

INNOVATE, COLLABORATE: TRANSFORM



ASTRO'S 61ST ANNUAL MEETING

September 15-18, 2019

McCormick Place | Chicago, Illinois

# Research Spotlight

## ASTRO's Grant Program

**Charles Thomas, MD**  
**Oregon Health and Science**  
**University**

**Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD**  
**Johns Hopkins School of**  
**Medicine**

# NOTE: Regarding Disclosures

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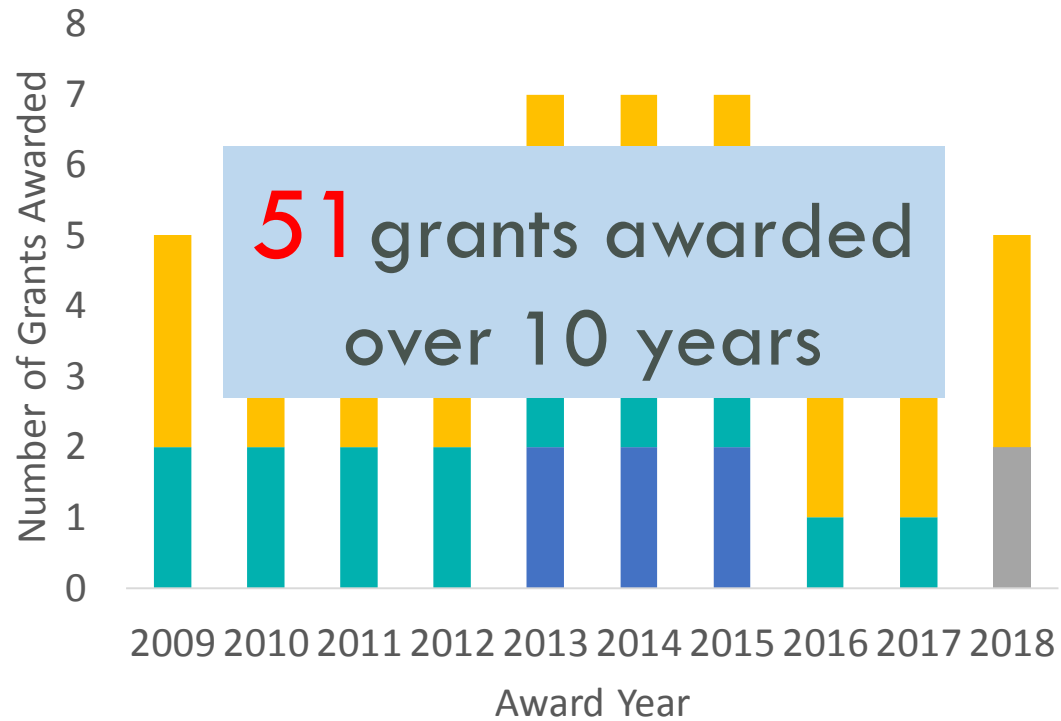
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# Our Goal

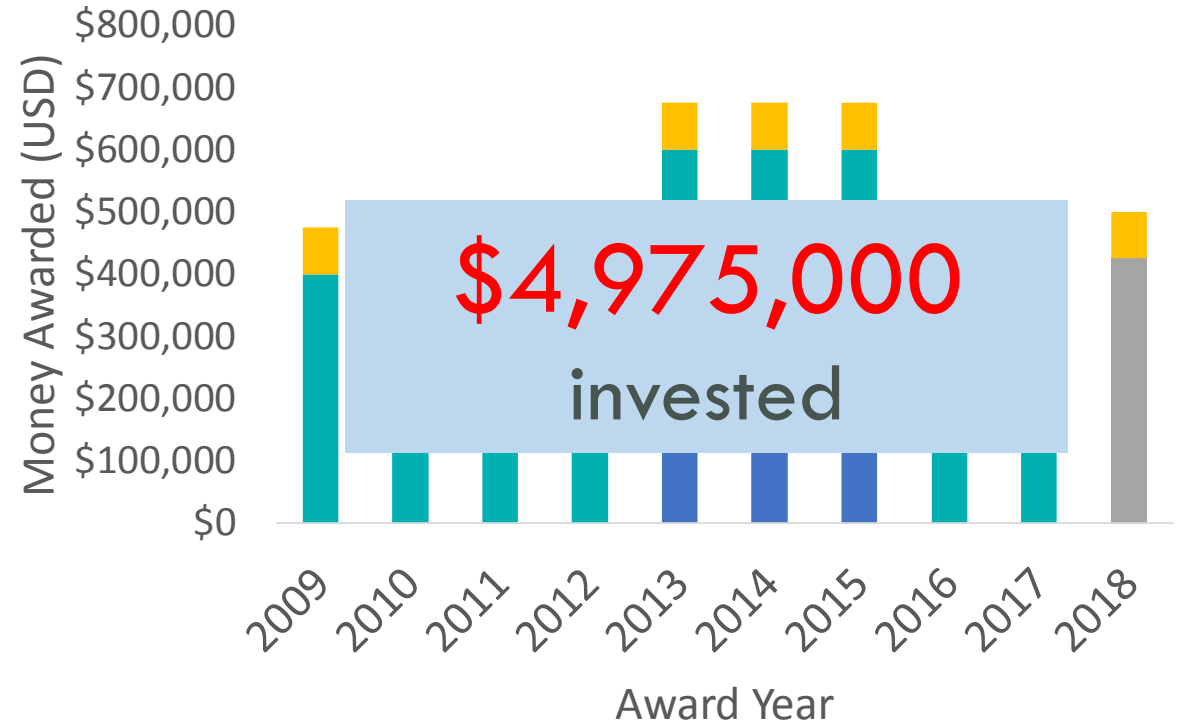
**To retain and foster intellectual research talent in the field of radiation oncology**

- The **ASTRO grants program** supports early career scientists by providing funding and tools to help launch their research careers.
- We offer one-year **seed** grants and two to three-year early **career development** awards
- Open to Residents, Postdoctoral Fellows and junior faculty (<5 yrs)

# Our Grant History

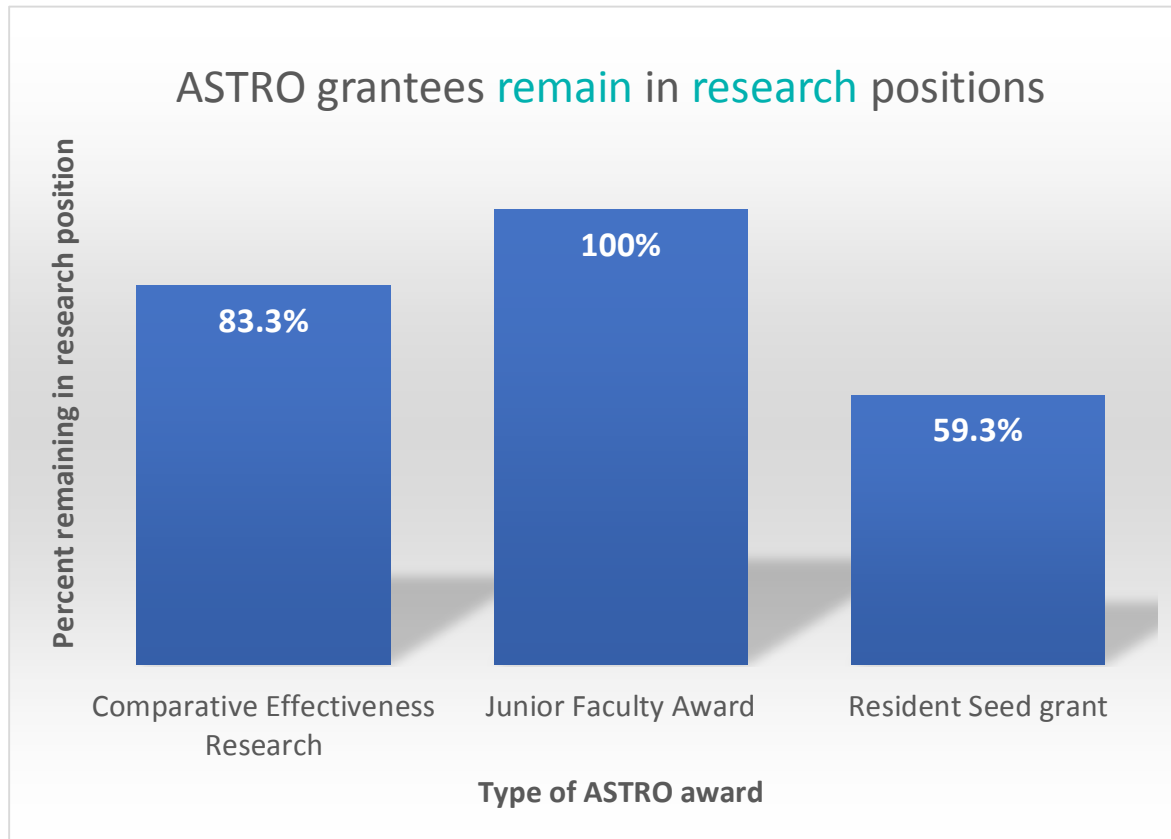


- Resident Seed grant
- Early Career Development Award
- Junior Faculty Award
- Comparative Effectiveness Research

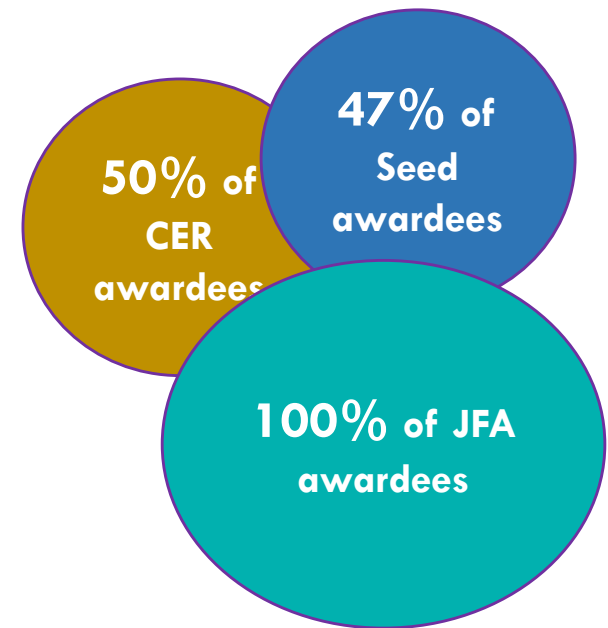


- Resident Seed grant
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# The Impact



ASTRO grantees **successfully** compete for grants following ASTRO Award



Received additional grant funding

# 2020 ASTRO Grant Opportunities

**OPEN NOW!!**

Deadline – **November 18, 2019** (MRA)  
**February 15, 2020** (all others)

## **Early Career Development Awards**

ASTRO-MRA Young Investigator Award in melanoma  
\$225,000 over 3 years

ASTRO-BCRF Early Career Award in breast or breast related cancer  
\$200,000 over 2 years

ASTRO-PCF Early Career Award in prostate cancer  
\$225,000 over 3 years

## **Seed grants**

ASTRO-AAPM Physics Seed  
\$25,000 for 1 year

ASTRO Biology Seed  
\$25,000 for 1 year

ASTRO Resident Seed grant  
\$25,000 for 1 year

# 2020 ASTRO-Industry Fellowships



## **ASTRO – AstraZeneca Radiation Oncology Research Training Fellowship**

- ✓ Open to Residents during their research year
- ✓ Salary support for full year
- ✓ Unique research training opportunity at an AstraZeneca site
- ✓ Fellow will gain experience in medical affairs, clinical research, and drug development in the pharmaceutical industry with a focus on radiation & immune-oncology.

Application deadline:

**November 15**

Apply through  
proposalCENTRAL

## **ASTRO – Varian Radiation Oncology Research Training Fellowship**

- ✓ Open to Residents during their research year
- ✓ Salary support for full year
- ✓ Unique research training opportunity at a Varian site
- ✓ Including by not limited to radiobiology, immunotherapy, treatment planning, imaging and image-guidance, or new hardware for treatment delivery systems

# ASTRO's 2019 Research Grants

## Resident/Post Doc Awards



### ASTRO Residents/Fellows in Radiation Oncology Seed Grant

- \$25,000, 1 year



### ASTRO-AAPM Physics Resident/Post-Doctoral Fellow Seed Grant

- \$25,000, 1 year

## Faculty Awards



### ASTRO-BCRF Career Development Award to End Breast Cancer

- Up to \$200,000 over 2 years



### ASTRO-PCF Career Development Award to End Prostate Cancer

- Up to \$225,000 over 3 years



### ASTRO-MRA Early Career Investigator Award in Radiation Oncology

- Up to \$200,000 over 3 years





# Recognition 2019 ASTRO Awardees

# ASTRO Residents/Fellows in Radiation Oncology Seed Grant

## **Alexander Bagley, MD, PhD**

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Bagley, is a PGY3 clinical resident in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Alex initially explored the nanotechnology and oncology fields during his doctoral training at Harvard with an interest in developing novel nanomaterials for cancer detection, imaging, and drug delivery. Currently he is actively exploring how radiosensitizing nanomaterials can enhance the efficacy of radiation therapy and improve responses to immunotherapies. The goal of his project is to develop a nanoparticle-based treatment strategy for locally advanced head and neck cancer.



## **Jason Beckta, MD, PhD**

Yale University School of Medicine

Dr. Beckta is a PGY-3 resident in Radiation Oncology at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He obtained his MD, PhD from the Virginia Commonwealth University investigating DNA damage responses. At Yale he will expand this experience to the study of novel treatments for Glioblastoma multiform. His proposal aims to package DNA repair inhibitors into nanoparticles and evaluate their function as a novel approach for targeted glioma chemosensitization.



# ASTRO-AAPM Physics Resident/Postdoctoral Fellow Seed Grant

## **Siamak Nejad-Davarani, PhD**

Henry Ford Health System

Dr. Nejad-Davarani is a researcher within the Radiation Oncology Department at Henry Ford Health System. He obtained his PhD in Biomedical Imaging and has extensive research experience in medical imaging and image processing. He will apply this background to his awarded project to develop a novel MR-guided adaptive radiation therapy framework for effective treatment of Glioblastoma multiform.



# ASTRO-BCRF Career Development Award to End Breast Cancer

## **David Soto-Pantoja, PhD**

Wake Forest University Health Sciences

Dr. Soto-Pantoja is an Assistant Professor at Wake Forest University Health Sciences. He received his PhD from Wake Forest University and completed postdoctoral training at the NCI. His research focuses on how immune signaling pathways can be controlled to elicit anti-tumor responses. His proposal will explore whether anti-CD47 immunotherapy could be used for the treatment of brain metastasis due to breast cancer.

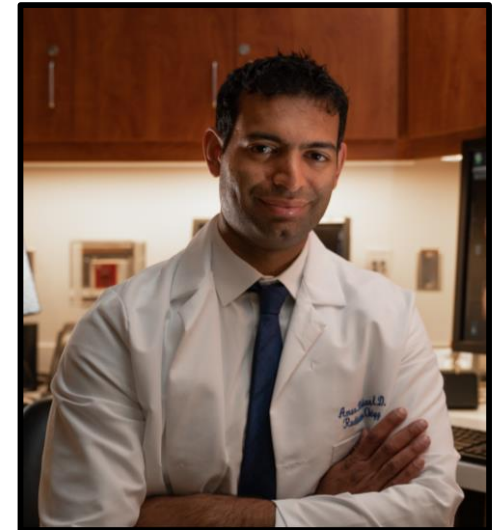


# ASTRO-PCF Career Development Award to End Prostate Cancer

## **Amar Kishan, MD**

University of California, Los Angeles

Amar Kishan, MD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, completed an internship at Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego and his residency at UCLA. His research focus is on optimizing our understanding of high-risk, localized Prostate Cancer. Specifically, he hopes to identify transcriptomic or germline biomarkers that may improve prognoses and potentially help guide treatment intensification.



# Prior Awardee Presentations