



# DUANE ROTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

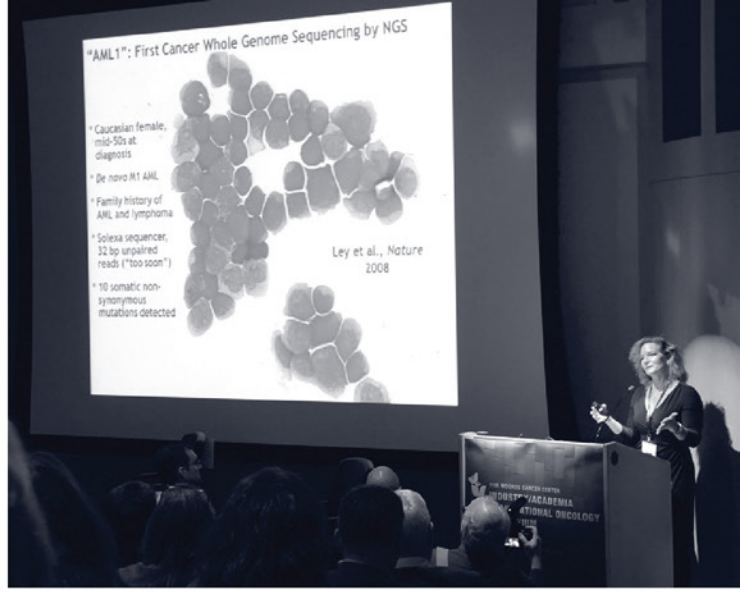
PRESENTED AT THE  
ANNUAL INDUSTRY/ACADEMIA  
PRECISION ONCOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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About the Duane Roth Achievement Award.....	3
About Duane Roth .....	4
2026 Recipient: Troy E. Wilson, Ph.D., J.D.....	6
2025 Recipient: Catheryn M. Yashar, M.D.....	8
2024 Recipient: Laura K. Shawver, Ph.D.....	10
2023 Recipient: Napoleone Ferrara, M.D.....	12
2022 Recipient: Kristen M. Hege, M.D.....	14
2021 Recipient: Dennis Carson, M.D. ....	16
2020 Recipient: Scott Gottlieb, M.D. ....	18
2019 Recipient: Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D.....	20
2018 Recipient: Carl June, M.D. ....	22
2017 Recipient: Sandra Horning, M.D.....	24
2016 Recipient: Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D.....	26
2015 Recipient: Brian Druker, M.D.....	28
2014 Recipient: Laura Esserman, M.D., M.B.A. ....	30
Duane Roth Achievement Award Made Possible By .....	32
Duane Roth Achievement Award Logo Symbolism .....	33

*For more information, please visit*  
[www.DuaneRothAchievementAward.com](http://www.DuaneRothAchievementAward.com)



# ABOUT THE DUANE ROTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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The Duane Roth Achievement Award recognizes and honors patient-focused leaders in health care whose work has overcome scientific, financial, institutional, political and cultural challenges to create new paradigms in research and treatment. Named after Duane Roth, an esteemed leader in the biotech industry who died tragically following a bicycle accident in 2013, the award is given to those who demonstrate his deep commitment to innovation and patients.

Past recipients include: Laura Esserman, M.D., MBA, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center; Brian Druker, M.D., Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health and Science University; Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center; Sandra Horning, M.D., Genentech; Carl June, M.D., University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Scott Gottlieb, M.D., 23rd Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration; Dennis Carson, M.D., UCSD; Kristen M. Hege, M.D., Bristol Myers Squibb; Napoleone Ferrara, M.D., UCSD; Laura Shawver, Ph.D., Capstan Therapeutics; and Catheryn Yashar, M.D., UCSD. Biographies of past winners and their accomplishments are within this booklet, along with our 2026 recipient, Troy Wilson, Ph.D., J.D., Kura Oncology. The Duane Roth Achievement Award Committee is composed of all past recipients of the award. This body is tasked with selecting the awardee annually.

## *The UC San Diego Annual Industry/Academia Precision Oncology Symposium*

Since 2005, UC San Diego annually organizes the Industry/Academia Precision Oncology Symposium – a unique forum where distinguished investigators, scientists, and clinicians join top industry decision-makers to discuss the latest breakthroughs in translational oncology research. Presentation subjects include personalized medicine, targeted therapy discoveries, collaborative clinical trials and case studies of successful collaborative projects. An interactive panel session composed of industry and academia panelists and the concluding networking reception allow for further dialogue of ideas and the fostering of collaborative relationships.

The Duane Roth Achievement Award has been proudly presented as part of the Symposium since 2014.



# DUANE ROTH

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## *Engaged Mentor & Business Visionary*

It is difficult to describe the essence of Duane Roth in a few words, but some that come to mind are caring, passionate, genuine, selfless and dedicated. When he believed in an idea or project, he would pursue it with incredible determination and effort, and motivate others to follow.

Duane always loved his work. Starting as a restaurateur, then a building products salesman and on to hospital sales and product development roles with major pharmaceutical companies led him to his 20 years as CEO of a startup drug development company.

All of these experiences prepared Duane for his eight years as CEO of Connect, a nonprofit organization that promotes innovation in the San Diego region. He was captivated by the possibilities that innovation provides in improving the world in which we live.

Duane was involved in numerous charitable, political, business, educational and scientific research organizations and he was intimately engaged in many fundraising events and projects. In addition to supporting organizations, Duane was always available to talk to people individually, particularly young people, learning of their passions and goals, and giving advice on how to accomplish those goals.

Duane was a controlled dreamer and envisioned big ideas. He had a remarkable ability to recognize and articulate a path toward resolution of diverse issues in a reasoned and intelligent manner. Duane was the consummate collaborator, always seeking the best outcome without regard to ego or personal gain.

His spirit lives on in each recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award, as those individuals embody Duane's passion and commitment to innovation and the people they serve.

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*“Duane Roth had a reputation for always finding ways to overcome obstacles, and this award serves as a way to honor his memory by recognizing leaders in the oncology space who share this spirit.”*

Ida Deichaite, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
UC San Diego

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2026



# TROY E. WILSON, PH.D., J.D.

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## *President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman, Kura Oncology*

Dr. Troy Wilson is a biotech entrepreneur and leader who brings more than 25 years of experience in founding and scaling innovative companies that advance groundbreaking therapies and deliver transformative value to patients.

Dr. Wilson currently serves as President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Kura Oncology (NASDAQ: KURA), a company he co-founded in 2014. Under his leadership, Kura pioneered development of menin inhibitors for treatment of acute myeloid leukemia (AML), culminating in the FDA's full approval of KOMZIFTI™ (ziftomenib) – the first and only once-daily, oral menin inhibitor for adults with relapsed or refractory NPM1-mutated AML. Dr. Wilson and his team at Kura have also pioneered clinical development of farnesyl transferase inhibitors as combination therapies to address innate and adaptive resistance to targeted therapies such as KRAS inhibitors, PI3Ka inhibitors and VEGFR inhibitors. In addition, Kura is advancing menin inhibitors for treatment of solid tumors, diabetes and cardiometabolic indications.

Dr. Wilson also co-founded Avidity Biosciences (NASDAQ: RNA), a pioneer a new class of oligonucleotide therapeutics, and he served as President and CEO from 2012 until 2019 and Chairman of the Board from inception through its acquisition by Novartis AG for \$12 billion, the largest acquisition of a pre-commercial company in the biotech industry.

Previously, Dr. Wilson co-founded Araxes Pharma LLC and Wellspring Biosciences in 2012 and served as President and CEO. Along with co-founders Kevan Shokat, Yi Liu and Pingda Ren, Dr. Wilson pioneered the discovery and development of mutant-selective inhibitors of the KRASG12C oncoprotein, paving the way for discovery and development of a new class of targeted cancer therapies.

Dr. Wilson also co-founded Intellikine in 2007, guiding it as President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board to develop PI3K/mTOR inhibitors until its acquisition by Takeda Pharmaceuticals in 2011. He also co-founded Ambrx (NASDAQ: AMAM), a pioneer in protein medicinal chemistry using non-natural amino acids, which was acquired by Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicines in 2024. Dr. Wilson began his career in the biopharmaceutical industry in roles of increasing responsibility at the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation (GNF).

In addition, Dr. Wilson currently serves as Chairman of the Board for Cartography Biosciences and Montara Therapeutics, and as a member of the board of Atrium Therapeutics, Puma Biotechnology, and Cipher Genetics. He has received a number of awards including EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2025 Pacific Southwest Award winner, and the 2021 PharmaVOICE 100 Award. He received a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a Ph.D. in bioorganic chemistry as well as a B.A. in biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley.

2025



# CATHERYN M. YASHAR, M.D.

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*Professor & Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs, Division of Radiation Oncology, Radiation Medicine and Applied Sciences, Chief Medical Officer, Health System, University of California, San Diego*

Catheryn M. Yashar, MD, is a trailblazing radiation oncologist, academic leader, and health policy innovator. As Professor and Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs in the Department of Radiation Medicine and Applied Sciences at UC San Diego, Chief of the Breast Cancer Section, and a member of the Gynecologic Cancer Treatment Team, she combines world-class clinical excellence with visionary institutional leadership. She also serves as Chief Medical Officer of UC San Diego Health.

Dr. Yashar is widely recognized for pushing the frontiers of cancer care. She has pioneered novel brachytherapy techniques for breast and gynecologic cancers, and is an expert in advanced modalities such as intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) and image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT). Her work has consistently focused on delivering precision treatments that spare healthy tissue, reduce complications, and enhance patient outcomes.

In September 2026, Dr. Yashar will become the President of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), having been appointed president-elect in recognition of her leadership in the field. ASTRO is the international voice for radiation oncology, representing more than 10,000 physicians, physicists, biologists, and radiation therapists. Her election underscores her commitment to aligning innovation, equity, and evidence-based practice in cancer care. A powerful voice in health policy, Dr. Yashar currently chairs ASTRO's Health Policy Council and has been a key supporter of the Radiation Oncology Case Rate (ROCR) Act, which endeavors to modernize reimbursement structures to support guideline-driven care and maintain access for underserved populations.

She holds leadership and editorial roles across national organizations: past President of the American Brachytherapy Society, member of the Board of Chancellors of the American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO), and trustee of the American Board of Radiology. She is a fellow of ACRO, ABS, the American College of Radiology (ACR), and ASTRO. As Senior Editor for *Advances in Radiation Oncology* (gynecologic cancers), Gynecologic Cancer Editor for *UpToDate*, and co-editor of *Principles and Practice of Gynecologic Oncology*, she shapes the scholarly discourse in her field. Her scholarly output exceeds 100 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and reviews.

At UC San Diego, Dr. Yashar has chaired several high-impact committees, including the Medical School Curriculum Committee, Moores Cancer Committee, Credentialing Committee, and Council on Education Policy. She has been honored repeatedly as a "Top Doctor" by *San Diego Magazine* and is a sought-after speaker at international oncology symposia.

2024



# LAURA K. SHAWVER, PH.D.

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## *President and Chief Executive Officer, Capstan Therapeutics*

Dr. Laura Shawver is a pioneer in healthcare who brings over two decades of leadership experience in biotechnology and patient advocacy to her career, creating new paradigms in research and treatment for cancer and other serious diseases.

Dr. Shawver views the field of oncology from the perspective of a scientist, drug developer and survivor. As a scientist, she conducted research in the field of oncogenes, growth factors and signal transduction pathways. This work paved the way for her early drug development career focused on angiogenesis inhibitors and precision medicine, alongside a passion for providing cancer patients with treatment that matched their tumor alterations. Following her own diagnosis and treatment for ovarian cancer in 2006, she founded The Clarity Foundation to help revolutionize ovarian cancer treatment and create a community of support for women living with the disease. The Clarity Foundation's services include helping women gain access to molecular profile tests to help understand their tumor alterations, sharing the latest information on potential treatment options, guiding women to appropriate clinical trials and providing psychosocial support. Since her recovery from ovarian cancer, Dr. Shawver continues to seek ways to change the paradigm for cancer treatment through her leadership roles in biotech, both as CEO and serving on Boards including those working on precision medicines, AAA ATPases, cytokines, cell therapy and mRNA therapies.

Prior to her current role as President and CEO at Capstan Therapeutics, a company developing targeted *in vivo* RNA technologies using targeted lipid nanoparticles (tLNPs), Dr. Shawver held the role of CEO at multiple organizations, including Silverback Therapeutics, Synthorx, Inc., Cleave Biosciences, Phenomix Corporation and SUGEN, Inc. She currently sits on the BOD at Relay Therapeutics, Bright Peak Therapeutics, Dovetail Therapeutics and ARS Pharmaceuticals. She is an active member of the American Association for Cancer Research, where she has served on the Scientific Advisory Committee for Stand Up 2 Cancer since its inception in 2008. Throughout her career, Dr. Shawver remains a scientist at heart, having published more than 100 scientific publications, review articles, book chapters and patents.

Dr. Shawver has received many accolades throughout her career, among them the 2023 San Diego BioPharma Achievement Award, 2020 *Endpoints* Women in Biopharma, 2012 *PharmaVOICE* 100 and *FierceBiotech's* 2011 Women in Biotech. In 2011, she was honored as the University of Iowa's Distinguished Alumni. She received her Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Iowa.

2023



# NAPOLEONE FERRARA, M.D.

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## *Distinguished Professor of Pathology, Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology and Pharmacology, University of California, San Diego*

Napoleone Ferrara, M.D., is responsible for discovering Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF), a key molecular mediator of new blood vessel formation, and for the development of effective anti-VEGF therapies for cancer and blinding eye disorders such as neovascular age-related macular degeneration. For a long time, it was not clearly understood how normal or cancerous cells elicit the development of a vascular supply. At Genentech, Dr. Ferrara spent nearly 25 years working on the isolation, molecular cloning and biological characterization of VEGF, which resulted in the development of bevacizumab (Avastin), the first anti-angiogenic agent to be approved by the FDA for treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer, in 2004. Subsequently, Avastin and other VEGF blockers have been approved for the treatment of several malignancies, including, kidney, ovarian, brain, and cervical cancers. Currently, Avastin and other anti-VEGF agents are among the most widely used cancer therapeutics and have shown additivity with immunotherapy in several cancer types. His research also led to the development of ranibizumab (Lucentis), which has been FDA-approved for the treatment of multiple intraocular neovascular disorders. Ranibizumab and other VEGF inhibitors are now standard of care for the treatment of multiple intraocular neovascular disorders.

Dr. Ferrara earned his M.D. degree in 1981 from the University of Catania Medical School in Italy. After completing his postdoctoral research at the University of California, San Francisco, he joined Genentech Inc. in 1988. In December 2012, Dr. Ferrara joined the University of California, San Diego as a Distinguished Professor of Pathology, Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology & Pharmacology, and Senior Deputy Director for Basic Science of the Moores Cancer Center. His research continues to focus on the biology of angiogenesis and the identification of its regulators.

Dr. Ferrara has authored over 300 scientific publications, which have been cited over 190,000 times according to Google Scholar. He is also the recipient of numerous scientific awards, including the Lefoulon-Delalande-Institut de France Prize, the Passano Award, the General Motors Cancer Research Award, the ASCO Science of Oncology Award, the Pezcoller Foundation-AACR International Award, the Lasker-deBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, the Janssen Award for Biomedical Research, the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, the Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award and the Gairdner Foundation International Award. Dr. Ferrara has been an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, USA since 2006 and became an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine in 2015.

2022



# KRISTEN M. HEGE, M.D.

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## *Senior Vice President, Early Clinical Development, Hematology/Oncology and Cell Therapy, Bristol Myers Squibb*

At BMS, Dr. Hege is responsible for advancing a pipeline of small molecules, biologics and cell therapies from first-in-human studies through clinical proof-of-concept. In addition, she led the bluebird-partnered BCMA CAR T cell program (Abecma) in multiple myeloma from inception through FDA approval. Prior to BMS, she held a similar role at Celgene as well as executive roles in biotech at Cell Genesys, Cellerant, and Theraclone.

In addition to her work at BMS, Dr. Hege is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCSF where she sees patients with blood cancers weekly. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Mersana Therapeutics and Graphite Bio and served on the Board of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer for a 3-year term from 2016-2019.

Dr. Hege received her M.D. at UCSF and internal medicine and hematology/oncology subspecialty training at Harvard and UCSF, respectively.

In 2015 she was recognized by Fierce Biotech as one of the top 12 women in Biopharma, in 2019 by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association as a "Luminary", and in 2021 by San Francisco Business Times as one of the most influential women in Bay Area business and by PharmVOICE as 100 of the most inspiring people. Her career path and long history with CAR T cell development was featured as one of 25 physicians and scientists recognized as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of Nature Medicine.

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*In 2015, Dr. Hege was recognized by Fierce Biotech as one of the top 12 women in Biopharma, in 2019 by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association as a "Luminary", and in 2021 by San Francisco Business Times as one of the most influential women in Bay Area business and by PharmVOICE as 100 of the most inspiring people.*

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2021



# DENNIS CARSON, M.D.

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## *Professor Emeritus of Medicine, University of California, San Diego*

Dennis Carson, M.D., the 2021 Recipient, has spent his career discovering new targets, and developing therapeutics, in the fields of oncology, autoimmune and infectious diseases. He developed, from bench to bedside, the drug cladribine (Leustatin<sup>®</sup>) for hairy cell leukemia (HCL). Developed in 1993, the breakthrough therapy for the then-fatal blood cancer, put more than 90 percent of HCL patients into long-lasting remissions. It acts like a purine nucleoside agent, which prevents cells from making DNA and RNA, and can selectively kill hairy cell leukemia cells. Heralded as a breakthrough cure, cladribine remains the first-line treatment for HCL and is also tapped as a treatment for B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia and multiple sclerosis. Now researchers have expanded its use to another deadly form of leukemia, drug-resistant T cell prolymphocytic leukemia. Cladribine was a trailblazer at the time of its introduction over 20 years ago.

Dr. Carson has held leadership roles at the UCSD Stein Institute and served as Director for the UCSD Moores Cancer Center. He has founded multiple biotechnology companies in the vaccine and oncology areas. Currently, he is involved in multiple translational oncology programs that have led to new clinical trials. His recent work leading a large development project funded by California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, has brought from bench to bedside, a monoclonal antibody against cancer stem cells. At this stage in his career, he has focused his expertise and experience to help younger basic and clinical scientists in the difficult process of drug discovery and development.

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*Dr. Carson developed the drug cladribine (Leustatin<sup>®</sup>) for hairy cell leukemia (HCL), the breakthrough therapy for the then-fatal blood cancer that put more than 90 percent of HCL patients into long-lasting remissions.*

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2020



# SCOTT GOTTLIEB, M.D.

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*23rd Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI); Partner at New Enterprise Associates (NEA)*

Scott Gottlieb, M.D., is a physician and was the 23rd Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. His work focuses on advancing public health through innovative approaches to improving medical outcomes, reshaping healthcare delivery, and expanding consumer choice and safety. He is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a partner at the venture firm New Enterprise Associates.

Dr. Gottlieb is an advocate for advancing the health of patients, promoting access, and driving innovation. Historic advances in new policy distinguished his tenure at the FDA, in addition to a record number of approvals of novel drugs, medical devices, and generic medicines. Under his leadership, the FDA advanced new frameworks for modern, safe and effective oversight of gene therapies, cell based regenerative medicines, targeted drugs, and digital health devices. The agency also implemented reforms to standardize drug reviews, improved use of real-world evidence, and promoted policies to reduce death and disease from tobacco.

Previously, Dr. Gottlieb served as the FDA's Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs and before that, as a Senior Adviser to the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He is widely published in medical journals and periodicals, including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and The Washington Post, and held editorial positions on the British Medical Journal and the Journal of the American Medical Association. Fortune Magazine recognized him as one of the "World's 50 Greatest Leaders" in 2018 and 2019, and Time Magazine named him one of its "50 People Transforming Healthcare in 2018."

Dr. Gottlieb was a practicing hospitalist and is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

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*Dr. Gottlieb is an advocate for advancing the health of patients, promoting healthcare access, and driving innovation.*

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2019



# SUSAN BAND HORWITZ, PH.D.

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## *Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D. attended Bryn Mawr College, then received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Brandeis University. She was a postdoctoral fellow in the Departments of Pharmacology at Tufts Medical School, Emory Medical School and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She joined the faculty at Albert Einstein in 1970 and is presently a Distinguished Professor and the Rose C. Falkenstein Professor of Cancer Research.

Dr. Horwitz has a continuing interest in natural products as a source of new drugs. Her contributions span several decades of research and encompass agents which have served as prototypes for some of our most important drugs. Dr. Horwitz' most seminal research contribution has been in the development of Taxol<sup>®</sup>, a drug isolated from the yew tree, *Taxus brevifolia*. Although no one was interested in Taxol<sup>®</sup> when she began her studies, today it is an important antitumor drug that has been given to over a million patients. Dr. Horwitz, her students and postdoctoral fellows made the discovery that Taxol<sup>®</sup> had a unique mechanism of action and suggested that it was a prototype for a new class of antitumor drugs.

Dr. Horwitz has received numerous honors and awards including the C. Chester Stock Award from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Warren Alpert Foundation Prize from Harvard Medical School, The Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer Research, The American Cancer Society's Medal of Honor and the AACR Lifetime Achievement Award in Cancer Research.

From 2002-2003, Dr. Horwitz served as president of the American Association of Cancer Research. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

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*Although no one was interested in Taxol<sup>®</sup> when Dr. Horwitz began her studies, today it is an important antitumor drug that has been given to over a million patients.*

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2018



# CARL JUNE, M.D.

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## *University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine*

Carl June, M.D., was the 2018 recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award. He is a leading pioneer of T cell treatments, and his accomplishments have ushered in a new era in immunotherapy that transformed the field as a whole.

In 2011, Dr. June's research team published findings detailing a new therapy in which patients with refractory and relapsed chronic lymphocytic leukemia were treated with genetically engineered versions of their own T cells – giving the patient's own immune system the lasting ability to fight cancer. In 2012, Novartis and the University of Pennsylvania entered an agreement to further develop this therapy, eventually leading to the first FDA approval of a therapy based on gene transfer, Kymriah, in 2017. In addition, his foundational work has sparked a new field of research around these “CAR T cell therapies” that has transformed the landscape in immuno-oncology. Amidst his success in delivering unique treatment options to the patient, Dr. June believes that there is much more work to be done in the immunotherapy space.

Dr. June is the director of translational research and a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine in University of Pennsylvania's Abramson Cancer Center and Perelman School of Medicine. He maintains a research laboratory at the university. The June Lab studies various mechanisms of lymphocyte activation that relate to immune tolerance and adoptive immunotherapy for cancer and chronic infection.

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*Dr. June is a leading pioneer of T cell treatments, and his accomplishments have ushered in a new era in immunotherapy that transformed the field as a whole.*

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2017



# SANDRA HORNING, M.D.

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## *Executive Vice President, Global Development and Chief Medical Officer, Genentech*

Sandra Horning, M.D., Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President of Global Development for Genentech, was named the 2017 recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award. She is a champion of personalized therapies and she led the development and launch of multiple cancer therapies.

Dr. Horning, a cancer survivor, has focused much of her work on developing new treatments for lymphoma, a cancer that affects the immune system, including leading clinical trials that eventually resulted in new, approved drug treatments for patients. In addition to bringing new treatments forward, she is a champion for the importance of an individual being mindful of his or her family and anticipating survivorship issues, such as fertility, secondary malignancies, cardiopulmonary and endocrine side-effects.

Dr. Horning has had a distinguished career in cancer treatment and research, first as a practicing oncologist, investigator and professor at Stanford University for 25 years, then at the San Francisco-based biotech company, Genentech, where multiple cancer therapies were approved under her leadership.

Dr. Horning also served as the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) president from 2005 to 2006.

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*Dr. Horning, a cancer survivor, has focused much of her work on developing new treatments for lymphoma, a cancer that affects the immune system, including leading clinical trials that eventually resulted in new, approved drug treatments for patients.*

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2016



# DENNIS SLAMON, M.D., PH.D.

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## *UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center*

Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., was named the 2016 recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award. Dr. Slamon stood at the forefront of targeted therapy at a time when the technology was not supported by his peers. Despite facing much resistance, Dr. Slamon and his team at UCLA played an integral role in the development of HERCEPTIN (trastuzumab) – the first molecularly targeted therapy for breast cancer. It was approved by the FDA in 1998.

Dr. Slamon dedicated much of his career to the creation of targeted therapies, despite opposition faced around the concept in its earliest days. His latest success involves the development of IBRANCE (palbociclib), granted FDA approval in 2017 for use in combination with letrozole for the treatment of postmenopausal women with estrogen receptor (ER)-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative advanced breast cancer as initial endocrine-based therapy for their metastatic disease. The Pfizer study was conducted in collaboration with the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program, led by Dr. Slamon.

Dr. Slamon serves as director of Clinical/Translational Research and director of the Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is a professor of medicine, chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology and executive vice chair for research for UCLA's Department of Medicine. Dr. Slamon has spent his career working on therapies targeting various genes and ensuring that advanced breast cancer patients across the globe can access them.

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*Despite facing much resistance, Dr. Slamon and his team at UCLA played an integral role in the development of HERCEPTIN – the first molecularly targeted therapy for breast cancer. It was approved by the FDA in 1998.*

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2015



# BRIAN DRUKER, M.D.

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## *OHSU Knight Cancer Institute*

Brian Druker, M.D., was named the 2015 recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award. Dr. Druker's research focuses on activated tyrosine kinases with an emphasis on signal transduction, cellular transformation and the application of this knowledge to cancer therapies.

Early in his career, tyrosine kinases were not considered proper therapeutic targets and he received tremendous backlash for pursuing these targets for cancer drug development. Dr. Druker's tenacity was instrumental in developing imatinib, a specific inhibitor of the ABL protein, tyrosine kinase, that has proven to be an effective therapeutic agent in chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). After completing a series of preclinical studies, Dr. Druker spearheaded the highly successful clinical trials of imatinib for CML. Imatinib is currently FDA approved for CML and gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). Dr. Druker's role in the development of imatinib and its application in the clinic has impacted countless cancer patients.

*Dr. Druker's tenacity was instrumental in developing imatinib, a specific inhibitor of the ABL protein, tyrosine kinase, that has proven to be an effective therapeutic agent in chronic myeloid leukemia.*

Dr. Druker is director of the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Knight Cancer Institute, JELD-WEN chair of leukemia research at OHSU and an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

2014



# LAURA ESSERMAN, M.D., MBA

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## *UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center*

Laura Esserman, M.D., MBA, was named the inaugural recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award in 2014. Dr. Esserman is widely recognized for envisioning and implementing new clinical trial design in oncology that forced a shift in the industry. Through her lobbying efforts and ability to secure support from key industry members, she was able to successfully combat rigid trial design – thus allowing new treatment options to reach patients much faster.

Dr. Esserman's various research experience is vast. Her role as a principal investigator of the Biomarker Discovery Laboratory for the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) led to the development of the ATHENA Breast Health Network, an integrated network across the University of California campuses and the Sanford Medical Center. The project followed 150,000 women through biopsy, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up in an effort to create an engine that provides and improves breast cancer prevention services for patients.

Dr. Esserman is a surgeon and breast cancer oncology specialist practicing at the UCSF Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center where she has also held the position of director since 1996.

She co-leads the Breast Oncology Program, the largest of the UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center's multidisciplinary programs. She is a professor of surgery and radiology at UCSF and faculty at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center where she founded the program in Translational Informatics. As part of this program, her research has focused on bioinformatics, medical and clinical informatics, systems integration, and clinical care delivery.

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*Dr. Esserman is widely recognized for envisioning and implementing new clinical trial design in oncology that forced a shift in the industry.*

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# THE DUANE ROTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

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Bill Comer

Ida Deichaite

Richard Heyman

The Duane Roth Legacy Foundation

Renee Roth

Ted Roth

Bernard Siegel

Seragon Pharmaceuticals

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

UC San Diego

## *Contributions are Welcome*

If you are interested in supporting the Duane Roth Achievement Award,  
please contact [giving@ucsd.edu](mailto:giving@ucsd.edu) for more information.

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## *Special recognition and gratitude...*

to Ida Deichaite, Ph.D., and Leisa Sutton, M.A.S., of UC San Diego for  
their tireless efforts in championing the Duane Roth Achievement Award.

[www.DuaneRothAchievementAward.com](http://www.DuaneRothAchievementAward.com)

# THE DUANE ROTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD LOGO SYMBOLISM

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The Duane Roth Achievement Award logo visually represents the characteristics and qualities of each and every recipient of this prestigious award. As a whole, the award logo conveys a spirit of hope, and the continual growth in the combined disciplines of medicine, science and innovation, while highlighting individually the most important characteristics of each award winner – perseverance, passion and commitment.









