Statement of Support for Participation in SITC Sparkathon

Information about SITC Sparkathon

The leadership of the Society of Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) is proud to support the development of the next generation of cancer researchers in the field of cancer immunotherapy. SITC seeks to actively engage the broader oncology community to support research in cancer immunology and immunotherapy by supporting the innovation of early career investigators in the field.

Since its inception, SITC has strongly supported the growth and achievement of young investigators in the field of cancer immunotherapy. The Sparkathon Project uniquely combines a successful model of problem solving and innovation used in the technology world with various tenets of the Society strategic plan into one comprehensive and exciting project. This project is uniquely crafted for the elite young minds of emerging leaders to solve the hurdles facing the field of cancer immunotherapy.

Over 300 Early Career Scientists will be encouraged to submit an application to participate in the SITC Sparkathon. An elite group of 30 emerging leaders will be selected from the applicants to form a cohort and meet for a two-day retreat in a "Technology Hackathon" meets "Shark Tank" format to explore the hurdles and challenges facing the field of cancer immunotherapy with the goal of identifying projects that provide a solution to one or more of the identified hurdles. A panel of judges will award the most promising project(s) with $175,000 for project implementation. Projects must be collaborative by design throughout implementation. Sample projects may include high-risk (non-preliminary data) projects, methods exchange, whitepapers, business plans, educational and media tools.

Following the two-day retreat, members of the Sparkathon 2018 Cohort will continue to serve in a 12-18-month program that will formulate detailed project execution plans including budgets and timelines. The group will be provided financial resources up to $175,000 for project development and implementation. An online communication and project management platform will be provided to further the development of plans on an ongoing basis and foster continued relationship development among the group. Project outcomes will be considered for publication in the *Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer* and for presentation at the 2018 SITC Annual Meeting, to be held November 7 – 11, 2018 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, District of Columbia.

Sparkathon program outcomes encompass:
- Members will have the opportunity to develop their skills as leaders and receive mentorship.
- Innovative projects to solve tangible problems in the field will be designed and implemented.
- Collaborations will be fostered across institutions and work settings to create outcomes for the good of the field.
- A dynamic network of young cancer immunotherapy professionals will be formed to further individual professional development.
- Sparkathon participants and alumni will develop affinity amongst their peers and the broader Society.
- Emerging leaders will be afforded new, more visible leadership opportunities within the Society.
- Informal communication loops will be formed between emerging leaders and mentors.

Institution Benefits
To show appreciation for your institution's support of Sparkathon, SITC will feature your institution's logo on onsite signage at the Sparkathon and the Annual Meeting at which the resulting project(s) are

presented, website postings, email announcements, in the printed program of the Annual Meeting at which the resulting project(s) are presented and future networking receptions of your candidate's cohort. Furthermore, the name of your institution, your name, and department will appear in a printed program of the Annual Meeting at which the resulting project(s) are presented.

<u>Commitment</u>

Your commitment to support your employed SITC Member/Early Career Scientist, if selected, to participate in Sparkathon will include:
1. Allowing attendance to the two-day in-person retreat. (SITC will cover travel, hotel and meal costs.)
2. Continued salary, if applicable, during the 12-18-month duration of Sparkathon. (Funds awarded to the Cohort will cover project development and implementation costs and will not be used to compensate for time working on the project.)
3. Supporting their time commitment of online discussion board activity and submission of monthly reporting form, resulting in:
   a. 4 entries to online discussion board per month
   b. Input in group's monthly report submission
   c. Approximately 4 hours of active participation required per month
4. Supporting cross-institution collaboration.
5. Provide opportunity for participant to attend the SITC 2018 Annual Meeting, to participate in the Sparkathon presentation.

Please confirm your support by checking the appropriate box below:

☐ I have the support of my institution to support our SITC Member/Early Career Scientist to participate in Sparkathon, and as my candidate's supervisor and/or representative of our institution, I agree to fulfill statements 1-5 above to the best of my ability.
☐ We are unable to commit to statements 1-5 above.

_____
Print Your Name

_____
Name of Institution/Department

_____
Name of my Candidate

_____
My relation to my Candidate

_____   _____
Signature   Date