



Institute for Cell Therapy Discovery & Innovation

Updates on Cell Therapy Symposium Agenda

January 30, 2026

7:15 – 7:50a

Breakfast

7:50 – 8:00a

Albert Koong, MD, PhD

Chief Scientific Officer, *Ad Interim*

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Opening Speech

Session 1: CAR-T (Session Chair: Katy Rezvani, MD, PhD)

8:00 – 8:30a

Carl June, MD

Richard W. Vague Professor of Immunotherapy

University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

Keynote Speaker: Updates with CAR T Cells

8:30 – 8:35a

Q&A Session

Session 2: NK Cells (Session Chair: Rafet Basar, MD)

- 8:35 – 8:55a **Lewis Lanier, PhD**
J Michael Bishop Distinguished Professor Emeritus
University of California San Francisco
Presentation Title: Perspectives on Five Decades of Natural Killer Cells
- 8:55 – 9:00a Q&A Session
- 9:00 – 9:20a **Nicholas Huntington, PhD**
Professor
Monash University
Presentation Title: Amplifying Solid Tumor Inflammation by Targeting NK Cells and their Cytokine Dependencies
- 9:20 – 9:25a Q&A Session
- 9:25 – 9:45a **Katy Rezvani, MD, PhD**
Vice President
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: Next Generation NK Cell Therapies at MD Anderson
- 9:45 – 9:50a Q&A Session

Session 3: Off-the-Shelf Allogeneic (Session Chair: Katy Rezvani, MD, PhD)

- 9:50 – 10:10a **Sattva Neelapu, MD**
Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: Engineering Allogeneic CAR T Cells with Enhanced Rejection Resistance
- 10:10 – 10:15a Q&A Session
- 10:15 – 10:35a **Leonid Metelitsa, MD, PhD**
Professor and Chair in Cancer Immunotherapy
Baylor College of Medicine
Presentation Title: Development and Clinical Testing of NKT Cell Cancer Immunotherapy
- 10:35 – 10:40a Q&A Session
- 10:40 – 11:00a **Andrew Jallouk, MD, PhD**
Assistant Professor

Vanderbilt University
Title: Cellular and Molecular Determinants of Allogeneic CAR T Cell
Expansion and Rejection

11:00 – 11:05a Q&A Session

11:05 – 11:35a *Intermission*

Session 4: No CE Credit (Session Chair: Elizabeth Shpall, MD)

11:35 – 11:55a **John DiPersio, MD, PhD**
Virginia E and Sam J Golman Professor of Medicine
Washington University School of Medicine
Presentation Title: CAR-T for T Cell Malignancies

11:55 – 12:00p Q&A Session

12:00 – 12:20p **Chris Flowers, MD**
Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: Convergent Team Science for Cell Therapy
Engineering

12:20 - 12:25p Q&A Session

12:25 – 1:30p *Networking Lunch and Poster Presentations*

Session 5: Solid Tumors (Session Chair: May Daher, MD)

1:30 – 1:50p **Andras Heczey, MD**
Professor
Seattle Children's Hospital
Presentation Title: Enhancing and Controlling CAR T Cells to Cure
Patients with Solid Tumors

1:50 – 1:55p Q&A Session

1:55 – 2:15p **Stephan Mielke, MD, PhD**
Professor
Karolinska Institute
Presentation Title: Base-editing for Sickle-cell Disease: Fast-track
Translation Towards a Hospital-based Production Platform

- 2:15 – 2:20p Q&A Session
- 2:20 – 2:40p **Cassian Yee, MD, PhD**
Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: This One Weird T cell Trick...
- 2:40 – 2:45p Q&A Session
- 2:45 – 2:57 **Elizabeth Shpall, MD**
Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: CAR Toxicity: Mechanism to Management
- 2:57 – 3:00p Q&A Session
- 3:00 – 3:12p **Rafet Basar, MD**
Assistant Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: A Universal NK Cell Platform Engineered for Synergistic Combination with Antibodies and T-Cell Engagers
- 3:12 – 3:15p Q&A Session
- 3:15 – 3:27p **May Daher, MD**
Associate Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: Adenoviral E4ORF-1 Reprograms NK Cell Metabolism to Enhance Cytotoxic Function
- 3:27 – 3:30p Q&A Session
- 3:30– 3:42p **Gheath Al-Atrash, DO**
Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: Azurophil Granules as Key Targets in Leukemia Immunotherapy
- 3:42 – 3:45p Q&A Session
- 3:45 – 3:55p *Intermission***

Session 6: Correlative Multiomics (Session Chair: Sunil Acharya, PhD)

- 3:55 – 4:15p **Linghua Wang, PhD**
Associate Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: Advancing Predictive and Precision Oncology by
Integrating Spatial Multi-Omics and AI
- 4:15 – 4:20p Q&A Session
- 4:20 – 4:40p **Xiling Shen, PhD**
Associate Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: Accelerating Cell Therapy Development with Patient-
Derived Micro-Avatars
- 4:40 – 4:45p Q&A Session
- 4:45 – 5:05p **Sammy Ferri-Borgogno, MD**
Assistant Professor
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Presentation Title: Context Matters: AOC1 Regulation of the Ovarian
Tumor Microenvironment and Malignancy
- 5:05 – 5:10p Q&A Session
- 5:10 – 5:30p **Navin Varadarajan, PhD**
Professor
University of Houston
Presentation Title: Multi-omic Characterization of T-cell Infusion
Products
- 5:30 – 5:35 Q&A Session

Symposium Adjourned