Matt Richtel’s book “An Elegant Defense” illuminates how the immune system is a key factor in human health – it protects against infection, fights illness and disease, and heals wounds, but if compromised, it may fail to protect the body or even attack it.

Immunology – the branch of science that covers the immune system – is rapidly expanding and advancing, as researchers develop a deeper understanding of the immune system’s role in health and in the development of a vast array of diseases and disorders, including cancer, cardiovascular, inflammatory, dementia, tuberculosis, and pneumonia. Immunology is projected to be a revolutionizing force in modern medicine, biomedical research, and biotechnology.

The advancement of immunology has significant implications for therapeutics, discovery, translational biology, personalized medicine and cell therapy. Life science companies will be challenged to develop new and innovative analytical tools and technologies. Immunology also will present new demands to ALDA members for diagnostics and for tools used in bioprocessing applications.

Our 2019 Fall Senior Management Conference program will offer valuable insights on how immunology and its applications are evolving, trends, techniques for measuring and monitoring the immune system, harnessing the immune system to fight cancer, and the challenges associated with manufacturing immune cell therapies.

Two keynote presentations will complete the Fall Conference program. On Monday, Robert Kaplan, a best-selling author, will share his strategic views on how the US-China trade dispute is likely to conclude and assess the prospects for the longer-term trading relationship with China.

On Tuesday morning, Leon Panetta, a highly respected and bipartisan political leader in Washington for nearly 40 years who has served as Secretary of Defense, Director of the CIA, White House Chief of Staff, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and as a U.S. Representative from California, will share his candid insights on global and domestic politics and world affairs.
Robert Kaplan is the best-selling author of 18 books and a Managing Director of Ian Bremmer’s Eurasia Group, a premier political risk consultancy, who has been called “one of the four ‘most widely read’ authors of the post-Cold War. For three decades, Mr. Kaplan reported on foreign affairs for The Atlantic magazine, and Foreign Policy magazine twice named him as one of the “Top 100 Global Thinkers.”

Mr. Kaplan has written and spoken extensively on China and its rise as a global power. In this session, he will share his views and insights on the current tariff and trade dispute between China and the United States, how it’s likely to conclude and influence the long-term trading relationship with China, as well as the prospects for further national competition between the US and China for economic, technological and military leadership and the implications.

Reprogramming Human Immune Cells with CRISPR

Alex Marson, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology/Medicine
University of California, San Francisco, and Scientific Director of Biomedicine, Innovative Genomics Institute

Dr. Alex Marson is a biologist specializing in genetics, human immunology and CRISPR gene engineering. He is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of California, San Francisco (“UCSF”) and head of the Marson Lab. The Lab uses genome editing to study how different DNA sequences control human T cell function in health and disease and applies this knowledge to develop next-generation therapies for cancer as well as for autoimmunity and infectious diseases.

Dr. Marson will offer a high-level view of his Lab’s research and, using the Lab’s work as an example, present an overview of techniques for studying the immune system utilizing the kinds of “tools” our industry supplies. Dr. Marson also will offer a vision of the future and explore what will be needed to advance immunology and make it successful.
Harnessing the Immune System to Fight Cancer: The Future of Immuno-Oncology

Lisa H. Butterfield, Ph.D.
Vice President, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy Research Center, and Adjunct Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
University of California, San Francisco

The Immediate Past President of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer, Dr. Lisa Butterfield is Vice President of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy Research Center, and an Adjunct Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of California, San Francisco. The primary focus of her research is on cancer vaccines and cellular therapies.

Previously, Dr. Butterfield was Professor of Medicine, Surgery, Immunology and Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Pittsburgh and Director of the Hillman Cancer Center Immunologic Monitoring and Cellular Products Laboratory. Dr. Butterfield investigates immunotherapy for hepatocellular cancer and melanoma, involving peptides, dendritic cells and adenoviruses, and effector responses to tumor antigens.

Dr. Butterfield will draw on her past experience, research and work at the Parker Institute and examine what’s happening in immuno-oncology, how it’s evolving, and efforts to extend and advance the science and benefit more people with cancer.

Immune Cell Therapies for Cancer: Challenges and Opportunities

Cameron J. Turtle, Ph.D.
Associate Member, Clinical Research Division, and Anderson Family Endowed Chair for Immunotherapy
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Dr. Cameron Turtle studies how immune T cells can be engineered to fight hematologic malignancies such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma and leukemia. He is an Associate Member of the Clinical Research Division at Fred Hutch and his laboratory has extensive experience in the genetic manufacture and analysis of T cells and he leads several investigator-initiated clinical trials of CD 19-targeted CAR-modified T cell therapies for patients with B-cell malignancies.

Dr. Turtle will assess the current state of immune cell therapies and how they are evolving and explore how the life science “tools” industry might develop products and technologies to help researchers profile the immune systems and predict which patients will respond to immunotherapies and better manufacture immune cell therapies.

4:15 PM Conclusion of Monday’s program

6:00 PM Reception and Dinner

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

7:00 AM Continental Breakfast

8:00 AM Day Two Welcome

A Conversation with Leon Panetta

Leon Panetta

Leon Panetta has been an accomplished, highly respected and bipartisan leader in Washington for nearly 40 years. Most recently, Mr. Panetta served as the U.S. Secretary of Defense from 2011 to 2013 and as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2009 to 2011.

Previously, Mr. Panetta was a member of the United States House of Representatives from California from 1977 to 1993, served as Director of the Office of Management and Budget from 1993 to 1994, and served as President Bill Clinton’s Chief of Staff from 1994 to 1997. Mr. Panetta is the cofounder and chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy. He previously served as Distinguished Scholar to Chancellor Charles B. Reed of the California State University System and Professor of Public Policy at Santa Clara University.

Secretary Panetta will participate in a conversation with ALDA Chair Brad Gray similar to what was done at last year’s Fall Conference with Condoleezza Rice and at the recent Spring Meeting with former FBI Director James Comey. Based on his experiences and knowledge of many of the players, Mr. Panetta will share his candid insights on global and domestic politics and world affairs, U.S. intelligence, defense and cyber security strategies and the global economic challenges of the 21st century.

9:30 AM Adjournment