Stanford

Derick Okwan

Assistant Professor of Pathology

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Pathology**

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Bio

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Anatomic and Clinical Pathology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor - University Medical Line, Pathology
- Member, Bio-X
- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)
- Member, Stanford Medicine Children’s Health Center for IBD and Celiac Disease
- Member, Stanford Cancer Institute
- Member, Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute

HONORS AND AWARDS

- NIH Director's Transformative Research Award, NIH (2021-2026)
- NIH Pathway to Independence (K99/R00), NIH (2019-2023)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Residency: Stanford University Pathology Residency (2022) CA
- Residency: Emory University Radiation Oncology Residency GA
- Internship: Emory University Internal Medicine Primary Care Residency (2014) GA
- Medical Education: Emory University Medical School (2013) GA
- Residency: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center CA

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Broadly, the Okwan lab's primary interest is to understand how and why the immune system contributes to nearly all chronic diseases. The immune system of the modern human has evolved from a history of stress to the species: famines, continual bouts of lethal pandemics, as well as major climate/ environmental and migratory changes that exposed the immune system to novel threats. At the forefront of these challenges are innate immune cells, particularly neutrophils, the most abundant leukocytes. For the first time in human history – at least in the western world- we live in an era of abundance. The Okwan lab is interested in understanding how this traumatic history creates a functional mismatch for the neutrophil, which we believe underpins their roles in chronic diseases of the modern era: cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurodegeneration, and autoimmune disorders. Rather than wholesale depletion of neutrophils and innate immune cells, we seek to identify novel approaches to leverage these cells to combat various diseases.

Teaching

STANFORD ADVISEES

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Viktoria Szeifert

GRADUATE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Cancer Biology (Phd Program)
- Immunology (Phd Program)