



*****Press Release*****

June 11, 2018

THE BLADDER CANCER ADVOCACY NETWORK ANNOUNCES AWARDEES OF THE 2018 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

BCAN CONTACT: STEPHANIE CHISOLM, PHD | DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & RESEARCH
301-215-9099 X 203 | SCHISOLM@BCAN.ORG

Bethesda, Maryland – Today, the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) announced the names of the recipients of the 2018 Young Investigator Awards. These Awards support the development of outstanding early career research scientists and clinical cancer research investigators who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the understanding and treatment of bladder cancer. BCAN is pleased to grant three awards of \$50,000 each to support one year of research.

The 2018 BCAN Young Investigator Award will support the research of Philip Abbosh, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, at Fox Chase Cancer Center, for his work on “Next-generation sequencing to enhance initial staging and dynamically monitor disease response in upper tract urothelial carcinoma (UTUC).” Dr. Abbosh will evaluate the performance of a novel urinary biomarker test to enhance current clinical staging before kidney removal surgery in patients with UTUC. Successful development of this urinary biomarker test will improve urologists’ abilities to accurately determine the grade and stage of a patient’s disease and allow them to determine if surgery may be avoided and will improve patient outcomes. Support for this award comes from an anonymous donor.

The Palm Beach New Discoveries Young Investigators Award will further the research of David Oh, MD, PhD, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of California, San Francisco, for his proposal “Modulation of regulatory T cells in the bladder tumor environment by anti-PD-L1 immunotherapy.” Newly approved immunotherapy treatments provide exciting new options for bladder cancer patients, but we need a better understanding of which patients are likely to respond to immunotherapy. Dr. Oh’s research focuses on how anti-PD-L1 therapy affects the number and distribution of regulatory T cells in various tumor environments, advancing the understanding of how regulatory T cells can be targeted by immunotherapy to bring benefit to bladder cancer patients. This award is made possible by proceeds from the 2017 New Discoveries Research Lecture & Luncheon held in Palm Beach, Florida.

The Palm Beach New Discoveries Young Investigator Award for Patient Centered Clinical Research has been granted to Eugene Lee, MD, of the University of Kansas Medical Center for his proposal, “The implementation of nutrition education videos for patients undergoing radical cystectomy.” Removal of the bladder, with or without chemotherapy to treat bladder cancer is extremely difficult on patients, especially patients who have poor nutrition. Dr. Lee will create a video series geared towards helping patients improve nutritional status around the time of surgery and chemotherapy. His research will evaluate how well the videos convey the nutrition messages. This award is made possible by proceeds from the 2017 New Discoveries Research Lecture & Luncheon held in Palm Beach, Florida.

“Since we began our Young Investigator Awards, BCAN has invested more than one million dollars to support early career investigators like Drs. Abbosh, Oh, and Lee. Advancing quality research has always been a top priority for BCAN. Funding their work exemplifies our efforts to make a difference in the lives of those diagnosed with bladder cancer. We are grateful for the generous support from our donors for making these awards possible,” stated Andrea Maddox-Smith, Chief Executive Officer of BCAN. Learn more [here](#).

About the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

Since 2005, BCAN has been the leading voice for bladder cancer in the US, providing resources to those diagnosed with the disease as well as their families, caregivers and the medical community. The organization is setting the agenda for bladder cancer by promoting and funding collaborative, cutting-edge research programs, and providing critical patient support and education services. For more information, visit www.bcan.org or call 1-888-901-BCAN (2226).

###