

Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy presents **ACGT SUMMIT 2026**

ACGT Summit 2026 – Agenda (Subject to change)

Theme: *Breakthroughs, Barriers & Bold Strategies in Cell & Gene Therapy for Cancer*

Location: Alexandria Center for Life Science, New York City

Dates: March 26–27, 2026

DAY 1

7:30 – 9:00 Breakfast and Registration

9:00 – 10:00 Keynote Panel – A vision for the future

A discussion of twenty-five years of progress in cancer cell and gene therapy and the pursuit of new immunotherapy breakthroughs.

- Mark Cobbold, MD, PhD, AstraZeneca
- Carl June, MD, University of Pennsylvania
- Jeff Allen, Friends of Cancer Research
- Jennifer Brogdon, PhD, Novartis

Moderator: Sheila Singh, MD, PhD, King's College, London.

10:00 – 11:30 Cracking Solid Tumors — The Next Frontier for CARs and Engineered T Cells

Rewriting T-Cell Function to Crack Solid Tumors - How synthetic biology and next-gen CAR-T design are converging to make engineered immune cells work in solid tumors.

Discussion topics

- **Why solid tumors are so hard**
 - Antigen heterogeneity, stromal barriers, and suppressive microenvironments
- **New synthetic biology tools**
 - Logic-gated and multi-antigen CARs
 - synNotch and programmable cell circuits

- Inducible and self-regulating safety switches
- **Engineering for control and scale**
 - Universal/off-the-shelf CAR-T platforms
 - CD4/CD8 engineering and armored T cells
- **Clinical reality check**
 - Where solid-tumor CAR-T and TCR therapies are showing promise
 - What still needs to be solved for durable patient benefit

Confirmed Speakers: Stephen Gottschalk, MD, St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Yvonne Chen, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles, Marcela Maus, MD, PhD, Mass General Hospital, Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD, Columbia University, Donald M. O’Rourke, MD, University of Pennsylvania, Hideho Okada, MD, PhD, University of California, San Francisco.

Moderator: Bruce Levine, PhD, University of Pennsylvania.

11:30 – 12:00 Presentation: Bradley Watts, CAR T-cell patient (Kymriah)

12:00 – 1:30 LUNCH

ACGT 25 Year Celebration



1:30 – 2:30 Will TCRs and TIL lead the way in solid tumors breakthroughs?

With the approvals of Tecelra and Amtagvi, the stage is set for further clinical and commercial progress for TCR and TIL therapies. What are the challenges, opportunities and emergent new technologies for realizing both. Discussion includes:

TCR Focus

- Target Selection & Antigen Density
- TCR Affinity & Specificity Engineering
- HLA Restriction & Patient Access
- T Cell Subset Engineering – CD 4 or CD 8
- Tumor Microenvironment Resistance

TIL Focus

- Pre-Post TIL Strategies
- Determinants of TIL Product Quality – clonality, neoantigens, spatial immune cell distribution

- Manufacturing Evolution (TIL)
- TIL Beyond Melanoma

Confirmed Speakers: Michael T. Lotze, MD, University of Pittsburgh, Phillip Greenberg, MD, PhD, Fred Hutch, Madan Jagasia, MD, Obsidian Therapeutics, Christian Hinrichs, MD, Rutgers Cancer Institute, Michael Birnbaum, PhD, MIT.

Moderator – John Connolly, PhD, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy

2:30– 3:15 Integrative Immunotherapy — Leveraging Vaccines, Bispecific Antibodies, Viruses, and Cell Therapies Together

ACGT has long championed the convergence of modalities. This panel highlights:

- Synergistic approaches combining CAR T cells, CAR NK cells, tumor vaccines, oncolytic viruses, or cytokine delivery
- How novel and combinatorial strategies help reshape tumor antigenicity and TME susceptibility - combinations with bispecific antibodies, checkpoint inhibitors, tumor-specific viruses
- Best-in-class preclinical and early clinical evidence

Confirmed Speakers: Ira Mellman, PhD, Medici Therapeutics, Emily Bosco, PhD, AstraZeneca, Brian Brown, PhD, Mount Sinai, Christine Brown, PhD, City of Hope.

Moderator: Becky Bish, PhD, The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research

3:15– 4:15 In-Vivo and Off-the-Shelf Therapies — Engineering to meet patient need.

As cell therapy enters a broader range of indications at earlier stages of treatment, new approaches to enhance accessibility become paramount. Topics include:

- In-Vivo CAR T-cells
- Allogeneic CAR-NKT Cells
- CAR $\gamma\delta$ T Cells
- CAR-Engineered Myeloid Cells
- CAR-NK Cells

Confirmed Speakers:

Meisam Naeimi Kararoudi, PhD, CARTx, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Lex Johnson, PhD, Dispatch Bio, May Daher, MD, MD Anderson, Gilles Besin, MD, Bristol Myers Squibb.

Moderator: Stephen Russell, MD, PhD, Vyriad.

4:15– 4:30 Announcing ACGT Awards

- Announcement of **ACGT Investigator Awardees for Cancer Cell and Gene Therapy Research in Gynecological Cancers** – Joseph Fraietta, PhD, Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD
- Announcement of the **ACGT Cinelli Family Foundation Awardee for Cancer Cell and Gene Therapy Research in Breast Cancer** – Sidi Chen, PhD

Confirmed Speakers: Kevin Honeycutt, ACGT President and CEO, Janet Cinelli and Eric Ryan, Cinelli Family Foundation

4:30 – 5:30 Research Presentations - Joseph Fraietta, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Sidi Chen, PhD, Yale School of Medicine

5:30 – 7:00 Cocktail reception

DAY 2

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast and Registration

8:30 – 9:30 From Materials to Medicine - how emerging synthetic materials at the interface of materials science and immunology are reshaping cancer immunotherapy.

Speakers: Michael Mitchell, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Ying K. Tam, PhD, Acuitas Therapeutics.

Moderator: Joseph Fraietta, PhD, University of Pennsylvania.

9:30 – 10:30 Scientific Presentations:

- **9:30 – 10:00 Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center** *IL-36 γ armored CAR T cells reprogram neutrophils to induce endogenous antitumor immunity*
- **10:00 – 10:30 Juan Fueyo, MD, MD Anderson Cancer Center** *Anti-tumor and anti-viral immune response in brain tumors treated with oncolytic adenovirus*

10:30 – 10:45 ScaleReady Presentation – GRex Grant Program Highlight

10:45 – 11:45 Catalyzing Investment — Funding Transformative Science for Solid

Tumors US companies need to de-risk their early-stage research, conserve capital, and accelerate their development timelines:

- Where capital is flowing in 2026 (solid tumors, in vivo delivery, allogeneic platforms)
- What investors look for in platform differentiation, durability, and translational readiness
- How creative partnerships can bridge the gap from lab to clinic

Confirmed Speakers: John Connolly, PhD, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, Anna Turetsky, PhD, OUP (PxB Fund), John Higgins, Brain Tumor Investment Fund, Conley Jones, Alexandria Venture Investments.

Moderator: Marc Engelsgerd, MD, Royalty Pharma

11:45 – 12:30 Visionary Leaders Roundtable — The Path to Curative Cell & Gene Therapies

A culminating conversation with trailblazers across immunotherapy, gene engineering, and clinical translation. Discussion will center on:

- Lessons learned from decades of innovation and clinical translation
- What breakthroughs are most likely to yield curative outcomes in solid tumors
- ACGT's role in catalyzing the next generation of transformative therapies

Confirmed Speakers: Ira Mellman, PhD, the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, Crystal Mackall, MD, Stanford University, Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Sheila Singh, MD, PhD, King's College London.

Moderator: Kevin Honeycutt, President and CEO, Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch and Networking

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