

Aging as a Driver of Immune Dysfunction in Cancer

SeongJun James Han

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Dr. SeongJun James Han is a postdoctoral fellow specializing in aging research in the laboratories of Drs. Arlene H. Sharpe and Marcia C. Haigis at Harvard University, and a Banting Fellow of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). His research investigates how aging reprograms CD8⁺ T cell immunity, with a particular focus on the metabolic mechanisms that drive T cell dysfunction in aged hosts. By uncovering how these processes shape anti-tumor immunity and responses to immunotherapy, Dr. Han aims to establish new paradigms in immunology and aging biology that inform the development of next-generation precision immunotherapies for older patients. Prior to his postdoctoral training, he earned his PhD in immunology at the University of Toronto and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre under the mentorship of Dr. Pamela Ohashi, where he developed strategies to improve adoptive T cell therapy. He has published in leading journals and has been recognized with awards including the KASBP Fellowship, the Harvard Robin Reed Prize, and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Scholar-in-Training Award. Beyond his research, he served as an elected council member of the AACR and has held leadership positions representing early-career investigators in BioCanRx, the Canadian Cancer Immunotherapy Consortium (CCIC), and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR).