Enabling the Evaluation of COVID-19 Vaccines with Correlates of Protection
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Dr. E. John Wherry is the Barbara and Richard Schiffrin President's Distinguished Professor, Chair of the Department of Systems Pharmacology and Translational Therapeutics in the Perelman School of Medicine and Director of the UPenn Institute for Immunology. Dr. Wherry received his Ph.D. at Thomas Jefferson University in 2000 and performed postdoctoral research at Emory University from 2000-2004. Dr. Wherry has received numerous honors including the Distinguished Alumni award from the Thomas Jefferson University, the Cancer Research Institute's Frederick W. Alt Award for New Discoveries in Immunology, the Stanley N. Cohen Biomedical Research Award from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and was inducted as an AAAS Fellow in 2021. As of November 2022, Dr. Wherry has over 300 publications, an H-Index of 126, and his publications have been cited over 86,000 times.

Dr. Wherry helped pioneered the field of T cell exhaustion, the mechanisms by which T cell responses are attenuated during chronic infections and cancer. He helped identify the role of the "checkpoint" molecule PD-1and others for reinvigoration of exhausted T cells in cancer. Dr. Wherry's work has defined the underlying molecular and epigenetic mechanisms of exhausted T cells. His laboratory has also recently focused on applying systems immunology approaches to define Immune Health patients across a spectrum of diseases. in 2020-2021, Dr. Wherry's laboratory focused considerable efforts on the immunology of COVID-19and SARS-CoV-2 vaccination including establishing a new Immune Health Project to interrogate and use immune features to identify novel treatment opportunities.