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For Immediate Release

## **ACGT Announces Call for Applications for New 2018 Investigator's Award in Cell and Gene Therapy for Cancer**

*ACGT to Award \$500,000 for Next Generation Therapies*

**STAMFORD**, Conn., March 5, 2018 — Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy (ACGT), the nation's only charitable organization dedicated exclusively to funding cancer gene and immunotherapy research, is proud to announce its request for applications for its **2018 Investigator's Award in Cell and Gene Therapy for Cancer grants**.

This year, ACGT is offering an Investigator's Award to support emerging areas of research that the organization's Scientific Advisory Council has identified as most in need of funding. These include:

- Technology for systemic delivery and treatment of metastatic disease that could involve novel tumor-targeted delivery vehicles (e.g. tumor-homing cells, nanoparticles and new recombinant viruses).
- Altering the tumor cell microenvironment to support the induction of anti-tumor immunity
- Identification of novel tumor targets
- Novel approaches to either protective adoptively transferred cells from metabolic changes or alter the metabolism of transferred cells.

Preference will be given to those working in solid tumors, orphan tumors or pediatric tumors, and to research not previously funded. Thus, ACGT is looking for highly innovative proposals.

Cancer researchers interested in submitting an application for the ACGT Investigator's Award must hold a MD, PhD, or equivalent degree and must be tenure-track or tenured faculty. The investigator must be conducting original research as an independent faculty member. ACGT has no citizenship restrictions, and research supported by the award must be conducted at academic medical centers or research centers located in the United States or Canada. The deadline for abstract submission is March 13, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. (EST).

"ACGT has funded research at just about every major institution in the United States and is proud to be an early supporter of Dr. Carl June's work with CAR T gene therapy for leukemia at the University of Pennsylvania," noted Margaret Cianci, executive director of ACGT. "ACGT believes in the promise of successfully treating cancer at the cellular and gene level. Today, with the success of gene therapy such as CAR T treatments, ACGT is looking to accelerate this research and also look for the next generation of potentially game-changing, breakthrough cancer therapies. The future is bright and we are excited to see the submitted applications."

All Investigator Award applications are reviewed by ACGT's Scientific Advisory Council and are then peer reviewed by two experts in the field. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of scientific and technical

merit and a corresponding fit with the research objectives of the grant. Research for all types of cancer are considered.

Submissions must be made electronically via proposalCENTRAL, an outside service provider hosted by Altum. Access is available using links provided in the ACGT website, [www.acgtfoundation.org](http://www.acgtfoundation.org) or directly through the proposalCENTRAL website at: <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/Login.asp>.

### **About Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy (ACGT)**

Established in 2001, ACGT is the nation's only non-profit dedicated exclusively to cell and gene therapy treatments for all types of cancer. One hundred percent of contributions go directly to research. Since its inception, ACGT has funded some of the underlying science that has resulted in the formation of either licensing agreements or biotech companies including Novartis, Ziopharm, Juno, Tmunity, Turnstone Biologics, all of which are in various stages of bringing new treatments to patients. ACGT has funded 55 grants in the U.S. and Canada to conduct and accelerate critically needed innovative research. 36 of those grants have gone to Young Investigators and 19 grants to Clinical Investigators, totaling more than \$28 million in funding. ACGT is located at 96 Cummings Point Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06902; 203-358-5055. To learn more, visit [acgtfoundation.org](http://acgtfoundation.org) or join the ACGT community on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) at [@acgtfoundation](#).

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