Peck Symposium 2020 Speakers

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Dr. Colin Clark, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator, National Institute of Bioprocessing Research and Training, Dublin, Ireland, and Associate Professor, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

Colin Clarke holds a MSc and PhD in Bioinformatics from Cranfield University, UK. He leads the Bioinformatics and Data Analytics Laboratory at the National Institute of Bioprocessing Research and Training, Dublin, Ireland and is an Associate Professor in the School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering at University College Dublin. The goal of Colin’s systems biology research is to enhance our understanding of CHO cell factories to enable more efficient production. Colin’s team also have an active research programme focused on harnessing big data technologies for biopharmaceutical manufacturing. He was awarded the Martin Sinacore Outstanding Young Investigator Award at Cell Culture Engineering in 2014 and selected as the Young Leader of the Year at the 2017 Irish Laboratory Awards.

Talk Title: Understanding Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing at Single Cell Resolution
Dr. Pawel Kalinski, PhD

Professor and Vice-Chair for Translational Research in the Department of Medicine, Director of Cancer Vaccine and Dendritic Cell Therapies, and a Co-Leader of the Tumor Immunology & Immunotherapy Program of the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY.

Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD is Professor and Vice-Chair for Translational Research in the Department of Medicine, Director of Cancer Vaccine and Dendritic Cell Therapies, and a Co-Leader of the Tumor Immunology & Immunotherapy Program of the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, NY. Dr. Kalinski obtained MD (1991) from the Medical University of Warsaw, Poland, and PhD (Immunology; 1998) from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Before joining Roswell in 2017, Dr. Kalinski was a tenured Professor of Surgery and the Founding Director of the ImmunoTransplantation Center of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (2000-2017).

The research of Dr. Kalinski addresses: 1) Cell-based immunotherapies of cancer with focus on dendritic cell (DC) therapies; and 2) Therapeutic reprogramming of tumor microenvironments (TME) to enhance local infiltration of immune cells and enhance the therapeutic effectiveness of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) and other cancer treatments. Dr. Kalinski has authored over 130 scientific publications and developed multiple INDs and investigator-sponsored clinical trials in these areas. He has extensive experience building and leading Team Science programs and collaborative projects within P01s, SPOREs and R01s.

His work has been funded by multiple grants from the National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI), Department of Defense Congressionally-Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP), philanthropy, biotech and pharma partners. He has served on Boards of Directors and Editorial Boards of several professional organizations and scientific journals, and as a scientific consultant and reviewer for multiple grant-funding agencies and scientific journals in the United States and Europe.

Talk Title: Sensitizing Cold Tumors for the Therapeutic Efficacy of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors
Dr. Gerald Linette, MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine and Medical Director, Sean Parker Institute of Cancer Immunotherapy at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Gerald P. Linette, MD, PhD is currently Professor of Medicine and Medical Director, Sean Parker Institute of Cancer Immunotherapy at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. His primary interest is the development of cellular immunotherapies including dendritic cells for melanoma and other solid tumors. His research laboratory is located within the Center for Cellular Immunotherapies at Penn and is focused on human tumor neoantigen discovery for solid tumors.

Dr. Linette is a graduate of the Medical Scientist Training Program, Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed training in Internal Medicine and Molecular Oncology at Washington University/Barnes Hospital in St. Louis followed by fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital/DFCI. Dr. Linette is board certified in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology.

**Talk Title:** Personalized Cancer Vaccines
Dr. Sandro Matosevic, PhD

Assistant Professor, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Sandro Matosevic, Ph.D. is assistant professor in the Department of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy at Purdue University. His lab studies immunotherapy of solid tumors using engineered natural killer cells, immunometabolic reprogramming and innate immunity.
Dr. Cliona Rooney, PhD

Professor and Thomas J. Rosenbalm, M.D. Presidential Endowed Chair, Baylor College of Medicine, and member of the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy (CAGT) and Bone Marrow Transplant/Stem Cell Transplant Program at Texas Children's Cancer Center, Houston, TX

Dr. Rooney received her PhD in immunology from Cambridge University, UK in 1981 and completed two postdoctoral fellowships working on the immunology and molecular biology of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). In 1990, she joined the faculty at St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, where children receiving T-cell-depleted hematopoietic stem cell transplantation had a high incidence of developing fatal EBV-associated lymphoma. There she evaluated the use of EBV-specific T-cells (VSTs) to prevent and treat this disease. EBVSTs proved safe and highly effective and led us to extend VST therapy to other post-transplant viral infections, and to the EBV+ malignancies that occur in immunocompetent individuals.

She is currently developing strategies that render therapeutic T cells resistant to inhibition by the tumor microenvironment. These include the use of a dominant-negative TGFβ receptor, a constitutively active IL-7 receptor, and an inducible caspase 9 suicide gene. All of these are, or have been, in clinical trials. We have also evaluated VSTs as hosts for chimeric antigen receptors (CARs), so that CAR-VST activation and expansion can be induced by endogenous viruses, viral vaccines or oncolytic viruses, via their T-cell receptor.

Since June of 2016, she has been the Co-Director of the graduate program in Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine (TBMM). Each student has both a basic science mentor and a clinical mentor and their thesis is devoted to translational research. She also is the Director the Translational Research Laboratories (TRL) of the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy where 15 principal investigators are developing range of cell therapy products.

Talk Title: Tumor Immunotherapy with Virus-Specific T-Cells

Dr. Yoon Yeo, PhD
Dr. Yoon Yeo is a Professor and Associate Department Head of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy at the College of Pharmacy with a joint appointment in Biomedical Engineering and a Showalter Faculty Scholar at Purdue University. She received her B.S. in Pharmacy and M.S. in Microbial Chemistry at Seoul National University in Korea, and her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA. She obtained post-doctoral training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and returned to Purdue to join the faculty in 2007. Her research focuses on nanoparticle surface engineering for drug delivery to solid tumors, intracellular delivery of peptide antibiotics, anion-resistant non viral gene vectors and functional biomaterials for immunomodulation.

Dr. XingXing Zang, PhD
Dr. XingXing Zang is a Professor and the Louis Goldstein Swan Chair at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His laboratory has been at the forefront of discovery and functional dissection of new immune checkpoints, with the objective of applying new knowledge to the development of new therapeutic strategies for cancer, autoimmune disorder, infection, transplant rejection, and metabolic diseases. Dr. Zang graduated from Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh, and did postdoctoral training with James Allison at the University of California at Berkeley and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

**Talk Title: New Immune Checkpoints: From Discoveries to Clinical Trials**