



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer Announces Participants of Inaugural Women's Leadership Institute**

MILWAUKEE – The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) is pleased to announce its inaugural [Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Network \(WIN\) Leadership Institute](#), an initiative to empower emerging female leaders in cancer immunotherapy.

Scheduled for Aug. 19-20, 2019, in Seattle, the WIN Leadership Institute will welcome [emerging female leaders and experts in cancer immunotherapy research from around the globe](#), providing a forum to discuss important topics relevant to their advancement in the field. There was an overwhelming number of applicants for this program – more than three times that of the available positions, underscoring the demand for this type of training opportunity.

Championed by SITC Immediate Past President Lisa H. Butterfield, PhD (Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy/University of California San Francisco), the WIN Leadership Institute is a free program organized by the society. Dr. Butterfield, who was SITC's first female president, has continued her goal to increase education and professional development opportunities for women in the field through several society initiatives like the WIN Leadership Institute.

"It began as an evening reception for female attendees of the SITC Annual Meeting. In just a few years, we've seen an explosion of interest by women seeking professional development opportunities," said Dr. Butterfield. "This inaugural Leadership Institute will feature timely presentations and group discussions of topics integral to the advancement of women working in the lab and the clinic to support the next generation of female leaders."

The WIN Leadership Institute ([view schedule here](#)) will explore important topics including: breaking through the glass ceiling; negotiation techniques; leadership skills; conflict resolution strategies; public speaking and more. The program will include panel discussions and informal networking opportunities throughout the day-and-a-half proceedings.

In addition to Dr. Butterfield, program organizers include Mary L. Disis, MD, FACP (University of Washington); Olivera J. Finn, PhD (University of Pittsburgh); Kristen Hege, MD (Celgene Corporation/University of California San Francisco); Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD (Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center – Jefferson Health); Solange Peters, MD, PhD (Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois); and Padmanee Sharma, MD, PhD (The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center).

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“To achieve our goals of advancing the best science and promoting best outcomes for patients, we have a responsibility and obligation to advance the careers and promote to leadership positions the best and brightest in our profession. Our success is dependent on providing those opportunities to everyone equally, said SITC President Mario Sznol, MD. “The WIN Leadership Institute, led and conceived by my colleague Dr. Butterfield, is a key initiative of the Society to assure those opportunities for advancement and leadership are available to women. SITC is proud to offer this free program to women as part of an overall effort to develop future leaders in cancer immunotherapy.”

Participants of the inaugural SITC WIN Leadership Institute were selected following a month-long, competitive application process. SITC plans to host future programs to serve these investigators. To view the names of those accepted to participate in the inaugural SITC WIN Leadership Institute, [click here](#). This program is supported in part by grants from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Genentech, Incyte Corporation, Merck & Co., Inc., and Pfizer, Inc. (as of July 22, 2019).

#### **About SITC**

Established in 1984, the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) is a nonprofit organization of medical professionals dedicated to improving cancer patient outcomes by advancing the development, science and application of cancer immunotherapy and tumor immunology. SITC is comprised of influential basic and translational scientists, practitioners, health care professionals, government leaders and industry professionals around the globe. Through educational initiatives that foster scientific exchange and collaboration among leaders in the field, SITC aims to one day make the word “cure” a reality for cancer patients everywhere. Learn more about SITC, our educational offerings and other resources at [sitcancer.org](http://sitcancer.org) and follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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