

Applied Immunological Research Symposium

23 April 2026, Thursday

Main Auditorium, Center for Discovery and Innovation

111 Ideation Way, Nutley, NJ 07110, Or join virtually

About the Symposium

The Annual Symposium on Applied Immunological Research at 3i serves as a global nexus for top researchers in the fields of clinical and basic immunology. This year, our symposium will emphasize the current advances in cellular immunotherapy of cancer, focusing on the practical application of insights gleaned from advanced immunological research. The symposium aims to foster innovation and drive progress in cancer immune therapy.

About 3i

The Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH) Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI) established the **Institute for Immunologic Intervention (3i)** with the goal of advancing research in immunology to combat infections, cancer, and inflammatory diseases by enhancing the human immune system's responses. The scientists at 3i cover diverse fields such as cancer immunology, immunotherapy, T cell biology, genetics, and microbiome influence on antitumor immunosurveillance.

Call for Abstracts

Don't miss the chance to present your research in a poster session at our symposium on immunology. Send us your abstract by **April 1, 2026**, and join a vibrant symposium program that is leading the way in Immunology research. We welcome researchers from all backgrounds, sectors, and stages of their careers to take part.

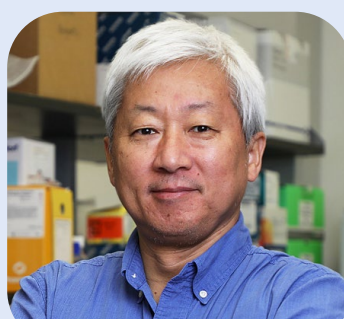
Abstract Deadline
1st April 2026

[Register Now!](#)

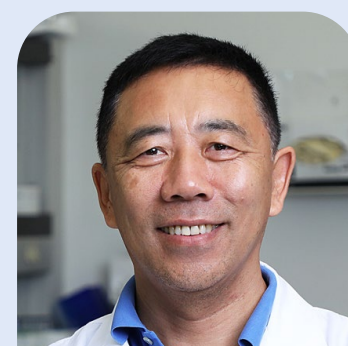
ORGANIZERS



Binfeng Lu, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for
Immunologic Intervention



Yi Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Director, Institute for
Immunologic Intervention



Hai-Hui Xue, M.D., Ph.D.
Member, Center for
Discovery and Innovation

SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rafi Ahmed, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Emory University School of Medicine

Director, Emory Vaccine Center

Eminent Scholar, Georgia Research Alliance

Investigator, Emory Center for AIDS Research

INVITED SPEAKERS

Dean Lee, MD., Ph.D.

Director of the Cellular Therapy and Cancer Immunology Program at Nationwide Children's Hospital

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

Geoffrey R. Hill, M.D.

Full Professor

Senior Vice President, Division Director, Translational Science and Therapeutics

Director of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation

Leonard and Norma Klorfine Endowed Chair for Clinical Research, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Professor of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology, University of Washington

Olivera J. Finn, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor, Department of Immunology

Distinguished Professor, Department of Surgery

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Ming Li, Ph.D.,

Professor, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

David H. Koch Chair in Immunologic Studies

Professor, Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences

Immunology Program, Sloan Kettering Institute

Yi Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.

Member, Center for Discovery and Innovation (Internal Speaker).



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Agenda (tentative)

8: 45 AM	9: 00 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks Introduction by David Perlin (5 min) Introduction by Yi Zhang (10 min)
9: 00 AM	9: 45 AM	Yi Zhang, M.D., Ph.D. <i>“Epigenetic Reprogramming of T Cells: EZH2-Directed Strategies for GVHD Prevention and Enhanced Cancer Immunotherapy”</i>
9: 45 AM	10: 45 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Rafi Ahmed, Ph.D. <i>“What is T Cell Exhaustion?”</i>
10: 45 AM	11: 05 AM	COFFEE BREAK
11: 05 AM	11: 45 AM	Dean Lee, M.D., Ph.D. <i>“Establishing a universal-donor manufacturing platform to enable multi-site trials of multiple NK and CAR-NK products”</i>
11: 45 AM	1: 00 PM	LUNCH
1: 00 PM	1: 40 PM	Geoffrey R. Hill, M.D. <i>“Regulatory Responses in Immunotherapy”</i>
1: 40 PM	2: 20 PM	Olivera J. Finn , Ph.D. <i>“Vaccines for interception and prevention of human cancers”</i>
2: 20 PM	3: 00 PM	Ming Li, Ph.D. <i>“Immunological Mechanisms of Cancer Defense”</i>
3:00 PM	4:30 PM	POSTER and SOCIAL