Next Generation Cell Therapies for Cancer

Dr. Bollard will present an overview of her team’s work on translating antigen-specific T cell therapies from the bench to the bedside for the treatment of cancer and virus associated diseases. She will discuss next generation cell therapies utilizing engineering to overcome tumor immune evasion strategies and enhance the potency of the antigen specific T cell platform against solid tumors and blood cancers. She will describe antigen-specific T cell therapies that are currently being evaluated for the treatment of cancer and viral infections, considering how in both malignant and virus infected settings, antigen-specific T cells are pivotal to the immune system’s ability to recognize and eliminate abnormal cells or pathogens while also providing long-term immunity in the host. The utilization of these cells as a platform for gene engineering using artificial receptors such as chimeric antigen receptors (CAR) will also be considered.