma liver metastases.

Haram Park, PhD, Columbia Univeristy Irving Medical Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 3851.** Vascular Regulation of Immune Exclusion in Melanoma.

Sarah B. Short, MS, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 1960.** Evaluation of mono- and di-nucleosomal cell-free DNA in fragmentome analyses.

Norihiro Yamaguchi, MD, PhD, MPH, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD. **Abstract 6524.** In vivo selection of tumoral microbiota identified pro-metastatic anaerobes: A novel experimental platform allowing mechanistic studies leading to the discovery of bacteria-derived molecular therapeutic targets.

Jin Young Yoo, MS, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL. **Abstract 4735.** In silico reconstruction of primary and metastatic estrogen receptor positive breast tumor architecture using geographic information science-augmented spatial transcriptomics.

Shahrzad A. Zamani, DO, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL. **Abstract 4911.** Cancer disparities based on seven years of sexual orientation and gender identity collection at an NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

2025 AACR-Breast Cancer Research Foundation Scholar-in-Training Award in Memory of Rebecca Scheinkman

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting high quality abstracts in breast cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025. This year, this funding has been given by the Breast Cancer Research Foundation to honor the memory of Rebecca Scheinkman.

Carstyn F. Joiner, BA, University of Wisconsin Madison, Madison, WI. **Abstract 3832.** Modeling metastatic ER+ breast cancer in rats.

Carman Man-Chung Li, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 3821.** Epigenetic mechanisms in early-onset hereditary cancer: Insights from a new Brca1 mouse model.

2025 AACR-Chromophobe and Oncocytic Tumor Alliance Scholar-in-Training Award

The Chromophobe and Oncocytic Tumor Alliance has graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a high quality abstract focused on chromophobe and oncocytic tumor research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Michel Alchoueiry, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 2119.** Targeting KIT in chromophobe renal cell carcinoma.

2025 AACR-CIHR Scholar-in-Training Awards

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) donated funds to support early career Canadian investigators who will be presenting meritorious research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Nathan Duong, BSc, UHN Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 5411.** The IL-23 receptor localizes intracellularly in AML and stem cells where it regulates mitotic spindle formation to maintain cell viability.

Olivia R. Grafinger, PhD, Sunnybrook Research Institute, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 1277.** Ex ovo system for rapid and quantitative modelling of immunotherapy responses in pre-clinical and patient-derived xenografts: PDX ovo.

Naimul Hasan, MSc, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 4494.** Structure, dynamics and therapeutic potential of fatty acid synthase.

Shana J. Kim, MSc, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 3602.** The association between longitudinal lipid trajectories and all-cause mortality in breast cancer survivors: A population-based study.

Peter Lin, BSc, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 4039.** An isogenic CRISPR screen identifies novel MYC-driven vulnerabilities.

Vincent Maranda, MS, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada. **Abstract 5412.** Developing combination therapies for telomerase-overexpressing cancers.

Kiera Murison, MPH, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 3592.** Hospital-treated infectious diseases and pancreatic cancer risk: Findings from a large population-based cohort.

Noor Shakfa, PhD, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute (LTRI), Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 155.** Spatial analysis of tumor-immune-stromal cellular phenotypes and microenvironments in pancreatic cancer.

Pamela Denisse Soberanis Pina, MD, Princess Margaret Hospital/University Health Network, Toronto, ON, Canada. **Abstract 1988.** Detection of minimal residual disease using cell free plasma DNA to guide maintenance therapy in high grade serous ovarian cancer.

Joyce Zhang, BSc, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada. **Abstract 2611.** Cellular origin of DICER1 tumor predisposition syndrome informed by lineage-traceable genetically engineered mouse model.

2025 AACR-Debbie's Dream Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

Debbie's Dream Foundation has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts in the field of stomach cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Enyu Dai, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 7475.** A comprehensive single-cell atlas of gastric cancer reveals malignant cell state dynamics and plasticity in tumor progression and metastasis.

Aaron Shaykevich, BA, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY. **Abstract 2374.** Identifying ZNF469 as a biomarker in cancer of the colon and stomach.

2025 AACR-Doreen J. Putrah Cancer Research Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards are presented to early career investigators of meritorious abstracts to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025. These awards are made possible through a gracious donation from the Doreen J. Putrah Cancer Research Foundation.

Ziena Abdulrahman, MD, Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands. **Abstract 154.** Single-cell spatial transcriptomics unravels cell states and ecosystems associated with clinical response to immunotherapy.

Magali Berton, BS, IBYME, Buenos Aires, Argentina. **Abstract 107.** Galectin-1 plays a critical role in normal and neoplastic mammary gland morphogenesis and metastatic spreading in breast cancer.

Isaac Bishara, MBBCh, City of Hope, Duarte, CA. **Abstract 5133.** End-stage breast cancer metastases manifest as two subtypes with distinct dissemination patterns, proliferation/EMT signatures, and immune microenvironments.

Feiyu Chen, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 6367.** CHD1 loss hijacks SREBP2-mediated cholesterol biosynthesis to fuel SPOP-deficient prostate cancer and confers resistance to castration.

Manisha Dagar, PhD, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 188.** Phosphorylation of StarD10 advances alcohol induced breast cancer progression.

Yibo Dai, MD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 759.** Spatial transcriptomics identifies unique tumor and microenvironment pathomic programs that are associated with the lung premalignancy and adenocarcinoma continuum.

Simo Du, MD, Jacobi Medical Center - Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY. **Abstract 3569.** Patient characteristics, treatment complications, and factors associated with inpatient outcomes and treatment burdens among CAR-T recipients: Insights from the 2021 National Inpatient Sample.

Mahek Fatima, MSc, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. **Abstract 7234.** Unveiling the role of B7H3 in driving the tumor immune microenvironment and progression of small cell lung cancer.

Haihua Feng, PhD, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, CA. **Abstract 1484.** USP36-governed p21 homeostasis confers radioresistance in pancreatic cancer.

Mohamed A Gouda, MD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 1121.** Pan-cancer prevalence of unusual MTAP alterations: data from the AACR GENIE database.

Adam Grippin, MD, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 5841.** SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines sensitize tumors to immune checkpoint blockade.

Ryan Hirsh, BS, University of Kansas SOM, Kansas City, KS. **Abstract 3568.** Evaluating recent drug approvals for hematologic malignancies utilizing the New European Society of Medical Oncology Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale for Hematology (ESMO-MCBS:H).

Rachel Laura Honigsberg, MS, Weill Cornell University, New York, NY. **5816.** TCR Clonal Tracking Maps Tumor-Draining Lymph Nodes as Reservoirs Fueling Neoadjuvant PD-1 Blockade in Resectable NSCLC.

Ahram Jang, PhD, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA. **Abstract 1509.** Discovery of choroid plexus targeted gene therapy to protect cancer chemotherapy-related cognitive impairment.

Seigi Karasaki, PhD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA. **Abstract 3598.** Environmental circadian misalignment and cancer prevalence in the United States.

Parvanee Karimpour, BS, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. **Abstract 142.** Integrin α6β4 upregulates IDO1 expression and decreases IFNγ-mediated T cell growth in ER-negative breast cancer.

Manan Krishnamurthy, BS, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY. **Abstract 5127.** Metastatic organotropism in small cell lung cancer.

Christopher Kuo, MD, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 6440.** Spatial Transcriptomics of Ewing sarcoma: Evolution of tumor associated extracellular matrix from localized to metastasis-associated primary Ewing sarcomas.

Brian J. Laight, PhD, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada. **Abstract 6132.** The Fes kinase plays an innate immune checkpoint role to suppress CD8+ T cell mediated anti-tumor immunity.

Yunhe Liu, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 166.** Spatial Subtypes and Cellular Interactions of Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts Revealed by Single-Cell Spatial Omics.

Michael A. Loycano, BS, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 5413.** Temporal regulation of c-Myc in endocycling cancer cells facilitates mitotic bypass in response to chemotherapy.

Ayça N. Mogol, PhD, Univerity of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL. **Abstract 4753.** ACSS2 inhibition alters epigenetic landscape to improve endocrine therapy outcome in ER+ metastatic breast cancer cells.

Adam Nelson, PhD, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 2175.** Combined anti-CSF-1R and anti-TIM-3 overcome immune-mediated mechanisms of PARP inhibitor (PARPi) resistance in BRCA1-associated triple negative breast cancer.

Jahnissi F. Odoom, BS, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL. **Abstract 6821.** The anticancer effects of polyisoprenylated phosphonyl ester inhibitors (PPEIs) of PMPMEase in pancreatic cancer cells.

Sweta Sharma, BS, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 124.** Cell state regulation in early colorectal cancer through transcription factor and chromatin action.

Michelle O. Sodipo, MPH, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA. **Abstract 3630.** First-line therapies and subjective cognitive function trajectories among international metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer survivors.

Lijuan Sun, PhD, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 138.** Lysyl oxidases suppress pancreatic cancer progressio by inhibiting focal adhesion kinase signaling.

Shao Y. Tao, PhD, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 7125.** Distinct CD8+T cell subsets in advanced melanoma patients with liver metastasis.

Selina Shiqing K. Teh, PhD, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 471.** CRISPR-Cas9 as a novel cancer gene therapy approach against pancreatic cancers.

Anh M. Tran-Huynh, BA, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX. **Abstract 2906.** Functional and therapeutic significance of DNA ligase I (LIG1) depletion in triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC).

Xinan Wang, PhD, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA. **Abstract 3584.** Artificial intelligence-derived body composition measurements reveal sex- and metformin-specific predictors of overall survival in non-small cell lung cancer.

Naomi Yamamoto, BS, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. **Abstract 7161.** HMGA2 predicts treatment outcome in pancreatic cancer.

Ruoheng Zhang, PhD, MD, Penn State Cancer Institute, Hershey, PA. **4265.** The role of the mevalonate pathway in post-translational modifications of PD-L1.

2025 AACR-Exact Sciences Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be a presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 were generously supported by a donation from Exact Sciences.

Hanla Park, PhD, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, France. **Abstract 4919.** Evaluation of lung cancer risk and screening strategies for individuals who quit smoking more than 15 years ago.

Fuduan Peng, PhD, The University Of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 763.** Multimodal spatial-omics atlas of lung premalignancy and adenocarcinoma reveals tumor initiating interplay between alveolar progenitors and inflammation.

Skye Shepherd, BS, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL. **Abstract 3676.** Ultrasensitive protein detection using proximity initiated nucleic acid target amplification with digital biosensing.

2025 AACR-Family of Dan Y. Zhang Scholar-In-Training Awards

The Family of Dan Y. Zhang has graciously donated funds to support young investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts in the field of liver cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Akshaya V. Annapragada, AB, SM, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 6426.** Cell-free DNA fragmentomes enable early identification of liver cirrhosis to facilitate cancer surveillance.

Adriana Baker, BS, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX. **Abstract 1631.** Targeting ER stress for treating hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Xinyuan Zhang, PhD, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 4939.** Social determinants disadvantage score and risk of liver cancer in the All of Us Research Program.

2025 AACR-Glenn Sykes Kidney Cancer Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be a presenting meritorious abstracts focused on kidney cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 were generously supported by a gift from Glenn Sykes.

Djazia Haferssas, MS, Université de Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada. **Abstract 243.** FLT4, a novel regulator of renal cell carcinoma progression.

Yize Li, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 159.** Spatial multimodal understanding of disease heterogeneity and aggressiveness in renal cell carcinoma.

2025 AACR-International Kidney Cancer Coalition Scholar-in-Training Award

An early career international investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of kidney cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 was generously supported by a gift from the International Kidney Cancer Coalition.

Stefano Piatto Clerici, PhD, A.C.Camargo Cancer Center, Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil. **Abstract 5197.** Establishing patient-derived xenograft organoids (PDXOs) from renal cell carcinoma for drug screening and identification of treatment-induced vulnerabilities.

2025 AACR-James V. Buzzitta, MD Family Fund Scholar-in-Training Award

An early career investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 was generously supported by a gift from the James V. Buzzitta, MD Family Fund.

Wei-Ting Lu, PhD, The Francis Crick Institute, London, United Kingdom. **Abstract 1169.** FAT1 alterations contribute to chromosomal instability in cancer cells.

2025 AACR-Joey's Wings Scholar-in-Training Award

Joey's Wings has graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of kidney cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Ziad Bakouny, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 1526.** An impaired ability to engage in oxidative phosphorylation as a unifying feature of renal carcinogenesis.

2025 AACR-John and Joe Warner Scholar-in-Training Award

This award was funded by a generous donation from John and Joe Warner to support an early career scientist presenting a high quality abstract related to cholangiocarcinoma at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Aleksandar Obradovic, MD, PhD, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 7479.** Single-cell OncoTreat: Novel therapeutic candidates by high resolution inference and validation of drug sensitivities in heterogeneous cholangiocarcinoma tumors.

2025 AACR-John Kincade Scholarship Fund Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be a presenting meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 were generously supported by a donation from the John Kincade Scholarship Fund.

Megan S. Bacabac, MSc, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. **Abstract 3150.** Utilizing the HiBiT system to identify CARM1 degraders for targeted cancer therapy.

Mei-Kuang Chen, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 358.** INK4A/B as predictive biomarkers for enhanced efficacy of dual WEE1 and PKMYT1 inhibition in CDK4/6 inhibitor-resistant breast cancer.

Adria Hasan, PhD, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA. **Abstract 7159.** Characterizing the role of a KDM3C germline polymorphism in chemoradiotherapy outcomes for rectal and head and neck cancers.

Yuki Matsunaga, MD, PhD, UT Southwestern Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dallas, TX. **Abstract 5339.** Single cell analysis enables tracking the evolution of resistance to CDK4/6 inhibitors in ER+ breast cancer.

Mohan Mullapudi, PhD, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY. **Abstract 5834.** Discovery of a novel Trop2-targeting immune-stimulating antibody conjugate with efficacy in pancreatic cancer models.

Shalini Nath, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 6001.** Unlocking therapeutic potential of rigosertib as a selective therapy for ovarian cancer.

Seongyeol Park, MD, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 6355.** Mapping the genetic, epigenetic, and microenvironmental evolution of HER2-positive breast cancer during neoadjuvant therapy.

Hayley M. Sabol, MS, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR. **Abstract 5099.** Notch inhibition as a therapeutic approach to eliminate dormant cancer cells in multiple myeloma.

Pablo Sanchez Vela, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 2552.** TET2-mutant clonal hematopoiesis enrichment in the tumor microenvironment is an actionable driver of treatment resistance in solid tumors: Thyroid cancer as a paradigm.

Parul Suri, MS, St. John's University, Fresh Meadows, NY. **Abstract 6826.** PRMT5 inhibition is a promising therapeutic strategy for high-risk neuroblastoma.

Xinran Tang, BS, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. **Abstract 5189.** Exploring the clinical utility of HER2-targeted antibody-drug conjugate in urothelial carcinoma using patient-derived models.

Miyu Terashima, MD, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan. **Abstract 1198.** Global analysis of incidence and mortality trends in early-onset and later-onset cancers.

Yi Xiao, PhD, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. **Abstract 5416.** Cyclin K deficiency suppresses tumor growth, activates systemic immunity, and confers vulnerability to chemotherapy in pancreatic cancer.

2025 AACR-Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation Scholar-in-Training Award

An early career investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of kidney cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 was generously supported by a gift from the Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation.

Kai Yu, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 3971.** Single-cell transcriptomic insights into tumor and immune dynamics driving resistance to sitravatinib, nivolumab, and ipilimumab in advanced clear cell renal cell carcinoma.

2025 AACR-June L. Biedler Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards are presented to authors of meritorious abstracts in the field of drug resistance to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025. These awards are made possible through the Estate of Dr. June L. Biedler. The late Dr. Biedler was a dedicated member of AACR and a distinguished scientist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Biedler believed that science communication is a cornerstone to the acceleration of progress.

CheukMan (Cherie) Au, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 1645.** Developing first-in-class AR-V7/AR-fl molecular glue degrader to revolutionize prostate cancer therapeutics.

Nilanjana Chatterjee, PhD, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 5510.** Targeting BET, Hippo-YAP and RAS-MAPK signaling interplay in lung cancer and therapy resistance.

Chendi Li, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. **Abstract 422.** Aurora kinase A inhibition overcome adaptive resistance to KRAS G12C inhibitor by replication stress-induced genomic instability and mitotic cell death.

2025 AACR-Kidney Cancer Association & Chris “CJ” Johnson Foundation Scholar-in-Training Award

An early career investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract focused on kidney cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 was generously supported by a donation from the Kidney Cancer Association and the Chris “CJ” Johnson Foundation.

Emily N. Arner, PhD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN. **Abstract 5396.** NDUFA4L2 inhibits oxidative phosphorylation to drive primary tumor escape.

2025 AACR-Kidney Cancer Association Scholar-in-Training Award

The Kidney Cancer Association graciously donated funds to support a young investigator who will be presenting a meritorious abstract in the field of kidney cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Xiaofan Lu, PhD, Institut de Génétique, Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire (IGBMC), Illkirch-Graffenstaden, France. **Abstract 1123.** Comprehensive molecular characterization reveals hallmarks and therapeutic insights of collecting duct carcinoma.

2025 AACR-KidneyCAN Scholar-in-Training Award

An early career investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract focused on kidney cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 was generously supported by a donation from KidneyCAN.

Moe Ishihara, PhD, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 4248.** Statin-derived small-molecule inhibitors of metastasis (SIM) for high-risk epithelial cancers.

Stefan Maksimovic, MD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 2687.** Exploring the synergistic mechanisms of VEGFR and immune checkpoint inhibitors in clear cell renal cell carcinoma metastases.

Jing Qian, MD, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 646.** Unravelling the mechanisms of resistance and hyperprogression of renal medullary carcinoma to immune checkpoint therapy.

2025 AACR-Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards were funded by a generous donation from Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research to support early career scientists presenting exceptional research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Silver Alkhafaji, BS, University of California, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 2013.** Serum immune markers are associated with pathological complete response and immune-related adverse events in immuno-oncology arms of the I-SPY2 breast cancer trial.

Mauricio Flores, BS, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY. **Abstract 6713.** RB1 and TP53 restrict lineage plasticity in prostate cancer by regulating chromatin accessibility.

Esther K. Frimpong, MPH, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL. **Abstract 4468.** Modified 5-FU immunoliposome targeting EGFR-expressing pancreatic tumors: <i>In vitro and in vivo evaluation.

Nadine Goldhammer, PhD, University of California, San Francisco, CA. **Abstract 2367.** Changes in breast hormone signaling and inflammation underlie radiologic features of cancer risk.

Husain Yar Khan, PhD, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. **Abstract 7213.** Targeting XPO1 to enhance the durability of response of MRTX1133 in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

Swetha Nakshatri, BA, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. **Abstract 4357.** Disparities in neurotoxicities in cisplatin-treated cancer patients: a population pharmacogenomics approach.

Pablo A. Sanchis, PhD, University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina; UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 3123.** Fracturing the tumor-bone alliance in metastatic prostate cancer with Ra-223.

Barbara Mensah Sankofi, MS, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK. **Abstract 5377.** FGF1 regulates breast cancer growth and metabolic reprogramming through ETV4.

2025 AACR-Margaret Foti Foundation Scholar-in-Training Award

Through a generous gift from The Margaret Foti Foundation, these awards recognize outstanding young investigators who are authors of meritorious abstracts in the fields of immuno-oncology, pancreatic cancer, and pediatric cancer research to be presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Sapana P. Bansod, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO. **Abstract 3769.** Targeting TAK1 kinase triggers anti-tumor immunity and sensitizes pancreatic cancer to checkpoint blockade.

Soren Charmsaz, BS, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **Abstract 6407.** PTPN22-based immunotherapy yields near-complete response against PDAC via multi-pronged immune modulation.

Beatriz Coutinho de Oliveira, PhD, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland, OH. **Abstract 3807.** Validation of a functional genomics screen based on lentiviral integration site analysis reveals single-gene disruptions enhancing CAR19 T-cell effectiveness in preclinical models.

Jack P. Kucinski, MS, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH. **Abstract 2599.** Biological consequences and mechanisms of neural signatures in fusion-positive rhabdomyosarcoma.

Robert Saddawi-Konefka, MD, PhD, UC San Diego, San Diego, CA. **Abstract 3764.** Mapping the tumor-sentinel node immune migratome demonstrates a key role for CCR7+ dendritic cells in the successful response to immunoradiotherapy.

Nina Weichert-Leahey, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA. **Abstract 2601.** KAT6A and B inhibition increases efficacy of differentiation and GD2 targeting immunotherapy in neuroblastoma.

2025 AACR-Pezcoller Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

The Pezcoller Foundation supports these awards to enhance participation in the programs and activities of the AACR by early career investigators residing in Europe and to provide these outstanding Scholar-in-Training Awardees with an opporunity to share their research findings with the international cancer research community at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Luisa Amato, MS, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli," Naples, Italy. **Abstract 2895.** Efficacy of DNA-PK inhibitor as maintenance strategy after cisplatin induction in SCLC.

Nanna Kristjánsdóttir, MSc, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark. **Abstract 3766.** Low T cell diversity is associated with poor outcome in bladder cancer: A comprehensive longitudinal analysis of the T cell receptor repertoire.

Carmen Rubio Alarcon, PhD, The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands. **Abstract 3259.** Beyond tumor size: Biological and clinical predictors of ctDNA shedding in colon cancer.

Bisan Abdalfatah Zohud, PhD, University Medical Center Erlangen, Erlangen, Germany. **Abstract 6431.** Endothelial SPARCL1 suppresses colorectal cancer metastases through dormancy induction and EMT inhibition in colonizing tumor cells.

Martha Magdalena Zylka, MSc, St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute, Vienna, Austria. **Abstract 1304.** A novel organoid-based model to study pediatric tumor metastasis to the lung.

2025 AACR-Prostate Cancer Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

The Prostate Cancer Foundation has graciously donated funds to support early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious abstracts in prostate cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Sandy Figiel, PhD, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom. **Abstract 2663.** Mapping clonal heterogeneity and stromal dynamics in prostate cancer.

Surendra Gulla, PhD, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. **Abstract 1324.** MECOM A novel player in AR-driven Treatment Resistant Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer.

Wei (Melody) Xiong, MS, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 3604.** Diabetes and prostate cancer-specific mortality in the Multiethnic Cohort Study: Looking deeper into diagnostic timing and disease duration.

Marek D. Zorawski, BA, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC. **Abstract 4412.** Characterization and targeting of an androgen receptor pre-mRNA stem loop structure to inhibit AR-V7 splicing in prostate cancer.

2025 AACR-Rare Cancer Research Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards were funded by a generous donation from the Rare Cancer Research Foundation to support early career scientists presenting exceptional research on rare cancers at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Athena Golfinos-Owens, BS, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. **Abstract 5265.** Single cell and spatial analysis unravels the immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment, HPV-associated features, and potential immunotherapy response in vulvar squamous cell carcinoma.

Veveeyan Suresh, MSc, St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute (CCRI), Vienna, Austria. **Abstract 3879.** Threshold dynamics of EWS::FLI1 reveal drivers of tumor plasticity and prognosis in Ewing sarcoma.

2025 AACR-Sanofi Scholar-in-Training Awards

Sanofi has graciously donated funds to support early career investigators who will be presenting meritorious work in cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Cort B. Breuer, BS, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. **Abstract 3458.** Antagonism between tumors and lymphocytes drives coevolutionary processes throughout metastasis.

Manoj Chelvanambi, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 1370.** Antibodies derived from patient tumors augment response to immune checkpoint blockade in cancer.

Alvaro Curiel Garcia, PhD, Columbia University, New York, NY. **Abstract 1501.** Ras-dependent activation of BMAL2 regulates hypoxic metabolism in pancreatic cancer.

Shanshan Deng, MD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 5843.** Selective small molecule inhibitor of STAT3 suppresses tumor growth and improves immune checkpoint inhibitor efficacy in KRAS mutant lung cancer.

Sanjana Eyunni, MS, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. **Abstract 3825.** Divergent evolution of FOXA1 mutations drive prostate tumorigenesis or therapy-resistant intra-luminal plasticity.

David Falvo, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY. **Abstract 6416.** Molecular dynamics driving phenotypic divergence among KRAS mutants in pancreatic tumorigenesis.

Dottington Fullwood, EdD, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL. **Abstract 4011.** Health maintenance reframed: Insights from Black prostate cancer survivors on prioritizing wellbeing.

Gan Gao, MS, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. **Abstract 2437.** Deep-learning triage of 3D pathology datasets for accurate and efficient pathologist assessments.

Enrico Gurreri, MD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 3824.** Investigating the role of allelic imbalance in pancreatic cancer aggressiveness, survival, and therapeutic resistance.

Shitian Li, BS, Salk Institute for Biological Sciences, La Jolla, CA. **Abstract 4849.** MYC-mediated resistance to immune activation by SWI/SNF mutation or chemical inhibition.

Wooyong Park, PhD, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. **Abstract 3782.** Nuclear expulsion-derived extracellular vimentin accelerates CD8+ T cell dysfunction and enhances treatment resistance.

Dipesh Thapa, BS, The University Of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS. **Abstract 262.** APOBEC4, a novel regulator of p53-dependent cell cycle arrest, senescence, and apoptosis.

Xiyin Wang, MS, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. **Abstract 6388.** Exploiting CTPS1 dependency for the treatment of breast and ovarian cancer.

Lacin Yapindi, PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. **Abstract 363.** Exploiting Rb-deficiency: Dual inhibition of TRIP13 and Aurora A as a path to mitotic catastrophe.

2025 AACR-Silken Twine Charity Scholar-in-Training Award

An early career investigator who will be a presenting a meritorious abstract focused on pediatric cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 was generously supported by a donation from the Silken Twine Charity.

Elena Vasileva, PhD, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 114.** Unraveling the origin of Ewing sarcoma using zebrafish transgenic models.

2025 AACR-TOUCH The Black Breast Cancer Alliance Scholar-in-Training Awards

These awards were funded by a generous donation from the Touch The Black Breast Cancer Alliance to support early career scientists presenting exceptional research on breast cancer at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025.

Yi-Wen Hsiao, PhD, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA. **Abstract 4913.** PREDICT Breast v4: Advancing equity in breast cancer prognosis for diverse populations.

Madhura Shirish Shukla, MS, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN. **Abstract 2587.** Transcription factor ZEB1 controls lineage specificity of African ancestry-enriched breast stromal multilineage cells.

2025 AACR-Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Scholar-in-Training Awards

Early career investigators who will be a presenting meritorious abstracts focused on triple negative breast cancer research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 was generously supported by a donation from the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation.

Fabio Giuntini, BS, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO), Barcelona, Spain. **Abstract 6386.** Omomyc synergizes with PARP inhibition (PARPi) and reverts resistance to therapy in multiple PARPi-resistant triple-negative breast cancer models.

Chenxu Guo, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. **Abstract 6582.** HD-PTP modulates anti-tumor immunity via extracellular vesicles in triple-negative breast cancer.

Darya Veraksa, BS, University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA. **Abstract 6351.** Characterizing the spatial heterogeneity of pregnancy-associated triple negative breast cancer.