Program Overview

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) is pleased to announce the society’s innovative program designed to foster leadership development, collaborations and scientific exchange among early career investigators who are emerging leaders in the field of cancer immunotherapy: Sparkathon 2.0 Accelerator: Emerging Leaders Igniting Innovation.

Accepted applicants into this program will make up the Sparkathon Class of 2022 and will participate for free and receive travel reimbursement for the Sparkathon 2.0 Accelerator program.

This two-year program will kick off with an in-person retreat June 13–15, 2022 in NYC and at SITC 2022 on Nov. 7 in Boston. Participants will present their research on this year’s topic of combinations as a significant hurdle facing the field to peers and luminaries in the field. Participants will learn from each other and receive guidance from the experts in a synergistic and intimate environment.

In addition to discussing the topic of optimizing combination therapy based on immunological mechanisms, SITC’s Sparkathon 2.0 Accelerator explores topics specifically designed for emerging leaders in the cancer immunotherapy field, including:

- How to manage your lab and team
- How to provide, as well as how to seek mentorship
- Career trajectories across academia, industry and government

Program Organizers

- Lisa H. Butterfield, PhD – Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy and University of California San Francisco
- Sandra Demaria, MD – Weill Cornell Medicine
- Jennifer Guerriero, PhD – Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- Howard Kaufman, MD, FACS – Ankyra Therapeutics and Massachusetts General Hospital
- Marco Ruella, MD – University of Pennsylvania

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a SITC student member or regular member in good standing. The Sparkathon target audience will be early career physicians and scientists (MD, PhD or MD/PhD) who are in the last few years of their postdoctoral fellowship, medical fellowship, or residency or are junior faculty members (within one year of appointment and do not hold an R01 or equivalent funding) or within the last year obtained a full time position in government, industry, pharma or similar.
- Must exhibit dedication and research related to the 2022 Sparkathon 2.0 Accelerator topic, “Optimizing combination therapy based on immunological mechanisms.”
- Must be available to attend the in-person one-and-half-day June 13–15, 2022 in NYC and at SITC 2022 on Nov. 7 in Boston.

Please note: priority will be given to applicants who reside in and are employed at an institution located in the United States. However, international applicants may be selected based on merit.

Deadline Extended: Apply by March 9, 2022 by 5 p.m. PST.

For complete eligibility criteria, visit: sitcancer.org/sparkathon#apply