

“Cancers evolve, and we must find ways for our research to stay many steps ahead.”

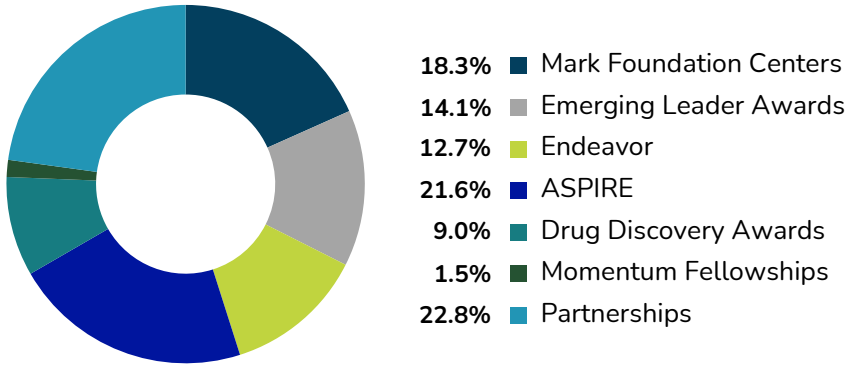


**Alex Knaster**  
Founder

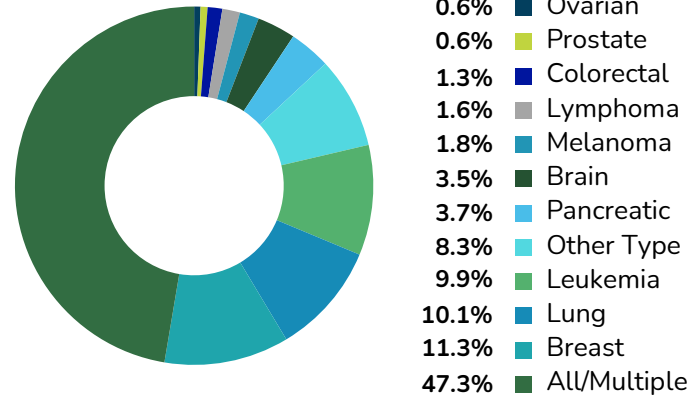
*Alex Knaster.*

# Portfolio Overview – since 2017

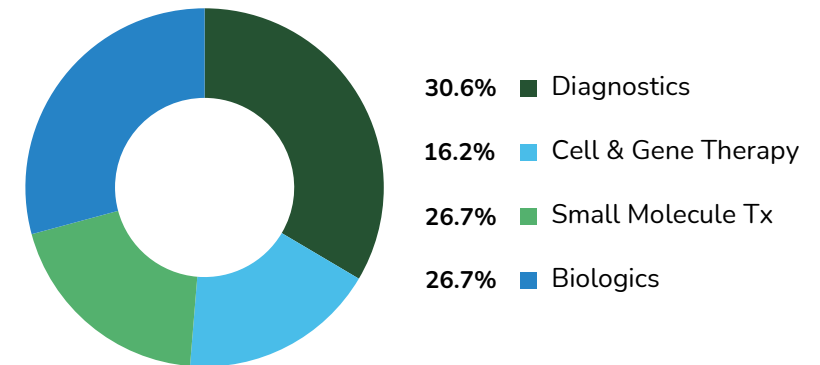
## Over 200 Grants, \$160 Million Awarded



## Grant Funding by Cancer Type

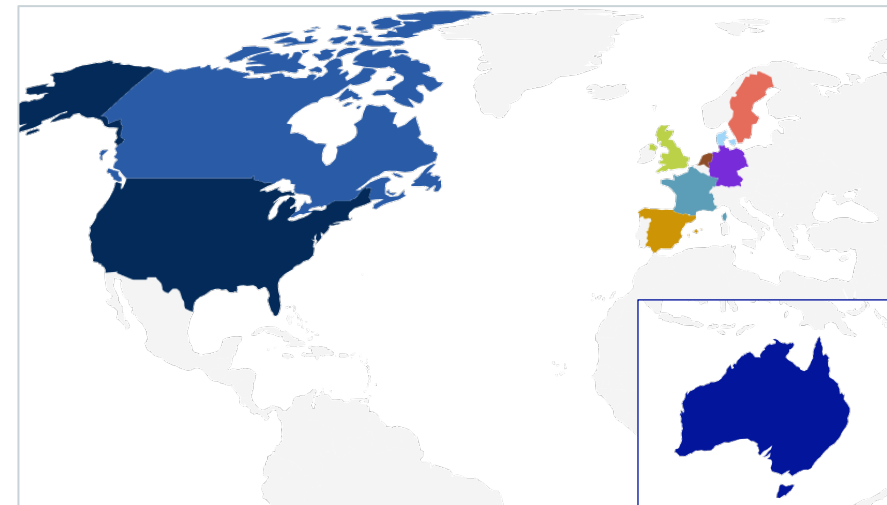


## Investments in 8 Companies, \$22.5 Million



## Grant Funding Across 12 Countries

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| United States  | Germany        |
| United Kingdom | Netherlands    |
| Australia      | Spain          |
| Austria        | Sweden         |
| Canada         | Switzerland    |
| Denmark        | United Kingdom |
| France         | United States  |



# The Mark Foundation – Grants & Investments Team

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**Ray DuBois, MD, PhD**

- Executive Chairman of the Board
- Director, Hollings Cancer Center



**Ryan Schoenfeld, PhD**

Chief Executive Officer



**Anna Turetsky, PhD**

Principal, Venture Investments



**Becky Bish, PhD**

Head of Discovery and Preclinical Research



**Rob Magin, PhD**

Associate Scientific Director



**Janice Lin, PhD**

Scientific Portfolio Manager



**Rebecca Liu, PhD**

Director, Grants Administration



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



# Bespoke Research Grant Programs

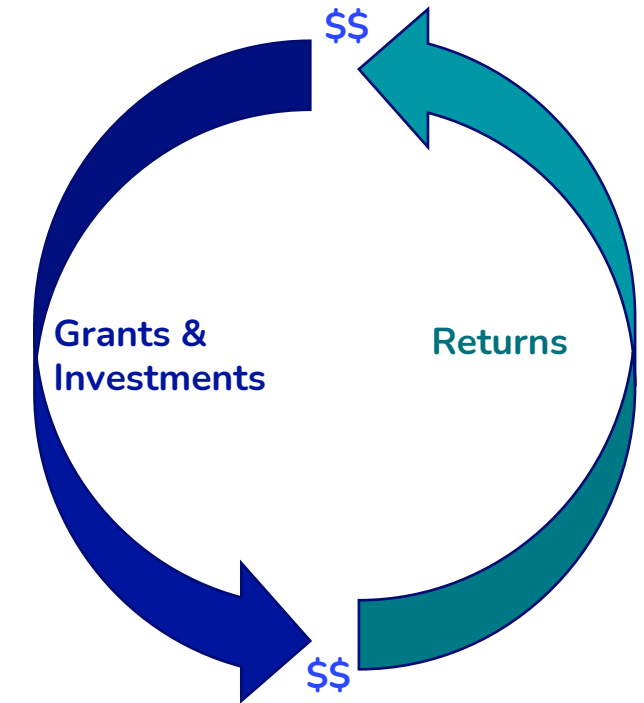
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- ❑ **Emerging Leader Awards (ELA): \$750,000 over 3 years**
  - For early career investigators
  - Open to US& Canada-based investigators by annual RFP
- ❑ **ASPIRE Awards: \$100-\$500K over 1-2 years (ASPIRE 1)  
\$0.5-\$1.5M over 2-5 years (ASPIRE 2)**
  - Flexibility to support innovative research & technology
  - Open to individual investigators or teams
- ❑ **Endeavor Awards: \$3,000,000 over 3 years**
  - Collaborations to tackle big questions
  - Teams of 3 of more investigators
- ❑ **Drug Discovery Awards**
- ❑ **Mark Foundation Centers**
- ❑ **Momentum Fellowships**



# Venture Investments at The Mark Foundation: Overview

- Cancer therapeutics, diagnosis, prevention are in scope
- 1-4 new investments per year
- All returns from grant revenue share and from investments come back to the foundation to be redeployed as grants or investments



Liquid Biopsy	Immunotherapy	Cell & Gene Tx	Small Molecule Tx
<b>GRAIL</b> (acquired by Illumina) Early detection	<b>verseau</b> THERAPEUTICS Macrophage repolarization	<b>interius</b> in vivo CAR-T	<b>ACCENT</b> THERAPEUTICS RNA modifying proteins
<b>C2i Genomics</b> Treatment response & MRD	<b>Immunitas</b> THERAPEUTICS T & NK cell checkpoints		***** Stealth protein stability company

# Mark Foundation Meetings: Workshops with *ASPIRE* grant opportunities



*Artificial Intelligence & Cancer Research*  
Carnegie Mellon University  
April 2019



*Overcoming Obstacles in Bringing Liquid Biopsies to the Clinic for Cancer Care*  
Banbury Center, September 2019



*Induced Proximity Strategies for Cancer Therapeutics*  
NYC, January 2020



*Predicting Clinical Success: Preclinical Modeling in Cancer*  
Boston MA, May 2022

- Invitation-only meetings organized by the Mark Foundation
- 15-40 attendees, primarily academic scientists
- Attendees can apply for *ASPIRE* awards on the workshop topic

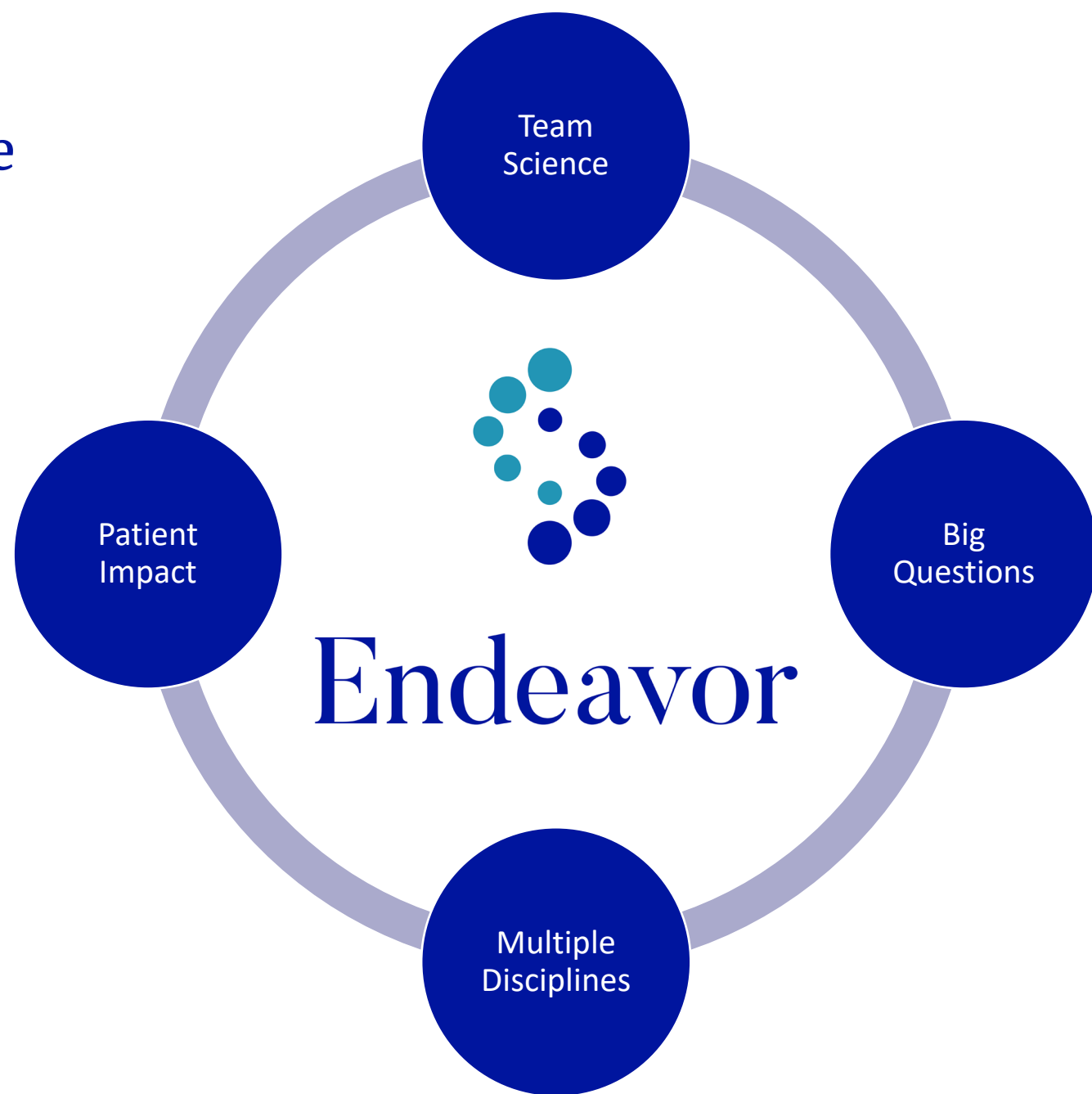


*Pediatric Brain Tumors*  
Banbury Center, October 2022

# Endeavor Award – Team Science

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- 3 year projects
- \$3M total budget
- Teams of 3 or more scientists
- Open worldwide
- Basic, translational, & clinical projects
- Expect to fund 3 teams in 2023





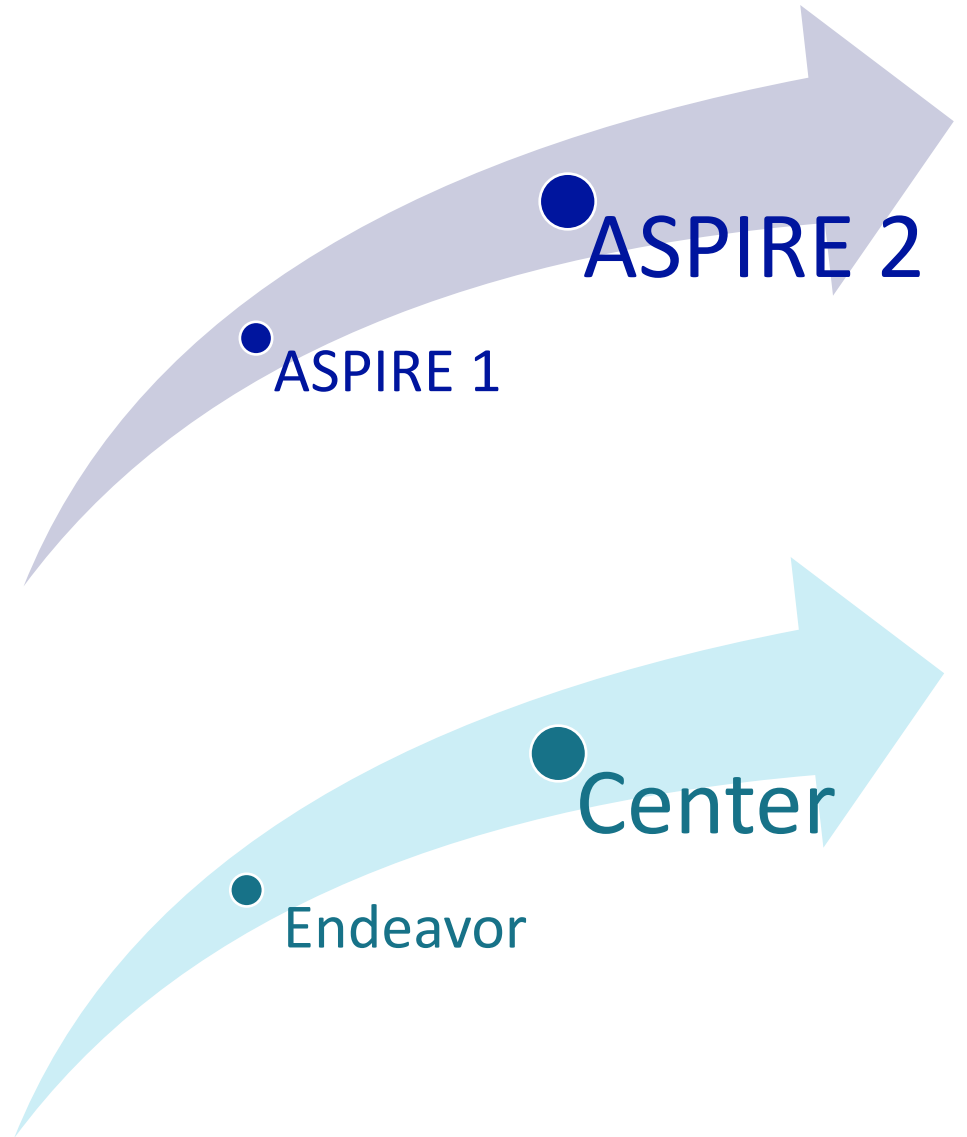
# Endeavor Award – Growth into Centers

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## MFCR Centers

Integrative, collaborative network of interdisciplinary teams focused on translational science within a unifying theme in cancer

- University of Pennsylvania: *The Mark Foundation Center for Immunotherapy, Immune Signaling, and Radiation*
- University of Cambridge: *The Mark Foundation Institute for Integrated Cancer Medicine*
- Johns Hopkins University: *The Mark Foundation Center for Advanced Genomics and Imaging*



# Endeavor Award – Institutional Eligibility

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- Open to non-profit academic/research institutions.
- Open to institutions worldwide.
- Teams may comprise investigators from a single institutions or multiple institutions.
- There is no requirement to include a US-based institution as part of the team.
- Institutions may submit more than one application.



Endeavor

# Endeavor Award – Investigator Eligibility

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- No citizenship or residency requirements.
- Must have an independent faculty research appointment (tenure-track or equivalent).
- Investigators may be co-PI or collaborator on more than one proposal but may only serve as Principal Investigator on one proposal.



Endeavor

# Endeavor Award – Investigator Roles

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## **Principal Investigator (PI):**

- Serves as the single point of contact for the application process.
- The LOA will be executed solely with the PI's institution.
- PI must meet all criteria of a co-PI as listed below.

## **Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI):**

- Lab receives at least 10% of the total grant budget.
- Core member of the team leadership.
- Designated as key personnel in the LOA.
- Must have an independent faculty research appointment (tenure-track or equivalent).

## **Collaborator:**

- Lab receives 0-10% of the budget.
- Can provide resources, perform experiments, analyses, etc.
- Serves as a project consultant or advisor rather than a team leader.



# Endeavor

# Endeavor Award – Grant Terms

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- 3 year grant term
- \$3 million total
- Budget must be an accurate reflection of the costs of the work proposed, both in terms of scope of work and the division of the budget between investigators.
- The third year of funding, if requested, will be contingent upon a successful review of progress at the 18-month mark, and will be granted at MFCR's discretion.
- Indirect costs limited to 10% of direct costs.
- PI & co-PIs should commit 5% effort but do not need to request 5% salary.



Endeavor

# Endeavor Award – LOI Application Materials

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- **Project Title**
- **Project Summary/Abstract** – *limit 350 words*
- **Project Description** – *limit 5 pages*
  - o Specific Aims
  - o Introduction, background, and description of unmet need
  - o Research plan broken into Aims.
  - o Literature cited (does not count against page limit)
- **Team Description**
  - o List PI, co-PIs, and collaborators (name, institution, title, contact info)
  - o For the PI and co-PIs, provide the following:
    - 1-3 sentences describing their role in the project.
    - NIH-format biosketch (limit 5 pages per investigator)
    - List any existing collaborations between co-PIs, including existing funding support for collaborative projects.
- **Collaborative Science Statement** – *limit 1 page*
  - o Why is this project a team science project?
  - o How will the team work together?
- **Budget Overview**



# Endeavor

# Endeavor Award – Key Dates

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- **May 19, 2022:** Letter of Intent Online Portal Opens
- **July 13, 2022:** Letters of Intent Due
- September 2022: Applications Invited
- October – November 2022: Finalist Team Interviews
- December 2022: Applications Due
- April 2023: Selection of Awardees
- June 1, 2023: Signed Agreements Due
- July 1, 2023: Grant Start Date



Endeavor

# Endeavor Award – Team Characteristics

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- Minimum of 3 investigators per team (PI plus two co-PIs)
- The PI does not need to be the most senior member or have the largest research role.
- Teams are encouraged to consider diversity in terms of discipline, seniority, gender, race, ethnicity, and any other parameters that will enhance the team's ability to approach challenging problems from fresh perspectives.
- New collaborations are encouraged!



Endeavor



# Endeavor Award – Project Characteristics

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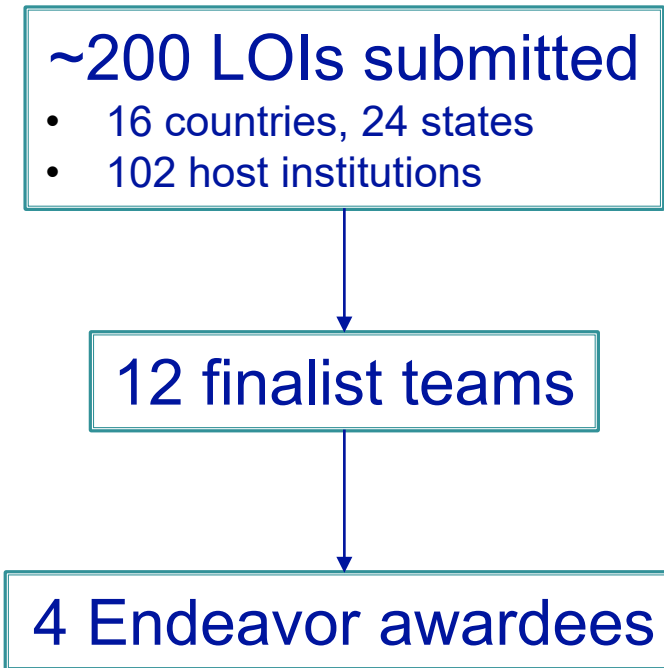
- Basic, translational, and clinical projects are eligible.
- The project must seek to address an overarching, urgent scientific question.
- Sub-projects should be designed to elucidate various aspects of the overarching question, theme, or focus.
- The output of the individual team members (data, samples, hypotheses, compounds, etc.) must be integrated and/or shared in a way that makes the impact of the project as a whole larger than the sum of its parts.
- Clinical trials may be funded through this mechanism.



Endeavor

# Endeavor Awards – 2021 RFP

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# 2021 Endeavor Awardees

Team Members	Institutions	Project Title
Tullia Bruno Tina Cascone Nikhil Joshi Kevin McBride Aaron Ring Jennifer Wargo	<b>University of Pittsburgh</b> MD Anderson Cancer Center Yale School of Medicine	Harnessing tertiary lymphoid structure function for improved immunotherapeutic strategies in cancer patients
Susan Kaech Christian Metallo Alan Saghatelian Reuben Shaw	<b>The Salk Institute for Biological Studies</b>	Identification of Metabolic Targets and Vulnerabilities in Genetic-Defined Cohorts of Lung Cancer
P. Brent Ferrell Stanley Lee Rui Lu Robert Welner	<b>University of Alabama Birmingham</b> Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center Vanderbilt University	Dissecting drivers of inflammation and clonality in the MDS microenvironment
Marco Davila Eran Elinav Michael Jain Robert Jenq C. Stein-Thoeringer	<b>German Cancer Research Center</b> MD Anderson Cancer Center H. Lee Moffit Cancer Center	An international, multicenter study to investigate and validate microbiome configurations and effectors in CD19-targeted CAR-T cell efficacy and toxicity

# 2020 Endeavor Teams

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## Host Response to Cancer

Tobias Janowitz and Semir Beyaz  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory



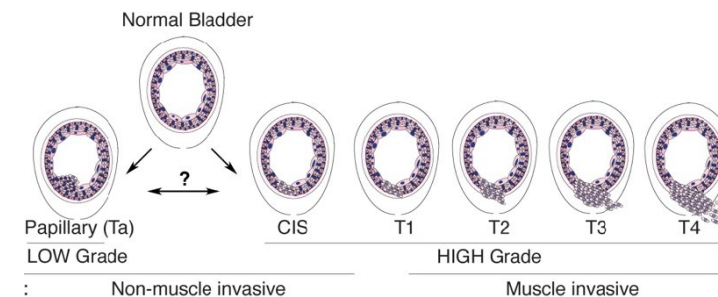
## Understand and Eliminate Metastatic Cancers

Andrei Goga, Eric Collisson, Jay Debnath, Sarah Knox,  
Jeroen Roose, and Valerie Weaver  
University of California, San Francisco



## Tumor Progression and Plasticity in Bladder Cancer

Cory Abate-Shen and Michael Shen, Columbia University  
David Solit, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,  
David McConkey, Johns Hopkins University



# Endeavor Award – Resources and Updates

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- Mark Foundation portfolio: <https://themarkfoundation.org/portfolio/>
- Endeavor website: <https://themarkfoundation.org/endeavor/>
- Twitter: @TheMarkFdn  
@Becky\_ABC



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[THEMARKFOUNDATION.ORG](https://www.themarkfoundation.org)

1350 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, SUITE 2902

NEW YORK, NY 10019

TEL: 646.866.5950

