

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
1–2:30pm (CT)

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

Join us to learn more about the NIH K99/R00 mechanism. Panelists are two K99/R00 awardees and a reviewer of K mechanisms. Learn what reviewers look for in a successful application and how applicants structured their career development plans and responded to critiques.



Dalnim Cho, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Health Disparities Research, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Dalnim Cho is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Disparities Research at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Cho has received training in health, personality, and clinical psychology, as well as health disparities research, particularly in cancer survivorship and control. Her research centers on investigating multiple levels of influence—individual, social, and environmental—to understand health and behavior changes among underserved populations, who are disproportionately affected by cancer. Ultimately, her research goal is to develop multi-level interventions to reduce cancer disparities.

Erez Baruch, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Melanoma Medical Oncology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. K99/R00 awardee.

Dr. Baruch earned his MD and PhD in Immunology from Tel Aviv University, Israel. He then completed an Internal Medicine residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, followed by a Medical Oncology fellowship at MD Anderson. Dr. Baruch's research focuses on mechanisms of immunotherapy resistance and toxicity, with emphasis on chronic inflammation driven by the gut microbiome, nerves, and the gut-brain axis. Dr. Baruch has been funded by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award and the National Cancer Institute K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award. He has multiple high-impact publications, including first-author manuscripts in *Nature* and *Science*, and co-author manuscripts in *Science*, *Cell*, and *Nature Medicine*.



Ye Zheng, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Bioinformatics & Computational Biology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. K99/R00 awardee.

Dr. Zheng received a Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the supervision of Dr. Sündüz Keleş. She received her postdoctoral training at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in both molecular biology and quantitative modeling perspectives, mentored by Dr. Steven Henikoff and Dr. Raphael Gottardo. She is funded by a K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award from the NIH/NHGRI. At MD Anderson, Dr. Zheng leads a hybrid research group. Her quantitative research group is dedicated to the statistical modeling and computational pipeline development using bulk and single-cell transcriptomics, proteomics, epigenomics, and 3D genomics data to address biological and clinical challenges. Her wet lab specializes in the epigenomic profiling of the Formalin-Fixed, Paraffin-Embedded (FFPE) samples.