2025 NFCR

# GLOBAL SUMMIT AND AWARD CEREMONIES &

FOR CANCER RESEARCH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C.
THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

529 14TH ST NW. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20045

**CO-HOSTED BY:** 







### JOIN THE GLOBAL EFFORT TO CURE CANCER:

### YOUR PARTNERSHIP CAN MAKE A LIFE-SAVING IMPACT

The National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) is at the forefront of a global network dedicated to curing cancer. Since 1973, NFCR has provided \$420 million in funding for cutting-edge cancer research, prevention, and public education. By collaborating with leading organizations and top scientists worldwide, NFCR drives game-changing discoveries in detection, treatments, and prevention. Our focus on "high-risk, high-reward" research, often overlooked by other major funders, has led to life-saving breakthroughs that benefit patients today.

Your support can accelerate the next big breakthrough. Partner with NFCR and make a direct impact on the future of cancer research. Together, we can transform innovative ideas into life-saving solutions and bring us closer to a cure. Join our mission and be part of the global effort to end cancer.

COMMIT TO ADVANCING CANCER RESEARCH AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE.



### 8:30 AM - 8:40 AM WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS



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



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

8:40 AM - 9:10 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Monica Bertagnolli, M.D.

17th Director of the National Institutes of Health;
Senior Fellow in Healthcare Policy,
Harvard Kennedy School of Government

9:10 AM - 10:10 AM

# SESSION I AI IN CANCER RESEARCH - FROM DISCOVERY TO SOCIETAL IMPACT



MODERATOR
Kornelia Polyak, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine,
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



PANELIST
Alexander Anderson, Ph.D.
Chair of Integrated
Mathematical Oncology,
Moffitt Cancer Center



PANELIST
Jeffrey Golden, M.D.
Director of the Burns and
Allen Research Institute,
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center



PANELIST
Bruce Johnson, M.D.
Institute Physician Emeritus,
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute;
Professor of Medicine Emeritus,
Harvard Medical School



PANELIST
Dan Theodorescu, M.D., Ph.D.

Nancy C. and Craig M. Berge Director,
University of Arizona Cancer Center

10:10 AM - 10:30 AM COFFEE BREAK

# 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM SESSION II AI IN CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT



MODERATOR
Jennifer Grandis, M.D.
Professor of Otolaryngology –
Head and Neck Surgery, University
of California, San Francisco



PANELIST

Maximilian Diehn, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Radiation

Oncology, Stanford University



PANELIST
Ruijiang Li, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of
Radiation Oncology,
Stanford University



PANELIST
Paul Macklin, Ph.D.
Professor, Intelligent Systems
Engineering, Indiana University



PANELIST
Kun-Hsing Yu, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor,
Department of Biomedical
Informatics, Harvard University

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

### SESSION III AI IN EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTION



MODERATOR Nathan Lear Head, Advanced Medical Analytics, AstraZeneca



PANELIST
Ludmil Alexandrov, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of
Bioengineering & Department
of Cellular and Molecular
Medicine, UC San Diego



PANELIST
Lisa Coussens, Ph.D.

Director, Knight Cancer Institute;
Professor & Chair, Department
of Cell, Developmental and
Cancer Biology, Oregon
Health & Science University



PANELIST
Elana Fertig, Ph.D.
Director of Institute for
Genome Sciences, University of
Maryland School of Medicine



PANELIST
Sam Hanash, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Department of Red and
Charline McCombs Institute for
the Early Detection and Treatment
of Cancer, The University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center

12:30 PM LUNCH

1:00 PM
WELCOMING REMARKS



**MASTER OF CEREMONIES** 

Patty Obermaier, MBA Founder & CEO of Resigility

1:05 PM - 1:20 PM
FROM IDEA TO IND: LEGAL BUILDING
BLOCKS FOR A BIOTECH STARTUP



Catherine Pan-Giordano
Partner & Corporate Group Head,
New York Office, Dorsey & Whitney

#### 1:20 PM - 1:30 PM AIM-HI VENTURE COMPETITION AWARDS CEREMONY

#### PRESENTING THE AWARD CERTIFICATES TO THE WINNERS



Pamela Garzone, Ph.D.
Co-Chair of the Venture Competition
Selection and Investment Committees; Chief
Development Officer of Anixa Biosciences



Dimitra Georganopoulou, Ph.D.

Co-Chair of the Venture Competition Investment
Committee; General Partner of Qral Ventures

#### **AWARD WINNERS**



Michelle Arkin, Ph.D. Co-Founder ResNovas Therapeutics

ResNovas Therapeutics



Kirsten Flowers, M.B.A.

CEO & Co-Founder

Chiara Biosciences



### 1:30 PM - 2:40 PM EMERGING ONCOLOGY COMPANIES SHOWCASE



MODERATOR
Ronald DePinho, M.D.
Professor, Department of Cancer
Biology, Division of Discovery
Science, The University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center



PRESENTER
Michelle Arkin, Ph.D.
Co-Founder
ResNovas Therapeutics



PRESENTER
Kirsten Flowers, M.B.A.
CEO & Co-Founder
Chiara Biosciences



PRESENTER
Rick Fultz
CEO & Board Member
Acurion



PRESENTER
Chih-Kao Hu, Ph.D.
Interim CEO & Director
Window Therapeutics

2:40 PM - 3:00 PM COFFEE BREAK

# 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM INVESTOR PERSPECTIVE FOR EARLY-STAGE ONCOLOGY COMPANIES



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



PANELIST
Mey Boukenna, M.D., Ph.D.
Partner, Life Sciences &
Healthcare Investments,
Pags Group



PANELIST
Cynthia Cai, Ph.D., MBA
Venture Partner,
Viva BioInnovator



PANELIST
Dimitra Georganopoulou, Ph.D.
General Partner,
Qral Ventures



PANELIST
Jimmy Lu, J.D., MBA
Co-Founder & Managing Director,
Eos BioInnovation

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM INTERMISSION

## **PART III:** Dinner & Szent-Györgyi Prize Award Ceremony



6:00 PM - 6:55 PM RECEPTION

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE CEREMONY



EMCEE Kristen Berset-Harris NFCR Community Ambassador & Cancer Survivor

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF CANCER VICTIMS



OPENING REMARKS
Sujuan Ba, Ph.D., CEO of NFCR,
Co-Founder of AIM-HI, & Co-Chair of 2025
Szent-Györgyi Prize Selection Committee

#### **INTRODUCTION BY 2024 SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE WINNER**

AWARD PRESENTATION TO THE 2025 SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE WINNER

2025 SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE WINNER AWARD ADDRESS



AWARD PRESENTATION BY 2024 SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE WINNER: Dennis J. Slamon, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Medicine, Director of Clinical and Translational Research, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA



2025 SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE WINNER: Tony Hunter, Ph.D.

American Cancer Society Professor, Salk Institute for Biological Studies

## **PART III:** Dinner & Szent-Györgyi Prize Award Ceremony

#### PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE WINNER





### Tony Hunter, Ph.D. American Cancer Society Professor, Salk Institute for Biological Studies

In 1979, while studying how certain cancercausing viruses alter cells, Dr. Hunter uncovered a previously unknown cellular process: tyrosine phosphorylation. This mechanism, which involves the addition of phosphate groups to tyrosine residues on proteins, revealed how cells transmit growth signals — a process central to cell division and communication. Crucially, he showed that when this signaling pathway goes awry, it can drive the unchecked cell growth that defines cancer.

At the time, no one even knew this kind of signaling occurred in cells. Dr. Hunter's insight opened up an entirely new field of study: tyrosine kinase signaling. His work provided the molecular blueprint for targeted cancer therapies, enabling the development of more than 50 FDA-approved tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) that precisely block cancer-driving signals. These therapies have transformed outcomes for patients with leukemia, lung cancer, gastrointestinal tumors, and many other malignancies.

One of the first and most well-known therapies to emerge from this breakthrough was Gleevec, which revolutionized treatment for chronic myeloid leukemia and has saved hundreds of thousands of lives worldwide.

"Dr. Hunter's foundational discovery has changed how we understand and treat cancer," said Dr. Dennis Slamon, Chair of the 2025 Prize Committee. "His work led directly to life-saving targeted therapies used every day."

NFCR President and CEO Dr. Sujuan Ba added, "Dr. Hunter's contribution opened a new field that continues to drive breakthroughs in both understanding and treating cancer. We are proud to honor him and invite the world to celebrate his milestone discoveries with us."

Reflecting on the honor, Dr. Hunter said, "I am deeply honored to receive this award. It's a tribute to everyone working to turn science into better treatments for patients."

## **PART III:** Dinner & Szent-Györgyi Prize Award Ceremony

8:15 PM
PANEL DISCUSSION LIVE FROM PRESS CLUB



PANELIST
Anna D. Barker, Ph.D.
Chief Strategy Officer,
Ellison Medical Institute



PANELIST
Thomas Clark
Cancer Patient Caregiver &
Cancer Research Supporter



PANELIST
Alison Dziarmaga, Ph.D.
Vice President, US Franchise
Head, Breast Cancer, AstraZeneca



PANELIST
Jennifer Grandis, M.D.
Professor of Otolaryngology –
Head and Neck Surgery, University
of California, San Francisco



PANELIST
Tony Hunter, Ph.D.
American Cancer Society
Professor, Salk Institute
for Biological Studies

8:45 PM CLOSING REMARKS



Kristen Berset-Harris
NFCR Community Ambassador & Cancer Survivor

### **About the AIM-HI Venture Competition**

The AIM-HI Accelerator Fund, in collaboration with the National Foundation for Cancer Research, launched the AIM-HI Venture Competition in 2020. This one-of-a-kind annual competition provides early-stage oncology companies worldwide 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 2025 Competition.

We are deeply grateful to Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, Cooley LLP, and Qral Group for their pro bono services and critically-needed support.

#### 2025 AIM-HI VENTURE COMPETITION COMMITTEE

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Anna D. Barker, Ph.D. Chief Strategy Officer, Ellison Medical Institute

Mey Boukenna, M.D., Ph.D. Vice President, Pags Group

Tom Brennan

Former Venture Partner, Arch Venture Partners

Rita Brogley, MBA
Managing Partner, Rebar Advisors,
and Trinity Health Board

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

Aleksandra Filipovic, M.D., Ph.D. Head of Oncology, PureTech Health

Pamela Garzone, Ph.D.
Chief Development Officer, Anixa Biosciences

Dimitra Georganopoulou, Ph.D. General Partner, Qral Ventures

**Colin Hill** Co-Founder & CEO, Aitia Bio

Raju Kucherlapati, Ph.D.
Paul C. Cabot Professor of Genetics and Professor
of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Scott Lippman, M.D.

Distinguished Professor of Medicine & Associate Vice
Chancellor for Cancer Research, UC San Diego Health

**Jimmy Lu, J.D., MBA**Co-Founder and Managing Director, Eos BioInnovation

Eva Martin, M.D. Senior Director, Alliance and Asset Management, Roche Pharma Partnering Eddie Martucci, Ph.D.
Co-Founder & Chair of the Board, Akili Interactive

Bonnie Weiss McLeod, Ph.D. Of Counsel, Cooley LLP

**Gregory W. Mitchell, Ph.D.**Partner, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Drew Pardoll, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for
Cancer Immunotherapy, Johns Hopkins
University School of Medicine

Kornelia Polyak, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Jacob Rayyan, Ph.D. Venture Associate, Cancer Fund

Michael Salgaller, Ph.D.
Supervisory Invention Development &
Marketing Specialist, National Institutes
of Health/National Cancer Institute

Thea Tlsty, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Pathology and Director
of the Center for Translational Research in
the Molecular Genetics of Cancer, UCSF

Hai Yan, Ph.D.

Research Director, Institute of Molecular and
Cell Biology, The Agency for Science, Technology
and Research (A\*Star) Singapore

Mengsu (Michael) Yang, Ph.D. Senior Vice-President (Innovation and Enterprise), City University of Hong Kong

Wai-Kwan Alfred Yung, M.D.
Professor, Department of Neuro-Oncology,
University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center

### **About the AIM-HI Venture Competition**

#### PREVIOUS WOMEN'S VENTURE COMPETITION WINNERS



Nabanita Nawar, Ph.D. 2024 First Prize Winner

Co-Founder & CEO, HDAX Therapeutics





Sarah Hein, Ph.D. 2023 First Prize Winner

Co-Founder & CEO, March Biosciences





Johanna Webb 2022 First Prize Winner

President & CEO,
RiverWalk Therapeutics





María Varela 2021 First Prize Winner

CEO, ARDAN PHARMA





Manijeh Goldberg, Ph.D. 2020 First Prize Winner CEO,

Privo Technologies



## About the AIM-HI Beacon Award for Women Leaders in Oncology

The AIM-HI Beacon Award for Women Leaders in Oncology was established in 2022 by the AIM-HI Accelerator Fund and sponsored by the National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR). This award recognizes 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.

#### PREVIOUS AIM-HI BEACON AWARD WINNERS



Margaret Foti, Ph.D., M.D. (hc) 2024 Winner

CEO, American Association for Cancer Research



Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D. 2023 Winner

Director,
National Cancer Institute



Anna D. Barker, Ph.D. 2022 Winner

Chief Strategy Officer, Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Complex, Adaptive Systems, Arizona State University Biosciences

(Affiliations at the time of the Award announcement)

## 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 Physiology or 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 whose seminal discovery or pioneering body of work has contributed to cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment and has had a lasting impact on understanding cancer, holding the promise of improving or saving the lives of cancer patients.

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 \$420 million in support of cancer research and prevention education programs.

The Szent-Györgyi Prize serves to stimulate continued investment in 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 of 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 the 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.

### About the Szent-Györgyi Prize Selection Committee



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:

- A seminal discovery or pioneering body of work that has contributed to cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment.
- Has had a lasting impact on understanding cancer, holding the promise of improving or saving the lives of cancer patients.

#### 2025 SZENT-GYÖRGYI PRIZE SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

CHAIR: Dennis J. Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., University of California

Los Angeles (2024 Szent-Györgyi Prize Winner)

CO-CHAIR: Sujuan Ba, Ph.D., National Foundation for Cancer Research

**Steve Baylin, M.D.,** Johns Hopkins University

Michele Carbone, M.D., Ph.D., University of Hawaii Cancer Center

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

Ray DuBois, M.D., Ph.D., Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Benita Katzenellenbogen, Ph.D., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

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

**Karen Knudsen, Ph.D.,** Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy

Raju Kucherlapati, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School

Doug Lowy, M.D., National Cancer Institute (2018 Szent-Györgyi Prize Winner)

Funmi Olopade, M.D., The University of Chicago

Dan Theodorescu, M.D., Ph.D., The University of Arizona Cancer Center

The National Foundation for Cancer Research thanks the members of the Committee for their dedication to the success of the 2025 Szent-Györgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research

### Previous Szent-Györgyi Prize Winners



Dennis J. Slamon, M.D., Ph.D. 2024 Winner University of California, Los Angeles



Isaac P. Witz, Ph.D. 2023 Winner Tel Aviv University



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Frederick W. Alt, Ph.D. 2015 Winner Harvard Medical School & Boston Children's Hospital



James P. Allison, Ph.D. 2014 Winner The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston



Alex Matter, M.D. 2013 Winner Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), Singapore



Zhen-Yi Wang, M.D. 2012 Co-Winner Shanghai Jiao Tong University



Zhu Chen, M.D., Ph.D. 2012 Co-Winner Shanghai Jiao Tong University



Beatrice Mintz, Ph.D. 2011 Winner Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia



Peter K. Vogt, Ph.D. 2010 Winner Scripps Research La Jolla



Ronald A. DePinho, M.D. Carlo M. Croce, M.D. 2009 Winner The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer

Center, Houston



2008 Winner The Ohio State University



Webster K. Cavenee, Ph.D. 2007 Winner University of California, Sán Diego



Harold F. Dvorak, M.D. 2006 Winner Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston

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We are leading a revolution to transform cancer care.





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# Global law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP proudly supports the NFCR and its honorees.

We are honored to advance NFCR's mission to drive innovation, collaboration, and impact in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.



Catherine X. Pan-Giordano
Partner
Corporate Group Head, New York Office pan.catherine@dorsey.com

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## FUELING INNOVATION

### **Support the Next Generation of Cancer Treatments**

The AIM-HI Accelerator Fund is a key player in the global network dedicated to transforming innovative cancer discoveries into life-saving treatments. Established in 2019 with support from the National Foundation for Cancer Research, AIM-HI accelerates the development of cancer drug discoveries by investing in seed-stage oncology companies. By bridging the gap between groundbreaking research and impactful cancer therapies, AIM-HI cultivates a powerful ecosystem for early-stage companies and entrepreneurs.

Your support can fuel the next wave of cancer treatment breakthroughs. Partner with AIM-HI to advance promising innovations and bring new therapies to patients around the world.

INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF CANCER TREATMENT AND BE PART OF THE CURE.







#### ABOUT NFCR

The National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization co-founded in 1973 by Nobel Laureate Dr. Albert Szent-Györgyi and Attorney/Business Entrepreneur Franklin Salisbury, Sr. NFCR provides scientists in the lab the critical seed funding they need to make game-changing discoveries in cancer detection, treatments, and prevention and ultimately, a cure for all cancers. NFCR has distinguished itself in the cancer research sector by emphasizing "high-risk, high-impact" long-term and transformative pioneering research fields, often overlooked by other major funding sources. With the support of more than 5.7 million individual donors over the last 52 years, NFCR has provided \$420 million in funding to cancer research, prevention, and public education. NFCR-supported research has led to some of the most significant lifesaving discoveries that benefit patients today.

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



### ABOUT 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.

The AIM-HI

Tax ID #: 82-4322538 www.AIM-Hlaccelerator.org

