

Postdoctoral Fellow, T cell Exhaustion and Cancer Immunotherapy

We have an open postdoctoral fellow position in the Sarkar Lab focusing on translational discoveries in the field of T cell memory, T cell exhaustion and cancer immunotherapy. The research projects involve high-dimensional immunomics approaches in established model systems for driving fundamental discoveries in T cell exhaustion and memory – these findings feed seamlessly into our translational pipeline of engineering novel CAR T cells and immunotherapies to solid tumors. Our studies are aimed at engineering adoptive cell therapies that are long-lived, exhaustion-proof, and respond to checkpoint blockade immunotherapies. The model systems in the Lab are geared towards immunotherapies for difficult-to-treat solid tumors such as brain tumors, pancreatic cancer, lung cancer and sarcomas.

The key target areas of the projects that are ready for creative forces in our Lab include:

1. Elucidating signals that drive programming of memory and exhausted T cells
2. Engineering long-lived memory and exhaustion-resistant CAR T cells
3. Targeting chemokine pathways to guide CAR T cells into solid tumors
4. Transcriptional reprogramming of T cells to enhance responsiveness to checkpoint blockade
5. Remodeling of tumor microenvironment using therapeutic proteins and BiTEs
6. Exploring novel immunomodulatory protein mimetics that synergize with checkpoint blockade

Located in the heart of the world-class biomedical research cluster in Seattle, the above ongoing projects in the Sarkar Lab are built upon ongoing collaborations with Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Institute of Protein Design at the UW, Benaroya Research Institute and Institute for Systems Biology.

Essential requirements for applying to the position:

- PhD or MD/PhD in Immunology or other closely related field
- At least one published first-author peer-reviewed manuscript
- Experience with in vivo murine T cell immunology experimentation.
- Expertise in multi-color flow cytometry (>6-colors) and data analysis using FlowJo.
- Expertise in in vitro T cell assays and mammalian cell culture

Preferred additional skills:

- Prior experience with tumor immunology in murine models
- Experience with bioinformatics tools for large data set analysis.
- Prior evidence of procuring any competitive funding (amount not important).

Interested candidates are encouraged to message Dr. Sarkar directly (sarkars@uw.edu) for setting up an initial Zoom call to discuss scientific fit and potential projects in the Lab.

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