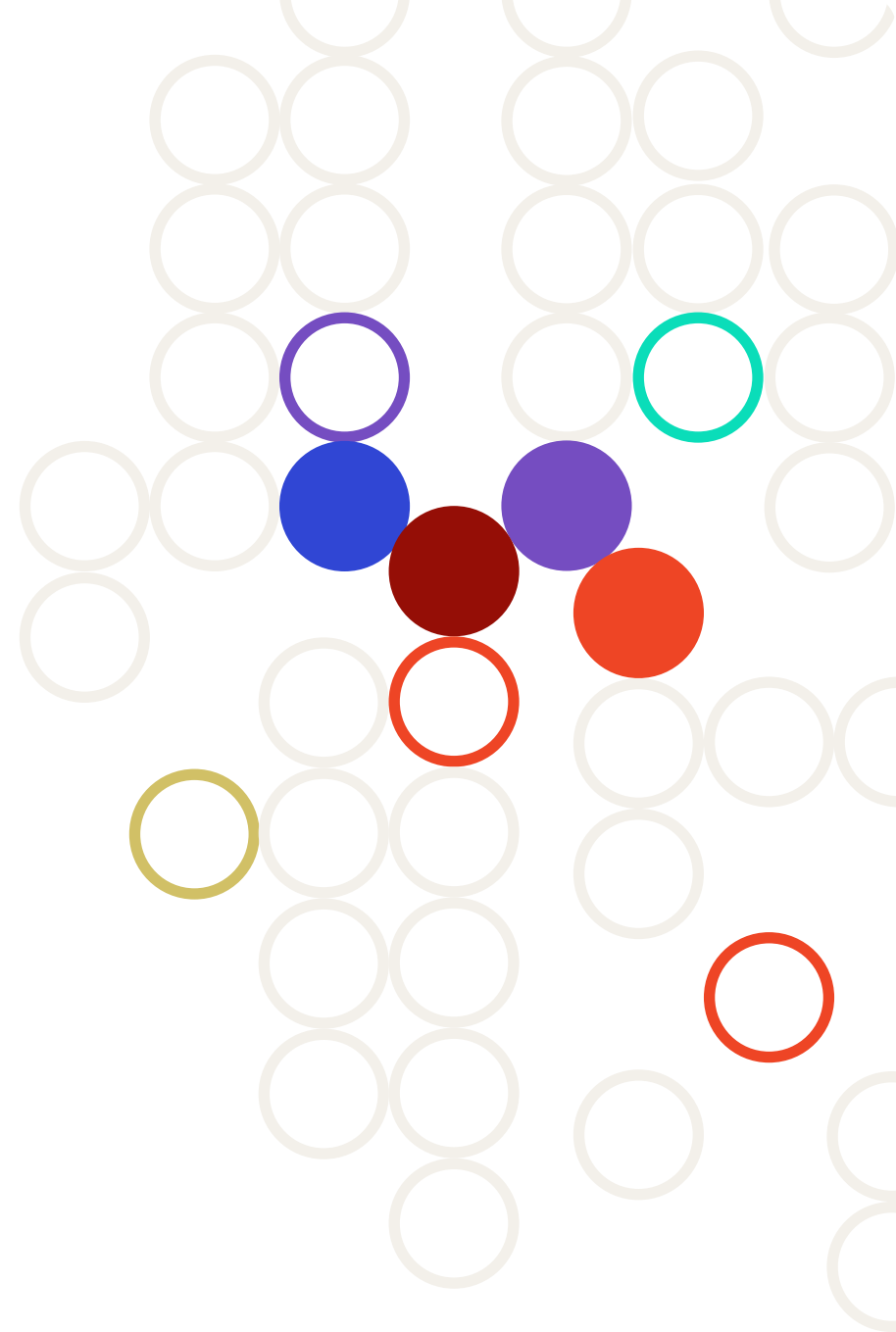


FY 2025–2026



Annual Impact Report



Keeping Our Promise in a Defining Moment

Cancer immunotherapy is entering a defining era.

Biological science has never held more promise. Researchers are uncovering new ways to train the immune system to recognize, attack, and remember cancer. New immunotherapies are reaching patients. Artificial intelligence and advanced technologies are transforming how discoveries are made. The future of cancer treatment has never been more within reach.

Yet this extraordinary progress is unfolding during one of the most uncertain periods for biomedical research in more than 70 years.

Across the field, scientists faced declining federal support, delayed funding decisions, and difficult choices about the future of their work. Early-career investigators in particular were forced to question whether they could continue pursuing careers in academic research.

At the Cancer Research Institute (CRI), we saw that moment for what it was: a call to lead.

For more than seven decades, CRI has made the same promise — to identify the brightest scientific minds, invest in bold ideas before certainty exists, and accelerate discoveries that can transform cancer treatment. This year, that promise became more important than ever.

In FY 2025–2026, CRI made the largest grantmaking investment in our history: **\$34.4 million in new funding supporting 93 awards across 50 institutions, 17 U.S. states, and five countries.**

We expanded support for researchers pursuing high-risk, high-reward science, and created new opportunities to protect early-career investigators at a pivotal moment in their careers. We advanced clinical research designed to bring promising discoveries closer to patients, and begin building the data infrastructure that will power the next generation of AI-enabled scientific discovery.

This report reflects not only what we accomplished in the past year, but where we are headed.

The future of cancer immunotherapy will be shaped by those willing to invest before certainty exists. This year reaffirmed why our role matters — and why our leadership is more essential than ever.

The questions before us are bigger. The tools are more powerful. The opportunities are more urgent. And the need for independent, flexible, mission-driven funding has never been greater.

With the support of our community, CRI is ready to help shape the next era of cancer immunotherapy, just as we have helped shape every era before it.

With gratitude,



A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink.

Alicia Zhou, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Cancer Research Institute

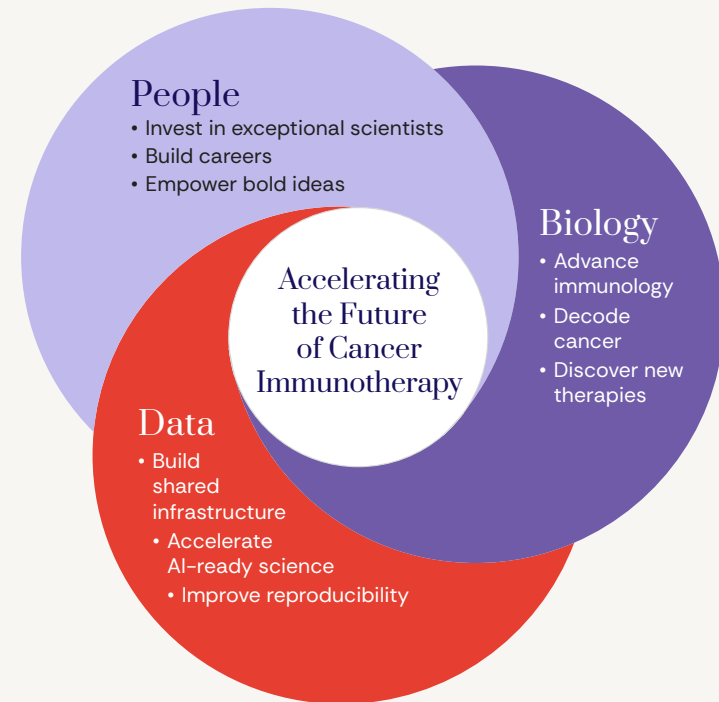
Building the Future of Cancer Immunotherapy

Defeating cancer will not be defined by a single breakthrough.

The next generation of progress will come from understanding how biology behaves over time, how data can reveal complex patterns, and how exceptional scientists can translate those discoveries into better treatments for patients.

Success in this new era demands more than only funding individual research projects; it requires building an ecosystem where people, biology, and data continuously strengthen one another.

CRI is that ecosystem, and our strategy is **People × Biology × Data**. Together, these three elements guide our investments and accelerate progress toward a world immune to cancer.



People

Every breakthrough begins with a scientist. For more than 70 years, CRI has identified and supported exceptional researchers at every stage of their careers, providing the funding, mentorship, and flexibility they need to pursue bold ideas and become the leaders shaping the future of cancer immunotherapy.



Biology

A deeper understanding of the immune system drives every advance in cancer immunotherapy. CRI supports research spanning the full spectrum of discovery—from uncovering the biology of immune responses and tumor evolution to developing new therapeutic approaches that bring better treatments to patients.



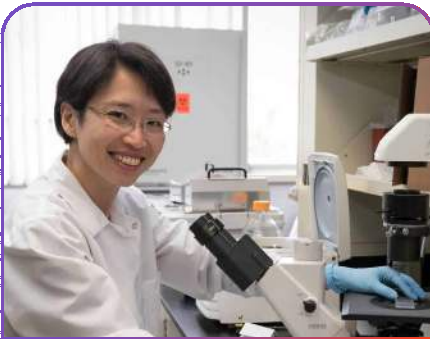
Data

Modern cancer research depends on the ability to generate, integrate, and learn from complex data. Through initiatives such as the **Discovery Engine**, the **Cancer Immunotherapy Insights + Impact (CI3) Report**, and the **Bioinformatics Bootcamp**, CRI is building the infrastructure, expertise, and shared knowledge that enable faster, more collaborative scientific discovery.

Four Pillars – One Mission

CRI's strategy comes to life through four interconnected program areas.

Each addresses a different challenge facing cancer immunotherapy today, while collectively advancing a single mission: **creating a world immune to cancer.**



Research Programs

Supporting exceptional scientists throughout their careers, from postdoctoral training to internationally recognized scientific leadership.



Clinical Programs

Accelerating the translation of laboratory discoveries into clinical trials that improve outcomes for patients.



Data Programs

Building the shared infrastructure, computational expertise, and scientific resources needed to accelerate discovery across the global research community.



Patient Programs

Ensuring that advances in immunotherapy reach the people who need them through trusted education, accessible resources, and patient-centered engagement.

CRI Lloyd J. Old STAR Program

The **CRI Lloyd J. Old STAR Program — Scientists Taking Risks** — has been one of the world's most distinctive investments in scientific leadership to emerge in the last decade. Rather than funding a single project, the program provides long-term, flexible support to exceptional mid-career investigators whose body of work demonstrates extraordinary promise.

The philosophy is simple.

When exceptional scientists have the freedom to pursue bold ideas, breakthrough discoveries become possible.

That philosophy reflects the legacy of Lloyd J. Old, MD, whose visionary leadership helped establish cancer immunotherapy as a transformative field long before its promise was widely recognized.

Today, the STAR Program continues that tradition by identifying researchers capable of shaping what cancer treatment will look like a decade from now.

This year's STARs embody that vision.

Together, they are expanding access to engineered cell therapies, decoding immune resistance, applying artificial intelligence to precision oncology, uncovering new biological pathways, and exploring how the microbiome influences immunotherapy response.

Each pursues a different scientific question.

Collectively, they represent the future of cancer immunotherapy.

A Legacy of Excellence

Inaugural CRI Lloyd J. Old STAR Alexander Marson, MD, PhD, from Gladstone–UCSF Institutes is a leading researcher in immune cell engineering and an early pioneer in adapting CRISPR gene-editing technologies to reprogram human immune cells for cancer treatment.

Awarded at what Dr. Marson described as a “vulnerable moment” early in his independent career, STAR gave his lab the flexibility to pursue ambitious technology development that conventional funding could not.

That investment helped fuel powerful CRISPR-based tools for studying and engineering human T cells — technologies now used by researchers around the world to identify new ways to improve cancer immunotherapies. Since receiving STAR, Dr. Marson has published dozens of papers, secured approximately \$27.3 million in follow-on funding and mentored or supported 49 trainees, extending the impact of CRI's investment far beyond his own lab.



Meet the 2026 CRI Lloyd J. Old STARs



**Julie
Deutsch, MD**

**Johns Hopkins
University**

Creating an integrated tissue framework that combines advanced imaging and artificial intelligence to better understand how patients respond to immunotherapy—bringing truly personalized cancer care closer to reality.



**Justin
Eyquem, PhD**

**University of California,
San Francisco**

Developing technologies that engineer cancer-fighting T cells directly inside the human body, with the potential to dramatically expand access to next-generation cell therapies.



**Jennifer
Guerriero, PhD**

**Brigham and Women's
Hospital**

Engineering immune cells capable of eliminating tumor-supporting macrophages, removing one of the major biological barriers that limits immunotherapy in solid tumors.



**Mohammad
Rashidian, PhD**

**Dana-Farber Cancer
Institute**

Investigating newly discovered signaling networks that allow T cells to maintain durable anti-tumor activity instead of becoming exhausted.



**Aaron
Whiteley, PhD**

**University of Colorado
Boulder**

Decoding how beneficial microbes influence immune responses to cancer, opening the possibility of microbiome-based therapies that improve immunotherapy outcomes.

\$2.4M since 2026

CRI IGNITE Award

CRI believes every researcher holds potential that has yet to be fully realized. Today's leaders in cancer immunotherapy were once early-career scientists searching for the support needed to launch independent careers.

That pathway is becoming increasingly fragile.

Across biomedical research, shrinking federal support, growing competition, and prolonged funding uncertainty are forcing many exceptional young investigators to reconsider whether they can remain in academic science. At precisely the moment when cancer immunotherapy needs new ideas, the field risks losing some of its brightest minds.

Refusing to accept that outcome, CRI launched **IGNITE — Inspiring Growth and Nurturing Independence Through Excellence** — a new program designed to support one of the most vulnerable transitions in a scientific career: the move from mentored postdoctoral researcher to independent faculty investigator.

IGNITE provides the funding, mentorship, institutional partnership, and flexibility early-career scientists need to establish independent research programs when traditional funding pathways have become increasingly difficult to access.

The program reflects CRI's longstanding belief that the best time to invest in scientists is before their greatest discoveries have been made. By protecting exceptional talent at a pivotal career stage, IGNITE helps ensure that promising ideas — and the researchers behind them — have the opportunity to become tomorrow's breakthroughs.

Simone Park, PhD

CRI IGNITE Awardee

University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of Medicine

Mentor: E. John Wherry, PhD

Research Focus: Multiple myeloma, immunological memory, bone marrow niche



Dr. Simone Park represents the kind of scientist IGNITE was created to support.

Her research focuses on **tissue-resident memory T cells (TRM)**, specialized immune cells that remain within tissues and may provide durable protection against cancer recurrence. By investigating the molecular programs that determine whether these cells become powerful anti-tumor defenders or enter an exhausted state, Dr. Park aims to uncover new strategies capable of generating long-lasting immune protection directly within tumors.

“It's very difficult to get money from NIH at the moment. We really needed a new mechanism to give a transition for these talented postdoctoral scholars who are looking to create their own lab”

- **Lewis Lanier, PhD**, a member of CRI's Scientific Advisory Council and co-chair of the IGNITE Award selection committee



\$192M since 1970

CRI Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Early career researchers deserve the opportunity to ask bold questions.

Long before scientists lead laboratories, launch clinical trials, or pioneer new cancer therapies, they spend years developing the skills, confidence, and scientific curiosity that will shape their careers — and the future of medicine.

Since 1970, the **CRI Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship Program** has been one of the world's premier training programs in cancer immunology and immunotherapy, helping exceptional early-career researchers become the scientific leaders driving the field forward. Many of today's most influential immunologists began their careers as CRI fellows.

The Irvington Fellowship provides far more than financial support. By funding postdoctoral researchers at leading institutions around the world, CRI helps young scientists establish independent research careers, build lasting collaborations, and pursue bold ideas long before those discoveries reach patients.

Mariana Pereira da Costa, PhD



**CRI Irvington
Postdoctoral Fellow**

Institut Pasteur

Mentor: Yasmine Belkaid, PhD

Research Focus: Lung cancer, infection, and cancer immunity

Dr. Mariana Pereira da Costa studies one of the most complex relationships in immunology: how infection and the immune system influence the development and progression of cancer.

Working at the renowned Institut Pasteur under the mentorship of Dr. Yasmine Belkaid, her research explores how immune responses shaped by infection may alter the tumor microenvironment and influence cancer immunity. By better understanding these interactions, Dr. Pereira da Costa hopes to uncover new biological pathways that could inform future immunotherapy strategies and improve patient outcomes.

Her work reflects the curiosity-driven science that has long defined the Irvington Fellowship Program — research that expands fundamental understanding while laying the groundwork for future clinical advances.



“We have to fund the early stage researchers and really find those juicy projects that have a lot of promise.”

- Judy Perkins, Breast Cancer Survivor

\$7.6M since 2023

CRI Immuno-Informatics Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Cancer research is generating more information than ever before, and more information means more data.

Every tumor sample, immune cell, sequencing experiment, imaging dataset, and clinical trial adds another layer to our understanding of how the immune system recognizes and fights cancer. Together, these discoveries have created an unprecedented opportunity — but also a profound challenge.

The pace of scientific discovery now depends not only on biological insight, but on our ability to interpret increasingly complex data.

Recognizing this need, CRI launched the **Immuno-Informatics Postdoctoral Fellowship Program** in 2022 — the first program of its kind dedicated to training researchers fluent in both cancer immunology and computational science.

The fellowship welcomes computational biologists seeking deeper expertise in immunology, cancer immunologists expanding into data science, and interdisciplinary researchers committed to advancing cancer research through collaborative discovery. By bridging these fields, fellows develop the skills needed to transform massive, complex datasets into biological insights that can accelerate the next generation of immunotherapies.

The future of cancer research will not belong exclusively to biologists or data scientists. It will belong to researchers who can bring both perspectives together — and CRI is catalyzing this approach.

Joseph Palmeri, PhD

CRI Immuno-Informatics Postdoctoral Fellow

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Mentor: Caleb Lareau, PhD

Research Focus: Immune recognition and AI-enabled therapeutic discovery



Dr. Joseph Palmeri represents a new generation of interdisciplinary scientists.

His research combines computational biology, artificial intelligence, and immunology to better understand how the immune system recognizes cancer and to accelerate the development of future immune-based therapies.

Working at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Palmeri is developing computational approaches capable of uncovering biological insights that would be impossible through traditional methods alone.

His work illustrates how advanced data science is becoming an increasingly powerful partner to laboratory discovery — not replacing biological research, but dramatically expanding what scientists are capable of understanding.

As cancer immunotherapy continues to evolve, investigators like Dr. Palmeri will help define how future discoveries are made.

\$35.2M since 2012

CRI Clinic & Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP)

Turning discoveries into new therapies has long been one of the greatest challenges in biomedical research. Promising findings often stall between the laboratory and the clinic, slowed by the complexity of translating biological insight into patient benefit.

Rather than a one-way journey from bench to bedside, today's most important advances emerge through a continuous exchange between the laboratory and the clinic. Laboratory discoveries shape clinical trials. Patient experiences generate new biological questions. Clinical outcomes, in turn, guide the next generation of research.

CRI created the **Clinic & Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP)** to accelerate this cycle of discovery.

CLIP supports investigators whose research bridges fundamental science and patient care, bringing together laboratory innovation and clinical insight to develop deepen our understanding of how the immune system recognizes, attacks, and remembers cancer.

Christian Hinrichs, MD

CRI CLIP Investigator

Rutgers Health

Research Focus: T-cell therapy and solid tumors



Dr. Christian Hinrichs is working to overcome one of cancer immunotherapy's most significant challenges: extending the remarkable success of engineered T-cell therapies beyond blood cancers and into solid tumors.

His research explores innovative strategies to improve the effectiveness, persistence, and precision of adoptive T-cell therapies, with the goal of expanding these treatments to patients whose cancers remain difficult to treat using existing approaches.

Like many CLIP-supported investigators, Dr. Hinrichs' work exemplifies the close integration of laboratory discovery and clinical application.

A Legacy of Excellence

CRI CLIP Awardee Ignacio Melero, MD, PhD, is a recognized leader in cancer immunotherapy and immunology based on his translational research in immunostimulating monoclonal antibodies.

His pioneering work on 4-1BB (CD137) costimulation informed multiple clinical programs, and he helped establish immunotherapy approaches for liver cancer,

ultimately supporting nivolumab approval. Over the course of his career, Dr. Melero has authored more than 340 scientific papers and led more than 40 clinical trials, helping translate discoveries in the lab into new approaches for patients. He holds chair positions at two prestigious institutions and has been profiled as a leader in the field.



\$12.5M since 2017

CRI Technology Impact Award

Throughout history, advances in technology have transformed our understanding of biology. From the microscope to DNA sequencing to single-cell analysis, each new generation of scientific tools has enabled researchers to ask — and answer — questions that were previously out of reach.

Cancer immunotherapy is no different.

Today's researchers are exploring increasingly complex questions about how immune cells communicate, how tumors evolve, and why treatments work for some patients but not others. Answering these questions requires technologies that do not yet exist.

CRI created the **Technology Impact Award** to help build them.

The program supports visionary investigators developing innovative technologies — from advanced imaging platforms and computational approaches to novel biological tools — that have the potential to transform how scientists study the immune system and develop new cancer treatments.

A Legacy of Excellence

Dongjun Huh, PhD, from the University of Pennsylvania, was an inaugural recipient of the Tech Impact Award in 2017. His pioneering work has developed a “tumor-on-a-chip” model to study CAR T cells in solid tumors, which offers a safer, faster way to refine therapies.

CRI's early investment helped bring his bioengineering expertise into cancer immunotherapy, supporting

a technology that has since grown into a powerful platform for studying and improving how immune therapies work in solid tumors.

He also co-founded Vivodyne, a company designed to help develop drugs by testing directly on lab-grown human tissues. His tumor-on-a-chip work was recently published in Nature Biotechnology.

Jie Luo, PhD

CRI Technology Impact Award Investigator

Purdue University

Research Focus:

Imaging, immune escape, and tumor resistance



Dr. Jie Luo is developing innovative imaging technologies that allow researchers to better understand how tumors evade immune attack and develop resistance to treatment.

By visualizing immune interactions with greater precision than previously possible, his work seeks to uncover biological mechanisms that have remained hidden using conventional techniques.

Those insights could inform entirely new therapeutic strategies while helping researchers identify why some patients benefit from immunotherapy and others do not.

Like many Technology Impact Award projects, Dr. Luo's research begins with a technological innovation that has the potential to unlock discoveries across multiple areas of cancer immunotherapy.



\$12M since 2023

CRI Clinical Innovator Award

Clinical research is where new ideas are tested, refined, and transformed into the therapies that shape the future of cancer care.

CRI created the **Clinical Innovator Award** to support physician-scientists leading investigator-initiated clinical trials that explore bold new approaches to cancer immunotherapy. From testing novel treatment combinations to overcoming resistance and expanding immunotherapy to cancers with few effective options, these studies are designed to improve outcomes while advancing our understanding of cancer biology.

In cancer immunotherapy, clinical trials are not the end of the research process—they are an essential part of discovery. Every patient enrolled contributes valuable insights that help researchers better understand how the immune system responds to cancer, generating knowledge that informs the next generation of laboratory research and future clinical studies.

By supporting trials that integrate sophisticated biological analyses alongside patient care, the Clinical Innovator Award helps accelerate the translation of scientific discovery into better treatments for patients while strengthening the cycle of innovation that drives progress across the field.

Sabine Heitzeneder, MD

Clinical Innovator

Stanford University



Children and young adults with recurrent medulloblastoma have few effective treatment options. This clinical trial is evaluating a novel CAR T-cell therapy that targets GPC2, a protein found on many pediatric brain tumors but largely absent from healthy tissues. Alongside testing the therapy's safety, researchers will study why some patients respond while others do not, helping identify predictors of response, resistance, and side effects. These insights could improve outcomes for children with difficult-to-treat brain tumors while guiding the development of safer and more effective CAR T-cell therapies for future patients.

Dr. Heitzeneder's work exemplifies the kind of investigator-driven clinical research capable of changing how cancer is treated for years to come.

[More Clinical Innovators on next page →](#)

David Oh, MD, PhD

University of California,
San Francisco



Xaluritamig is a promising immunotherapy for advanced prostate cancer, but researchers still do not know why some patients respond while others do not. This study will analyze tumor tissue and blood samples from patients treated before surgery to identify biomarkers that predict response and uncover ways to overcome resistance. The findings could help personalize treatment, expand the number of patients who benefit from xaluritamig, and support its use earlier in the course of disease to reduce recurrence and improve long-term outcomes.

Every successful trial creates a foundation upon which future therapies can be built.

Aimee Talleur, MD

St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital



CAR T-cell therapy has transformed treatment for some children with high-risk leukemia, but its effectiveness can fade as engineered immune cells become exhausted. This clinical trial will test a next-generation CAR T-cell therapy designed to resist exhaustion by removing a gene linked to T-cell dysfunction. By helping these cancer-fighting cells remain active longer, researchers hope to improve response rates, extend remissions, and bring more durable treatment options to children and young adults with relapsed or treatment-resistant leukemia.

Innovation in pediatric cancer care demands both scientific imagination and extraordinary clinical commitment.

CRI's commitment extends beyond funding individual trials.

The organization is helping strengthen the entire clinical research ecosystem by encouraging collaboration between laboratory investigators, physician-scientists, computational researchers, and institutions committed to accelerating immunotherapy discovery.



"The clinical trial was my only option. There is always hope."

- Sunshine Pegues, Lung Cancer Survivor

The CRI Discovery Engine

Building the Infrastructure to Drive the Next Era of Discovery

Advances in genomic sequencing and spatial biology are giving researchers unprecedented insight into how tumors and the immune system interact. AI offers powerful new ways to study these questions, but it is only as valuable as the data on which it learns.

Today, immunotherapy data remain scattered across institutions, generated through different methods, and difficult to compare or build upon. The field lacks the shared data foundation needed to better predict when immunotherapy will work, understand why it fails, and determine how to make it effective for more people.

CRI created the **CRI Discovery Engine** to change that.

More than a database, the CRI Discovery Engine is a first-of-its-kind scientific resource designed to generate standardized, high-quality, AI-ready data. It brings researchers together around a common experimental and analytical framework so that studies contribute to a growing body of knowledge the field can build upon. This will help researchers compare findings across studies, identify patterns that might otherwise be missed, and determine which discoveries are most likely to translate into better treatments.

The Discovery Engine reflects CRI's commitment to investing in a resource that strengthens the entire field. It offers a blueprint for a more connected, cumulative, and predictive way of doing research, helping scientists make better decisions earlier and move promising discoveries closer to patients.

Built Through Collaboration

No organization can build the future of cancer immunotherapy alone.

Developed by CRI, the Discovery Engine brings together experts in immuno-oncology, high-throughput genomics, spatial biology, and computational biology across academia and industry. It is led in partnership with four internationally recognized scientific leaders:

- **E. John Wherry, PhD**, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
- **Ansuman Satpathy, MD, PhD**, Stanford University School of Medicine
- **Andrea Schietinger, PhD**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- **Serge Saxonov, PhD**, 10x Genomics

This is more than collaboration; it is shared stewardship of the field's future.



Why AI Changes the Conversation



AI is already changing biomedical research, revealing connections in complex biological data that researchers may not have seen on their own. With the right data, it can help scientists move beyond describing what happens in a single study to a more predictive understanding of cancer and the immune system.

That is the ultimate promise of the **CRI Discovery Engine**: not simply better data but a new way of doing research and a stronger path toward better cancer outcomes for patients.

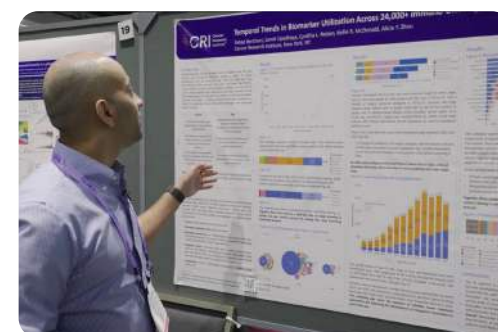
Bringing Clarity to a Rapidly Changing Field

CRI created the **Cancer Immunotherapy Insights + Impact (CI3) Report** to help make sense of the rapidly evolving cancer immunotherapy landscape.

More than a summary of the year's milestones, CI3 identifies the trends, scientific advances, and clinical developments shaping the future of cancer immunotherapy. By bringing together scientific, clinical, regulatory, and industry insights, the report helps readers understand not only what is happening across the field, but why it matters.

This year, CRI expanded CI3 beyond the printed report by launching an interactive public dashboard featuring one of the field's most comprehensive datasets of FDA cancer immunotherapy approvals. By making this information searchable and accessible, CRI is helping researchers, clinicians, journalists, patients, and supporters more easily explore the progress driving the next generation of cancer immunotherapy.

Through CI3, CRI extends its impact beyond funding research. It provides trusted analysis that helps the broader community understand where the field is today — and where it is headed next.



Fahad Benthani, PhD, Research Scientist in CRI's Scientific Affairs Department, presents his poster on the immuno-oncology landscape at AACR 2026.

Why This Matters

Understanding the direction of the field changes how organizations invest.

It influences research priorities, informs clinical development, shapes public policy, empowers patients, and provides donors with confidence that their investments are aligned with the areas of greatest future impact.

Knowledge becomes strategy. Strategy accelerates progress.

Preparing Scientists for the Future of Discovery

As cancer immunotherapy becomes increasingly data-driven, today's researchers need more than expertise in biology. They must also be fluent in the computational tools transforming how discoveries are made.

“It’s just such an amazing opportunity offered by CRI to really help learn all of the informatics skills more systematically, rather than just chatting with an AI engine.”



Jiayu Ye, PhD

CRI Immuno-Informatics Postdoctoral Fellow
Stanford University

CRI created the **Bioinformatics Bootcamp** to help prepare the next generation of cancer immunologists for this rapidly evolving landscape.



The third annual Bootcamp brought together more than 50 fellows – both CRI-funded and beyond CRI – in San Antonio, Texas, for an immersive week of hands-on training in computational biology, bioinformatics, and data science. Participants explored topics including advanced computational workflows, artificial intelligence, experimental design, coding reproducibility, and career development, while working alongside leading experts in the field.

Just as importantly, the Bootcamp fostered collaboration. Fellows from around the world shared ideas, built professional networks, and developed relationships that will continue long after the program ends.

The Bioinformatics Bootcamp is one part of CRI’s broader commitment to preparing scientists for the future of cancer research. By equipping early-career investigators with the skills, connections, and confidence to navigate an increasingly data-driven field, CRI is investing in the people who will drive the next generation of discoveries.



Where Discovery Reaches Patients

Every investment we make — from funding researchers to advancing clinical trials and building data infrastructure — has the same goal: improving outcomes for people facing cancer.

But progress is about more than developing new treatments. It also means helping patients and caregivers understand an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving field.

That's why CRI is committed to providing clear, trusted resources and support that empower patients to better understand cancer immunotherapy, explore their treatment options, and make informed decisions alongside their health care teams.

This year, CRI continued to expand its growing collection of patient resources, including:

- **The Clinical Trial Finder**, helping patients identify immunotherapy clinical trials that may be appropriate for their diagnosis.
- **Disease-specific patient guides** that explain cancer types and immunotherapy in accessible, patient-friendly language.
- **Cancer educational resources**, articles, videos, and expert interviews that make the latest advances in immunotherapy easier to understand.
- **Patient stories** that highlight the real-world impact of research and the lives changed by scientific progress.

By translating complex science into practical, accessible information, CRI helps ensure that discoveries don't stop in the laboratory — they reach the people they are meant to serve.

Real Patients, Real Cancer Journeys

Throughout the year, CRI continued to share the experiences of patients whose lives have been changed by cancer immunotherapy.

Every patient story reflects thousands of scientists, clinicians, trial participants, caregivers, and supporters working together toward a common goal.

Behind every breakthrough is a person. Behind every statistic is a family. Behind every discovery is a life forever changed.



The Final Measure of Success

Since the beginning of the modern immunotherapy era, tens of millions of additional life-years have been gained through treatments that harness the immune system to fight cancer. An estimated 250 million lives have been touched worldwide, including patients, families, caregivers, and loved ones.

Behind every breakthrough is a scientist. Behind every discovery is an investment. And behind every investment is the opportunity to help more people live longer, healthier lives.

That is the measure of CRI's impact. And it remains the mission that drives everything we do.

Leadership Beyond the Laboratory

Throughout FY25–26, CRI helped advance the field by:

- Convening researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and patient advocates at scientific meetings and educational events.
- Sharing expert perspectives through media interviews, conferences, and public forums.
- Fostering new collaborations across academia, industry, and healthcare.
- Expanding awareness of advances in cancer immunotherapy among patients and the public.

Beyond funding research, CRI serves as a trusted convener and communicator, helping connect the people and ideas that accelerate progress in cancer immunotherapy.



Top: CRI hosted a fireside chat with the 2025 and 2026 winners of the AACR–CRI Lloyd J. Old Award.

Middle: CRI CEO Alicia Zhou, PhD, appeared on Scripps News in spring 2026.

Bottom: The Atlantic People v. Cancer Summit, May 2026

Stewardship That Accelerates Discovery

Every achievement highlighted in this report — from supporting scientists and advancing clinical research to building data infrastructure and empowering patients — was made possible through the generosity of our donors.

At CRI, we believe every philanthropic dollar is an investment in the future of cancer immunotherapy. Our responsibility is to steward those resources wisely, directing them toward the people, programs, and discoveries with the greatest potential to improve the lives of patients.

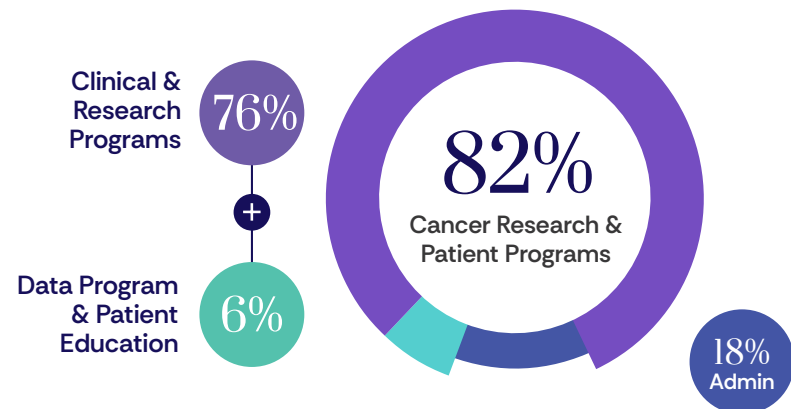
That commitment extends beyond how we fund research. It is reflected in our dedication to financial accountability, organizational transparency, and responsible stewardship, ensuring that every contribution advances our mission as effectively and efficiently as possible.

We are deeply grateful to the donors, partners, researchers, patients, and advocates who make this work possible. Together, we are accelerating discoveries, expanding treatment options, and moving closer to a world immune to cancer.

Where Every Dollar Goes

Your investment helped:

- Advance record-setting scientific funding
- Support 93 new research awards
- Build AI-ready research infrastructure
- Accelerate investigator-initiated clinical trials
- Expand trusted patient education
- Strengthen the global cancer immunotherapy community



Independent Recognition

CRI is proud to maintain the highest standards of nonprofit accountability and transparency.

- Charity Navigator Four-Star Rating
- CharityWatch A Rating
- GuideStar Platinum Transparency
- BBB Wise Giving Alliance Accredited Charity

These recognitions reflect our commitment to ensuring donor support is translated into meaningful scientific progress.



The Future Is Built Before It Arrives

The history of cancer immunotherapy is a story of people willing to believe in possibilities before they became realities.

Researchers who pursued bold ideas.

Physicians who challenged conventional thinking.

Patients who participated in clinical trials.

Supporters who invested in discoveries long before their impact was certain.

Because of that collective belief, cancer immunotherapy has transformed the lives of millions of patients around the world.

Today, we stand at the beginning of another extraordinary chapter.

New technologies, deeper biological understanding, and unprecedented computational power are expanding what is possible in cancer research. The opportunities ahead are immense—but realizing them will require continued

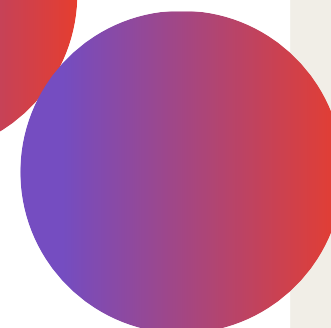
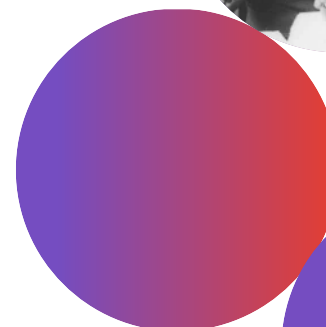
investment in the people, ideas, and collaborations that drive discovery.

For more than 70 years, the Cancer Research Institute has embraced that responsibility. We have invested in scientists before their greatest discoveries were made, supported bold research before it became accepted science, and helped build the foundations that allow innovation to flourish.

That commitment remains unchanged.

We will continue investing in exceptional researchers. We will continue advancing discoveries that improve the lives of patients. And we will continue working alongside our global community of scientists, clinicians, donors, advocates, and patients to accelerate progress toward the future that has guided our mission from the very beginning:

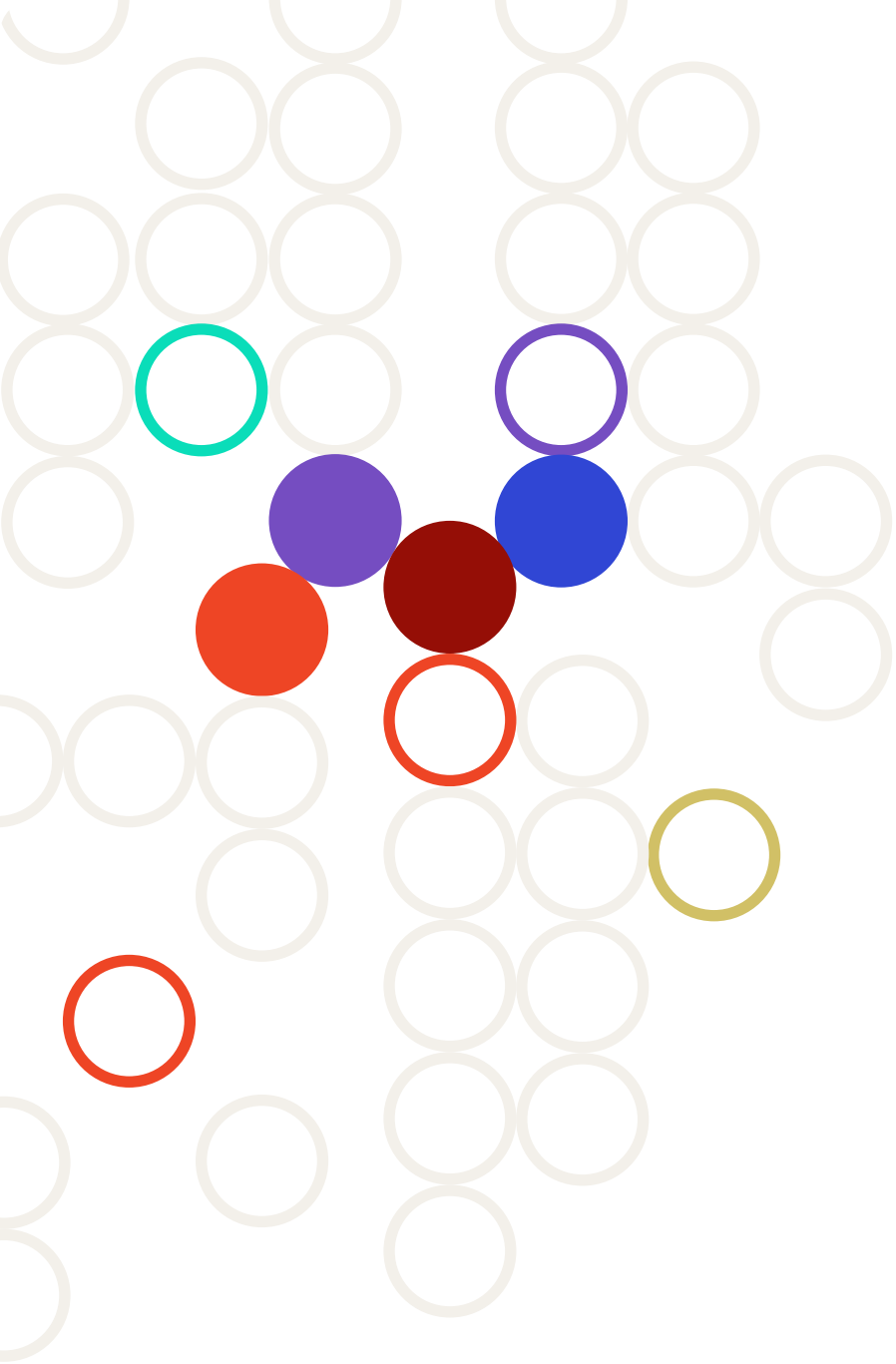
A world immune to cancer.



The Future Doesn't Wait.
Neither Will We.

Uniting for a World Immune to Cancer





From investment to impact:
Explore all of the CRI's FY 2025-26 Impact

