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My current research focus is in the area of molecular and cellular tumor immunology, particularly the development of gene-engineered T cells, tailored to treat cancer: (1) engineering of T cells with tumor-specific synthetic TCRs or chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) for adoptive immunotherapy (ACT) (2) genome-editing using CRISPR/Cas9 to improve T-cell based therapy (3) Development of isolation and expansion methods for TIL therapy and to produce large-scale GMP-grade TIL products for ACT clinical trials of melanoma and other solid tumors