Global Summit and Award Ceremonies for Cancer Research & Entrepreneurship

OCTOBER 21, 2023
The National Press Club, Washington, DC

Hear from Leading Cancer Scientists, Entrepreneurs & Survivors.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 8:30–8:40 AM
OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

Sujuan Ba, Ph.D.
President & CEO of NFCR, Co-Founder of AIM-HI & Founder of AFCR

Webster K. Cavenee, Ph.D.
Chair of NFCR Scientific Advisory Board; Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego

8:40–9:10 AM
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

James P. Allison, Ph.D.
Professor & Chair of Immunology, Executive Director of Immunotherapy Platform, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

9:10–10:30 AM
NEW APPROACHES TO CANCER TREATMENTS
MODERATOR: Suzanne Topalian, M.D., Professor of Oncology and Surgery, Johns Hopkins University

PANEL MEMBERS:
Kornelia Polyak, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine, Dana–Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard
Avery D. Posey, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Azra Raza, M.D., Chan Soon-Shiong Professor of Medicine, Columbia University in New York
Pam Sharma, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Genitourinary Medical Oncology and Immunology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Thea D. Tlsty, Ph.D., Professor of Pathology, University of California San Francisco

10:30–10:45 AM COFFEE BREAK

10:45–11:35 AM
PANEL DISCUSSION ON PRECISION MEDICINE
MODERATOR: Brian Leyland-Jones, MBBS, Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer & Board Director, NFCR

PANEL MEMBERS:
Anna D. Barker, Ph.D., Chief Strategy Officer, Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine
Lon Cardon, Ph.D., President and CEO, The Jackson Laboratory
Massimo Cristofanilli, M.D., Chief, Breast Medical Oncology, Weill Cornell Medicine
Raju Kucherlapati, Ph.D., Paul C. Cabot Professor of Genetics, Harvard Medical School
Min Li, Ph.D., Professor of Medicine, Surgery and Cell Biology, The University of Oklahoma

11:35–12:30 PM
SZENT–GYÖRGYI PRIZE WINNER PANEL ON STATUS OF CANCER BIOLOGY
MODERATOR: Douglas R. Lowy, M.D., Principal Deputy Director, National Cancer Institute

PANEL MEMBERS:
Webster K. Cavenee, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Carlo M. Croce, M.D., John W. Wolfe Chair in Human Cancer Genetics, The Ohio State University
Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D., Andrew Werk Cook Professor of Radiation Oncology, Harvard Medical School
Steven A. Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D., Chief, Surgery Branch, National Cancer Institute
Peter K. Vogt, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Molecular Medicine, Scripps Research
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1:00–1:40 PM
AIM–HI BEACON AWARD CEREMONY

EMCEE:
Rose Wang, MBA
Board Director of AIM–HI; Founder & CEO of 1104Health

WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023 BEACON AWARD RECIPIENT

Sujuan Ba, Ph.D.
President & CEO of NFCR, Co-Founder of AIM–HI, & Founder of AFCR;
Co-Chair of the 2023 Beacon Award Selection Committee

Presenting the Beacon Award Medallion to the Recipient by the Award Selection Committee Members

2023 BEACON AWARD WINNER AWARD SPEECH

Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D.
Director, National Cancer Institute

1:40–2:15 PM
AIM–HI WOMEN’S VENTURE COMPETITION AWARD CEREMONY

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023 WOMEN’S VENTURE COMPETITION WINNERS

Pamela Garzone, Ph.D.
Co-Chair of the Competition Selection Committee;
Chief Development Officer of Anixa Biosciences

Dimitra Georganopoulou, Ph.D.
Co-Chair of the Competition Investment Committee;
General Partner of Qral Ventures

2023 WOMEN’S VENTURE COMPETITION WINNERS AWARD PRESENTATIONS

FIRST PRIZE WITH DISTINCTION:
Sarah Hein, Ph.D. Co-Founder & CEO of March Biosciences

SECOND PRIZE:
Lily Zou, Ph.D., MBA CEO & Co-Founder of Degron Therapeutics

2:15–2:30 PM COFFEE BREAK

Luncheon Award Ceremony and Forum for Women’s Leadership & Entrepreneurship
Dr. Bertagnolli is honored for her accomplishments throughout her career and has been at the forefront of clinical and research oncology. In recognition of her outstanding accomplishments and visionary leadership, Dr. Monica M. Bertagnolli has also been nominated for the esteemed position of NIH Director. This nomination exemplifies the recognition of her expertise, dedication, and potential to shape the future of biomedical research at the national level.

Dr. Bertagnolli has played a pivotal role in spearheading clinical trials that have shaped cancer treatment protocols worldwide. In her role as chair of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Foundation Trials, LLC, she has worked to validate novel therapeutic approaches and integrate precision medicine into cancer treatment, bringing hope to patients with previously untreatable forms of the disease.

As the founding chair of the minimal Common Oncology Data Elements (mCODE) executive committee, Dr. Bertagnolli has championed collaborative initiatives to transform the data infrastructure for clinical research. She has brought together partners and resources from different sectors to launch groundbreaking efforts in cancer prevention and early detection, a national navigation program for childhood cancers, and additional programs to bring clinical trials to more Americans.

Furthermore, Dr. Bertagnolli’s dedication to patient-centric care exemplifies her profound empathy and understanding of the challenges faced by cancer patients. Her advocacy for personalized treatment approaches has improved the quality of life for countless survivors, underscoring the vital connection between scientific progress and compassionate healthcare.

As we honor Dr. Monica M. Bertagnolli for her extraordinary contributions to cancer research and development, we also recognize the invaluable role of collaboration within the scientific community. Her ability to foster partnerships and facilitate knowledge exchange has propelled progress in the field and united experts in a collective effort to treat cancer. Her dedication to advancing cancer research and improving patient outcomes serves as an inspiration to us all, and we look forward to witnessing her ongoing contributions to the fight against cancer. Please join us in congratulating Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D.!
The AIM-HI Beacon Award for Women Leaders in Oncology was established in 2022 to recognize outstanding women pioneers in all sectors of the health and life sciences industry, who have made a significant impact on advancing cancer treatment, detection, and diagnosis for patients worldwide through the development and commercialization of novel technologies, advocacy and/or implementation of public policy. Last year, the first Beacon Award winner, Anna D. Barker, Ph. D., was honored for implementing often unprecedented scientific and clinical programs, most notably The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) and the GBM AGILE, that enabled advances in cancer research and provided critical support to develop precision oncology.

NOMINATIONS ARE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Sustained commitment and leadership for cancer research, development and commercialization of innovative products
- Advocacy for and implementation of public policy to benefit cancer patients
  - Encouragement, advocacy and inspiration of other women
  - Impact on cancer patients, their families and community

The Beacon Award Selection Committee unanimously voted for Dr. Monica M. Bertagnolli to receive the 2023 AIM-HI Beacon Award for Women Leaders in Oncology.

2023 BEACON AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

Sujuan Ba, Ph.D.
Co-Chair, CEO & Co-Founder, AIM-HI Accelerator Fund; President & CEO, National Foundation for Cancer Research

Webster K. Cavenee, Ph.D.
Co-Chair, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of California San Diego

Anna D. Barker, Ph.D.
Chief Strategy Officer, Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine; Distinguished Visiting Fellow in Complex Adaptive Systems, Arizona State University (2022 Beacon Award winner)

Deborah Dunsire, M.D.
President & CEO, Lundbeck

Bahija Jallal, Ph.D.
CEO & Director of the Board, Immunocore

Karen Knudsen, MBA, Ph.D.
CEO, American Cancer Society

Andrew Plump, M.D., Ph.D.
President, Research & Development, Takeda Pharmaceutical

The AIM-HI Accelerator Fund thanks the members of the Committee for their dedication to the success of 2023 Beacon Award for Women Leaders in Oncology.
The AIM-HI Accelerator Fund, in collaboration with the National Foundation for Cancer Research and the Asian Fund for Cancer Research, launched the Women’s Venture Competition in 2020. This one-of-its-kind annual Competition provides women-led oncology startups with lifeline seed funding, critical coaching, and continuous access to our global network.

AIM-HI has established a rigorous and unparalleled three-part review and due diligence process to select the most deserving candidates. AIM-HI thanks the members of the Selection, Judging and Investment Committees for their dedication to the success of the 2023 Competition.

We are deeply grateful to Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati and Qral Group for their pro bono services and critically-needed support.

2023 WOMEN’S VENTURE COMPETITION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Pamela Garzone, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Anixa Biosciences
Dimitra Georganopoulou, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Qral Ventures
Raju Kucherlapati, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Harvard Medical School
Beverly Lu, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Emerson Collective
Jimmy Lu, J.D., MBA, Co-Chair, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Eos BioInnovation
Anna D. Barker, Ph.D., Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine
Webster K. Cavenee, Ph.D., University of California San Diego
Yijing (Jane) Chen, Ph.D., Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Aleksandra Filipovic, M.D., Ph.D., PureTech Health
Brian Leyland-Jones, MBBS, Ph.D., National Foundation for Cancer Research
Scott Lippman, M.D., University of California San Diego Health
Eva Martin, M.D., Roche Pharma Partnering
Tom Miller, GreyBird Ventures
Gregory W. Mitchell, Ph.D., J.D., Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Kornelia Polyak, M.D., Ph.D., Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Fei Shen, Ph.D., Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund USA
Suzanne Topalian, M.D., Johns Hopkins University
Kevin Tylock, Ph.D., J.D., Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

2023 WOMEN’S VENTURE COMPETITION AWARD PRESENTATIONS

FIRST PRIZE WITH DISTINCTION
Sarah Hein, Ph.D.
Co-Founder & CEO, March Biosciences

SECOND PRIZE
Lily Zou, Ph.D.
CEO & Co-Founder, Degron Therapeutics
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2:30–3:30 PM
EMERGING ONCOLOGY COMPANIES SHOWCASE

MODERATOR:
Matt Tremblay, Ph.D.
Chair of the Board, AIM-HI; CEO of Blackbird Laboratories

Ignacio Asial, Ph.D.
Founder & CEO of DotBio

Stacy Blain, Ph.D.
Co-Founder, CSO & Acting CEO of Concarlo Therapeutics

Jeremiah Johnson, Ph.D.
Co-Founder, Chair – Scientific Advisory Board, & Director of Window Therapeutics

John Luk, DMedSc, EMBA
CEO of Arbele Bio

Andrea van Elsas, Ph.D.
CSO of ManaTBio

3:20 PM
Q & A

3:30 PM
CLOSING REMARKS
Matt Tremblay, Ph.D., Chair of the Board, AIM-HI; CEO of Blackbird Laboratories

3:30 – 6:00 PM
INTERMISSION
SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE COCKTAIL & DINNER AWARD CEREMONY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 6:00–7:00 PM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION
7:00–9:00 PM

SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE DINNER AWARD CEREMONY

EMCEE: Kristen Berset-Harris

Moment of Silence

OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS
Sujuan Ba, Ph.D.
President & CEO of NFCR, Co-Founder of AIM-HI, & Founder of AFCR; Co-Chair of the 2023 Selection Committee for the Szent-Györgyi Prize

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Martyn Smith, Ph.D.
Emeritus NFCR Fellow; Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Toxicology and Kaiser Chair of Cancer Epidemiology, University of California Berkeley

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Helmut Sies, M.D.
Emeritus NFCR Fellow; Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023 SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE WINNER
Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D.
2022 Szent-Györgyi Prize Winner & Chair of the 2023 Selection Committee for the Szent-Györgyi Prize; Andrew Werk Cook Professor of Radiation Oncology, Harvard Medical School; Director, Edwin L. Steele Laboratories for Tumor Biology, Massachusetts General Hospital

AWARD TROPHY PRESENTATION
Sujuan Ba, Ph.D.
Co-Chair of the 2023 Selection Committee for the Szent-Györgyi Prize

2023 SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE WINNER AWARD SPEECH
Isaac P. Witz, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus at Tel Aviv University; Head of the Laboratory of Tumor Microenvironment & Metastasis Research at The Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research, The George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences

LIVE INTERVIEW FROM NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CLOSING REMARKS
Alfred Slanetz, Ph.D.
Chair of the Board, NFCR; CEO of Geneius Biotechnology
Prof. Witz is elected by the blue-ribbon Prize selection committee, consisting of renowned leaders in cancer research, for his seminal scientific contributions demonstrating the flow of information and signaling between tumor cells and the tumor microenvironment (TME) as critical factors for understanding tumor growth and spreading. His illustrious career spans over fifty years of breakthrough observations, discoveries, publications, and networking collaboration on the critical importance of the TME on the biology of the cancer cell, its growth, and advancement to metastasis.

The experimental demonstration that constituents of the immune system find their way to the TME and affect tumor behavior was first pioneered by Prof. Witz in the 1960s, during the beginning of his scientific career which focused on the immune system. He elegantly demonstrated that humoral immune components localized in the TME can impact tumor biological functions, such as growth, and are also required for efficient cellular antitumor immune responses. These achievements paved the foundation for certain aspects of contemporary immunotherapy ultimately, benefiting cancer patients and advancing scientific steps further towards finding cures to cancer.

Prof. Witz’s most significant scientific accomplishments were made in the 1970s through the 1990s when cancer research was dominated by the cancer cell-centric view of cancer. This reductionist approach viewed that oncogenes (cancer promoting) and tumor suppressor genes in the cancer cell were sufficient to determine carcinogenesis and cancer advancement. Against this prevailing dogma, his seminal work demonstrated, for the first time, that microenvironment factors, in addition to cancer’s intrinsic properties, were key collaborators in conferring aggressive malignant tumor behavior.

In the face of skepticism, Prof. Witz made conceptual changes in the way of approaching cancer research, away from reductionism to a more holistic approach. This body of work and his numerous other explorations of the crosstalk between the tumor and TME, and the many global conferences he convened, triggered a shift in thinking that began to place focus on the TME and tumor-host interactions as determinants of tumor biology.
The Szent-Györgyi Prize Selection Committee has been established to advise and consult with the National Foundation for Cancer Research on each year’s pool of Prize nominees. Nominations are reviewed and evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The candidate is nominated for a seminal discovery or pioneering body of work that has contributed to cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment; and
- The candidate’s work has had a lasting impact on understanding cancer, holding the promise of improving or saving the lives of cancer patients.

**2023 Szent-Györgyi Prize Selection Committee Members**

**Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D.**, Chair, Harvard Medical School & Massachusetts General Hospital (2022 Szent-Györgyi Prize winner)

**Sujuan Ba, Ph.D.**, Co-Chair, National Foundation for Cancer Research

**Lon Cardon, Ph.D.**, The Jackson Laboratory

**Webster K. Cavenee, Ph.D.**, University of California San Diego (2007 Szent-Györgyi Prize winner)

**Carlo M. Croce, M.D.**, The Ohio State University (2008 Szent-Györgyi Prize winner)

**Michael N. Hall, Ph.D.**, Biozentrum of the University of Basel (2017 Szent-Györgyi Prize winner)

**Mary-Claire King, Ph.D.**, University of Washington School of Medicine (2016 Szent-Györgyi Prize winner)

**Raju Kucherlapati, Ph.D.**, Harvard Medical School

**Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.**, National Cancer Institute (2018 Szent-Györgyi Prize co-winner)

**Tak W. Mak, Ph.D.**, Co-Chair, University of Toronto and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (2021 Szent-Györgyi Prize co-winner)

**Elaine Mardis, Ph.D.**, The Ohio State University

**Dan Theodorescu, M.D., Ph.D.**, Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute at Cedars-Sinai

**Peter K. Vogt, Ph.D.**, Scripps Research (2010 Szent-Györgyi Prize winner)

The National Foundation for Cancer Research thanks the members of the Committee for their dedication to the success of 2023 Szent-Györgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research
Szent-Györgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research Previous Recipients

Rakesh K. Jain, Ph.D.  
2022 Winner  
Harvard Medical School & Massachusetts General Hospital

Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.  
2018 Co-Winner  
National Cancer Institute

Mark M. Davis, Ph.D.  
2021 Co-Winner  
Stanford University School of Medicine

John T. Schiller, Ph.D.  
2018 Co-Winner  
National Institute Health

Tak W. Mak, Ph.D.  
2021 Co-Winner  
University of Toronto; Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Michael N. Hall, Ph.D.  
2017 Winner  
Biozentrum of the University of Basel, Switzerland

Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D.  
2020 Winner  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York

Mary-Claire King, Ph.D.  
2016 Winner  
University of Washington

Steven A. Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D.  
2019 Winner  
National Cancer Institute

Frederick W. Alt, Ph.D.  
2015 Winner  
Harvard Medical School & Boston Children’s Hospital
About the Szent–Györgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research

ALBERT SZENT–GYÖRGYI, M.D., PH.D.
Co-Founder, National Foundation for Cancer Research
1937 Nobel Laureate in Philosophy and Medicine

“Discovery is seeing what everybody else has seen, and thinking what nobody else has thought.”

The National Foundation for Cancer Research is proud to present the Szent–Györgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research to honor outstanding scientists who have expanded our understanding of cancer and cancer causation; whose vision has moved cancer research in new directions; and whose discoveries have led to advances in cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment.

This annual prize is named in memory of Dr. Albert Szent–Györgyi, who was a pioneer, and, like many other explorers, he challenged the conventional thinking of the day to pursue his novel and promising ideas. After winning the Nobel Prize for his study on vitamin C and cell respiration, Dr. Szent–Györgyi set his sights on finding a way to defeat cancer.

Beyond his laboratory, Dr. Szent–Györgyi was a leading advocate for developing resources to provide scientists with the financial support necessary to pursue novel cancer research ideas. In 1973, he changed the face of cancer research funding by co-founding NFCR with entrepreneur Franklin C. Salisbury. Since then, NFCR has provided $410 million in support of cancer research and prevention education programs.

The Szent–Györgyi Prize serves to stimulate continued investment in the pioneering research that will produce scientific breakthroughs. It intends to deepen the understanding of the underlying basis of cancer, and the translation of this knowledge to improve the lives for cancer patients. By calling attention annually to achievements in this area, it is the goal of the Szent–Györgyi Prize to heighten awareness of the research and discovery that leads to new cancer treatments and cancer cures.

The Prize also promotes public awareness of the importance of basic cancer research and the need to accelerate the translation of these research discoveries into new cancer treatments.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

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C2 IMAGING

THE VONELA COMPANIES

COMMERCIAL
The **National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides scientists critically needed funding to make cutting-edge discoveries in cancer treatment, detection, prevention and, ultimately, a cure. NFCR has distinguished itself by supporting high-risk, high-impact and transformative research often overlooked by other major funding sources that deem it too risky. Since its establishment in 1973, NFCR has provided $410 million for cancer research and public education.

Tax ID #: 04-2531031 | www.NFCR.org

The **AIM-HI Accelerator Fund (AIM-HI)** was created in 2019 by the National Foundation for Cancer Research to provide oncology startups with the resources they need to drive innovative discoveries forward, out of the lab, to the clinics, and eventually to the people battling cancer. Our non-profit changes the paradigm of funding biotech startups, utilizing charitable giving to make impact investments. Our mission is to bridge the gap between research breakthroughs and clinical trials, with the ultimate goal of developing innovative cancer therapies and technologies that can save patients’ lives.

Tax ID #: 82-4322538 | www.AIM-HIaccelerator.org

The **Asian Fund for Cancer Research Limited (AFCR)** is committed to funding cancer research, especially those cancers prevalent in Asian populations, and promoting global collaborations for high impact to save the lives of cancer patients.

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Make Cures Possible

www.NFCR.org/Support