SITC 2019–21
STRATEGIC GOALS

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW
The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) is the world’s leading member-driven organization specifically dedicated to improving cancer patient outcomes by advancing the science and application of cancer immunotherapy. Established in 1984, SITC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

**Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer to improve cancer patient outcomes by advancing the science, development and application of cancer immunology and immunotherapy through our core values of interaction/integration, innovation, translation and leadership in the field.

**Vision Statement**

SITC aims to make cancer immunotherapy a standard of care and the word “CURE” a reality for cancer patients everywhere.

**Core Values**

- Interaction/Integration: Facilitate the exchange of information and education among basic and translational researchers, clinicians, young investigators, societies and groups sharing the mission of SITC
- Innovation: Challenge the thinking and seek the best research in the development of cancer immunotherapy
- Translation: Facilitate the transfer of cancer immunology and immunotherapy research from the bench to the clinic and back
- Leadership: Define what is new and important and effectively communicate it to all relevant Stakeholders
Letter from the President

The year 2020 was the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer’s (SITC) 35th anniversary year. Like every other organization and every individual, our ways or working and our expectations were completely upended by the onset of the pandemic in March. Nevertheless, because of the many talents and dedication of our members and SITC staff, we moved forward: we innovated, we connected, and we worked to improve outcomes for cancer patients worldwide. I would first like thank all of the basic scientists, translational researchers, oncologists and all of the clinical care team members for your dedication to patients and to science, and to advancing our field despite such a difficult work environment this past year.

In 2020, SITC innovated. Following years of brainstorming and strategic preparations, we unveiled our long-awaited Certificate in Cancer Immunotherapy program. The program will provide physicians and other qualified healthcare providers the opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills involving cancer immunotherapy.

We also adapted to the pandemic by creating and delivering virtual programming to cancer immunotherapy professionals around the world. SITC converted many of its education and scientific exchange programs to virtual formats including the Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy™ (ACI) program, SITC Meet-the-Expert and Cancer Immunotherapy Guidelines webinars, and most importantly, our 35th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Programs (SITC 2020).

In 2020, SITC connected. Our society found new ways to ensure that one of the most important benefits that we offer to professionals – the ability to meet new colleagues and grow their professional networks – would remain a strength in 2020. We saw considerable growth in usage of our online Professional Interest Communities. Clinical attendees of our regional ACI programs were still able to virtually connect with other local professionals in their area. And SITC also launched a new series of early career “happy hours” to foster a collaborative and fun gathering of young investigators.

In 2020, SITC worked harder than ever for cancer patients. Before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we gathered for our second-annual Cancer Immunotherapy Winter School, an integral, comprehensive education program for professionals working throughout our field. We collaborated with several cancer research organizations from around the world, such as the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), to deliver the highest quality scientific programming. We awarded substantial funding to seven young investigators from around the U.S. in order to support their promising research. Finally, SITC’s series of clinical practice guideline webinars, led by numerous expert panels, expanded its focus into new disease states, and promises to deliver more critically important manuscripts in the coming months.

Since 1984, our members have been working together to achieve remarkable progress in cancer immunotherapy research. But the work is not done. As the leading member-driven organization focused solely on cancer immunotherapy, SITC remains steadfastly committed to advancing our promising area of research. I look forward to the celebrating the continued success of our field with the SITC family.

Sincerely,

Mario Sznol, MD
SITC President
ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

SITC celebrated its 35th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Programs virtually, a first for the society, and featured three Richard V. Smalley, MD Memorial Award Lectureships, two special keynotes, a unique anniversary session and four special award ceremonies honoring the most dedicated and visionary leaders in our field.

To further celebrate 35 years of excellence, SITC also offered free registration for members to SITC 2020. For our student members, we provided the option of a free membership extension for the 2021 year.

The reimagined program offered virtual networking opportunities in the connection center, through poster walks and live Q&A within the session theaters.

5,470 Registrants
(15% increase over 2019)

890 Abstract Submissions
ADVANCING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO BRIDGE GEOGRAPHIC BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN SITC PROGRAMS

SITC connectED, the society’s online learning portal provides free and easy access to accredited online courses for clinicians, resources for patients and enduring materials for researchers.

Over 25,000 registered users
Nearly 3,500 online resources

BIG DATA ACHIEVEMENTS

The SITC Big Data and Data Sharing Committee worked diligently in 2020, to further incorporate data science throughout SITC initiatives. Committee members led recruitment strategies to increase data scientist representation in SITC membership, developed an online data science resource portal to support immunotherapy researchers, and will be championing an Online Educational Webinar series focused on data science education in 2021.

EMPOWERING PATIENTS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Six total patient guides are available from SITC’s partnership with Patient Resources LLC. In addition to the three most recently updated guides (listed below), other patient guides cover lung cancer, hematologic cancers and head and neck cancer.

Updated guides published in 2020:

• Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Melanoma and Other Skin Cancers
• Understanding Cancer Immunotherapy – 6th Edition
• Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Genitourinary Cancers – 2nd Edition

Over 80,000 resource guides distributed
The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer’s (SITC) Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy™ (ACI) programs are CME-, CPE-, CNE- and MOC-certified regional educational meetings featuring engaging cancer immunotherapy education and interaction with local experts in your area. The programs also provide online, CME-, CPE-, CNE- and MOC-certified companion activities, which are accessible independently by those unable to attend in-person meetings or serve as helpful references for attendees as they incorporate what they learned into practice.

NEW IN 2020

- ACI faculty are addressing the latest concerns of COVID-19 as it relates to cancer immunotherapy treatment with faculty discussions on the latest data and their anecdotal experience
- After holding two programs in-person programs at the beginning of 2020, the program organizers and ACI Committee Chairs worked diligently to adjust to the changing environment and made the decision to hold the remainder of the programs for 2020 virtually
- More time is devoted to the management of irAEs and toxicities to address audience needs and requests for a better understanding of the topic

15 live programs

Enduring materials from all live/virtual programs

4 live webinars

14 online courses (including 2 pre-program online courses)
The SITC Cancer Immunotherapy Guidelines program is a collection of clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) developed by expert panels featuring evidence and consensus-based recommendations to assist oncologists and other advanced practice providers in clinical decision-making for their patients. The guidelines cover important considerations specific to immunotherapy including diagnostics, treatment selection and sequencing, evaluation of response, management of adverse events, and patient quality of life issues for U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved immunotherapies as well as touching on emerging agents. Companion activities to the published CPGs include educational opportunities such as live and on-demand webinars as well as integration of the recommendations into the ACI regional programs.

In 2020, SITC continued its commitment to setting standards through publication of CPGs. SITC’s clinical practice guidelines are some of the most highly accessed, downloaded and cited articles published in JITC, SITC’s open access, peer-reviewed journal.

**Published in 2020:**
- Multiple Myeloma
- Acute Leukemia
- Immune Effector Cell-related Adverse Events
- Lymphoma - Newly published as of 12/24/20

**191 citations in 2020***

**43,200+ accesses and downloads in 2020***

**4 guidelines with an Altmetric Attention Score of 400 or above**

*Data presented is for the period of Jan-Nov 2020 and is cumulative of all 10 of SITC’s published CPGs.

**CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE WEBINAR SERIES**

The Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) Webinar Series covers special considerations for the CPGs and challenging case studies. This series is part of the SITC Cancer Immunotherapy Guidelines program.

**2020 CPG Webinars**

**261 total attendees**

**1,216 webinar accesses and downloads**

**Data presented is for the period of Jan-Nov 2020 and is cumulative for all of SITC’s published CPGs or on-demand CPG webinars.**
SITC launched the Certificate in Cancer Immunotherapy Program to support physicians and qualified healthcare providers with knowledge and skills to provide effective and safe care for patients treated with cancer immunotherapy. Comprised of eight online modules, the program offers 12 CME, CNE, CPE and MOC credits and the ability to earn the SITC-G designation. In just three months, 124 practicing clinicians have begun their certificate journey.

124 practicing clinicians in 2020

Available now!

Module 1: Basic Immunology Concepts

Module 2: Basic Cancer Immunotherapy Concepts

Module 3: Immune Checkpoint Blockade - New!
Global Access and Impact
ADVANCE THE SCIENCE and application of cancer immunotherapy worldwide

**IMPROVING PATIENT ACCESS GLOBALLY**
In 2019, SITC established a Global Access and Impact Committee charged with the development of strategies to overcome the challenges of science, education, policy, and infrastructure within Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) to promote immunotherapy utilization and access across the world.

**FACILITATING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN INDUSTRY MEMBERS AND ACADEMICS**
As a central pillar of the 2019-2021 SITC Strategic Plan, the SITC Global Access and Impact Committee convened stakeholders from across the globe during the “Global Access to Cancer Immunotherapy: Closing the Gaps” workshop. This workshop focused on defining the minimal infrastructure requirements for safe, effective and sustainable immunotherapy access and administration. Outputs derived from this effort will be developed throughout 2021.

**COLLABORATING IN GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE**
SITC and the World Immunotherapy Council (WIC) are dedicated to advancing cancer immunotherapy and, likewise, the future leaders of the field. As part of the 35th SITC Annual Meeting and Pre-Conference Programs, the World Immunotherapy Council (WIC) held a virtual Young Investigator Session that highlighted early career research from across the globe. This virtual session included 16 abstracts from seven countries, and served as a forum for both career development and scientific exchange for SITC’s international members.

**SITC MEMBERSHIP**
2020 marked a membership milestone with over 4,600+ members, for the first time in the society’s history.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Countries Represented at SITC 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>62</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>41</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>36</td>
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62 total countries represented at SITC 2020 (51% increase from 2019)

Record breaking 4,600+ member milestone

821 Student Members (65% increase from 2019)
Policy and Advocacy

INFORM AND INFLUENCE the science and research, regulation, as well as quality of care and quality of access impacted by public policy, ensuring the patient voice is heard and recognized

ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR IMMUNOTHERAPY RESEARCH

The SITC Policy & Advocacy Committee and its respective Subcommittees annually draft language for incorporation into congressional appropriations bills to advocate for the advancement of immunotherapy through funding support of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health (NCI/NIH). SITC’s FDA and NCI report language for Fiscal Year 2021 focused on combination immunotherapies and biomarker research, respectively.

SETTING STANDARDS TO IMPROVE CLINICAL USE

SITC volunteers met throughout 2020 to develop recommendations for enhancing the upcoming version 6 of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE). The primary goal of this effort was to better incorporate immune-related adverse events within the CTCAE to assist with future reporting.

IMPROVING PATIENT ACCESS

The SITC Quality Subcommittee led Phase II of the SITC Quality Measures Project in 2020. Phase II focused on the development of IO-specific quality measures based on concepts identified during a 2019 Quality Summit and published within the manuscript “Defining current gaps in quality measures for cancer immunotherapy: consensus report from the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) 2019 Quality Summit,” in the JITC. Phase III of the project, expected to commence in 2021, will focus on integration of the developed quality measures into national registries.

COMMENT AND SIGN ON LETTERS

SITC participates in Sign-On and Comment Letter opportunities to advocate for cancer immunotherapy. In 2020, SITC served as a signatory on 15 letters focused on immunotherapy funding, clinical trials support, and COVID-19 related challenges. SITC also led a sign-on letter effort focused on early career support during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, SITC provided comment on proposed rules and actions from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that could affect immunotherapy reimbursement, COVID-19 related funding issues, and an NCI request for information concerning the connections between COVID-19 and cancer.
Science and Research

CHALLENGE THE THINKING and seek the best research in the exploration and development of tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN THE FIELD

In 2020, SITC led the field in addressing challenges and responding to key scientific questions in the areas of basic research, clinical research, policy and regulatory efforts, translational research and clinical implementation resources.

BIOMARKERS PUBLICATIONS


PATHOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

The SITC Pathology Task Force published “The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer statement on best practices for multiplex immunohistochemistry (IHC) and immunofluorescence (IF) staining and validation” in the JITC. This important manuscript highlights how multiplex immunohistochemistry (mIHC) and multiplex immunofluorescence (mIF) analyses can be optimized in the future to ensure robust and comparable outputs across studies. A second manuscript focusing on image analysis and data sharing is currently in development.
**COMMUNICATING IMPORTANT ADVANCES IN THE FIELD**

The Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer (JITC) is the society’s open access, peer-reviewed online journal. New this year, the journal introduced opportunities for reviewers to earn CME, developed a collection where readers may easily find all COVID-19 content, and published the “Immune Checkpoints Beyond PD-1 Review Series”.

**New! 10.252 Impact Factor**

Ranked among the top 8% of all immunology and oncology journals reported in the 2020 Journal Citation Reports.

**IMMUNE CHECKPOINTS BEYOND PD-1 REVIEW SERIES**

Edited by Ana Carrizosa Anderson, PhD and Dario A.A. Vignali, PhD

Inspired by the SITC session “Immune Checkpoints – Beyond PD-1,” JITC continues the impetus of recognizing a widening range of checkpoint targets that are advancing the field forward. Comprised of several authoritative reviews of checkpoints beyond PD-1, this series promotes the tremendous research that is opening new pathways for treating patients with cancer.

**SITC COVID-19 RESPONSE**

In 2020, discussion occurred regarding SITC’s unique position to address scientific questions relating to COVID-19, and how beneficial the organization’s expertise in understanding the adaptive immune response, trial design and execution could be to virologists investigating the management of patients with the virus. One consideration that came out of the discussion, was the development of a special series in JITC on COVID-19 and Cancer.

**COVID-19 Special Series Publications:**


- JITC Published Manuscript: 4,267 downloads; 28 citations
- Preprint – 824 page views

“Insights from immuno-oncology: The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer statement on access to IL-6-targeting therapies for COVID-19”

- JITC Published Manuscript: 11,029 downloads; 29 citations
- Preprint – 17,843 page views

SITC issued a statement supporting all cancer patients receiving approved or investigational immunotherapy as part of their treatment regimen, either as standard of care or as part of clinical trials and without a general contraindication to vaccination, should/could receive an approved and/or authorized SARS-CoV-2 vaccination when made available to them.

**SITC-AACR WORKSHOP: THE CANCER BIOLOGY UNDERLYING IMMUNOTHERAPY-INDUCED AUTOIMMUNITY**

Collaborative program between SITC and AACR held March 4-6, 2020 in Houston. The three-day long workshop brought together about 40 experts across a broad spectrum of specialties and backgrounds. Presentations and discussions centered on the mechanisms of immune-related adverse events, rather than the clinical management of immune-related toxicities. The goals of the program included identifying future topics of interest for the field and ways to continue increasing our understanding of irAEs. As a result of the workshop, there are plans to develop a recommendations paper, to be authored by the organizers and some faculty, expected to be submitted in Q1 2021.
SECURING FUNDING STREAMS FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Forward Fund was established to stimulate the future of the science, development and application of cancer immunotherapy through financially supporting its education and research.

The Forward Fund provides grants that will help attract the brightest young minds in cancer and/or immunology research to the cancer immunotherapy domain. It informs those outside of the cancer immunotherapy field about the huge promise of this modality, which offers the potential of creating long-term remissions and/or prolongation of survival for people suffering from an expanding array of advanced cancer types.

In 2020, SITC announced the creation of the Steven A. Rosenberg, MD, PhD, Endowed Scholars Fund. Established in honor of Dr. Rosenberg, this fund recognizes his many contributions to the field by supporting investigators, who are emerging leaders in immuno-oncology, focused on a novel approach to advancing the field of cancer immunotherapy. Eric Tran, PhD (Earle A. Chiles Research Institute, a division of Providence Cancer Institute), was recognized as the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg Scholars Award for Cancer Immunotherapy Research at SITC’s 35th Anniversary Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Each year, SITC will seek the best and brightest to continue Dr. Rosenberg’s legacy with research awards specifically for early career scientists focused on tackling challenges that face the field of cancer immunotherapy.

SITC’s Fellowships program is supported by the Forward Fund and has awarded over $4.3M in funding to cultivate the next generation of cancer immunotherapy experts. In 2020, SITC awarded:

Six Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowship Awards totaling $600,000 in support of early career scientists:
- SITC-Amgen Cancer Immunotherapy in Hematologic Malignancies Fellowship
- SITC-AstraZeneca Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer Clinical Fellowship
- SITC-Bristol Myers Squibb Postdoctoral Cancer Immunotherapy Translational Fellowship
- SITC-Genentech Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowship
- SITC’s Holbrook Kohrt, MD, PhD Cancer Immunotherapy Translational Memorial Fellowship (Sponsored by Genentech)
- SITC-Merck Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship

Two Collaborative Awards:
- NCI Immunotherapy Fellowship
- SITC-NanoString Technologies Spatial Profiling Award

The inaugural Steven A. Rosenberg, MD, PhD Scholars Award

35 Abstract Travel and Presidential Awards

5 SITC Stand Up to Cancer “Convergence 2.0” Fellowships
CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY WINTER SCHOOL
Jan. 13–17, 2020 • Houston
A Five-Day Intensive Educational Program on Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy

SITC held its second Cancer Immunotherapy Winter School, designed to provide a deep understanding of the core principles of tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy as well as developing areas in the field including biomarker technology, validation and clinical integration; clinical trial design, data analysis and considerations for combination therapies.

173 attendees
(56% increase over 2019 program)

SITC SPARKATHON

The SITC Sparkathon, now going into its 5th year, brings together the next generation of leaders in immuno-oncology to collaboratively address obstacles the field of cancer immunotherapy faces.

The Sparkathon Class of 2018, SITCure, continues to move its project forward by helping to acquire patient samples for analysis in future correlative studies during an ECOG-ACRIN clinical trial investigating criteria for discontinuing immunotherapy treatment of melanoma.

Sparkathon 2.0 will launch with the new Class of 2021. “Mechanisms of Resistance to Immunotherapy” is the hurdle to be addressed and applications will commence in Spring.

56 total Sparkathon team participants since 2017

SITC VOLUNTEER PORTAL

The SITC Volunteer Portal offers direct access to a multitude of opportunities for shaping the direction of both the society and the field.

145 SITC volunteers were matched into 35 volunteer opportunities
Leadership Development
CULTIVATE THE NEXT GENERATION of leaders and innovators in tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy

ENGAGING MEMBERS TO CREATE A VIBRANT COMMUNITY AND FAMILY
Professional Interest Communities (PICs) offer SITC members of similar professional disciplines and experience, the opportunity to discuss current and future research, scientific applications and career development needs, help colleagues address professional hurdles and build new relationships.

More than 150 members in 5 active communities

91 members of the Women in SITC Community
SITC 2019–21
STRATEGIC GOALS

- CULTIVATE THE NEXT GENERATION
- BE THE LEADING RESOURCE
- SET INDUSTRY STANDARDS
- CHALLENGE THE THINKING
- INFORM & INFLUENCE REGULATION
- ADVANCE CANCER I-O WORLDWIDE