

Research Mentoring Awards – Translational Science

Sallie Permar, MD, PhD

Dr. Sallie Permar is a physician-scientist focusing on the prevention and treatment of neonatal viral infections. She leads a research laboratory investigating immune protection against vertical transmission of neonatal viral pathogens, namely HIV and cytomegalovirus (CMV), using human cohorts and nonhuman primate models. Dr. Permar has made important contributions to the development of vaccines for prevention of vertical HIV transmission, defining both innate and adaptive immune responses that are associated with protection against infant HIV acquisition. Moreover, Dr. Permar is leading the development of HIV vaccine strategies in maternal/infant nonhuman primate models and clinical vaccine trials in infants. Dr. Permar has also contributed to understanding the immunology of perinatal CMV transmission and the pathogenesis of postnatal infection in preterm infants. Dr. Permar developed the nonhuman primate model of congenital CMV infection and uses this model for defining the immune correlates of protection against CMV transmission and vaccine development.

Dr. Permar has a PhD in Microbiology/Immunology from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore and MD from Harvard Medical School. She completed her clinical training in pediatric infectious diseases at Children's Hospital in Boston. She has received several prestigious early-stage investigator awards, including the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering (PECASE) and the Society for Pediatrics Research (SPR) Young Investigator Award.



"During Sallie's rapid career trajectory, she has clearly prioritized mentorship and the accomplishments of her trainees. Sallie is a sought-after mentor for multiple levels of trainees throughout the School of Medicine, the University, and even the broader community. She has impressively shown early strengths in mentoring postgraduate fellows through the challenging period of transition from a mentored fellow to an independently funded investigator."

"Dr. Permar possesses a unique combination of unrelenting dedication to guiding her mentees towards success, while maintaining strong interpersonal relationships that provide a solid foundation for a mutually rewarding mentorship experience."