

SAA - NASSAU-SUFFOLK IMPACT REPORT



SWIM ACROSS AMERICA
2023 GRANT
\$733,000



SAA - NASSAU-SUFFOLK
HAS RAISED OVER
\$12 MILLION
TO FIGHT CANCER
SINCE 2001

GRANT RECIPIENTS FUNDED BY SAA-NASSAU-SUFFOLK



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

DR. LUIS DIAZ AND DR. ANDREA CERCEK

Background: The Swim Across America lab at MSK has been a trailblazer in developing immunotherapy treatments since the 1990s. A current rectal cancer clinical trial by Dr. Luis Diaz and Dr. Andrea Cercek saw the first 100% remission rate in the history of cancer. SAA also funds additional grants annually at MSK.



Weill Cornell Medicine
Sandra and Edward
Meyer Cancer Center

DR. JEDD WOLCHOK AND DR. TAHA MERGHOUB

Background: The Swim Across America Laboratory at the Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine, led by Dr. Taha Merghoub, conducts immunotherapy research and clinical trials. As Center Director, Dr. Wolchok leads an expansive, multidisciplinary research and clinical enterprise dedicated to translating discoveries on the underlying causes of cancer into cutting-edge treatment and therapies for patient outcomes.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
**MD Anderson
Cancer Center**

DR. RICHARD GORLICK

Background: Swim Across America has been funding the 'Stacey Leondis Fellowship' - research into the development of a targeted therapy for osteosarcoma, an adolescent bone cancer supervised by Dr. Richard Gorlick since 2006. Dr. Gorlick is currently the division head and department chair of Pediatrics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Children's Cancer Center.



Feinstein Institute
for Medical Research
Northwell Health

DR. SHIH-SHIH CHEN

Background: A major focus of the grant is to therapeutically target tumor microenvironment (TME) of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), the most prevalent leukemia in adults. Significant recent findings include identifying the critical fraction of CLL cells that express CLECL1, which drives disease progression and drug resistance.



Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

DR. MIKALA EGEBLAD

Background: Research in this lab focuses on developing new strategies to improve outcomes for patients with cancer that has metastasized. Modifying the immune response, either by reprogramming the macrophages or by inhibiting neutrophils and NETs is the ultimate goal.



New for 2023: Drs. Semir Beyaz and John Moses are receiving grant funding for the development of small molecule therapeutics that boost metabolic fitness of immune cells for cancer therapy.

DID YOU KNOW? SAA-NASSAU-SUFFOLK also supports **SHARE CANCER SUPPORT** - a local organization that provides dedicated, experienced support for women facing breast, ovarian, uterine, cervical or metastatic breast cancer.

