What is immunotherapy?
Immunotherapy is a type of treatment that uses the body’s own immune system to recognize, attack and kill cancer cells.

Why does it matter?
Many conventional cancer treatments like chemotherapy can eventually stop working because cancer cells develop a resistance to them. But when patients have a good response to immunotherapy, that response can sometimes last for years in cancers that were once virtually Untreatable. Two prime examples are advanced melanoma and non-small cell lung cancer.

The most common kind of immunotherapy being used today are drugs called checkpoint inhibitors. Entering through a vein, they disrupt signals that allow cancer cells to hide from the immune system. That frees the immune system to recognize and destroy cancer cells.

Doctors use checkpoint inhibitors to treat many different cancers, typically those that have spread to other parts of the body.

How does my support help?
Support from donors like you fuels our research and makes groundbreaking research and care possible. Fox Chase is committed to the clinical development of immunotherapy – our researchers will help discover which patients have the “markers” to benefit from treatment and how immunotherapy can be combined with chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and radiation for more effective cancer eradication. Your support also helps our researchers look for ways immunotherapy can be used not only to treat cancer after it has spread, but also to prevent cancer recurrence.

Thank you for your support of our efforts. Together we will prevail over cancer.