Scientific Advisory Council

Igor Puzanov, MD, MSci, FAACP

Clinical Professor of Medicine, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo

In his professional career, he has worked on developing precision medicine agents as well as immunotherapies. In the first in human trial of PLX4032/vemurafenib we provided critical PK/PD data that led to the first in class/ first in human FDA-approved BRAF inhibitor. His team was instrumental in the development of talimogene laherparepvec, the first in human oncolytic virus therapy for patients with melanoma. Recently, he has explored immunotherapy combinations with targeted agents as well as combinations of oncolytic viruses with checkpoint inhibitors.

E. Antonio Chiocca, MD, PhD

Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Chiocca's research has focused on how viruses with specific gene mutations will replicate selectively in tumors with a specific defect in a tumor suppressor pathway. His research has also included how modulation of innate immunity will improve replication of these tumor-selective viruses. More recently, Dr. Chiocca has elucidated how specific microRNAs (mir128 and mir451) regulate cellular target transcripts to permit tumor cell self-renewal and invasion into brain. He also has been the principal investigator of three multi-institutional clinical trials of gene-, viral-therapies for malignant gliomas and has been a permanent member of NIH study sections (NCI DT and NCI P01-D clinical studies).

Dr. Zachary Morris

Department of Human Oncology at The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

As a physician-scientist, his current clinical focus is on the treatment of patients with melanoma and soft tissue sarcomas. His independent translational research laboratory focuses on the mechanisms whereby radiation may enhance the response to immunotherapies.