

James P. Allison Institute Signature Priority Committee

Oct. 21, 2025 | Meeting Summary

The Allison Institute Signature Priority Committee convened to reaffirm its mission of serving as ambassadors and advocates for advancing immunotherapy research. Co-chairs Delia Stroud and Bill Hoffman emphasized the committee's critical role in supporting the Institute's vision and highlighted upcoming opportunities for engagement. Dr. Peter Pisters underscored the Institute's momentum and trajectory, driven by groundbreaking science, artificial intelligence integration and strategic governance through an external advisory board that fosters collaboration and accelerates discovery. He detailed how cross-pollination between institutes and overlapping advisory board memberships are accelerating innovation and attracting top-tier talent. Plans for a new collaborative research building were shared, designed to break down traditional academic silos and foster interdisciplinary work, alongside updates on recent high-profile recruitments and the Institute's growing influence on a global stage. Scientific leaders provided updates on major achievements, including high-impact publications, new clinical trials in kidney and bladder cancer and advances in biomarker-driven strategies such as ctDNA-guided therapy. The committee was invited to participate in the third annual Scientific Symposium featuring Nobel laureates and over 90 research posters, reflecting the Institute's expanding research footprint. A distinguished lectureship established in memory of Ms. Stroud's late son, Colin, was announced, honoring his legacy and passion for AI. The meeting concluded with discussions on emerging technologies, the importance of collaborative environments and strategies to sustain the Institute's leadership in cancer immunotherapy. Members were encouraged to share ideas, connect the Institute with key stakeholders, and continue supporting efforts that translate cutting-edge science into patient impact. As part of the in-person meeting, the committee enjoyed a tour of the lab at the Institute to learn about the latest breakthroughs in immunotherapy research. Committee members also had the opportunity to view many of the third annual Allison Institute Symposium's scientific posters, which highlighted exciting faculty research, and to speak directly with lead researchers. The meeting closed with many of the Allison Institute faculty members joining the committee for a lovely lunch.