



# **OUR MISSION**

Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy (ACGT) funds innovative scientists and biotechnology companies working to harness the power of cell and gene therapy to transform how cancer is treated and to drive momentum toward a cure. 100% of all public donations directly support research.

### **OUR COMMITMENT**

ACGT supports high-risk, high-reward scientific research into the causes, treatment and prevention of cancer using the body's own cells and genes as medicine. By accelerating this research, ACGT is developing cancer therapies that are significantly more effective and less toxic than current cancer treatments.

Since the day it was founded, ACGT has been committed to achieving a better understanding of cancer biology and immunology, translating that understanding into game-changing clinical therapies.

 ACGT Scientific Advisory Council Chair Michael T. Lotze, MD, University of Pittsburgh

# **20/20 VISION**

# Future-Focused Leadership

Twenty years ago, Edward and Barbara Netter saw what others could not see. With informed insight and profound passion, they boldly embraced a progressive vision for the notoriously underfunded discipline of cancer cell and gene therapy research.

By faithfully focusing their energy and leadership on advancing innovative strategies, their vision has emerged as today's most practical, promising and transformative approach to treating and curing cancer.

As ACGT begins its 20th year, it does so with a razor-sharp focus on an energized strategic plan. New emphasis has been placed on translating the success of CAR T-cell therapies for blood cancers into successful therapies for today's most complex and deadly cancers – solid tumor cancers, especially pancreatic cancer and glioblastoma. The refreshed strategic plan also looks beyond academic research institutions to acknowledge promising opportunities being developed through biotechnology start-up companies.

Our refined focus and expanding sphere of influence are leading to another major milestone as ACGT joins forces with the Cancer Research Institute (CRI) and the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI) to create a powerful collaboration to accelerate breakthroughs in cell therapies for glioblastoma (GBM) brain cancer as it unites and coordinates researchers and their results to collectively advance understanding and accelerate meaningful outcomes for patients.

2020 has also witnessed the launch of the ACGT Edward Netter Legacy Society, a planned giving initiative designed to provide thoughtful guidance and flexible alternatives to help donors achieve their personal, long-term legacy goals while ensuring ACGT's sustainability.

Although the COVID-19 crisis has understandably redirected precious funding from cancer research, ACGT has been able to continue to support best-in-class cancer cell and gene therapy research. With its 2020 grant awards, the ACGT research portfolio now comprises 10 active initiatives – all led by brilliant researchers, all poised to overcome the complexities of solid tumor cancers.

As the first and only funding agency exclusively devoted to advancing cancer cell and gene therapies, ACGT eagerly looks forward to its next 20 years of progress with invigorating optimism and a deep sense of gratitude. We hope you will be with us along our journey.

Sincerely,

Kevin Honeycutt

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ACGT CEO & President





# **SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP**

# At the Forefront of New Ideas

Cure was not a word that was used with confidence 20 or even 10 years ago when speaking of cancer. Yet today ACGT is working to bring cures into focus and within the reach of millions of people globally. Bold new curative strategies by scientific visionaries are eliminating risk and opening new pathways of understanding and opportunity.

Unlike surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, cancer cell and gene therapies create "living drugs" that use a person's own cells and genes as medicine to stem, control and ultimately eliminate cancer in the body. Every cancer cell and gene therapy study, every clinical trial, every success and even every failure strengthens the research community's understanding of the immune system's complexities and the biological building blocks that make cancer such a formidable foe.

As the scope of evidence-based knowledge increases, so do ideas for new approaches to problem-solving.

# Top Targets: Pancreatic Cancer and Glioblastoma

High demand to translate the success of CAR T-cell therapies for blood cancers into successful therapies for the most complex and deadly cancers – solid tumor cancers – has put pancreatic cancer and glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) at the top of ACGT's list of strategic priorities.

With five-year survival rates of less than 10 percent, pancreatic cancer and GBM are the most universally lethal cancers. They are aggressive, mysterious, and for many reasons, currently resistant to traditional and alternative therapies. Now, they are squarely in the crosshairs of ACGT's search for solutions.

#### A New Collaboration to Advance Cell Therapy for Brain Cancer

To accelerate cellular therapies for the most deadly brain cancer in adults – glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) – Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy, Cancer Research Institute (CRI) and Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI) are collaborating to tackle the many challenges of this complex disease.

CRI, PICI and ACGT share many of the same goals, and through this partnership the three organizations are taking a collaborative approach to gain insights into the most difficult issues in treating GBM. By combining cellular therapy expertise and cutting-edge technologies to analyze brain tumor tissue, the program aims to make progress against GBM – a cancer that in the last 30 years has seen few treatment advances and continues to have extremely unfortunate outcomes for patients.







GBM is one of the most challenging of solid tumors from a treatment perspective. Cures are going to come by pushing the boundaries of technology, drug development, clinical trial design and breaking down silos that classically separate bioinformatics, technology, basic research and clinicians. PICI is committed to partner with others that understand that collaboration is the key to change.

Samantha Bucktrout, Senior Director of Research and Development,
 Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy

The focus is based on the incredible progress of cell and gene therapies in other cancers and ACGT's mission to bring this same success to the most difficult to treat solid tumors. This coordinated and collaborative initiative will generate a *never before available* biological understanding of GBM. In addition, it will provide researchers with a nationwide clinical infrastructure and access to the largest

patient tissue samples database, enabling research teams to make significant progress on multiple levels.

GBM is a powerful adversary with a microenvironment that potently limits the effectiveness of therapies that have shown progress in other cancers. No single approach, no one entity, no individual therapy has been able to successfully meet the complex challenges of GBM. With aggressive standard therapies, including surgical resection, radiation and chemotherapy, the median survival for patients with GBM is just 20 months. It is extremely difficult for treatments to successfully cross the blood brain barrier and penetrate the tumor with enough volume to impact the disease and to sustain a therapeutic effect. In addition, GBM tumors are extremely heterogeneous – a treatment that works in one part of a tumor may not work in another or may even amplify the cancer.

The goal is to harmonize research efforts, standardize reporting methodologies and use cutting edge analytical tools to lay the groundwork for novel and combinatorial clinical trials across multiple institutions and research networks.

Continued

When tackling hard-to-treat cancers like glioblastoma multiforme, coordination and collaboration are critical to the success of any efforts to bring effective cell and gene therapies to patients with this disease. By tapping the expertise of the extensive clinical cancer immunotherapy networks created by the Cancer Research Institute and the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, CRI and PICI, together with ACGT, hope to accelerate discovery and development of improved immunotherapies to treat GBM.

 Jill O'Donnell-Tormey, PhD, CEO and Director of Scientific Affairs, Cancer Research Institute



Continued from page 3
By integrating teams of the best researchers and enabling them to increase the quantity and quality of data generated through tissue analysis and clinical trials, all stakeholders could learn faster and learn more about what makes GBM such a complex killer in the quest to develop therapeutic strategies that bring patients new hope.

The first phase focuses on analyzing patient samples to inform first-in-human clinical trials at City of Hope; Stanford University; University of California, San Francisco (UCSF); and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). To further contribute to these coordinated efforts, the partnership has

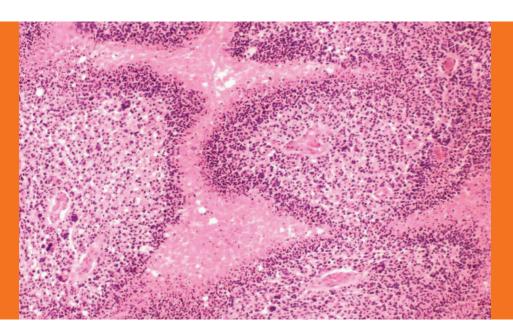
This collaboration with PICI and CRI goes to the heart of ACGT's mission – addressing the toughest challenges in cancer research by enabling the best scientific minds to work together – advancing our understanding of glioblastoma and developing powerful cell and gene therapies that

will significantly change the outlook for patients.

- Barbara Lavery, Chief Program Officer, Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy

engaged the experience and expertise of leading GBM and cell and gene therapy visionaries, including ACGT Research Fellows Carl H. June, MD, and Crystal Mackall, MD. ACGT Scientific Advisory Council member Noriyuki Kasahara, MD, PhD, will represent ACGT within the partnership's joint steering committee.

Donations to ACGT will further enable this important collaboration to bring the power of cell and gene therapy to patients with GBM – patients who may not see new treatment breakthroughs without this help.



ACGT's first-year investment of \$750,000 is directly funding tissue analysis using multiplexed ion beam imaging (MIBI) technology, powering the partnership's vision and enabling research teams to put their plans into motion.

### **INSPIRED INGENUITY**

# The 2020 ACGT Research Fellows

After evaluating 65 initial letters of intent in 2020, 23 researchers were invited to submit full proposals detailing their plans, goals and budgets. Decisions were difficult, but three very compelling and complementary research programs emerged as clear frontrunners. Each was awarded \$500,000 by the ACGT Board of Directors.

2020 ACGT Research Fellows Brian Brown, PhD; Sidi Chen, PhD; and Michael T. Lotze, MD, are all pursuing novel strategies for overcoming solid tumor challenges. ACGT is proud to support their journeys toward a new era in cancer cell and gene therapies.

- At the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Dr. Brown is tackling solid tumors in lung cancer by building on the successful chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapies for blood cancers.
- Dr. Brown's is developing a new CAR that kills a specific immunosuppressive cell type known as macrophages in tumors while sparing macrophages in healthy tissue, thus clearing the way for a person's immune system to destroy the rest of a tumor.
- At Yale University School of Medicine, Dr. Chen is doubling down on a versatile new strategy called MAEGI – Multiplexed Activation of Endogenous Genes as an Immunotherapy.

- His unique approach simultaneously targets a multitude of factors that differentiate cancer cells from healthy cells, and likewise, simultaneously activates multiple immune system responses.
- At the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Lotze will be one of the first investigators to test the ability of a less appreciated, less abundant and less studied class of T cells known as gamma delta T cells. Dr. Lotze's strategy begins with the removal of these cells from a patient's pancreatic tumor, then grows them into an army and returns them to that specific tumor where they are expected to become weapons of destruction.









# **CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF MEDICINE**

# The 2020 ACGT Research Portfolio

Therapeutic strategies selected for funding by ACGT are rigorously reviewed, debated, discussed and monitored by the ACGT Scientific Advisory Council. Led by teams of bright young investigators with oversight from seasoned veterans, 10 research programs are now underway with funding from ACGT. Read more at acgtfoundation.org about these pathfinders and how their research programs are shaping new solutions for aggressive, difficult-to-treat, solid tumor cancers.

#### **Glioblastoma**



"RRV for Immunogenic Suicide Gene Therapy and Checkpoint Inhibition in Glioma" by **Noriyuki Kasahara**, **MD**, **PhD**, of the University of California, San Francisco Brain Tumor Center in San Francisco, CA. ACGT Research Fellow funded by Swim Across America

#### Melanoma



"Antigenic Stealthing of oHSV for Systemic Treatment of Melanoma" by **Joseph Glorioso**, **III**, **MD**, **PhD**, of the University of Pittsburgh Hillman Cancer Center in Pittsburgh, PA.

#### **Lung Cancer**



"Targeting Macrophages to Turn Tumors Hot and Enhance Cancer Immunotherapy" by **Brian Brown, PhD**, of the Precision Immunology Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, NY.

#### **Ovarian Cancer**



"Phase I Trial of Folate Receptor-Alpha CAR T-Cell Therapy for Solid Cancer" by **Daniel J. Powell, Jr., PhD**, of the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA.

I believe in the power and potential of cell and gene therapies and I am confident they are the key to transforming the future of cancer care. ACGT has had profound impact in raising awareness and advancing knowledge in this arena. I am grateful for ACGT's years of leadership and I am proud to be a member of the ACGT community.

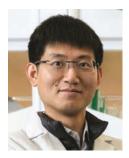
 2020 ACGT Research Fellow Sidi Chen, PhD, Yale University School of Medicine Gene and cell therapies have the potential to revolutionize medicine.

Their successes demonstrate the power of innovative thinking and the tenacity of scientists to translate ideas into solutions....

We are grateful for risk-taking organizations like ACGT that are willing to fund new ideas.

 2020 ACGT Research Fellow Brian Brown, PhD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### **Pancreatic Cancer**



"Initial Development of a Novel CRISPRa-Based Immune Gene Therapy for Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma" by **Sidi Chen, PhD**, of the Yale University School of Medicine Department of Genetics, Systems Biology Institute and Cancer Center in New Haven, CT.

#### **Prostate Cancer**



"Metabolic Reprogramming of the CAR T Cell Epigenome" by **Joseph Fraietta, PhD**, and Naomi Haas, MD, of the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA.



"Tumor Infiltrating Gamma Delta T Cells for Pancreatic Cancer Treatment" by **Michael T. Lotze, MD**, of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Department of Surgery in Pittsburgh, PA.

#### **Sarcoma**



"ECM-Targeted T-Cell Therapy" by **Stephen Gottschalk, MD**, of Bone Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN.



"Preventing Cancer Vaccine Failure via Nanoparticle-Mediated TCR Programming" by **Matthias Stephan**, **MD**, **PhD**, of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA.



"Class I and Class II Restricted TCRs following Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy" by **Seth Pollack, MD**, of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA.



# **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

# Serving the ACGT Mission from Coast to Coast



ACGT's growing sphere of influence is demonstrated by the continued expansion of affiliated fundraising organizations that create opportunities for individuals across the U.S. to rally in service of the ACGT mission. In 2020, limitations imposed by COVID-19 required organizers to become even more creative than usual, proving that where there is a will, there is a way. More than \$370,000 was generated for ACGT by nearly 1,500 individuals of all ages. As with all public donations, 100 percent of these contributions directly funds research to advance cell and gene therapies.

### Leave It On The Road: ACGT Receives \$100,000 From Cycling Event

Michael Tabtabai's father fought cancer for 11 long years. "He never gave up hope. He never lost his optimism. He never stopped smiling," says Tabtabai. "My dad saw the positive side of every negative situation, and through his battle he taught me more about life than I can express. If there is a positive side to my dad having cancer, it is this: his life inspired a legacy that will do a lot of good for a lot of people."

Included in this legacy is Leave It On The Road (LIOTR), a non-profit organization founded in 2013 by Tabtabai of Portland, OR; Andrew Hudon of Boulder, CO; and a cohort of fellow cycling enthusiasts to raise awareness and funds for the fight against cancer.

With their direct and deliberate mission to "Ride Bikes. End Cancer," LIOTR quickly became well known throughout ultra-distance cycling circles for organizing epic rides, including their annual "Crush the Coast" ride along the Pacific Ocean from Portland to San Francisco and other exciting and challenging international and U.S. routes.

The first official LIOTR ride stretched 3,500 miles across the U.S. in 24 days. That's more than 140 miles per day... with no rest days. It wasn't easy, and at times it wasn't even fun. The last week had a number of 180+ mile days that tested their bodies and their resolve, but they made it. Throughout this ride, the LIOTR cyclists gained an international

audience of friends, fans and followers as they told the story of their adventure in real time via social media.

As the group gained further traction, it began assisting other like-minded cycling groups with training, guidance and infrastructure to enable them to organize affiliated fundraising rides locally and regionally. As the LIOTR network grew, so too did its impact.

In 2018, LIOTR officially became a 501(c)3 organization, its funding priorities were refined, and emphasis was placed on investing in promising searches for cures. After much due diligence, the group selected ACGT as its beneficiary, knowing



that 100 percent of every donation directly assists today's most innovative researchers in advancing transformative approaches to curing cancer.

A goal to raise \$100,000 for ACGT was established, and despite the COVID-forced cancellation of group rides in 2020, LIOTR achieved its goal through sponsorships, online raffles, merchandise sales and the efforts of individual riders who responded quickly and creatively, launching solo rides.

One such rider was Anthony Costa (@acostaridesbikes) who searched and found LIOTR after the loss of his father to cancer filled him with a profound sense of duty. Says Costa in his LIOTR blog post, "I read the stories of all the riders involved with LIOTR. I researched cancer cell and gene therapy and how it's at the leading edge of cancer treatments. It all seemed so perfect; a group of incredible individuals with stories similar to mine who were already doing exactly what I want to do. I had the inspiration I needed and, perhaps just as importantly, I had found the flag I wanted to fly."



Costa chose the month of July to ride 100 miles every day. He prepared with a lot of pre-pandemic gym work, tons of trainer time and solo rides after stay-athome orders were issued. "I was floored by the outpouring of support from those who followed along," says Costa. "Every day came messages of encouragement, from friends and family, but many from people I didn't know who were located all over the world. I can't even begin to express how grateful I am for that."

On July 31, after 226 hours in the saddle, Costa completed his 3,118-mile personal journey in the New Jersey park where he and his father often rode

together. As he completed his final lap, he heard his dad's last words of "I love you, son" in his head. As he crossed his finish line, he had one hand in the air and the other over the pendants of his dad's necklace, which he wore every day of the ride.

Says Tabtabai, "Our rides are dedicated to those who fight cancer with their bodies. We do what we can with our bikes and our voices."

Follow Leave It On The Road @leaveitontheroad and read more at www.leaveitontheroad.com.

Continued











#### Swim Across America Crosses \$4 Million Mark for ACGT

Every year since 2008, more than 220 swimmers across Fairfield County, CT have splashed, stroked and sprinted their way to raising more than \$4 million for ACGT. The mission continued in 2020, albeit with a COVID-driven twist. In lieu of the flagship open water swim in Long Island Sound, families, friends and coworkers did their own Personal Challenge 2020, in groups and individually, on land as well as the sea. Through hiking, biking, synchronized swimming, water polo and swimming in open water and pools, 430 participants got active and generated \$160,000 in a challenging fundraising environment to help advance ACGT's cancer cell and gene therapy research.

Photo credit: Kyoko Sorensen

#### **Wendy Walk Virtual 5K**

Inspired by their mother's courageous battle with liposarcoma, Ali, Matt and Jackie Landes organized the first annual Wendy Walk in 2010. Ten years later, they're still walking! COVID-19 forced them to do things a little differently in 2020, and as a result, more than 700 individuals from Sydney, Australia to the Cotswolds in England and across the U.S. came together virtually to raise awareness of sarcoma and support sarcoma research. Their energy and success generated another \$100,000 for ACGT Research Fellows, boosting Wendy Walk's total contributions to ACGT to more than \$460,000 since 2015.

#### Play for P.I.N.K. and Purple

For the second year in a row, the energetic organizers of this annual golf and tennis tournament added purple (official color of pancreatic cancer) to their pink (official color of breast cancer) to honor and remember beloved committee member Bonnie Bancroft who was lost to pancreatic cancer in 2020. With strict social distancing measures in place, players gathered at Innis Arden Golf Club in Old Greenwich, CT. Raffle tickets purchased online and during the event have raised more than \$17,000 for ACGT. Pictured: The late Bonnie Bancroft's husband and sons (L-R Corey, Ned, Nicky, Auggie) played in purple and won top honors in the 2020 tournament's front nine.

Photo credit: Nancy Carr

Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of many tenacious pioneers, we're witnessing a revolutionary emergence of immune therapy as a transformational treatment protocol for cancer. There's nothing better than when we get to interact with patients for whom cell or gene therapy is proving successful.

 2019 ACGT Research Fellow Joseph Fraietta, PhD, University of Pennsylvania

# PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP

# Relevant and Responsible Investments for Today and Tomorrow

Since the day ACGT was founded, 100 percent of public donations have directly supported frontline scientists working on thoroughly vetted and responsibly monitored cancer cell and gene therapy research.

This commitment continues in full force today and has enabled ACGT to award \$30.2 million through 62 grants to 60 innovative researchers, representing 34 top medical institutions in the U.S. and Canada.

### Future View: The ACGT Edward Netter Legacy Society

The ACGT Board of Directors announced the launch of The ACGT Edward Netter Legacy Society in 2020. Now ACGT's most dedicated champions are invited to work one-on-one with ACGT to establish personalized legacy gifts that achieve individual financial goals while ensuring cancer cell and gene therapy advancements continue well into the future.

Society members enjoy peace of mind knowing their gifts are guarded and guided by the scientific rigor and sound organizational stewardship of ACGT. Society members also enjoy exclusive VIP access to special events and information – from the annual ACGT Awards Gala to intimate social and educational gatherings with ACGT Research Fellows and other world class scientific thought-leaders.

There are many ways to build legacy gifts, including qualified retirement assets, charitable bequests, life insurance, donor advised funds and charitable beneficiary designations. Donors are reminded to consult qualified professional advisors on how a gift to ACGT might fit into overall plans and eligibility for tax benefits. To learn more, visit acgtfoundation.org or call (203) 358-5055.



Edward Netter, Co-Founder Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy





# **EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT**

# **ACGT Financial Performance**

As a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, public interest corporation, ACGT carefully manages its resources to ensure organizational stability, operational excellence and sound investments.

**2020 ACGT Fiscal Year (May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020)** 

Statement of A	ctivities	2020	2019		
Support and Re	upport and Revenue:				
	Contributions	\$ 938,411	\$ 837,594		
	Special events (net of direct benefits to do of \$- and \$77,212, respectively)	onors 0	321,717		
	Contributed services	653,514	538,010		
	Interest and dividend income	127,939	116,958		
	Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(295,621)	188,391		
	Royalty income	722,382	45,507		
	Other income	489,669	0		
	Net assets released from restrictions	0	0		
	Total support and revenue	2,636,294	2,048,177		
Expenses:					
	Program services:				
	Research grants and awards	1,761,287	1,913,613		
	Support services:*	(50.000	222 / /2		
	Management and general	479,333	322,449		
	Fundraising	321,160	160,378		
	Total expenses	2,561,780	2,396,440		
Increase (decrease) in net assets		74,514	(348,263)		
Net assets at beginning of year		4,475,022	4,823,285		
Net assets at end of year		\$ 4,549,536	\$ 4,475,022		

<sup>\*</sup> Management, general and fundraising expenses are underwritten by a separate fund so that 100% of all public donations go directly to research and programs.

# **2020 ACGT Fiscal Year (May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020)**

Statement of Financial Position		2020	2019
Assets:			
C	ash and cash equivalents	\$ 745,164	\$ 733,247
Ir	nvestments at fair value	5,227,886	5,397,306
C	Contributions receivable	107,056	176,003
C	Other assets	117,785	45,877
	Total assets	\$ 6,197,891	\$ 6,352,433
Liabilities:			
G	Frants payable	\$ 1,442,064	\$ 1,813,644
A	ccrued expenses	101,842	63,767
U	Inearned income	104,449	0
	Total liabilities	1,648,355	1,877,411
Net Assets:			
V	Vithout donor restrictions	2,130,094	2,342,032
V	Vith donor restrictions	2,419,442	2,132,990
	Total net assets	4,549,536	4,475,022
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$ 6,197,891	\$ 6,352,433



# THANK YOU FOR SHARING THE ACGT VISION

For 2020 ACGT Fiscal Year (May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020)

#### Founder's Circle (\$50,000+)

Anonymous \*

Mrs. Barbara Netter \*

Geneve Corporation \*

Leave It On The Road

Swim Across America \*

University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

Wendy Walk \*

#### President's Circle (\$25,000+)

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<sup>\*</sup> Denotes **Hall of Fame** members who have donated for five consecutive years or more.

It's important to acknowledge organizations like ACGT who invest trust and resources in research that is high-risk, high-reward. Critically, ACGT distributes its support in a scientifically rigorous and financially responsible way, and we look forward to translating the research supported by ACGT into real benefits for patients.

2015 ACGT Research Fellow Yvonne Chen, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

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**Jackie Yates** 

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# **ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

# Passionate and Principled Changemakers

#### **ACGT Board of Directors**

Members of the ACGT Board of Directors provide sound governance, advocacy and stewardship to advance the organization's mission and ensure its sustainability. The integrated perspectives of these influential innovators reflect the breadth of ACGT stakeholders – from world class scientists, biotech and pharma leaders to venture capitalists, philanthropists and patient advocates.

Barbara Netter, MS Honorary Chairman & Co-Founder Psychotherapist

**Peter A. Glicklich** *Chairman of the Executive Committee*Managing Partner
Davies, Ward, Phillips & Vineberg LLP

Andy Alisberg Investor

**Terri Burgess, PhD**Co-Founder
Paradigm Shift Therapeutics

**David M. Darst, Jr.** Chief Operating Officer Rgenix, Inc. **Daniel Englander** Managing Partner Ursula Capital Partners

Michael Gregory
Co-Managing Partner
Avidity Partners

**Tracy B. Holton** Attorney and Author

Chau Khuong
Partner
OrbiMed Advisors

John L. Lahey, PhD
Past President
Quinnipiac University

**Alexandra Landes**Founder
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**John C. Sites, Jr.**Partner

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Klaus Veitinger, MD, PhD, MBA

Venture Partner OrbiMed Advisors

Martin Winter Managing Director Alvarez & Marsal

**Martha Zoubek**Philanthropist
Wrightson-Ramsing Foundation

Edward Netter
In Memoriam, Founding President
(2001-2011)



# Man on a Mission: Klaus Veitinger

When ACGT Board of Directors member Klaus Veitinger, MD, PhD, MBA, says he's determined to do something, he means it. His optimist attitude is fueled by a long track record of success in senior pharmaceutical management positions in drug development, licensing and business development, strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions.

Today, Dr. Veitinger is a venture partner in the private equity group at OrbiMed Advisors. His colleague, ACGT Board of Directors member Chau Khuong, introduced him to ACGT after learning of Dr. Veitinger's determined desire to effect meaningful progress in the search for cancer cures.

ACGT's strategic focus on glioblastoma resonated with him because, for personal reasons, Dr. Veitinger is especially devoted to the search for brain cancer solutions. After learning more about ACGT and meeting some of the people who power it, he became eager to apply his wide berth of knowledge, skill and enthusiasm to help drive the organization's mission.

Dr. Veitinger has a knack for moving new ideas forward, which may be why he finds ACGT's commitment to early stage research especially compelling. "New ideas succeed in moving forward when they're supported by the right kinds of talent," says Dr. Veitinger. "I look forward to serving as part of the team that fosters this process for cancer cell and gene therapies."

#### **ACGT Scientific Advisory Council**

The conscientious and committed members of the ACGT Scientific Advisory Council are widely regarded as the most accomplished thought leaders in the field of cancer cell and gene therapy. The vision and value they bring to the funding process cannot be overstated and is another factor that distinguishes ACGT from many other funding agencies.

# Michael T. Lotze, MD Council Chair

University of Pittsburgh Hillman Cancer Center

#### Stuart A. Aaronson, MD

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### John Bell, PhD

Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

#### Lieping Chen, MD, PhD

Yale University School of Medicine

# E. Antonio Chiocca, MD, PhD, FAANS

Brigham and Women's Hospital

#### Mitchell H. Finer, PhD

MPM Capital

# Joseph C. Glorioso, III, PhD Past Council Chair

University of Pittsburgh Hillman Cancer Center

#### Carl H. June, MD

University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center

#### Noriyuki Kasahara, MD, PhD

University of California, San Francisco Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

#### Jack A. Roth, MD, FACS

MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### Stephen J. Russell, MD, PhD

Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

#### Michel Sadelain, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

#### Dario A. Vignali, PhD

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Hillman Cancer Center

#### George D. Yancopoulos, MD, PhD

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

#### Savio L.C. Woo, PhD Council Chair Emeritus

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, retired



Joseph Glorioso, III, PhD, and Michael T. Lotze, MD

# The Next Chapter: Michael Lotze Named ACGT Scientific Advisory Council Chair

After five years of astute leadership, Joseph Glorioso, III, PhD, ended his tenure at the helm of the ACGT Scientific Advisory Council in 2020. He remains a member of the Council and passes the baton to fellow Council member and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine colleague Michael T. Lotze, MD. Highly regarded as a leader in modern immunotherapy, cell therapy and gene therapy, Dr. Lotze became a member of the ACGT Scientific Advisory Council in 2003. Dr. Glorioso joined the Council in 2005.

Serving as chair is an honor as well as a commitment that demands a significant investment of time and energy. ACGT is fortunate to have talented leaders like Drs. Glorioso and Lotze who are willing to share their years of knowledge and understanding of the field and who are committed to fostering the professional camaraderie necessary to achieve progress.



# **ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Continued

#### **Celebrate 20 Years of ACGT Research Fellows**

In its 20 years of cancer cell and gene therapy research leadership, ACGT has awarded 62 grants to 60 brilliant researchers at 34 unique institutions totaling \$30.2 million.

ACGT funds research aimed at furthering the development of cell and gene therapy approaches to the treatment of cancer. Grants are competitively awarded in the amount of \$250,000 - \$1,000,000 to innovative researchers in the United States and Canada upon rigorous peer review and recommendations made by the ACGT Scientific Advisory Council.

#### Nabil Ahmed, MD, MPH (2011)

Baylor College of Medicine, Brain Cancer

#### Arnob Banerjee, MD, PhD (2014)

University of Maryland School of Medicine, Blood Cancer

#### Jeffrey S. Bartlett, PhD (2003)

The Research Institute at the National Children's Hospital, Ovarian Cancer

#### John Bell, PhD (2014)

Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Brain Cancer

#### Brian Brown, PhD (2020)

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Solid Tumors

#### Roberto Cattaneo, PhD (2007)

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Lymphoma/Leukemia

#### Sidi Chen, PhD (2020)

Yale University School of Medicine, Pancreatic Cancer

#### Yvonne Chen, MS, PhD (2016)

University of California, Los Angeles, Lymphoma/Leukemia

### Antonio E. Chiocca, MD, PhD (2008)

Harvard Medical School, Brain Cancer

#### Laurence Cooper, MD, PhD (2004)

University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Lymphoma/Leukemia

#### George Coukos, MD, PhD (2006)

University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center, Ovarian/Peritoneal Cancer

#### Andrew M. Davidoff, MD (2003)

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Neuroblastoma

#### Greg Delgoffe, PhD (2017)

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Melanoma

#### Glenn Dranoff, MD (2011)

Dana Farber/ Harvard Cancer Center, Leukemia

#### Joseph A. Fraietta, PhD (2019)

University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center, Prostate Cancer

#### Marco Gallo, PhD (2017)

University of Calgary, Brain Cancer

#### Joseph C. Glorioso, PhD (2018)

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Melanoma

#### Stephen Gottschalk, MD (2019)

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Sarcoma

#### Thomas S. Griffith, PhD (2003)

University of Minnesota, Prostate Cancer

#### Brent Hanks, MD, PhD (2016)

Duke University Medical Center, Melanoma

#### Biao He, PhD (2006)

University of Georgia, Breast Cancer

#### Meenakshi Hegde, MD (2015)

Baylor College of Medicine, Melanoma

#### Hui Hu, PhD (2012)

University of Alabama, Ovarian Cancer

#### Chien-Fu Hung, PhD (2005)

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Ovarian Cancer

#### Mukesh Jain, MD, FAHA (2005)

Case Western Reserve University, Metastatic Cancer

#### Christopher Jewell, PhD (2015)

University of Maryland, College Park, Lymphatic Systems

#### Carl H. June, MD (2004, 2008)

University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center, Lymphoma/Leukemia, Ovarian Cancer

#### Noriyuki Kasahara, MD, PhD (2017)

University of Miami, Glioblastoma

#### Samuel G. Katz, MD, PhD (2016)

Yale University School of Medicine, Solid Tumors

# Thomas J. Kipps, MD, PhD (2005, 2010)

Moores Cancer Center, University of California, San Diego, Lymphoma/Leukemia

#### Timothy Lane, PhD (2004)

University of California, Los Angeles, Breast Cancer

#### Maciej S. Lesniak, MD (2007)

University of Chicago, Brain Cancer

#### Hyam I. Levitsky, MD (2005)

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Lymphoma/Leukemia

#### Ronald Levy, MD (2008)

Stanford University, Lymphoma

#### Michael Z. Lin, MD, PhD (2011)

Stanford University, Brain/Breast Cancer

#### Michael T. Lotze, MD (2020)

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pancreatic Cancer

#### Crystal Mackall, MD (2016)

Stanford University School of Medicine, Osteosarcoma

#### Douglas Mahoney, PhD (2013)

University of Calgary, Breast Cancer

#### Clodagh O'Shea, PhD (2008)

Salk Institute for Biological Studies, Breast Cancer

#### Kah-Whye Peng, PhD (2007)

Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Multiple Myeloma

#### Eckhard Podack, MD, PhD (2006)

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Lung Cancer

#### Seth Pollack, MD (2018)

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Sarcoma

#### Daniel Powell, PhD (2018)

University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center, Ovarian Cancer

#### Suzie Pun, PhD (2005)

University of Washington, Metastatic Cancer

#### Todd R. Reilly, PhD (2003)

Johns Hopkins University, Breast Cancer

#### Katherine Ryman, PhD (2004)

University of Pittsburgh, Center for Vaccine Research, Prostate Cancer

#### Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD (2004)

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Lymphoma/Leukemia

#### Harald Sauthoff, MD (2007)

New York University, Breast/Lung Cancer

#### Miguel Sena-Esteves, PhD (2006)

University of Massachusetts Medical School, Brain Cancer

#### Khalid Shah, PhD, MSc (2008)

Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Brain Cancer

#### Alexander Stegh, PhD (2013)

Northwestern University, Brain Cancer

#### Matthias Stephan, MD (2018)

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Pancreatic Cancer

#### Koji Tamada, MD, PhD (2006)

University of Maryland, Lymphatic Systems

#### Steve Thorne, PhD (2009)

University of Pittsburgh, Breast/Ovarian Cancer

# Robert Vonderheide, MD, DPhil (2004)

University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center, Neuroblastoma

#### Fan Yang, PhD (2014)

Stanford University School of Medicine, Brain Cancer

#### Yiping Yang, MD, PhD (2005)

Duke University Medical Center, Lymphoma/Leukemia

#### Jian Yu, PhD (2005)

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Lung Cancer

# Herbert J. Zeh, III, MD, FACS (2012)

University of Pittsburgh, Pancreatic Cancer

#### Xianzheng Zhou, MD, PhD (2006)

New York Medical College, Lymphoma/Leukemia

Institutions listed reflect the researcher's association at the time of the award.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for ACGT Requests for Application (RFA), please email your contact information to info@acgtfoundation.org



### ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Continued

#### **ACGT Professional Team**

Members of the focused ACGT Professional Team work closely with the ACGT Board of Directors and ACGT Scientific Advisory Council to responsibly manage the business of the organization. Reorganized in 2020, the team possesses high levels of nonprofit management knowledge, skills and experience to bolster the success of ACGT's mission and goals.

**Kevin Honeycutt** CEO and President khoneycutt@acgtfoundation.org (203) 358-5055, EXT 485

**Christine Herman** Vice President, Treasurer cherman@ihc-geneve.com (203) 358-8000, EXT 360

**Barbara Lavery** Chief Program Officer blavery@acgtfoundation.org (203) 358-5055

**Ashley Arnold Slane** Foundation Manager aslane@acgtfoundation.org (203) 358-5055, EXT 495

H. William Smith Vice President, Legal and Secretary wsmith@ihc-geneve.com (203) 358-8000, EXT 708



ACGT is a very forward-thinking organization. **ACGT** recognized the potential for cancer gene therapy very early on and that foresight is paying off.



- 2017 ACGT Research Fellow Crystal Mackall, MD, Stanford University





Discovering new ways to treat and defeat cancer

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acgtfoundation.org











ACGT is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, public interest corporation. Established in 2001 by Edward and Barbara Netter to fill an important niche in the cancer research community, ACGT is the first and only funding agency to exclusively embrace a progressive vision for the notoriously underfunded discipline of cancer cell and gene therapy research.

One hundred percent of all public donations directly support frontline scientists working on thoroughly vetted and responsibly monitored cancer cell and gene therapy research.

ACGT is a Gold Seal accredited non-profit as confirmed by GuideStar and is recognized by the Better Business Bureau as a trustworthy organization. ACGT is a member of Community Health Charities #41537.





