

**CIRM Scientific and Medical Research Funding Working Group
Biographical information of candidates nominated to serve as
Scientific Members of the Working Group**

Linda Custer, Ph.D.

Dr. Custer most recently served as Director of Clinical Operations Sciences at Biogen, where she led global strategy and oversaw clinical development plans in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, and early-stage immunology indications. She was recognized with a Corporate Innovation Award for clinical implementation of novel electrophysiological measurements.

Dr. Custer served as Senior Director of Clinical Operations at Osiris Therapeutics, where she was responsible for all aspects of early and late stage clinical testing of PROCHYMAL® (remestemcel-L) human mesenchymal stem cells in gastroenterology. She successfully received FDA fast track designation for the Crohn's disease indication.

Prior to her clinical experience, Dr. Custer led bioprocess engineering teams developing stem cell therapies at Viacell, medical devices at Sontra Medical, and hybrid mammalian artificial liver devices at WR Grace and Circe Biomedical.

Dr. Custer has interests in stem cell clinical drug development, clinical trial data processing (including mobile data acquisition and reporting), and optimum biostatistical design of clinical trials.

Dr. Custer earned Bachelor's degrees in both chemical engineering and life sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Cassian Yee, MD

Dr. Yee is Professor in the Department of Melanoma Medical Oncology and the Department of Immunology and Director of Solid Tumor Cancer Cell Therapy at the Center for Cancer Immunology Research at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center. He received his MD from the University of Manitoba and completed General Comprehensive Internship at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and a Residency in Internal Medicine at Stanford University. Dr. Yee then moved to the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center where he completed his training and moved up through the ranks to be appointed as a Professor at the University of Washington and Member at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, where he still holds an Affiliate Member position. Dr. Yee is Board certified in Medical Oncology.

Dr. Yee's lab has been engaged in the study of tumor immunology and adoptive cellular therapy over the last 18 years. He has focused his laboratory's research towards an understanding of human T cell biology and anti-tumor immunity and the development of translational strategies, which have been applied in several first-in-

man studies. His laboratory developed the use of adoptive cellular therapies for the treatment of patients with solid tumor malignancies by targeting tumor- and virus associated antigens and completed several first-in-human clinical trials using a well-defined, uniform population of ex vivo expanded antigen-specific T cells to delineate the requirements for effective immune-based therapies. Dr. Yee's lab addresses two major challenges: 1) developing adoptive T cell therapy as a treatment modality for solid tumors and 2) designing strategies to enhance the in vivo persistence and anti-tumor efficacy of adoptively transferred T cells through combination strategies involving other immune-based modalities including immune checkpoint blockade, immunomodulatory reagents and vaccine-based strategies.