Saturday, June 20, 2020

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9:00 am Welcome
Michael Blackburn, PhD, Dean, The University of MD Anderson Cancer UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences(GSBS)
Carolyn Smith, PhD, Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine

9:10 am Opening remarks
Dianna Milewicz, MD, PhD, Director, MSTP, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Sharon Plon, MD, PhD, Director, MSTP, Baylor College of Medicine

9:20 am Introduction of keynote speaker
Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD, Co-Director, MSTP, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

9:30 am Keynote Address by 2018 Nobel Laureate James P. Allison, PhD
Regental Professor, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

“Immune Checkpoint Blockade in Cancer Therapy: New insights into therapeutic mechanisms”

Dr. Allison has spent a distinguished career studying the regulation of T cell responses and developing strategies for cancer immunotherapy. He earned the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, which he shared with Dr. Tasuku Honjo, "for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation." Among his most notable discoveries are the determination of the T cell receptor structure and that CD28 is the major costimulatory molecule that allows full activation of naïve T cells and prevents anergy in T cell clones. His research paved the way for the field of immune checkpoint blockade therapy for cancer. Work in his lab led to the development of ipilimumab, an antibody to human CTLA-4 and the first immune checkpoint blockade therapy approved by the FDA. Among many honors, he is a member of the National Academies of Science and Medicine and received the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research award in 2015. His current work seeks to improve immune checkpoint blockade therapies currently used by clinicians and identify new targets to unleash the immune system in order to eradicate cancer.

10:30 am “How to put together the most competitive MD/PhD AMCAS application”
Dianna Milewicz, MD, PhD, Director, MSTP, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Sharon Plon, MD, PhD, Director, MSTP, Baylor College of Medicine

12:00 pm Program Concludes