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Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

Lurie Cancer Center's Basic Research Seminar Series

B-Cell Therapies for Cancer: A New Frontier in Immunotherapy

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. CT

Searle Seminar Room, 1st Floor

Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
303 E. Superior St., Chicago, IL

Glioblastoma remains one of the most aggressive and treatment-resistant cancers, highlighting the urgent need for novel immunotherapeutic strategies. Bvax is a personalized, autologous immunotherapy that leverages patient-derived 4-1BBL+ B cells expanded and pulsed ex vivo with tumor lysate to enhance tumor antigen presentation. This unique approach stimulates a robust anti-tumor immune response by activating CD8+ T cells and generating tumor-reactive antibodies that limit tumor invasion and growth. When administered alongside minimally manipulated autologous CD8+ T cells, Bvax enhances tumor infiltration, promotes long-term immune surveillance, and reshapes the tumor microenvironment to support durable tumor control. Preclinical studies demonstrate its potential to improve survival outcomes, and an ongoing Phase I clinical trial is evaluating its safety and efficacy in glioblastoma patients. In this talk, we will discuss the scientific rationale behind Bvax, its immunomodulatory mechanisms, and its potential role in advancing immunotherapy for brain tumors and beyond.



Catalina Lee Chang, PhD

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Hosted by: Huiping Liu, PhD