

FEATURED SPEAKERS



August Ochoa, MD

Chair, Department of Interdisciplinary Oncology
Deputy Director, LSU-LCMC Cancer Center
Professor of Pediatrics
Al Copeland - Cancer Crusaders Chair
Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center
LSU Health Sciences Center

ABOUT AUGUST OCHOA, MD

Dr. Augusto Ochoa is a practicing physician specializing in the field of Allergy/Immunology. His research interests include T-cell function, cytokine production, macrophage T-cell interaction, immune regulation, immune dysfunction, and disease, as well as tumor immunology. His current research is focusing on regulation of anti-tumor responses by lipids and lipid receptors.



Wei-Zen Wei, Ph.D.

Professor of Oncology, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

ABOUT WEI-ZEN WEI, PH.D.

Dr. Wei-Zen Wei is Professor of Oncology at the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University. She holds the Herrick endowed chair for Cancer Research. Wei lab studies tumor immunology and immunotherapy. Having developed HER2 genetic vaccine, her lab and collaborators validated the vaccine activities in multiple strains of mice, domestic cats and human clinical trials. It became clear that genetic elements regulate anti-tumor immunity. To resolve the regulatory mechanisms of oncogene induced tumor, Wei lab established a novel gene discovery platform of Diversity Outbred (DO) F1 mice that express HER2/Neu oncogene. Each mouse carries individually unique genetic composition that enables high-resolution linkage between genotype and phenotype. Using this platform, regulatory genes of tumor progression and vaccine response have been identified. Actionable immune regulators are being investigated as intervention targets.

Dr. Wei has served the role of Associate Center Director for Basic Sciences in Karmanos Cancer Institute, external advisor for cancer research groups and chair for many NIH study sections. Dr. Wei has mentored students, post-docs, clinical fellows and junior faculty. Dr. Wei finds it most rewarding to serve the community and develop next generation investigators.