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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Robin Muthig  
Intellectual Property Owners  
Education Foundation  
+1-202-507-4514  
[RMuthig@ipo.org](mailto:RMuthig@ipo.org)

**Inventors of Six Life-Saving Cancer Drugs Honored with IPO Education Foundation's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Inventor of the Year Award**

Each year, the IPO Education Foundation recognizes outstanding recent inventions with its annual Inventor of the Year Award. This year, the Foundation celebrates innovation that has led to breakthroughs in cancer treatment by honoring the inventors of six drugs in the field of immunotherapy oncology treatment. The winners include the inventors of Amgen, Inc.'s IMLYGIC<sup>®</sup> and BLINCYTO<sup>®</sup>; Bristol-Myers Squibb Company's OPDIVO<sup>®</sup> and YERVOY<sup>®</sup>; Genentech, Inc., a member of the Roche Group's, TECENTRIQ<sup>®</sup>; and Merck & Co. Inc.'s KEYTRUDA<sup>®</sup>.

**About the Inventions**

- **Amgen's IMLYGIC**, invented by Dr. Robert Coffin and team, is the first and only FDA-approved oncolytic viral therapy designed to replicate in cancer cells leading to oncolysis. In this process, the release of tumor-derived antigens, virally derived GM-CSF and replicated IMLYGIC may promote an antitumor immune response. **BLINCYTO**, invented by Prof. Dr. Ralf C. Bargou and Dr. Peter Kufer and team, is a prescription medicine used to treat a certain type of acute lymphoblastic leukemia. ALL is a cancer of the blood in which a particular kind of white blood cell is growing out of control.
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb's (BMS's) YERVOY** (CTLA-4 immune checkpoint inhibitor) and **OPDIVO** (PD-1 immune checkpoint inhibitor), invented by Dr. Alan Korman and Dr. Mark Selby and team, are designed to uniquely harness the body's own immune system to help restore anti-tumor immune response. By harnessing the body's own immune system to fight cancer, YERVOY and OPDIVO have become important treatment options across multiple cancers.
- **Genentech's TECENTRIQ** (atezolizumab) was invented by Dr. Yan Wu and team. It is the first and only approved anti-PDL1 cancer immunotherapy for people with locally advanced or metastatic bladder cancer previously treated with platinum-based chemotherapy, and for people with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) previously treated with platinum-based chemotherapy. It is

designed to bind with PD-L1, a protein that plays a role in preventing the body's immune system from fighting cancer. By binding to PD-L1, TECENTRIQ may remove the “stop sign” and activate the immune response.

- **Merck & Co.’s KEYTRUDA**, invented by Dr. Gregory Carven, Dr. Hans van Eenennaam, and Dr. John Dulos, is a prescription medicine for skin cancer (melanoma). It may be used when melanoma has spread or cannot be removed by surgery. It also is used to treat a kind of lung cancer called non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

The award recognizes and honors the various professionals involved in the entire innovation process, from initial discovery to implementation and commercialization of these medical treatments. These drugs have received U.S. patents, obtained FDA clearances, have recently been successfully launched, and are currently saving lives.

“According to the World Health Organization, cancer claimed 8.2 million lives worldwide in 2012,” said IPO Executive Director, Mark Lauroesch. “The inventors we have chosen to recognize this year play a key role in the crucial battle to end this disease.”

### **About the Inventor of the Year Award**

The purpose of the 43-year-old Inventor of the Year Award is to recognize outstanding recent inventors and to increase public awareness of inventors and how they benefit the global and national economies and our quality of life. The recipients of the 2016 Inventor of the Year Award will be honored at the IPO Education Foundation Awards Dinner on 6 December 2016 in Washington, DC. For information on the Awards Dinner, go to [www.ipoef.org/FAD16](http://www.ipoef.org/FAD16).

### **About the IPO Education Foundation**

Intellectual Property Owners Education Foundation (IPOEF) is a non-profit organization devoted to educating the public on the economic importance of intellectual property rights. IPOEF conducts programs to:

- Broaden public understanding of systems for protecting intellectual property
- Sponsor awards for the purpose of recognizing outstanding achievement in the fields of invention, creativity, and IP rights
- Publish reports dealing with legal, economic, and other aspects of intellectual property.

IPOEF is tax exempt under tax code 501(c)(3). Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. IPOEF was established by [Intellectual Property Owners Association \(IPO\)](#), a trade association with members who own or are interested in intellectual property rights. To find out more about IPOEF programs or how to make a

donation, call +1-202-507-4500 or click [here](#) to view a leaflet with more information about IPOEF and how to contribute.