



Top row (*left to right*): Attendees of the AACR Annual Meeting 2019 in Atlanta meet in AACR Central; Program Committee Chair John D. Carpten, PhD, welcomes attendees to the opening plenary session at the Annual Meeting; more than 21,000 people from 71 countries attended the meeting.

Middle row (*left to right*): Participants preparing for the Fourth Annual AACR Annual Meeting Runners for Research 5K Walk/Run; Daniel D. Karp, MD, presents the inaugural Bosarge Family Foundation-Waun Ki Hong Scholar Award for Regenerative Cancer Medicine to Alfredo Oliveros, PhD; AACR President (2018–2019) Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, addresses attendees during the opening ceremony of the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

Bottom row (*left to right*): AACR President (2019–2020) Elaine R. Mardis, PhD, FAACR; AACR Chief Executive Officer Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc); AACR President (2018–2019) Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR.

**INTEGRATIVE  
CANCER SCIENCE**

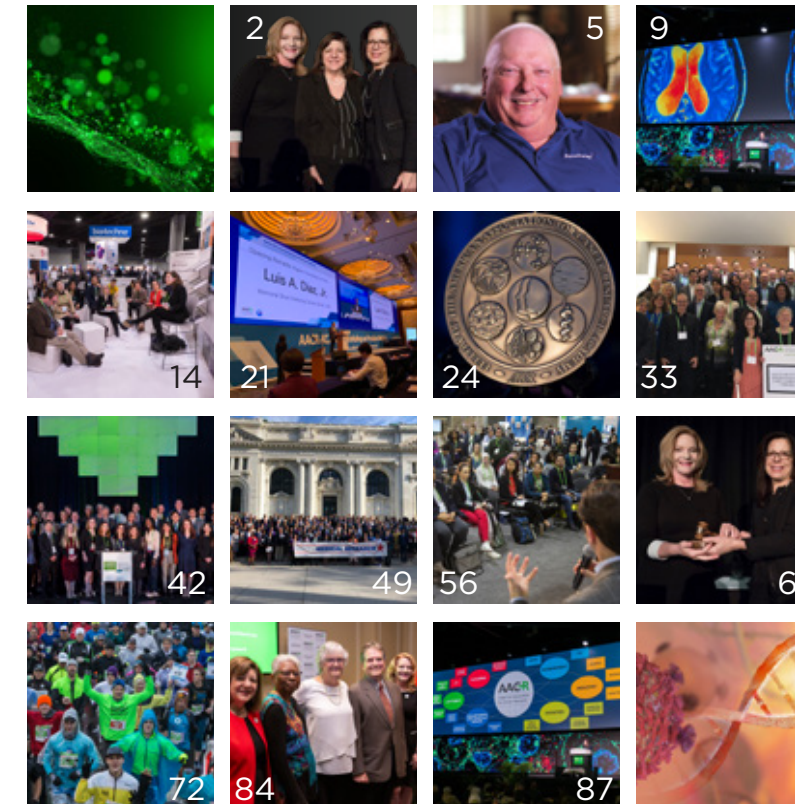
**GLOBAL  
IMPACT**

**INDIVIDUALIZED  
PATIENT CARE**

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## INTEGRATIVE CANCER SCIENCE

## GLOBAL IMPACT

## INDIVIDUALIZED PATIENT CARE

Dear Colleagues  
and Friends:

We are pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). The report highlights the AACR's progress over the past year in support of our mission: to prevent and cure cancer through research, education, communication, collaboration, research funding, and advocacy.

The theme of the AACR Annual Meeting 2019, "Integrative Cancer Science; Global Impact; Individualized Patient Care," is also the theme of this report. The report outlines all the ways in which AACR programs and initiatives support the efforts of investigators—from basic research to translational, clinical, and population science—to improve the lives of cancer patients.

As the report documents, 2019 was another year of spectacular achievement. The AACR introduced new editors-in-chief for three of its world-class journals and began online publication of the newest AACR journal, *Blood Cancer Discovery*. AACR Project GENIE entered into a major research collaboration with a coalition of pharmaceutical companies that will accelerate the rate of clinical data collection and advance precision oncology to benefit cancer patients. And the innovative partnership between the AACR and MPM Capital (through its management of the UBS Oncology Impact Fund) yielded the first two Transformative Cancer Research

Grants, providing \$800,000 to support research that has the potential to explore new approaches to cancer treatment.

In addition to these advances, 2019 provided another opportunity to celebrate the inspiring accomplishments of AACR members. For the second consecutive year, we are proud to count newly minted Nobel Laureates among the AACR membership. AACR members William G. Kaelin Jr., MD, FAACR, and Gregg L. Semenza, MD, PhD, shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe, MD, FRS, in recognition of their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability.

The AACR was excited to celebrate the achievements of these esteemed AACR members, and it was even more exciting to see the Nobel committee recognize the critical value of basic science. The work that led to these prize-winning discoveries began more than two decades ago, as our member colleagues elucidated the mechanisms of oxygen-sensing and

adaptation in cells. Over the next twenty years, this fundamental research was expanded and translated by many others (including other AACR members) into a range of treatment options for cancer and other diseases. Without that foundation of scientific discovery, progress against cancer would not be possible.

As the first and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing progress against cancer, the AACR is uniquely positioned to support the complete lifecycle of cancer research, from basic science discoveries to translational investigations to clinical applications. Representing academia, government, and industry—and through the generosity of the individual, nonprofit, and corporate partners who support AACR programs—our 45,000 members work tirelessly to save, to extend, and to enhance the lives of people with cancer. We will continue to work with all sectors of the cancer community until we achieve our shared mission—the prevention and cure of all cancers.

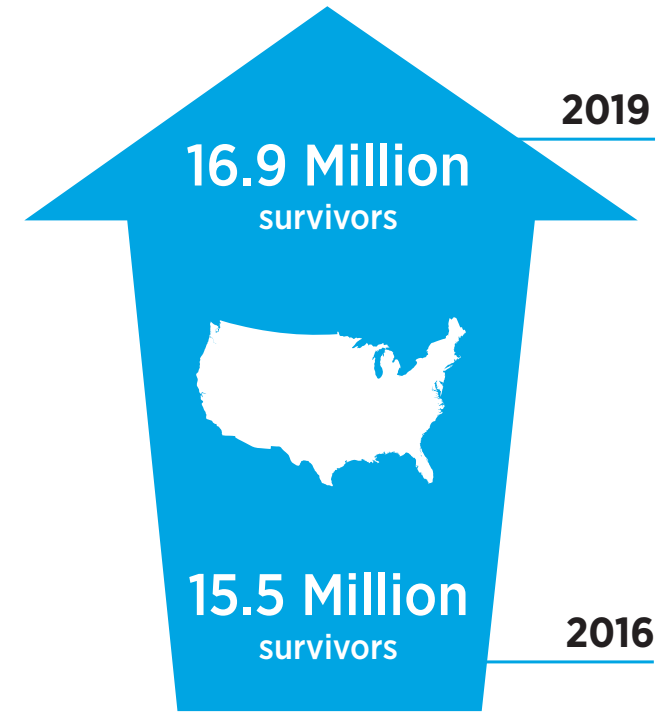
ELAINE R. MARDIS, PHD, FAACR  
AACR President 2019–2020

MARGARET FOTI, PHD, MD (HC)  
AACR Chief Executive Officer

ELIZABETH M. JAFFEE, MD, FAACR  
AACR President 2018-2019

## BUILT ON INNOVATIVE CANCER SCIENCE

A surge in scientific discovery and technological innovation is deepening our knowledge of the complexity of cancer and driving unparalleled progress against the collection of devastating diseases we call cancer. Breakthroughs across the spectrum of cancer care driven by innovative cancer science in 2019 include the 11 new therapeutics approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating patients with various types of cancer. During this time, the FDA also approved nine previously approved anticancer therapeutics for treating new types of cancer.



Research-fueled advances in cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment are helping more and more people survive longer and lead fuller lives after a cancer diagnosis. According to the latest estimates, more than 16.9 million U.S. adults and children with a history of cancer were alive on January 1, 2019, compared with 15.5 million in 2016, and this number is projected to rise to 22.1 million by 2030.

A featured survivor in the *AACR Cancer Progress Report 2019*, Gary Price had metastatic bladder cancer that could not be controlled with standard chemotherapy. A sample of his tumor revealed a mutation in the FGFR3 receptor, so he participated in a clinical trial of erdafitinib, a therapeutic that targeted that specific mutation. Erdafitinib—which has controlled the growth of Gary's cancer—was one of eight molecularly targeted therapeutics approved by the U.S. FDA in 2019.





**EVA JOSEPH**  
CANCER SURVIVOR

Immunotherapy, which refers to the use of therapeutics that harness the power of a patient's own immune system to treat that patient's cancer, is one of the areas of cancer treatment that continue to make extraordinarily rapid progress. In 2019, there were new approvals for using this exciting approach to treatment for four additional types of cancer, including the first approval for the use of immunotherapy in the treatment of breast cancer. This groundbreaking advance in the treatment of breast cancer was specifically for patients who are diagnosed with a particularly aggressive form of the disease called triple-negative breast cancer, such as Eva Joseph (left).

Remarkable advances in our understanding of the biology of cancer, including the identification of numerous genetic mutations that fuel tumor growth in certain patients, are continuing to drive the development of new therapeutics that target specific molecules involved in cancer. All 11 of the new therapeutics approved by the FDA in 2019 target specific molecules involved in cancer, and they are referred to as molecularly targeted therapeutics. These therapeutics are part of the precision medicine revolution which is ensuring that more and more people live longer, higher-quality lives after a cancer diagnosis, including Gary Price (p. 5).

With the number of cancer cases diagnosed in the United States rising every year, it is vital that the AACR increase

public understanding of cancer and the importance of cancer research for saving lives. The annual AACR Cancer Progress Report is a cornerstone of these educational efforts and the AACR's efforts to advocate for increased annual federal funding for government entities that drive progress against cancer and improve public health, in particular, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), FDA, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The AACR Cancer Progress Report 2019 achieves these goals by providing a comprehensive overview of how federally funded medical research was the backbone of progress against cancer over a 12-month period. The report also highlights that unwavering, bipartisan support from Congress, in the form of robust, sustained, and predictable annual increases in funding for the NIH, NCI, FDA, and CDC, is vital if we are to save more lives from cancer.

As AACR President (2019–2020) Elaine R. Mardis, PhD, FAACR, noted in the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2019, "If we are to encourage the cross-disciplinary team science approach to cancer research that is key for igniting technological innovation and advances against all pediatric and adult cancers, we need robust annual increases in federal funding for research. These resources are vital if we are to pave the way for the next major breakthroughs that will transform patient care."

“ If we are to encourage the cross-disciplinary team science approach to cancer research that is key for igniting technological innovation and advances against all pediatric and adult cancers, we need robust annual increases in federal funding for research. These resources are vital if we are to pave the way for the next major breakthroughs that will transform patient care. ”

— ELAINE R. MARDIS, PHD, FAACR, AACR PRESIDENT (2019-2020)  
AACR CANCER PROGRESS REPORT 2019



# INTEGRATIVE CANCER SCIENCE. GLOBAL IMPACT. INDIVIDUALIZED PATIENT CARE.



During the opening ceremony at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019, AACR CEO Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), recognizes James Allison, PhD, FAACR, for receiving the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

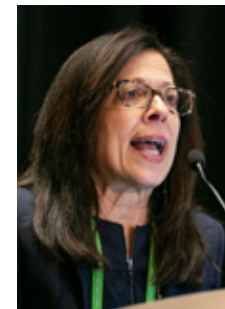
As the most comprehensive and critically important cancer meeting in the world, the AACR Annual Meeting brings together all of the key stakeholders in cancer research. In 2019, more than 21,000 laboratory scientists, clinicians, other health care professionals, survivors, patients, and advocates from 71 countries came to Atlanta from around the world to make connections, build collaborations, and explore and expand the frontiers of integrative cancer science.

## EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

A comprehensive education and training program has long been a hallmark of the AACR Annual Meeting. Led by chair Jennifer A. Wargo, MD, the 2019 Annual Meeting Education Committee developed a robust slate of more than 60 Educational Sessions and Methods Workshops addressing vital topics such as clinical trial design; tumor immunology and immunotherapy for nonimmunologists; systems biology approaches to cancer; and co-evolution of tumor and microenvironment in cancer metastasis. For the first time, the Annual Meeting was expanded to a sixth day to accommodate these vital sessions.

## INSPIRING PLENARY SESSIONS

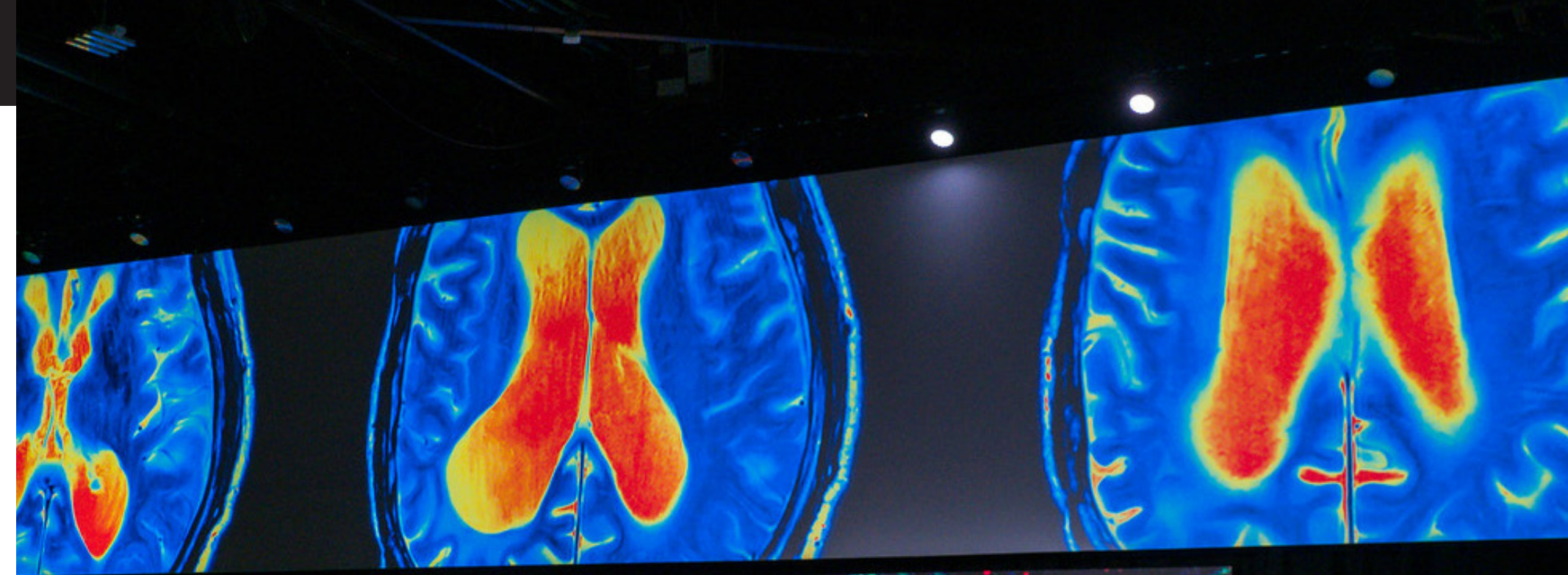
Following the two-day educational program, each of the four days of the Annual Meeting's main scientific program featured a plenary session to inform and inspire the attendees—beginning with the Opening Plenary Session titled "Achieving Equitable Patient Care through Precision and Convergent Cancer Science." Moderated by 2019 Annual Meeting Program Committee chair John D. Carpten, PhD, the session addressed a range of topics, including the use of wearable technology for clinical assessment, precision oncology, and next-generation CAR T cells. Additional plenary sessions addressed compelling topics such as "Clinical and Translational Research in Diverse Populations," "Manipulating the Immune System in Cancer Therapy," and "Pathogen-Related Cancers: Implications for Populations and Public Health."



well as their adoption by the health care community. Recognizing the power of patient voices, AACR President (2018–2019) Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR (*left*), featured the

## PRESIDENTIAL SELECT SYMPOSIUM: ENGAGING CANCER PATIENTS AS PARTNERS IN THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Another development with paradigm-changing potential is the incorporation of patients into the cancer research process. Engaging the vital perspectives of cancer patients in the drug development and clinical care enterprise has been shown to accelerate the release of new treatments as



AACR President (2018–2019) Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, addresses attendees during the opening ceremony of the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

topic in her Presidential Select Symposium at the Annual Meeting. A distinguished panel of representatives from the drug development, regulatory, funding, and patient communities discussed effective strategies for making patients into research partners.

**HONORING PARADIGM-SHIFTING DISCOVERIES**

During the opening ceremony of the Annual Meeting, AACR CEO Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), recognized AACR member James Allison, PhD, FAACR, for receiving the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Dr. Allison received the prize with his colleague, Tasuku Honjo, MD, PhD, FAACR, for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation.



**A FORUM FOR NCI LEADERSHIP**

Befitting the status of the AACR Annual Meeting as the touchstone event of the cancer research community, the opening ceremony of the meeting also featured a joint address by the leaders of the NCI. Noting the adage that “we drink from wells we did not dig, [and] we are warmed by fires we did not build,” NCI Director Norman “Ned” Sharpless, MD, FAACR, and Deputy Director Douglas R. Lowy, MD, FAACR, reminded the attendees that the tremendous advances they have made against cancer are built upon the contributions of generations of scientists, physicians, and patients that came before them—a debt they must repay by driving continued progress for the generations that follow.



“

As cancer researchers, our knowledge is built on breakthroughs that were shared with us by people we will never meet. Like other researchers, and physicians, and—I would argue, most importantly—patients. It’s very humbling to consider the millions of patients with cancer who have participated in clinical trials over the years, many of whom participated with the full knowledge that...the advances would be made after their lifetimes. In their worst days, they built a fire for others to warm their hands. And our progress is their legacy. It’s our charge to continue this progress for those who come after us. ”

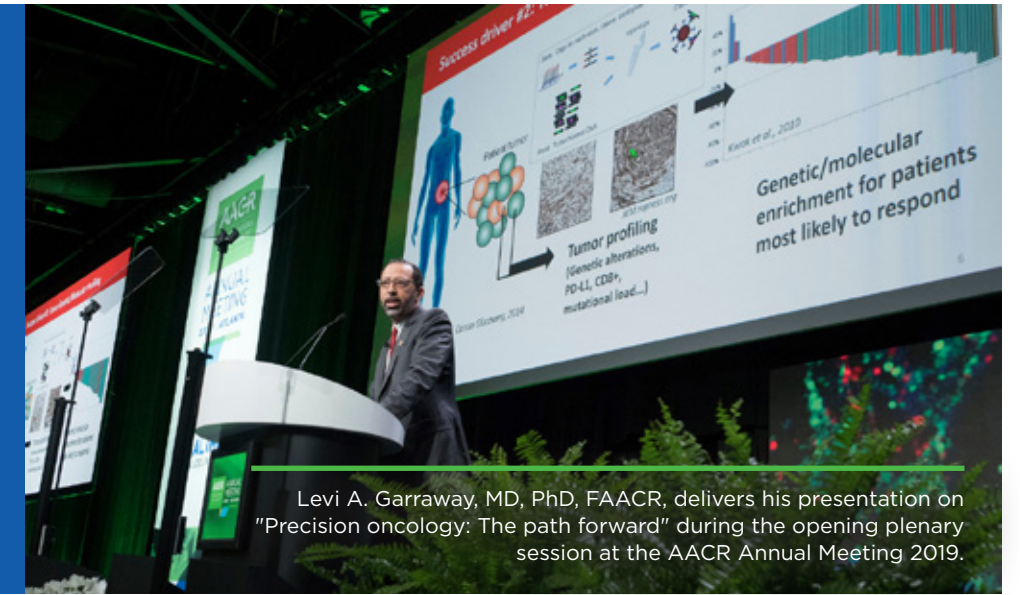
— NORMAN “NED” SHARPLESS, MD, FAACR  
NCI DIRECTOR

“

The progress we are seeing is tremendous. But we still have much to do. Cancer research is an amazing enterprise, with each of us making our distinct contributions to something that is much bigger than each of us. Another way of thinking about it is that when what we do goes well, the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts. The AACR meeting is a great opportunity to learn new things, and to make new connections as we build on previous discoveries. It can also be an opportunity for each of us to chart or refine the course by which we plan to continue to the progress that we know must lie ahead. ”

— DOUGLAS R. LOWY, MD, FAACR  
NCI DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**INNOVATIVE CANCER SCIENCE**



Levi A. Garraway, MD, PhD, FAACR, delivers his presentation on “Precision oncology: The path forward” during the opening plenary session at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

The AACR Annual Meeting 2019 provided a global showcase of the greatest science from the best minds in all areas of cancer research and cancer-related science. Highlights from the multidisciplinary, high-impact program were summarized by AACR leaders in a wrap-up plenary session.

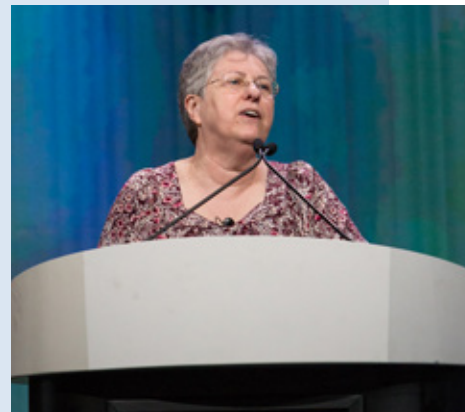
The first presenter, **Marcia R. Cruz-Correa, MD, PhD**, a member of the AACR Board of Directors, discussed key cancer prevention, interception, and early detection research reported at the meeting. Among the presentations she highlighted were two emphasizing the promise of immunoprevention. In the first presentation, a peptide vaccine was shown to reduce intestinal tumors and improve survival in a mouse model of Lynch syndrome. In the second presentation, a MUC1 vaccine was shown to elicit immune memory in patients recently diagnosed with advanced colorectal adenomas, and it is hoped that this will prevent adenoma recurrence. Dr. Cruz-Correa also drew attention to a chemoprevention study in which the drug apalutamide (Erleada) provided protection against prostate cancer in rats and two clinical trials showing that different lifestyle modifications, increased physical exercise and reduced consumption of red and processed meat, decreased risk for obesity-related cancers and certain colorectal cancer precursors, respectively. Dr. Cruz-Correa concluded by discussing early data from two liquid biopsy studies, one suggesting that circulating tumor cell analysis could aid in the early detection of lung cancers, and another suggesting that serum biomarkers could help detect early-stage ovarian cancer.



**John D. Carpten, PhD**, chair of the 2019 Annual Meeting Program Committee, highlighted key sessions at the meeting during which investigators presented groundbreaking basic cancer science and translational research. He began by discussing the opening plenary session titled, “Achieving Equitable Patient Care through Precision and Convergent Cancer Science,” as well as the plenary session titled, “Clinical and Translational Research in Diverse Populations,” which put a spotlight on advances in our understanding of cancer in different populations around the world. Dr. Carpten then explained that innovative research presented at the meeting showed that single-cell technologies can be paired with imaging to allow spatial genomic analysis of single cells in a tumor and that this has the potential to further understanding of the role of cell–cell interactions in tumor evolution. Among the other sessions showcased by Dr. Carpten were those detailing advances in understanding the mechanisms of drug resistance, including resistance to immunotherapy caused by T-cell exhaustion; those focused on using structural and functional genomics to deepen our knowledge of cancer biology; and those featuring progress in the utilization of cutting-edge technologies to analyze circulating biomarkers. Dr. Carpten concluded his remarks by noting that the basic cancer science and translational research presented at the meeting will drive future progress in patient care.



**Patricia M. LoRusso, MD**, highlighted some of the groundbreaking clinical trial data presented at the meeting. For the first part of her presentation, she focused on clinical trials with novel designs, including three trials designed to test the feasibility of bringing novel agents into earlier lines of treatment, two trials evaluating therapeutics in preselected patient populations, and clinical trials with integration of biomarkers. Dr. LoRusso then touched upon trials featuring novel delivery mechanisms, including a clinical trial testing fecal microbiota transplantation as a way to restore responsiveness of melanoma patients to immune checkpoint inhibitors, and trials of new therapeutics. The final clinical trial highlighted by LoRusso was the phase III ADMIRAL trial. Dr. LoRusso noted that results from this trial, which showed that the FLT3-targeted therapeutic gilteritinib (Xospata) improved survival for patients with relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia harboring a FLT3 mutation compared with standard chemotherapy regimens, were practice changing and are establishing a new treatment paradigm for acute myeloid leukemia.



## MEDIA COVERAGE



Reporters learned about the latest developments in cancer research at three press conferences during the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

The AACR Annual Meeting 2019 generated global interest, as the innovative cancer science presented in Atlanta produced a significant amount of news coverage and social media activity.

35

News releases were distributed.

190

Reporters registered to cover the meeting.

3,500+

Media mentions were generated.

25,197

Tweets mentioned the #aacr19 hashtag.

6,759

Unique users joined the Annual Meeting conversation on Twitter.

800

Number of followers for the @AACR\_CEO Twitter account. The AACR launched the social media account featuring AACR Chief Executive Officer Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), during the Annual Meeting. The account offers followers a perspective on the wide range of activities in which Dr. Foti engages to advance the mission of the AACR.





Elizabeth A. Platz, ScD, MPH, new editor-in-chief of *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, discusses the journal at a Meet the Editor session during the AACR Annual Meeting.

# AACR JOURNALS: PUBLISHING HIGH-IMPACT CANCER SCIENCE



Michael N. Pollak, MD—who serves as co-editor-in-chief of *Cancer Prevention Research*—leads a Meet the Editor session during the AACR Annual Meeting.

The frontiers of cancer science are continually shifting to accommodate emerging areas of discovery, and the AACR scientific publishing program is continually adapting to highlight the most significant advances in basic, translational, clinical, and epidemiological cancer research.

## A NEW HOME FOR HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES RESEARCH: *BLOOD CANCER DISCOVERY*

Over the past few years, the AACR has taken a leadership role in the area of hematologic malignancies, which account for 10 percent of cancer cases and 9 percent of cancer deaths annually in the United States. A productive collaboration with the meeting organizers in Lugano, Switzerland to enhance the program of the International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma in 2017 led to the launch of a new AACR meeting series on Advances in Malignant Lymphoma in the United States in 2018. In July of 2019, the new AACR Hematologic Malignancies Task Force—chaired by Jonathan D. Licht, MD—held its inaugural meeting to define the AACR's role in accelerating progress against blood-



based cancers. And at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019, AACR President (2018–2019) Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, announced the launch of the newest AACR journal, *Blood Cancer Discovery*. Under the leadership of inaugural editors-in-chief Riccardo Dalla-Favera, MD, FAACR (*above left*), and Kenneth C. Anderson, MD, FAACR (*above right*), the ninth journal in the AACR scientific publishing program will

provide a vital new forum for innovative basic, translational, and clinical research on all subtypes of leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma, as well as associated diseases. The journal began online publication in December, and the first issues are expected to publish in mid-2020.

Dr. Dalla-Favera is director of the Institute for Cancer Genetics at Columbia University, and his work on the pathogenesis of cancers derived from B lymphocytes has led to the development of diagnostic tests that are now being evaluated in clinical trials. Dr. Anderson is the program director at the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and LeBow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. His laboratory and clinical work focusing on multiple myeloma have led to the development of novel targeted therapies that have received U.S. FDA approval. Under their leadership, *Blood Cancer Discovery* will highlight the most significant work in the field of hematologic malignancies and inspire new thinking about blood cancers.

#### NEW EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP

Three AACR journals welcomed new editors-in-chief in 2019:

- **Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention (CEBP)**  
In January 2019, Elizabeth A. Platz, ScD, MPH, began her appointment as the new editor-in-chief of *CEBP*, the AACR's journal of original population-based research on cancer etiology, prevention, surveillance, and survivorship. A renowned leader of multidisciplinary prostate cancer research teams, Dr. Platz is at the forefront of epidemiologic research on the role of inflammation in the development of prostate cancer, and on telomere length as a prognostic marker for poor outcome after treatment for prostate cancer. She currently serves as professor and deputy chair of the Department of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and coleader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins.

In her inaugural editorial, Dr. Platz noted that cancer mortality rates have declined tremendously in the United States and in other high-income countries during the 28 years since *CEBP* began publication, a decline that was due in part to advances in population-level cancer prevention and early detection strategies. She also noted, however, that these advances have not been distributed equally among all populations and across all cancer types, and she pledged to continue the journal's leadership role in population science.

- **Molecular Cancer Therapeutics (MCT)**  
Beverly A. Teicher, PhD (*right*), assumed the role of editor-in-chief of *MCT* in January 2019. Dr. Teicher has led laboratories and teams that have contributed critical preclinical studies to several approved anticancer agents and several investigational agents currently in clinical trials. She previously served as a senior editor for *MCT* and for the AACR journal *Clinical Cancer Research*.

*MCT* is the AACR's publication forum for the best science in the design, synthesis, discovery, and preclinical study of novel therapeutic agents for the treatment or prevention of cancer. The journal began publication in 2001, the same year that the first small-molecule receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor (imatinib) received FDA approval. Since that time, the spectrum of cancer therapeutics has expanded dramatically, and during her first year as editor Dr. Teicher has expanded the journal's focus to cover all classes of experimental therapeutics that have the potential to move forward into clinical development. To address the critical issue of reproducibility in scientific inquiry, she has implemented rules requiring that papers include detailed methods, document experiments performed in multiple models, and provide chemical structures for relevant new entities.



- **Cancer Prevention Research**  
*Cancer Prevention Research (CAPR)*, the AACR's publication venue for basic, translational, and clinical research on the biology of premalignancy, risk factors and risk assessment, early detection research, and chemopreventive interventions, completed its transition to new editorial leadership in 2019. New editors-in-chief Raymond N. DuBois, MD, PhD, FAACR, and Michael N. Pollak, MD, began their appointments in July 2018, and in 2019 they expanded the journal's scope to include critical areas such as interrupting the development processes of primary and secondary cancers and blocking cancer progression to advanced disease. They also positioned *CAPR* to explore promising areas in cancer prevention science, including immunologic approaches to risk reduction; the application of "big data" to identify modifiable risk factors; the use of genetic profiles to better target interventions; and exploration of modifiable variations in the microbiome in relation to cancer risk.

An AACR past president and Fellow of the AACR Academy, Dr. DuBois is dean of the College of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. He is an internationally renowned expert in the molecular and genetic basis of colorectal cancer whose work has led to a better understanding of the role of anti-inflammatory agents in the tumor microenvironment. Dr. Pollak, who has served on the editorial board of *CAPR* since its launch in 2008, directs the Division of Cancer Prevention of the

Department of Oncology at McGill University in Montreal. He is a medical oncologist who collaborates with research groups around the world to conduct epidemiologic studies, laboratory investigations, and clinical trials related to the role of growth factors in human cancer. Under their leadership, *CAPR* will continue to be a critical resource for the academic, industry, and policy making communities on the critical role of prevention in global cancer control.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### 26.370

Current Impact Factor for *Cancer Discovery*—which ranks sixth out of 229 journals in the Oncology category—according to the 2018 *Journal Citation Report*.

### 30

Days from manuscript submission to first decision (on average). The AACR has made a concerted effort to reduce turnaround times for peer review, to improve the overall author experience and accelerate the pace of progress against cancer.

### 26 million

Full-text views of AACR journal articles were recorded in 2019.

### 9

Twitter accounts for AACR journals. All of the AACR's highly renowned scientific journals—including the newest journal, *Blood Cancer Discovery*—established their presence on social media in 2019:

*Blood Cancer Discovery*: @BCD\_AACR

*Cancer Discovery*: @CD\_AACR

*Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*: @CEBP\_AACR

*Cancer Immunology Research*: @CIR\_AACR

*Cancer Prevention Research*: @CAPR\_AACR

*Cancer Research*: @CR\_AACR

*Clinical Cancer Research*: @CCR\_AACR

*Molecular Cancer Research*: @MCR\_AACR

*Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*: @MCT\_AACR

# EDITORS-IN-CHIEF



Lewis C. Cantley, PhD, FAACR, co-editor-in-chief of *Cancer Discovery*, discusses the journal at a Meet the Editor session during the AACR Annual Meeting.

The AACR thanks its editors-in-chief for their hard work and stewardship of its scientific publishing program during 2019.



## CANCER DISCOVERY

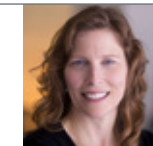


**LEWIS C. CANTLEY, PHD, FAACR**  
Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medical College  
New York, New York



**LUIS A. DIAZ, MD**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
New York, New York

## CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY, BIOMARKERS & PREVENTION



**ELIZABETH A. PLATZ, SCD, MPH**  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins  
Baltimore, Maryland

## CANCER IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH



**ROBERT D. SCHREIBER, PHD, FAACR**  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri



**PHILIP D. GREENBERG, MD, FAACR**  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Seattle, Washington

## CANCER PREVENTION RESEARCH

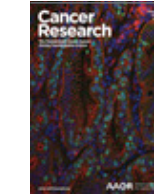


**RAYMOND N. DUBOIS, MD, PHD, FAACR**  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina



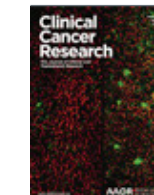
**MICHAEL N. POLLAK, MD**  
McGill University  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

## CANCER RESEARCH



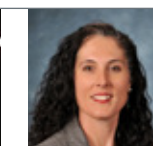
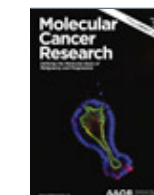
**CHI VAN DANG, MD, PHD, FAACR**  
Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research  
New York, New York  
The Wistar Institute  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH



**KEITH T. FLAHERTY, MD**  
Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center  
Boston, Massachusetts

## MOLECULAR CANCER RESEARCH



**KAREN E. KNUDSEN, PHD**  
Kimmel Cancer Center  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## MOLECULAR CANCER THERAPEUTICS



**BEVERLY A. TEICHER, PHD**  
National Cancer Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland

# COLLABORATIONS ADVANCING CANCER SCIENCE WORLDWIDE



The AACR International Conference on New Horizons In Cancer Research was held May 3-5, 2019, in Shenzhen, China.

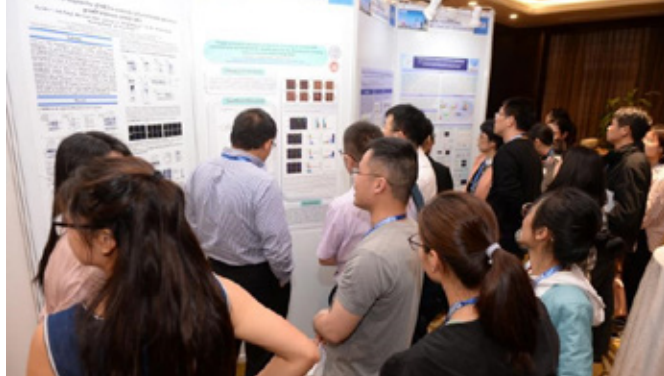
Cancer is a global scourge, and making progress against it requires a global workforce. The AACR worked with 12 international scientific organizations in 2019 to develop cutting-edge programs and educational opportunities in nine countries, supporting lifesaving cancer research worldwide.

## INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS: FORGING COLLABORATIONS, SUPPORTING PROMISING CAREERS

In 2018, the AACR and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) announced an international alliance to develop new programs and initiatives to accelerate the pace of progress against cancer. The first major initiative from this new partnership was launched at the Annual Meeting in March 2019 with the announcement of the AACR-CRUK Transatlantic Fellowships program. These four-year fellowships support early-stage postdoctoral researchers in pursuing their research projects in either the United States or the United Kingdom, and they will foster international collaborations while helping early-career scientists establish independent research careers.



Program committee co-chair Luis A. Diaz, Jr., MD, delivers opening remarks at the AACR-KCA Joint Workshop on Precision Medicine, held November 14-15, 2019, in Seoul, Korea. The workshop focused on developing multidisciplinary strategies to more effectively diagnose and treat cancer and advance patient care.



**SAUMYA PATEL, PHD**  
AACR GLOBAL  
SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING  
AWARD RECIPIENT

Saumya Patel, PhD (*left*), receiving his award certificate from Annual Meeting Program Chair John D. Carpten, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, India. He was one of 15 early-career scientists from around the world who attended the AACR Annual Meeting 2019 as an AACR Global Scholar-In-Training Award (GSITA) recipient:

“I am from the Gujarat region of India, where the incidence of head and neck cancer is very high, due largely to chewing tobacco. This has influenced me to work in the area of oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) and other mouth-related cancers. As there are no biomarkers available for OSCC, I am trying to find various prognostic or diagnostic markers related to it.

I had networking meetings and talks with people during the [AACR Annual Meeting]. In the future, I expect some collaborations to result. The GSITA award is one of the best awards I have ever received in cancer research, and will definitely help in the submission of future projects.”

**JOINT CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

The AACR worked with cancer research organizations around the world to produce the following joint conferences, educational workshops, and symposia in 2019:

**ELEVENTH AACR-JCA JOINT CONFERENCE ON BREAKTHROUGHS IN CANCER RESEARCH: BIOLOGY TO PRECISION MEDICINE**  
Maui, Hawaii, February 8–12, 2019

**CSCO CONFERENCE ON IMMUNOTHERAPY (ENDORSED BY AACR)**  
Shanghai, China, March 22–23, 2019

**AACR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE NEW HORIZONS IN CANCER RESEARCH**  
Shenzhen, China, May 3–5, 2019

**TWENTY-FIRST ECCO-AACR-EORTC-ESMO METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP**  
Zeist, The Netherlands, June 15–21, 2019

**ADVANCES IN PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH**  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada, September 17–20, 2019

**FIFTH CRI-CIMT-EATI-AACR INTERNATIONAL CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY CONFERENCE: TRANSLATING SCIENCE INTO SURVIVAL**  
Paris, France, September 25–28, 2019

**CANCER RESEARCH UK-AACR JOINT CONFERENCE: ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES IN ONCOLOGY**  
London, United Kingdom, October 15–17, 2019

**AACR-KCA JOINT WORKSHOP ON PRECISION MEDICINE**  
Seoul, Korea, November 14–15, 2019

**OTHER INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

The AACR worked with several organizations to develop joint sessions for the following international conferences:

**A.C. CAMARGO NEXT FRONTIERS TO CURE CANCER CONFERENCE**  
São Paulo, Brazil, May 16–18, 2019

The AACR partnered with LACOG to offer a session on “Science behind the Trial,” in which Brazilian investigators presented the results of three clinical trials and AACR scientists discussed the biological underpinnings of each study.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MALIGNANT LYMPHOMA (ICML)**  
Lugano, Switzerland, June 18–22, 2019  
The AACR worked with the ICML to develop three highlights of the scientific program:

- In collaboration with the European School of Oncology and the ICML, the AACR organized a pre-conference workshop on “Bridging Liquid Biopsy into Management of Lymphoma Patients: Development of Frameworks for Clinical Research and Recommendations for Clinical Practice.”
- AACR CEO Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), and ICML President Franco Cavalli, MD, cochaired a joint session on “Role of Nonclinical Models as Bridges to Early Clinical Trials.”
- The AACR continued its sponsorship of the Gianni Bonadonna Memorial Lecture in honor of AACR member and ICML cofounder Gianni Bonadonna, MD. Ari M. Melnick, MD (*above right*)—who chaired the Scientific Committee for the inaugural AACR conference on “Advances in Malignant Lymphoma,” which was held in the U.S. in June 2018 in cooperation with ICML—delivered the lecture, addressing the topic of “Precision Epigenetic Therapy for B-Cell Lymphoma.”

**II SEMANA BRASILEIRA DA ONCOLOGIA**  
Rio de Janeiro, October 22–26, 2019  
The AACR and the Brazilian Society of Clinical Oncology (SBOC) collaborated to develop a joint session on “The Molecular Biology Behind Targeted Therapies.”

**ESMO ASIA CONGRESS 2019**  
Singapore, November 22–24, 2019  
The AACR partnered with the conference organizers to develop two joint symposia on “Challenges in the Use of Genomics Platforms” and “CAR-T Cells / NK Cells.”

**POSTER PRIZES AND TRAVEL AWARDS**

In 2019, the AACR once again offered an expanded slate of opportunities to international investigators to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, and participate in the AACR Annual Meeting while also offering opportunities for AACR members to present their work abroad:

- From 2016 through 2018, the AACR African Cancer Researchers Travel Awards provided financial assistance to meritorious early-career investigators in Africa to support their attendance at the AACR Annual Meeting. In 2019, the program was rebranded as the AACR Global Scholar-in-Training Awards (GSITA) and expanded to include eligible applicants from all low-, lower-middle, and middle-income economy countries. GSITA recipients who attended the Annual Meeting 2019 (*above*) also participated in a networking and mentoring event hosted by Emory University’s Winship Cancer Institute, which included a tour of laboratory and clinical facilities, presentations by doctoral students, and research and career advice from Emory faculty and staff.

- The AACR continued its partnership with the Chinese Society for Clinical Oncology (CSCO) to administer the CSCO Young Investigator Travel Awards in 2019. CSCO selected 15 AACR members who presented meritorious abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019 and provided them with travel support to attend and present their work at the CSCO 22nd Annual Meeting in Xiamen, China, in September.

**WORLD CANCER RESEARCH DAY**

The AACR joined ten other cofounding partner organizations to mark World Cancer Research Day on September 24. The goal of World Cancer Research Day was to raise awareness of the extraordinary impact of cancer science and to acknowledge the contributions made by cancer researchers to reduce the global burden of cancer.



# FELLOWS OF THE AACR ACADEMY



## FELLOWS OF THE AACR ACADEMY: LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND MEDICINE



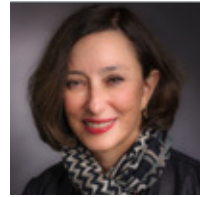
The AACR is the authoritative source and voice for cancer research because it brings together the greatest minds in the field to focus on its mission to prevent and cure all cancers. This is exemplified by the AACR Academy, which recognizes and honors distinguished scientists whose major scientific contributions have propelled significant innovation and progress against cancer. Elected members of the AACR Academy are referred to as Fellows of the AACR Academy, and these individuals work to amplify the AACR's voice by engaging with colleagues, policy makers, and the public to catalyze progress against cancer.

The AACR Academy gathered at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019 to induct a new class of Fellows.

**NEW AACR ACADEMY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED**

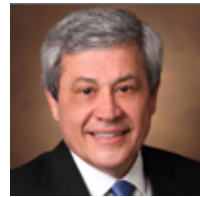
The AACR Academy is governed by an elected president and Steering Committee. Two new members—Suzanne Cory, PhD, FRS, FAACR, and Elaine Fuchs, PhD, FAACR—were elected to the Steering Committee in 2019, joining AACR Academy President Judy E. Garber, MD, MPH, FAACR, and the other members of the committee in providing sound scientific and policy guidance to AACR leadership.

**AACR ACADEMY PRESIDENT (2019-2021)**



**JUDY E. GARBER, MD, MPH, FAACR**

**AACR ACADEMY STEERING COMMITTEE**



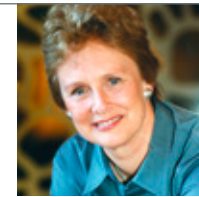
**CARLOS L. ARTEAGA, MD, FAACR**



**JOAN S. BRUGGE, PHD, FAACR**



**MICHAEL A. CALIGIURI, MD, FAACR**



**SUZANNE CORY, PHD, FRS, FAACR**



**RAYMOND N. DUBOIS, MD, PHD, FAACR**



**RAYMOND N. DUBOIS, MD, PHD, FAACR**



**TYLER JACKS, PHD, FAACR**



**KAREN H. VOUSDEN, PHD, FAACR**



**CLASS OF 2019 INDUCTION**



At a ceremony on the evening preceding the Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, the 2019 class of Fellows was formally inducted into the AACR Academy.

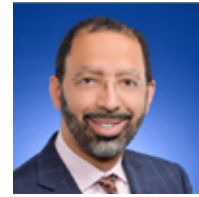
FELLOWS OF THE AACR ACADEMY CLASS OF 2019



**FREDERICK R. APPELBAUM, MD, FAACR**  
*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
 University of California, San Francisco  
 Seattle, Washington*  
 For pioneering the development of transformative therapies for leukemias, lymphomas, and other blood cancers and for leading the first clinical trial demonstrating the utility of autologous bone marrow transplantation.



**GEORGE Q. DALEY, MD, PHD, FAACR**  
*Harvard Medical School  
 Cambridge, Massachusetts*  
 For demonstrating the role of the BCR/ABL oncogene in the pathogenesis of chronic myeloid leukemia and for his creation of pluripotent stem cell-based disease models to improve drug and transplantation therapies for malignant and genetic disease.



**LEVI A. GARRAWAY, MD, PHD, FAACR**  
*Lilly Oncology  
 Eli Lilly and Company  
 Indianapolis, Indiana*  
 For visionary contributions to the establishment of genomics-driven precision cancer medicine by pioneering high-throughput adaptation of genomic technologies to profile human tumors for actionable cancer gene mutations, allowing for precise patient population stratification.



**DANIEL A. HABER, MD, PHD, FAACR**  
*Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center  
 Harvard Medical School, Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
 Boston, Massachusetts*  
 For characterizing EGFR mutations in lung cancer, biological properties of circulating tumor cells in cancer, and WT1 and WTX tumor suppressors in Wilms' tumor, and for contributing to the fundamental understanding of molecular carcinogenesis and drug sensitivity to inform the development of molecularly targeted therapeutics.



**SCOTT W. LOWE, PHD, FAACR**  
*Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
 Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
 New York, New York*  
 For illuminating the molecular mechanisms governing tumor suppression and for establishing preclinical mouse models allowing for the genetic validation of cancer targets.



**MOSHE OREN, PHD, FAACR**  
*Moross Integrated Cancer Center  
 Weizmann Institute of Science  
 Rehovot, Israel*  
 For his pivotal research involving the cloning of the gene that encodes p53, and for his landmark biochemical and biological discoveries that have revealed the basis for the ability of p53 to act as a tumor suppressor, as well as the consequences of p53 inactivation in cancer.



**LOUIS M. STAUDT, MD, PHD, FAACR**  
*National Cancer Institute  
 Bethesda, Maryland*  
 For dissecting the fundamental nature of B cell lymphoma biology and human lymphoid malignancies, and for highlighting how gene expression profiling may be used to identify distinct cancer types and subtypes, leading to the use of RNAi technologies to develop novel targeted therapeutics for the treatment of hematologic malignancies.



**ERIC F. WIESCHAUS, PHD, FAACR**  
*Princeton University  
 Princeton, New Jersey*  
 For his Nobel Prize winning identification of genes responsible for controlling embryonic development and their impact on tumorigenesis, and for conducting large-scale mutagenesis screens in *Drosophila melanogaster* to identify genes responsible for embryonic patterning and development.



**DAFNA BAR-SAGI, PHD, FAACR**  
*NYU Langone Health  
 New York, New York*  
 For delineating the fundamental mechanisms by which Ras oncogenes regulate cellular proliferation, survival, metabolism, and signaling, and for defining Ras-mediated modulation of these processes in pancreatic cancer initiation and progression.



**GERARD I. EVAN, PHD, FRS, FAACR**  
*University of Cambridge  
 Cambridge, United Kingdom*  
 For elucidating the molecular dichotomy of the Myc protein as an inducer of both cell proliferation and cell death, and for generating inducible mouse models capable of recapitulating genetic insults commonly observed in cancer.



**MEL F. GREAVES, PHD, FAACR**  
*The Institute of Cancer Research  
 London, United Kingdom*  
 For highlighting the biological underpinnings of pediatric leukemia onset and clonal evolution, and for demonstrating how exposure to infection and specific genetic mutations correlate with cancer susceptibility and leukemogenesis in pediatric populations.



**JULES A. HOFFMANN, PHD, FAACR**  
*University of Strasbourg Institute for Advanced Study  
 Strasbourg, France*  
 For his seminal, Nobel Prize winning discovery of the receptors of innate immunity and their roles in detecting microorganisms and subsequently activating signaling pathways controlling innate immune responses.



**ELAINE R. MARDIS, PHD, FAACR**  
*Institute for Genomic Medicine  
 Nationwide Children's Hospital  
 Columbus, Ohio*  
 For her trailblazing efforts to develop and apply next-generation sequencing technologies to the characterization of cancer genomes, toward better defining the landscape of germline and somatic alterations and devising treatment strategies.



**ROBERT D. SCHREIBER, PHD, FAACR**  
*Siteman Comprehensive Cancer Center  
 Washington University School of Medicine  
 St. Louis, Missouri*  
 For demonstrating that the immune system plays an important role in tumor development by investigating tumor growth in adaptive immune system deficient RAG2 knockout mice, and for developing and championing the concept of "cancer immunoeediting," proving that tumors may escape immune recognition via antigenicity loss.



**BRUCE W. STILLMAN, PHD, FAACR**  
*Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory  
 Cold Spring Harbor, New York*  
 For discovering the human origin recognition complex and prereplication complex proteins responsible for orchestrating DNA replication, and for further elucidating the mechanisms by which DNA and chromatin are effectively replicated, defining how genetic material is transferred, and how aberrations in replication may contribute to cancer.



**LISA M. COUSSENS, PHD, FAACR**  
*Knight Cancer Institute  
 Oregon Health & Science University  
 Portland, Oregon*  
 For pioneering studies in the tumor microenvironment and in particular for determining roles for matrix metalloproteinases and immune cells in promoting tumor progression and defining the importance of chronic inflammation in cancer, thus identifying therapeutic targets for intervention.



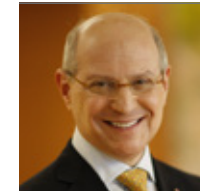
**GORDON J. FREEMAN, PHD, FAACR**  
*Harvard Medical School  
 Boston, Massachusetts*  
 For groundbreaking contributions to the discovery of the PD-1 signaling pathway and the PD-1 ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2, and for spotlighting the involvement of this pathway in tumor evasion of immunosurveillance.



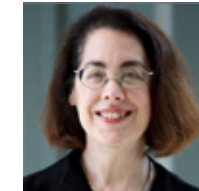
**PHILIP D. GREENBERG, MD, FAACR**  
*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
 Seattle, Washington*  
 For revealing the immunobiology of host T cell responses to malignant tumors and pathogenic viral infections and for providing crucial insights into the biological mechanisms by which T cells distinguish tumor cells from normal cells, leading to the development and advancement of adoptive T cell therapy approaches in cancer.



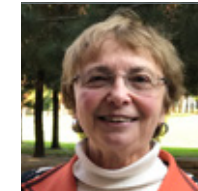
**TASUKU HONJO, MD, PHD, FAACR**  
*Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study  
 Kyoto, Japan*  
 For his groundbreaking, Nobel Prize winning discovery of the PD-1 protein and its ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2, and for demonstrating the ability of anti-PD-L1 antibodies to inhibit tumor growth, igniting a renaissance in the examination of the role of the immune system in cancer.



**LARRY NORTON, MD, FAACR**  
*Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
 New York, New York*  
 For his vast contributions to breast cancer management and clinical cancer research; for constructing mathematical models to predict tumor growth based on Gompertzian growth kinetics, leading to improved understanding of the functional relationship between chemotherapeutic dose, tumor size, treatment sensitivity, and dose schedule; and for exploring the biological etiology of Gompertzian growth leading to new insights regarding the tumor microenvironment.



**ARLENE H. SHARPE, MD, PHD, FAACR**  
*Harvard Medical School  
 Boston, Massachusetts*  
 For defining how T cell costimulatory and coinhibitory molecules and pathways regulate immune responses, and for demonstrating that T cells are required not only to activate antimicrobial and antitumor immunity, but also to repress immune responses to combat tissue transplantation rejection and autoimmune disease.



**ZENA WERB, PHD, FAACR**  
*University of California San Francisco Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center  
 San Francisco, California*  
 For her seminal contributions to the understanding of cellular microenvironments, inflammation, and intercellular communications in breast development and carcinogenesis, and for discovering MMP3 and MMP12 and the central processes by which these matrix metalloproteinases induce extracellular matrix remodeling and proteolysis.





# SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AND LECTURESHIPS



Progress against cancer is advanced by visionaries—those who move the field forward with groundbreaking discoveries as well as those who provide the necessary leadership to make such discoveries possible. AACR’s robust collection of prestigious Scientific Achievement Awards serves to recognize visionaries of all types, honoring exceptional investigators for their innovative science and extraordinary leaders for their commitment to advancing cancer research.

## 2019 AWARD AND LECTURESHIP RECIPIENTS



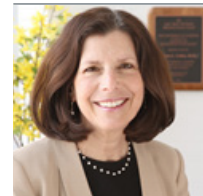
**Twenty-Eighth AACR-American Cancer Society Award for Research Excellence in Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention**

**EDWARD L. GIOVANNUCCI, MD, SCD**  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
Boston, Massachusetts



**Thirteenth AACR Award for Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry in Cancer Research**

**MICHAEL E. JUNG, PHD**  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California



**Twenty-Fourth AACR Joseph H. Burchenal Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Cancer Research**

**SUSAN L. COHN, MD**  
University of Chicago  
Comer Children’s Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois



**Fifty-Ninth AACR G.H.A. Clowes Memorial Award**

**ELAINE FUCHS, PHD, FAACR**  
Rockefeller University  
New York, New York



**Seventh AACR-CRI Lloyd J. Old Award in Cancer Immunology**

**CORNELIS J.M. MELIEF, MD, PHD**  
Leiden University Medical Center  
ISA Pharmaceuticals  
Leiden, The Netherlands



**Fourteenth AACR-Minorities in Cancer Research Jane Cooke Wright Memorial Lectureship**

**JOHN M. CARETHERS, MD, PHD**  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



**Fifteenth AACR-Irving Weinstein Foundation Distinguished Lectureship**

**JEFFREY A. BLUESTONE, PHD**  
Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California



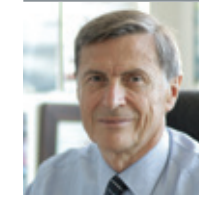
**Twelfth AACR Distinguished Lectureship in Breast Cancer Research, supported by Aflac, Inc.**

**MYLES A. BROWN, MD**  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Boston, Massachusetts



**Thirteenth Margaret Foti Award for Leadership and Extraordinary Achievements in Cancer Research**

**RAYMOND N. DUBOIS, MD, PHD, FAACR**  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina



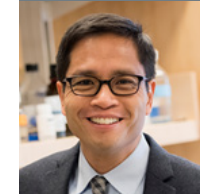
**Twenty-Second Pezcoller-AACR International Award for Extraordinary Achievement in Cancer Research**

**ALBERTO MANTOVANI, MD**  
Humanitas University  
Milan, Italy



**Twenty-Second AACR-Women in Cancer Research Charlotte Friend Memorial Lectureship**

**JENNIFER R. GRANDIS, MD**  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California



**Third AACR-Waun Ki Hong Award for Outstanding Achievement in Translational and Clinical Cancer Research**

**ANDREW T. CHAN, MD, MPH**  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Cancer Center  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts



**Thirteenth AACR Princess Takamatsu Memorial Lectureship**

**CHARLES L. SAWYERS, MD, FAACR**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
New York, New York



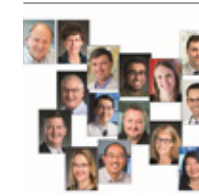
**Twelfth AACR Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research, supported by The Breast Cancer Research Foundation**

**CELINA G. KLEER, MD**  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



**Sixteenth AACR Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research**

**EMIL J. FREIREICH, MD, FAACR**  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Houston, Texas



**Thirteenth AACR Team Science Award**

**ST. JUDE CANCER SURVIVORSHIP RESEARCH TEAM**  
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital  
Memphis, Tennessee



**Tenth AACR Distinguished Lectureship on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities**

**STEVEN R. PATIERNO, PHD**  
Duke Cancer Institute  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, North Carolina

# SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP: CATALYZING COLLABORATIONS



Left to right: Session chair Rajeshwari Sridhara, PhD, David Hyman, MD, Charles L. Sawyers, MD, FAACR, and Monica Arnedos, MD, participate in a panel discussion in a session titled "Using Real-World Data to Generate Potential Synthetic Control Arms: The AACR Project GENIE Experience," held during the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

## AACR PROJECT GENIE: POWERING PRECISION MEDICINE

Precision medicine requires an end-to-end learning health care system, wherein the treatment decisions for patients are informed by the prior experiences of similar patients. Oncology is currently leading the way in precision medicine, because the genomic and other molecular characteristics of patients and their tumors are routinely collected at scale. A major challenge to realizing the promise of precision medicine is that no single institution is able to sequence and treat sufficient numbers of patients to improve clinical decision making independently. To overcome this challenge, the AACR launched Project GENIE (Genomics Evidence Neoplasia Information Exchange).

AACR Project GENIE is an international pan-cancer registry of real-world data assembled through data sharing among 19 leading international cancer centers. The registry pools clinical sequencing data from participating cancer centers to create an evidence base that is available to everyone. The consortium and its activities are driven by openness, transparency, and inclusion, ensuring that the project output remains accessible to the global cancer research community for the benefit of all patients.

Momentum for the project continued to build in 2019. At a special session during the AACR Annual Meeting 2019 in March, David Hyman, MD, from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Monica Arnedos, MD, from the Gustave Roussy Cancer Center reported on the early results from two retrospective natural

The AACR uses the power of collaboration, bringing together laboratory scientists, clinicians, survivors, patients, advocates, and regulators to attack the cancer problem and develop bold solutions.

Participants in the AACR Future of Cancer Research Innovation Summit on Combination Therapies, which was held in Washington, DC, in June.



history studies in rare metastatic breast cancer populations using data from the registry. The studies were presented in the context of the recent FDA framework on using real-world data to support regulatory activities, in particular natural history studies in rare populations. Both studies have now been finalized and the papers submitted for publication. In July, an additional 11,242 sequenced tumors and the associated baseline clinical data were posted to the registry, bringing the total number of unique records to nearly 71,000. This sixth public release—which contains data from nineteen participating institutions—covers 98 major cancer types and 656 unique subtypes.

In October, AACR Project GENIE took a major step forward with the announcement of the Biopharma Collaborative (BPC), a five-year, \$36 million research collaboration with a coalition of nine biopharmaceutical companies. The goal of the BPC—in which biopharma team members will serve as active participants with governance roles—is to greatly expand the scope and accelerate the speed of clinical data collection from an estimated 50,000 de-identified patients treated at the AACR Project GENIE participating institutions. The additional clinical data that will be gathered through the BPC—which will be made publicly available twelve months following completion of data quality control processes—will enable Project GENIE to fully realize its goal to

advance precision oncology and power clinical decision making at scale for the benefit of cancer patients.

#### FUTURE OF CANCER RESEARCH INNOVATION SUMMIT: COMBINATION THERAPIES

While her term concluded with the AACR Annual Meeting in April, 2018–2019 AACR President Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, continued to provide scientific leadership for this vital AACR initiative in 2019. Along with her cochairs—Jennifer Rubin Grandis, MD; Albert C. Koong, MD, PhD; Patricia M. LoRusso, DO; and AACR President-Elect Antoni Ribas MD, PhD—Dr. Jaffee joined leaders in the areas of immunotherapy, targeted drug therapy, and radiation oncology in June to discuss the obstacles to success in combining these therapies. The goal of the summit was to better understand the science and effectiveness of combining various modalities and to improve the development of combination cancer therapies through scientifically driven clinical trials.

Dr. Jaffee will also lead a second innovation summit on Convergence Cancer Science at a later date. This summit will convene experts from diverse areas—including life sciences, engineering, mathematics, and physics—to discuss emerging technologies and methodologies that are uncovering new cancer pathways.

#### AACR HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES TASK FORCE

The AACR Hematologic Malignancies Task Force—which was formed to guide the AACR's programs and initiatives dedicated to blood-based cancers—held its inaugural meeting in July. Chaired by Jonathan D. Licht, MD, the task force gathered international leaders and stakeholders from academia, industry, and government to evaluate the current state of the field and identify innovative solutions to accelerate progress for the benefit of blood cancer patients.

## SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUPS

Crystal Mackall, MD, Past Chair of the AACR Pediatric Cancer Working Group Steering Committee, discusses working group initiatives during a Town Hall session at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

AACR scientific working groups facilitate progress in fundamental or emerging areas of cancer science through collaboration. By building communities around areas of scientific interest, the AACR builds networks of experts in vital areas of inquiry and focuses their efforts to overcome critical research challenges.

Current AACR working groups include Cancer Immunology (Chair: Weiping Zou, MD, PhD), Chemistry in Cancer Research (Chair: Andrew J. Phillips, PhD), Molecular Epidemiology (Chair: Shelley S. Tworoger, PhD), Pediatric Cancer (Chair: Kimberly Stegmaier, MD), Radiation Science and Medicine (Chair: Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff, PhD), and Tumor Microenvironment (Chair: Sheila A. Stewart, DPhil).

#### PEDIATRIC CANCER WORKING GROUP: ADVANCING PEDIATRIC CANCER DRUG DISCOVERY

Throughout the year, members of the AACR Pediatric Cancer Working Group worked with members of ACCELERATE,

the ITCC-SIOPE Multistakeholder Paediatric Platform, to identify opportunities for collaboration. The participants identified the factors that impede the development of novel drugs for pediatric cancer indications and discussed approaches to overcoming these barriers.

#### MOLECULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKING GROUP: TRANSFORMING POPULATION SCIENCE

The Molecular Epidemiology Working Group (MEG) played a vital role in the AACR's efforts to reimagine the field of population science. MEG Steering Committee members Melissa L. Bondy, PhD, and Peter Kraft, PhD, joined fellow cochairs Marc T. Goodman, PhD, and

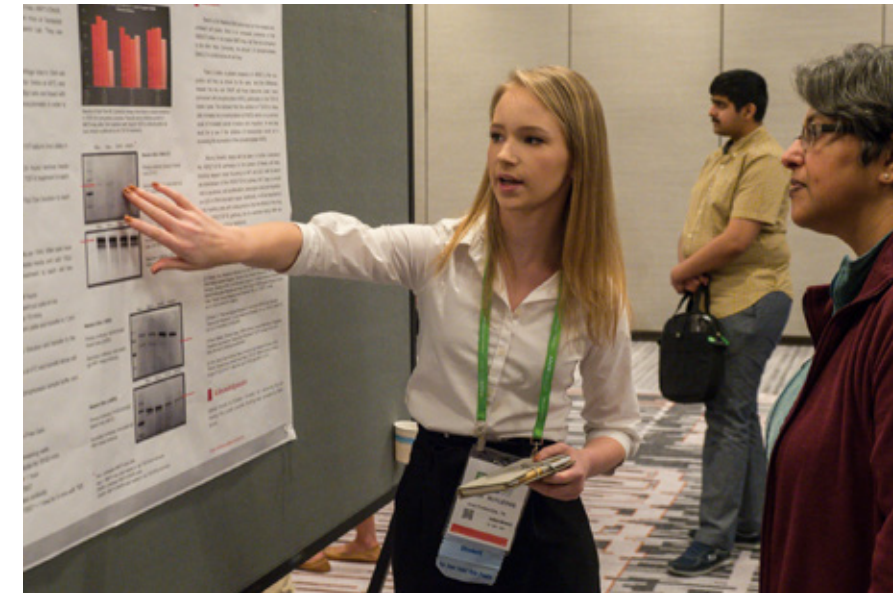


# SCIENCE EDUCATION, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION



Recipients of the Margaret Foti Foundation Undergraduate Prizes for Cancer Research at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019. Funded by AACR CEO Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), the prizes encourage college students who are interested in science to pursue careers in cancer research.

While the AACR and the cancer research community have made great progress against cancer, future progress depends on a diverse workforce that is trained to explore and expand the frontiers of cancer science. Through its science education and professional development programs, the AACR sustains the pipeline of cancer researchers by recruiting, inspiring, and supporting emerging scientists at all career stages.



## STUDENT MEMBERS: SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF CANCER RESEARCH

The AACR continued to build relationships with students interested in careers in science in 2019. The Science Education and Career Advancement Committee hosted the AACR Special Program for High School Students at the AACR Annual Meeting in April and at the AACR Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in September. More than 200 high school students across both programs participated in interactive lectures on cancer development and prevention and visited the poster sessions.

More than 200 undergraduate students also attended the AACR Annual Meeting to participate in the Fourteenth Annual Undergraduate Student Caucus and

Poster Competition. Half of them presented their work in a poster session and received feedback on their research from AACR leaders. Presenters of the most highly rated posters received The Margaret Foti Foundation Undergraduate Prizes for Cancer Research, which are funded by AACR Chief Executive Officer Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), to encourage college students to pursue careers in cancer research.

An additional 17 college students attended the Annual Meeting as AACR Undergraduate Scholars. Available to full-time, third-year undergraduate students majoring in science, the Undergraduate Scholar Awards support the participation of students in two consecutive Annual Meetings in order to inspire them to choose a career in cancer research.

## OUTREACH TO CLINICAL FELLOWS

Over the summer, the AACR launched a new recruitment initiative focused on clinical fellows at NCI-designated cancer centers. Fellows were encouraged to become AACR members, and new resources were developed to support them as part of the AACR's ongoing efforts to develop a scientifically diverse workforce. This outreach initiative was extremely successful, increasing awareness of the AACR among clinical researchers and inspiring more than 160 fellows to join the AACR.

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The AACR was reviewed by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) and awarded Accreditation with Commendation for six years as a provider of continuing medical education (CME) for physicians (through March 2024). The AACR offered CME credit at 18 different meetings in 2019, including nine special conferences, four joint conferences, two educational workshops, one joint providership activity, and the AACR Annual Meeting. AACR journals provided another educational resource, offering credit to investigators for reviewing manuscripts. A total of 3,073 researchers and clinicians claimed CME credit from the AACR in 2019, taking advantage of opportunities to maintain their professional competence and incorporate new knowledge into their practices.

# MEETINGS AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS



The Twelfth AACR Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved was held September 20–23 in San Francisco, California.

Progress against cancer requires an understanding of the state of the art in cancer science, an ability to identify emerging areas of inquiry, and a willingness to explore nontraditional solutions. AACR meetings and educational workshops bring the cancer research community together to define the current scientific paradigm and to work together to expand it. For example, in October the AACR collaborated with Cancer Research UK (CRUK) to host a joint conference on Engineering and Physical Sciences in Oncology in London. This new conference—the first to be produced as part of the new strategic alliance between the two organizations—brought leaders in cancer research together with experts in engineering, mathematics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and physics to explore ways these disciplines can both inform and transform oncology.

While AACR conferences highlight the latest cancer research, AACR educational workshops ensure that the cancer workforce is trained to understand and implement it. In November, the AACR marked the tenth anniversary of its educational workshop on Translational Cancer Research for Basic Scientists. Founded by Tom Curran, PhD, FAACR, and George D. Demetri, MD, in 2010, the workshop provides basic scientists with essential training to adapt their research for maximum clinical impact and transition into a new career in translational cancer medicine.

## 2019 EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

### 🌐 Workshop held outside U.S.

#### ACCELERATING ANTICANCER AGENT DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION WORKSHOP

**May 8–10; Bethesda, Maryland**

Executive Committee: H. Kim Lyerly, MD, Richard Pazdur, MD, Gregory Reaman, MD, and Mary Scroggins, MA

### 🌐 EORTC-ESMO-ECCO-AACR METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH

**June 15–21, 2019; Zeist, The Netherlands**

Codirectors: Corneel Coens, MSc, Emiliano Calvo, MD, PhD, Nadia Harbeck, MD, PhD, and Lee M. Ellis, MD

### INTEGRATIVE MOLECULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY: BRIDGING CANCER BIOLOGY AND PRECISION MEDICINE

**July 15–19; Boston, Massachusetts**

Director: Thomas A. Sellers, PhD, MPH  
Codirectors: Peter Kraft, PhD, and Lorelei A. Mucci, ScD, MPH

### MOLECULAR BIOLOGY IN CLINICAL ONCOLOGY WORKSHOP

**July 21–28; Snowmass Village, Colorado**

Director: Ross L. Levine, MD  
Codirectors: Mark W. Geraci, MD, Christine M. Lovly, MD, PhD, and Jean Y. Tang, MD, PhD

### ASCO/AACR METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH WORKSHOP

**July 27–August 2; Vail, Colorado**

Codirectors: Manuel Hidalgo, MD, PhD, Jyoti D. Patel, MD, and Meredith M. Regan, ScD

### TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH FOR BASIC SCIENTISTS WORKSHOP

**November 17–22; Boston, Massachusetts**

Codirectors: George D. Demetri, MD, Susan Band Horwitz, PhD, FAACR, and Pasi A. Jänne, MD, PhD

## SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

### 2019 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS

#### Meeting held outside U.S.

#### MELANOMA: FROM BIOLOGY TO TARGET

**January 15–18; Houston, Texas**

Conference Cochairs: Elizabeth A. Grimm, PhD, Mario Sznol, MD, and Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD

#### ELEVENTH AACR-JCA JOINT CONFERENCE ON BREAKTHROUGHS IN CANCER RESEARCH: BIOLOGY TO PRECISION MEDICINE

**February 8–12; Maui, Hawaii**

Conference Cochairs: Elaine R. Mardis, PhD, FAACR, and Hitoshi Nakagama, MD

#### MODERNIZING POPULATION SCIENCES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

*In association with the AACR Molecular Epidemiology Working Group (MEG)*

**February 19–22; San Diego, California**

Conference Cochairs: Melissa L. Bondy, PhD, Marc T. Goodman, PhD, Peter Kraft, PhD, and Sophia S. Wang, PhD

#### AACR ANNUAL MEETING 2019

**March 29–April 3; Atlanta, Georgia**

Program Committee Chair: John D. Carpten, PhD

#### NIH-AACR CANCER, AUTOIMMUNITY, AND IMMUNOLOGY CONFERENCE

**April 15–16; Bethesda, Maryland**

Organizing Committee: Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, Elad Sharon, MD, MPH, Connie Sommers, PhD, Howard Young, PhD, Katarzyna (Kasia) Bourcier, PhD, and Marie Mancini, PhD

#### AACR-AHNS HEAD AND NECK CANCER CONFERENCE: OPTIMIZING SURVIVAL AND QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH BASIC, CLINICAL, AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

**April 29–30; Austin, Texas**

Conference Cochairs: Christine H. Chung, MD, Robert L. Ferris, MD, PhD, David Raben, MD, and James W. Rocco, MD, PhD

#### AACR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: NEW HORIZONS IN CANCER RESEARCH

**May 3–5; Shenzhen, China**

Program Committee Cochairs: Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, and Hong Wu, MD, PhD

#### THE HIPPO PATHWAY: SIGNALING, CANCER, AND BEYOND

**May 8–11; San Diego, California**

Conference Cochairs: Fernando Camargo, PhD, Anwesha Dey, PhD, and Kun-Liang Guan, PhD

#### BLADDER CANCER: TRANSFORMING THE FIELD

**May 18–21; Denver, Colorado**

Conference Cochairs: Charles G. Drake, MD, PhD, Jason A. Efstathiou, DPhil, MD, Donna E. Hansel, MD, PhD, Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD, and Ellen C. Zwarthoff, PhD

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MALIGNANT LYMPHOMA (ICML)

*In cooperation with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)*

**June 18–22; Lugano, Switzerland**

ICML President: Franco Cavalli, MD  
Chair, Local Organizing Committee: Michele Ghielmini, MD

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CARCINOGENESIS: POTENTIAL PATHWAY TO CANCER PREVENTION

**June 22–24; Charlotte, North Carolina**

Conference Cochairs: Ernest T. Hawk, MD, MPH, Margaret L. Kripke, PhD, and Timothy R. Rebbeck, PhD

#### IMMUNE CELL THERAPIES FOR CANCER: SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF CAR T CELLS AND OTHER FORMS OF ADOPTIVE THERAPY

**July 19–22; San Francisco, California**

Conference Cochairs: Crystal L. Mackall, MD, and Patrick Hwu, MD

#### PANCREATIC CANCER: ADVANCES IN SCIENCE AND CLINICAL CARE

**September 6–9; Boston, Massachusetts**

Conference Cochairs: Dafna Bar-Sagi, PhD, FAACR, Luis A. Diaz, Jr., MD, Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, Ben Z. Stanger, MD, PhD, and Brian M. Wolpin, MD, MPH

#### ADVANCES IN OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH

**September 13–16; Atlanta, Georgia**

Conference Cochairs: David D. L. Bowtell, PhD, George Coukos, MD, PhD, Alan D. D'Andrea, MD, and Karen H. Lu, MD

#### ADVANCES IN PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH

*In association with the AACR Pediatric Cancer Working Group (PCWG)*

**September 17–20; Montreal, Quebec, Canada**

Conference Cochairs: Crystal L. Mackall, MD, David Malkin, MD, Stefan M. Pfister, MD, and Kimberly Stegmaier, MD

#### TWELFTH AACR CONFERENCE ON THE SCIENCE OF CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES IN RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITIES AND THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED

*In association with the AACR Minorities in Cancer Research Council*

**September 20–23; San Francisco, California**

Conference Chair: Laura Fejerman, PhD  
Conference Cochairs: Smita Bhatia, MD, MPH, Phyllis Pettit Nassi, MS, Sandi L. Pruitt, PhD, Mariana C. Stern, PhD, and Clayton C. Yates, PhD

#### FIFTH CRI-CIMT-EATI-AACR INTERNATIONAL CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY CONFERENCE: TRANSLATING SCIENCE INTO SURVIVAL

**September 25–28; Paris, France**

Conference Cochairs: Christoph Huber, MD, Guido Kroemer, MD, PhD, Ellen Puré, PhD, and Giorgio Trinchieri, MD

#### CANCER RESEARCH UK-AACR JOINT CONFERENCE: ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES IN ONCOLOGY

**October 15–17; London, United Kingdom**

Conference Cochairs: Sangeeta N. Bhatia, MD, PhD, Kevin M. Brindle, PhD, Joe W. Gray, PhD, FAACR, and Molly Stevens, PhD

#### AACR-NCI-EORTC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MOLECULAR TARGETS AND CANCER THERAPEUTICS

**October 26–30; Boston, Massachusetts**

Organizing Committee Cochairs: Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, James H. Doroshow, MD, and Denis A. Lacombe, MD  
Scientific Committee Cochairs: William R. Sellers, MD, James L. Gulley, MD, PhD, and Emiliano Calvo, MD, PhD

#### AACR-KCA JOINT WORKSHOP ON PRECISION MEDICINE

**November 14–15; Seoul, Korea**

Workshop Cochairs: Luis A. Diaz, Jr., MD, and Sun Young Rha, MD, PhD

#### TUMOR IMMUNOLOGY AND IMMUNOTHERAPY

**November 17–20; Boston, Massachusetts**

Conference Cochairs: Timothy A. Chan, MD, PhD, Charles G. Drake, MD, PhD, Marcela V. Maus, MD, PhD, and Arlene H. Sharpe, MD, PhD, FAACR

#### SAN ANTONIO BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM

**December 10–14; San Antonio, Texas**

Codirectors: Carlos L. Arteaga, MD, FAACR, Virginia G. Kaklamani, MD, and C. Kent Osborne, MD



AACR Annual Meeting 2019; Atlanta, Georgia



Environmental Carcinogenesis: Potential Pathway to Cancer Prevention; Charlotte, North Carolina



AACR-NCI-EORTC International Conference on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics; Boston, Massachusetts



The new class of AACR grant recipients was recognized at the Annual Grants Reception and Dinner, which took place at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF CANCER RESEARCH



The AACR grants program supports researchers at every stage of their careers, representing a global commitment to understanding, preventing, diagnosing, and treating cancer. Since the program was established in 1993, the AACR has awarded more than \$100 million in grants to fund meritorious research projects across the spectrum of cancer science, including basic, translational, and clinical research. Through the generous support of its partners—including nonprofit organizations, foundations, and pharmaceutical companies—the AACR fosters innovative cancer science that accelerates progress toward improved patient outcomes.

The AACR's network of partnerships yielded several new funding opportunities in 2019:

- **AACR-CRUK Transatlantic Fellowships Program.** These fellowships—the first major initiative from the AACR's international alliance with CRUK—support early-stage postdoctoral researchers in pursuing their research projects in either the United States or the United Kingdom, fostering international collaborations while launching the careers of stellar young researchers.
- **AACR-MPM Oncology Charitable Foundation Transformative Cancer Research Grants.** These new grants—which resulted from the unique partnership between the AACR and MPM Capital's UBS Oncology Impact Fund (OIF)—promote and support "high-risk, high-reward" cancer research projects

that could have a transformative impact on future clinical practice.

- **AACR-Novocure Tumor Treating Fields Research Grants and Fellowships.** These funding opportunities promote innovative basic and translational research focused on Tumor Treating Fields—intermediate frequency, low intensity, alternating electric fields that disrupt cell division in cancer cells—to accelerate the development of new treatment strategies.
- **AACR-Bristol-Myers Squibb Mid-Career Female Investigator Grant.** The AACR's ongoing relationship with Bristol-Myers Squibb yielded a new joint effort to support mid-career female physician-scientists and researchers to conduct immuno-oncology research and to facilitate their advancement toward senior investigator status.

- **The Bosarge Family Foundation-Waun Ki Hong Scholar Award for Regenerative Cancer Medicine.** The AACR partnered with the Bosarge Family Foundation to honor Past President and Fellow of the AACR Academy Waun Ki Hong, MD, FAACR, with a grant to support postdoctoral or clinical fellows in conducting novel research in the field of regenerative cancer medicine.
- **AACR-Genentech Cancer Health Disparities Research Fellowships.** These new fellowships represent a joint effort between AACR and Genentech to encourage and support postdoctoral or clinical research fellows to conduct cancer health disparities research and to establish a successful career path in this field.



**JULIE K. SCHWARZ, MD, PHD**  
AACR GRANTEE

Julie K. Schwarz, MD, PhD, is a professor of radiation oncology and the director of Cancer Biology Division in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. She is a physician-scientist who sees and treats women with locally advanced cervical cancer. Her research interests include gynecologic oncology, cervical cancer, thyroid cancer, molecular imaging, and biomarker development.

Dr. Schwarz has participated in the AACR Radiation Oncology Think Tank, and she currently serves as a member of the AACR Radiation Science and Medicine Working Group Steering Committee. She is the inaugural recipient of the AACR-Bristol-Myers Squibb Midcareer Female Investigator Grant, which is part of a unique effort to sustain the pipeline of talented midcareer female physician-scientists and researchers in the biomedical research workforce by supporting their research while they establish themselves as independent investigators:

“I am honored to receive the AACR-Bristol-Myers Squibb Midcareer Female Investigator Grant. My lab studies radiation responses using human tumor specimens and mouse models of HPV-associated cancers. This funding will allow my lab to grow in a promising new direction . . . [as we] determine how radiation influences the immune-suppressive tumor microenvironment.”

63

Grants were awarded in 2019 to meritorious scientists from 40 institutions to support groundbreaking research in all areas of cancer science.

882

Applications were evaluated for AACR grants in 2019; applicants were from the United States and 21 other countries.

\$5.25 million

Amount of research grant funding awarded to 36 postdoctoral and clinical fellows to boost their career development and sustain the next generation of cancer scientists.

\$6.06 million

Amount awarded to independent investigators at all career levels—including young investigators, mid-career researchers, and established scientists—to support groundbreaking cancer science.

271

Expert scientists served on 18 scientific review committees to select the 2019 grant recipients through a rigorous peer-review process. The AACR is a trusted administrator of research grants, providing expert peer review that is fair, rigorous, transparent, and timely.

## STAND UP TO CANCER: A SCIENTIFIC PARTNERSHIP

A division of the Entertainment Industry Foundation, Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) uses innovative funding models to incentivize collaborative science and support translational cancer research that accelerates the development of new cancer treatments. As the Scientific Partner of SU2C, the AACR provides expert peer review and grants administration to maximize the benefit that SU2C's ambitious investment in cancer research delivers to patients.

## SCIENTIFIC REVIEW AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION



AACR CEO Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), with members of the Stand Up To Cancer Scientific Advisory Committee (left to right): Vice-Chair Lee J. Helman, MD, Vice-Chair William G. Nelson, MD, PhD, Vice-Chair Raymond N. DuBois, MD, PhD, FAACR, and Chair Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, FAACR.

### SU2C SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE: NEW LEADERSHIP FOR A BOLD FUTURE

The strong leadership of SU2C's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is the key to the success of its dynamic funding models. As SU2C's Scientific Partner, the AACR works to ensure that the SAC consists of the greatest minds in cancer research. In 2019, SU2C benefited from the bold vision of three new SAC vice-chairs: Elizabeth H. Blackburn, PhD, FAACR, a Nobel Laureate, Fellow of the AACR Academy, and AACR past president; Raymond N. DuBois, MD, PhD, FAACR, a Fellow of the AACR Academy and AACR past president; and Lee J. Helman, MD. These new members joined chair Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, FAACR, and vice-chairs Arnold J. Levine, PhD, FAACR, and William G. Nelson, MD, PhD, on this vital committee.





The new vice-chairs, who began their terms in the fall of 2018, were supported in their efforts by two new SAC members appointed in June. John D. Carpten, PhD (*below left*)—who also served as program chair for the AACR Annual Meeting 2019—is director of the Institute of Translational Genomics at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. He joined the SAC while continuing to serve on SU2C’s committee on health equity in cancer clinical trials. Dr. Carpten was joined by Roderic I. Pettigrew, PhD, MD (*below right*), chief executive officer of Engineering Health and executive dean for Engineering Medicine at Texas A&M University. Previously, Dr. Pettigrew was the founding director of the U.S. National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



**NEW TEAMS**

Team science is at the core of SU2C’s mission. With oversight from the AACR, SU2C launched several new research teams in 2019 to address some of the greatest challenges in cancer research:

- **SU2C Meg Vosburg T-Cell Lymphoma Dream Team: Tailoring CAR-based Immunotherapy Strategies to T-Cell Lymphoma**  
While immunotherapy is a promising new treatment approach for many cancers, the

challenge in developing these treatments for T-cell lymphoma is to attack cancerous T cells without harming cells that are essential to the body’s immune response. In January, SU2C announced an \$8 million Dream Team to address this challenge. Named in honor of Meg Vosburg, a lifelong learner, educator, and humanitarian, who died from T-cell lymphoma in 2018, the team is working to develop new therapeutic options for patients suffering from this rare cancer. Under the guidance of team leader Helen E. Heslop, MD, and coleader Gianpietro Dotti, MD, team members are genetically modifying the receptors on patients’ T cells, enabling them to recognize the lymphoma cells and kill them.

- **SU2C Canada Metastatic Breast Cancer Dream Team**  
In August, SU2C Canada partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to launch the SU2C Canada Metastatic Breast Cancer Dream Team. The organizations provided up to \$6 million CAD to fund the development of a new drug combination that may help stop breast cancer metastasis by disrupting the manufacture of proteins that the cancer cells need to spread to other organs of the body. The first phase of funding supports the initial clinical trial of the drug regimen. Team leader Nahum Sonenberg, PhD, and coleader Michael N. Pollak, MD, will conduct the trial of about 40 patients, who will receive treatment at BC Cancer in Vancouver, the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and McGill University in Montreal. Subsequent

phases of funding will support additional preclinical and clinical studies.

- **SU2C Catalyst® Research Teams: Triple-Negative Breast Cancer and Metastatic Prostate Cancer**  
The SU2C Catalyst® program is a unique collaboration between industry and academic scientists to accelerate the pace of groundbreaking translational research by providing investigators with medicines, materials, and funding donated by industry and encouraging them to develop new uses for these resources to benefit cancer patients. In September, SU2C partnered with Founding Collaborator Genentech, a member of the Roche Group, on a \$6 million project to create two teams of experts to explore new approaches to two cancers that have defied conventional treatment:

- **Triple-Negative Breast Cancer.** Team leader Elizabeth A. Mittendorf, MD, PhD, and clinical lead Angela DeMichele, MD, are investigating whether a combination of two Genentech drugs, ipatasertib and atezolizumab, can prevent recurrence of this disease.
- **Metastatic Hormone-Sensitive Prostate Cancer.** The current treatment standard for this disease, hormone therapy, only delays progression for most patients. Team leader Sean M. McBride, MD, and clinical lead Dana E. Rathkopf, MD, are working to improve outcomes for these patients by combining Genentech’s atezolizumab with abiraterone and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT).

**PANCREATIC CANCER COLLECTIVE**

Through a strategic partnership with the Lustgarten Foundation, SU2C formed the Pancreatic Cancer Collective (PCC) in the spring of 2018 in a focused effort to improve outcomes for a disease with a current five-year survival rate of 8 percent. With the support of the AACR, SU2C’s Scientific Partner, the collective took bold steps toward that goal in 2019:

- **PCC Summer Symposium.** The AACR organized this symposium in July, bringing together more than 100 leaders in the field of pancreatic cancer. Through lectures and poster presentations, these experts shared the latest developments in the field.
- **New Therapies Challenge Grants.** Seven research teams began work in 2019 on the first projects funded by the new PCC New Therapies Challenge Grants. Announced in late 2018, the grants provide the following teams with up to \$1 million each in initial funding, with another \$4 million awarded to selected teams to support clinical studies on the most promising projects:

- **Adoptive Transfer of TGF-β Resistant TIL to Defeat Immunosuppressive PDAC**  
Team leader: Patrick Hwu, MD  
Coleaders: Chantale Bernatchez, PhD, and Cliona M. Rooney, PhD
- **Combined Targeting of MEK1/MEK2 and Autophagy for Pancreatic Cancer Therapy**  
Team leader: Martin McMahon, PhD  
Coleader: Eric A. Collisson, MD

- **Exploiting DNA Repair Gene Mutations in Pancreatic Cancer**  
Team leader: Alan D. D’Andrea, MD  
Coleader: James M. Cleary, MD, PhD
- **Immunotherapy Targeting Mutant KRAS**  
Team leader: Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil  
Coleaders: Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, and Beatriz M. Carreno, PhD
- **Molecularly Targeted Radionuclide Therapy via the Integrin αvβ6**  
Team leader: Julie L. Sutcliffe, PhD  
Coleader: Richard L. Bold, MD
- **Targeting SHP2 in Pancreatic Cancer**  
Team leader: René Bernards, DPhil, FAACR  
Coleaders: Emile E. Voest, MD, PhD, and Hana Algül, MD, MPH
- **Targeting Stem Cell Signals in Pancreatic Cancer**  
Team leader: Tannishtha Reya, PhD  
Coleaders: Andrew M. Lowy, MD, and Margaret A. Tempero, MD

**PHILLIP A. SHARP INNOVATION IN COLLABORATION AWARDS**

SU2C research teams bring together leading scientists to work together to solve key problems in cancer research. The Phillip A. Sharp Innovation in Collaboration Awards encourage these leaders to identify unique approaches to these problems and form new partnerships to pursue them. Named for Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, FAACR, chair of the SU2C Scientific Advisory Committee, the awards provide these new teams with grants of up to \$250,000 to foster these promising collaborations. In May, SU2C announced

the launch of five new projects with the potential to accelerate progress for the benefit of cancer patients:

- **Resistance to PARP Inhibitor Plus Anti-PD1 Therapy Driven by ER Stress and Bioactive Lipids in Ovarian Cancer**  
Leaders: Alan D. D’Andrea, MD, and Juan R. Cubillos-Ruiz, PhD
- **Uncovering Mutant TP53 Dependencies in Spontaneously Arising Triple-negative Breast Cancer**  
Leaders: Denada Dibra, PhD, and Peter P. Lee, MD
- **Non-invasive Monitoring of Tumor Phenotype by Interrogation of Plasma Cell-free RNA**  
Leaders: Maximilian Diehn, MD, PhD, and Aaron N. Hata, MD, PhD
- **Precision Combinatorial Immunotherapeutic Targeting of Thymic Stromal Lymphopoietin Receptor (TSLPR) Signaling in Pediatric and Young Adult CRLF2-rearranged ALL**  
Leaders: Sarah K. Tasian, MD, and Kimberly Stegmaier, MD
- **Antigenicity of Mutant KRAS and Impact on Cancer Evolution**  
Leaders: Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil, and Vinod P. Balachandran, MD



The SU2C Meg Vosburg T-Cell Lymphoma Dream Team was announced at the SU2C Scientific Summit in January. *Left to right:* Sung Poblete, PhD, RN, president and CEO of SU2C; Craig Vosburg, husband of the late Meg Vosburg; Helen Heslop, MD, team leader; Barbara Savoldo, MD, PhD, investigator; Rayne Rouce, MD, BCM, young investigator; Rusty Robertson, Robertson-Schwartz Agency/SU2C; and Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), CEO of the AACR, Scientific Partner of SU2C.



Recipients of the 2019 Phillip A. Sharp Innovation in Collaboration Awards (*left to right*): Juan R. Cubillos-Ruiz, PhD, Maximilian Diehn, MD, PhD, Aaron N. Hata, MD, PhD, Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, FAACR, chair of the SU2C Scientific Advisory Committee and namesake of the awards, Denada Dibra, PhD, Vinod P. Balachandran, MD, Tom Whitehead (co-founder of the Emily Whitehead Foundation, which funded one of the awards), Sarah K. Tasian, MD, and Peter P. Lee, MD.

# SCIENCE POLICY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



ACR President (2019–2020) Elaine R. Mardis, PhD, FAACR (*left*) and ACR Tobacco and Cancer Subcommittee Chair Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD (*second from right*), visit U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT; *center*) along with members of the American Association of Cancer Institutes (AACI) during the AACR-AACI Hill Day. Rep. DeLauro is the Chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and she serves on the subcommittee responsible for the U.S. FDA.

In addition to fostering innovative cancer science and medicine, the AACR pursues its mission to prevent and cure all cancers by addressing the policy and regulatory challenges that can impede progress against cancer. The AACR Office of Science Policy and Government Affairs works with lawmakers and federal agency personnel, including regulators, on behalf of the cancer research community, providing expert guidance to maximize the impact of policy decisions on cancer patients.

## CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Under the leadership of its Science Policy and Government Affairs Committee (Chair: George D. Demetri, MD), the AACR worked with the medical research community in 2019 to make the case to legislators for robust, sustained, and predictable annual funding increases for medical research. These efforts yielded results in December, when Congress approved a \$2.6 billion FY 2020 budget increase for the NIH—including a \$297 million increase for the NCI and a \$91 million increase for the FDA. The FY 2020 budget marked the fifth consecutive year of significant funding increases for the NIH, resulting in a 39 percent increase in the agency's budget since FY 2016.



Advocates on behalf 350 partnering organizations gathered on Capitol Hill in September 2019 to participate in the seventh annual Rally for Medical Research Hill Day. During the event—of which the AACR is a founding organizer—advocates from 35 states visited their congressional representatives and called on them to make biomedical research funding a national priority.



Early Career Hill Day



AACR Cancer Progress Report Briefing



Congressional Briefing on E-cigarettes and Nicotine Addiction



FDA-AACR Real-World Evidence Workshop

- **Early Career Hill Day.** The AACR and its Associate Member Council brought 16 Associate Members to Washington, DC, in February for the fourth annual AACR Early-Career Hill Day. Accompanied by staff from the AACR Office of Science Policy and Government Affairs, these early-career scientists visited the offices of their Senators and congressional representatives to urge them to vote for continued robust funding for the NIH and NCI.
- **AACR-AACI Hill Day.** The AACR and the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) brought together nearly 100 advocates from 24 states—including cancer center directors, scientists, clinicians, and survivors—to Washington, DC, in April for their annual Hill Day. The participants visited the offices of their congressional representatives to emphasize the critical impact that biomedical research funding has on the lives of cancer patients.
- **AACR Cancer Progress Report Briefing.** At a congressional briefing in September, the AACR presented the ninth annual *AACR Cancer Progress Report* to members

of Congress and their staffers. Hosted by AACR President (2019–2020) Elaine R. Mardis, PhD, FAACR, and Chief Executive Officer Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), the briefing featured cancer survivors and scientists outlining how federally funded research is spurring improvements in public health and innovative breakthroughs across the spectrum of cancer care.

• **Rally for Medical Research Hill Day.** In September, more than 350 organizations representing patients, caregivers, researchers, and health care professionals participated in the seventh annual Rally for Medical Research Hill Day in Washington, DC. Advocates from 35 states learned about the appropriations process and effective strategies for communicating with lawmakers about the importance of robust annual funding increases for the NIH. Several members of Congress known as champions of biomedical research funding addressed the participants prior to their visits, including House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Jamie

Raskin (D-MD), Peter King (R-NY), Donna Shalala (D-FL), and ranking member of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Tom Cole (R-MO).

• **Advocacy from Fellows of the AACR Academy.** In December, during a strategically important time on Capitol Hill when Congress was in the early stages of completing the FY 2020 appropriations process, 88 Fellows of the AACR Academy sent a letter to House and Senate appropriations leaders. The Fellows thanked the leaders for their past support of biomedical research and urged them to provide a robust funding increase for the NIH and NCI.

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND CANCER SUBCOMMITTEE: ROY S. HERBST, MD, PHD, CHAIR**

The mission of the AACR Tobacco Products and Cancer Subcommittee is to foster scientific and policy initiatives to reduce the incidence of disease and mortality due to tobacco use. In 2019, the subcommittee provided expert comments to the FDA on proposed regulations to

reduce the use of e-cigarettes by youth and young adults, to designate tobacco use in electronic health records, and to require graphic warnings for cigarette packages and advertisements.

In June, the subcommittee also hosted a congressional briefing on “E-cigarettes and Nicotine Addiction: A Potential Public Health Crisis for Youth and Young Adults.” Cosponsored by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Tim Kaine (D-VA), the briefing included subject matter experts from the FDA, NCI, CDC, and Yale Cancer Center who addressed the dangers of increased e-cigarette use among youth and young adults in the United States.

**HEALTH POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE: GILBERT S. OMENN, MD, PHD, CHAIR**

The AACR Health Policy Subcommittee promotes policies and develops educational initiatives that foster the closer integration of clinical practice and cancer research. In June, the subcommittee collaborated with

the Moffitt Cancer Center and the Biden Cancer Initiative to co-host a congressional briefing titled “Let’s End HPV-Related Cancers.” The briefing—which was sponsored by Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)—was also developed in partnership with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Association of American Cancer Institutes, Prevent Cancer Foundation, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and the Union for International Cancer Control. It discussed the latest interventions against HPV-related cancers and outlined a path toward elimination of these cancers.

**REGULATORY SCIENCE AND POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE: KENNETH C. ANDERSON, MD, FAACR, CHAIR**

The AACR Regulatory Science and Policy Subcommittee develops and implements programs and policy initiatives to improve the development, evaluation, and regulation of cancer drugs, biologics, and devices. The subcommittee worked with stakeholders in academia, industry, advocacy, and government to host two critical meetings in 2019:

- **FDA-AACR Real-World Evidence Workshop.** In July, the AACR and the FDA cosponsored this workshop to discuss the implications and potential for real-world evidence (RWE) in oncology. Chaired by Pallavi Mishra-Kalyani, PhD, and Sean Khozin, MD, MPH, from the FDA and AACR representative Deborah Schrag, MD, MPH, the workshop focused on practical use cases that described recent efforts to use medical claims data, electronic health records, patient-reported outcomes, and product or disease registry data to provide critical clinical insights.
- **NIH-AACR Cancer, Autoimmunity, and Immunology Conference.** In April, the AACR and NIH organized a meeting of preeminent researchers on the NIH campus to discuss adverse events resulting from the treatment of cancer with immunotherapies. Featuring keynote addresses from AACR President (2018–2019) Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, Arlene H. Sharpe, MD, PhD, and Jennifer A. Wargo, MD, MMSc, the conference explored the biology of immune-related adverse events and how the study of

autoimmune disease could improve the treatment of these events.

**AACR ANNUAL MEETING: SCIENCE POLICY AND REGULATORY SCIENCE AND POLICY TRACKS**

Recognizing the critical need to educate cancer researchers and other health care professionals about science policy and regulatory issues, the AACR developed an expanded track of 16 science policy and regulatory science and policy sessions at the AACR Annual Meeting in April. The track covered a wide range of topics, including the use of science to inform e-cigarette policy, the impact of Brexit on oncology drug development and regulation, and the impact of China’s expanding role as both a developer of and a market for cancer pharmaceuticals. Among the most popular sessions was “PD-1 Pandemonium: FDA Speaks with Industry on the Past, Present, and Future of PD-1 Drugs.” In the session, Oncology Center of Excellence Director Richard Pazdur, MD, moderated a panel discussion with industry experts that

addressed the challenges and opportunities pertaining to the development of PD-1/PD-L1 immunotherapeutics.

**SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWSHIP**

In addition to sustaining the cancer workforce through science education and career development, the AACR took steps in 2019 to build the science policy and advocacy workforce with the launch of its Science Policy Fellows program. The program enables early-career cancer researchers—like J. Tod Guidry, PhD, the inaugural policy fellow—to work on significant science and health policy issues, key regulatory science and policy topics, and important matters of interest to those on Capitol Hill, while working in various offices and agencies in Washington, DC.

# SURVIVOR AND PATIENT ADVOCACY



Participants in the AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

## SURVIVOR AND PATIENT ADVOCACY

The AACR's scientific programs and initiatives bring together scientists, clinicians, and other health care professionals and focus their efforts on improving the lives of cancer patients. Through its Survivor and Patient Advocacy Program, the AACR also brings patients into the community of cancer professionals, educating them about the science behind cancer research and treatment and empowering them to inform that process by sharing their perspectives.

## SCIENTIST↔SURVIVOR PROGRAM

The AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program (SSP) builds enduring partnerships among leaders of the scientific, survivor, and patient advocacy communities by bringing them together at AACR scientific meetings to share the latest innovative cancer science. Survivors and advocates attend focused lectures and scientific sessions with scientist mentors, fostering an exchange in which patients and advocates learn about the biology behind treatment decisions and scientists better understand the impact their work has on the patient experience. More than 60 patient advocates participated in the program at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019 in Atlanta and at the Twelfth AACR Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved in San Francisco.

## HIGHLIGHTING SURVIVORSHIP AND ADVOCACY

As part of the dialogue between cancer professionals and patients, the Survivor and Patient Advocacy program worked with meeting organizers to place patient- and advocate-focused sessions on the programs of three AACR meetings in 2019:

- **AACR Annual Meeting 2019.** The Annual Meeting program included a complete Science of Survivorship Track consisting of 12 sessions on topics such as data sharing, survivorship and aging, and involving patients in the research process. The track included special poster sessions in which Scientist↔Survivor Program participants discussed their advocacy initiatives and research.



- **Science of Cancer Health Disparities Conference.** The program for this conference included a special session titled "Addressing Advocacy at the Bench: Implementing Change." Recognizing that a contributing factor to health disparities is the lack of participation in research studies by underserved populations, the session offered examples of community-based initiatives to increase patient engagement in the research process.
- **San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.** The AACR worked with the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation to present a special education session for cancer advocates and health professionals. Julie R. Gralow, PhD, professor of breast medical oncology and professor of global health at the University of Washington School of Medicine, discussed "New Strategies in the Treatment of Breast Cancer."

## CANCER TODAY MAGAZINE

*Cancer Today*—the AACR's magazine and website for cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers—is a vital resource for anyone navigating the challenges of cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survival. Now in its eighth full year of publication, the magazine continues to tackle important cancer topics in a serious, comprehensive way. Among the most read stories published in 2019 were the following:

- **"First Immunotherapy Approved for Breast Cancer."** In March 2019, the Food and Drug Administration issued the first U.S. approval for the use of an immunotherapy drug to treat breast cancer.
- **"What Not to Say to a Cancer Patient."** Well-meaning family members and friends sometimes say unhelpful things to cancer patients. Cancer survivor Michael Gavaghen offers examples of statements to avoid when talking to cancer patients about their condition.
- **"Lynch Syndrome Linked to More Cancers."** Lynch syndrome is an inherited genetic disorder that increases risk for some types of cancer. A study indicates that testing tumors for certain genetic markers may identify people with previously undiagnosed Lynch syndrome.
- **"Still in the Game."** ESPN reporter Holly Rowe stays active after a diagnosis of melanoma and several rounds of treatment. Although still busy covering sports, Rowe now also works with several patient advocacy groups.
- **"New Rule Would Require Breast Density Disclosure."** A proposed federal rule would mandate that patients be informed after mammograms if they have dense breasts. Having dense breasts is a risk factor for breast cancer and may make cancer harder to spot. But some warn the rule could have unintended consequences.



# DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS



2018-2019 AACR President Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR (*left*) and AACR CEO Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc) (*right*) recognize Daniel D. Von Hoff, MD, FAACR (*center*), recipient of the AACR Distinguished Public Service Award, at the Annual AACR Awards Dinner during the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

The AACR Distinguished Public Service Award honors the extraordinary contributions of an individual or group whose groundbreaking, innovative work exemplifies the organization's mission. During the opening ceremony of the 2019 Annual Meeting, the AACR honored three individuals for their outstanding efforts to advance cancer science for the benefit of patients.

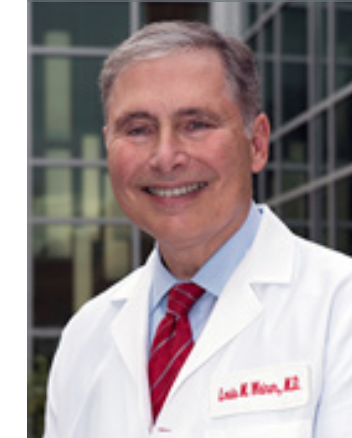
## 2019 AACR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS



### NANCY F. GOODMAN, JD

Founder and Executive Director, Kids v Cancer  
Washington, DC

Ms. Goodman founded Kids v Cancer in 2009, after her 10-year-old son, Jacob, died from medulloblastoma. The nonprofit organization's mission is to promote pediatric cancer research by identifying policy impediments at key junctures in the research process and developing strategies to address them. She received the Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership in cancer science policy and advocacy, including her exceptional stewardship of two significant federal laws that are providing pediatric cancer patients with additional treatment options.



### LOUIS M. WEINER, MD

Director, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Associate Vice President, Georgetown University Medical Center  
Washington, DC

Dr. Weiner has dedicated his research career to developing and optimizing monoclonal antibody-based immunotherapies. As inaugural Chair of both the AACR Cancer Immunology Task Force and the AACR Cancer Immunology Working Group, he worked to establish cancer immunology as a scientific priority for the organization. He received the Distinguished Public Service Award in honor of his extraordinary research career and contributions to establishing the AACR at the forefront of cancer immunology.



### DANIEL D. VON HOFF, MD, FAACR

Physician-in-Chief and Distinguished Professor, Translational Genomics Research Institute  
Chief Scientific Officer, Honor Health Research Institute  
Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic and University of Arizona College of Medicine  
Phoenix, Arizona

Dr. Von Hoff's cutting-edge research has contributed to the development of more than a dozen FDA-approved agents that are routinely used in the treatment of cancer—including the first combination therapy to demonstrate improved response rates, overall survival, and progression-free survival in patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Von Hoff has also provided visionary leadership to the field of clinical cancer research. Notably, in 1996 he established the AACR-ASCO Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop, which has trained more than 4,000 clinical fellows and junior faculty clinical researchers around the world in the essentials of novel oncology clinical trial designs. He received the Distinguished Public Service Award for his extraordinary contributions to clinical cancer research and the training of early-career clinical investigators.



Early-career scientists participate in a session titled “Career Discussions: Distinguishing Yourself from Your Mentor.” The session, which was organized by the AACR Associate Member Council, took place at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

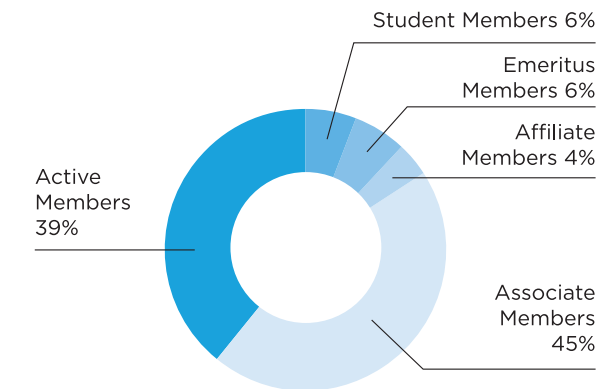
# MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS



Associate members network with senior scientists on the Minorities in Cancer Research Council at a Meet and Greet session held at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

From all sectors of the cancer community—and from across the spectrum of cancer science—the AACR is the catalyst for cancer prevention and cures. By communicating and collaborating through a range of programs and initiatives, the AACR’s 45,000 members in 126 countries around the world power progress for cancer patients.

## MEMBERS BY CATEGORY



Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

- ACTIVE MEMBERS:** Established laboratory researchers, physician-scientists, clinicians, and population scientists
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** Young laboratory scientists and physicians-in-training (graduate students, medical students and residents, and clinical and postdoctoral fellows)
- STUDENT MEMBERS:** Undergraduate and high school students
- EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Active members who have reached the age of 70 years
- AFFILIATE MEMBERS:** Other health care professionals (practicing oncologists, nurses, laboratory technicians, nonscientific corporate professionals, and patient advocates)

6,808

New members joined the AACR in 2019.

182

Nobel Laureates have been members of the AACR, including William G. Kaelin Jr., MD, FAACR, and Gregg L. Semenza, MD, PhD, who along with Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe, MD, FRS, were awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in October 2019 for their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability.

3,866

Individuals have been AACR members for more than 25 years.

160

Individuals have been AACR members for more than 50 years.

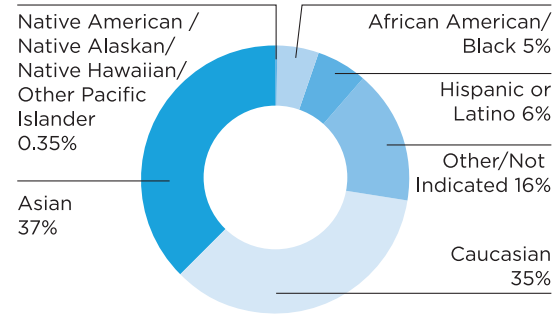
120

Countries are represented by AACR members.

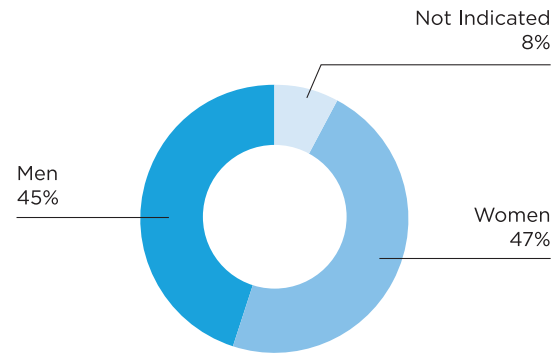
260

Patient advocates are members of the AACR.

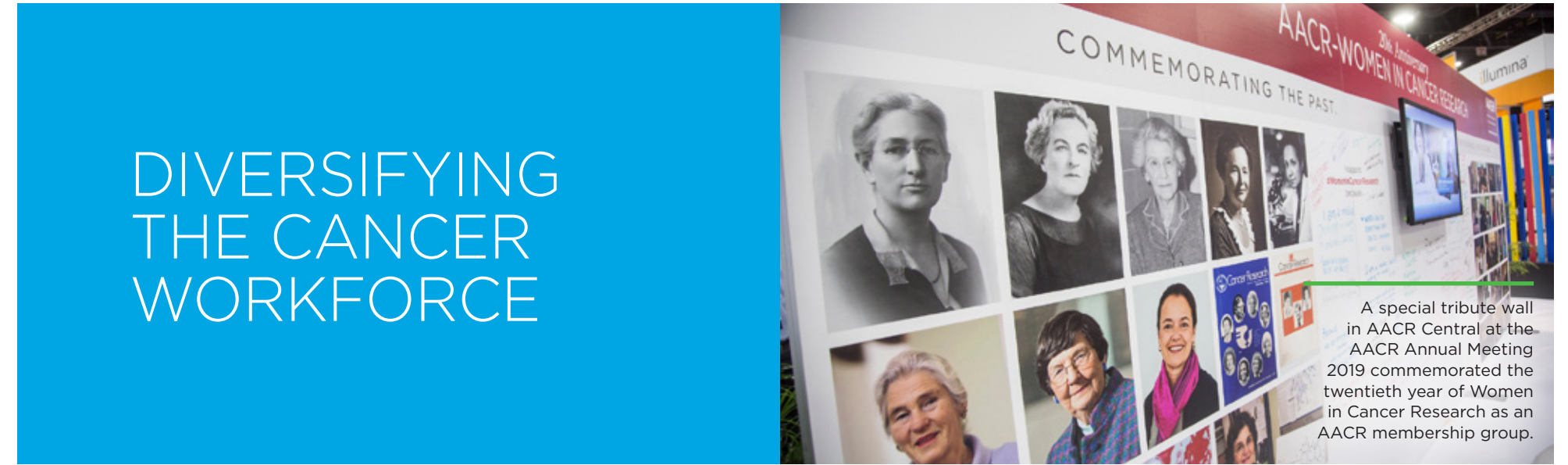
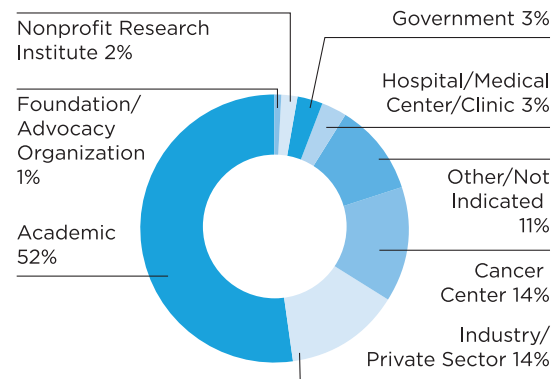
MEMBERS BY RACE/ETHNICITY



MEMBERS BY GENDER



MEMBERS BY WORK SETTING



A special tribute wall in AACR Central at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019 commemorated the twentieth year of Women in Cancer Research as an AACR membership group.

Cancer touches everyone, and the population of cancer patients is a diverse one. Through its programs and initiatives, the AACR works to ensure that the cancer workforce is as diverse as the patients it serves. Through the efforts of three vital groups— Minorities in Cancer Research, Women in Cancer Research, and the Associate Member Council—the AACR provides training and mentorship to support talented scientists from populations that have been historically underrepresented in the scientific community.



#### MINORITIES IN CANCER RESEARCH (MICR; 2019 COUNCIL CHAIR: LAURA FEJERMAN, PHD)

MICR is a membership group within the AACR committed to preventing and curing cancer while meeting the professional needs and advancing the careers of minority scientists.

- 2019 MICR Council Chair-Elect John D. Carpten, PhD, also served as the Program Chair for the AACR Annual Meeting 2019—the first African-American AACR member appointed to that position. Through his leadership of the Program Committee, the outstanding scientific program included the first plenary session focused entirely on cancer health disparities. Titled “Clinical and Translational Research in Diverse Populations” and chaired by Lisa Newman, MD, MPH (*above*), the plenary session convened investigators from North America, Asia, and Africa to discuss advances in characterizing the global burden of cancer as well as cancer disparities in America utilizing precision medicine and translational research tools.



- The AACR-MICR Jane Cooke Wright Memorial Lectureship highlights an outstanding scientist who has made meritorious contributions to the field of cancer research and who has, through leadership or by example, furthered the advancement of minority investigators in cancer research. The 2019 edition of the lectureship recognized John M. Carethers, MD (*above*), the C. Richard Boland distinguished university professor and John G. Searle professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan. Dr. Carethers presented his lecture, titled “A Role for Inflammation-induced DNA Mismatch Repair Deficits in Racial Outcomes from Advanced Colorectal Cancer,” at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.



#### WOMEN IN CANCER RESEARCH (WICR; 2019 COUNCIL CHAIR: MARCIA CRUZ-CORREA, MD, PHD)

WICR is a membership group within the AACR committed to recognizing women’s scientific achievements and fostering their career development and advancement in cancer research.

- WICR marked its twentieth year as an AACR membership group in 2018, and the Annual Meeting 2019 was the culmination of a year of celebration. The AACR commemorated the milestone in several ways:
  - A video celebrating WICR’s impact and the contributions of women to cancer research premiered during the opening ceremony.

- AACR Past-President Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, AACR CEO Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), and Elizabeth L Travis, PhD, delivered remarks at a special evening session celebrating the accomplishments of women scientists.
- WICR hosted its first-ever scientific symposium, titled “Advances in Genetics, Diagnosis, and Therapeutics among Common Cancers in Women.” Chaired by WICR Past Chair Lucile L. Adams-Campbell, PhD, the session featured lectures from AACR Past-President Nancy E. Davidson, MD, FAACR, Edith A. Perez, MD, Marcia R. Cruz-Correa, MD, PhD, and Olufunmilayo I. Olopade, MD.



- The AACR-WICR Charlotte Friend Memorial Lectureship recognizes an outstanding investigator who has made meritorious contributions to the field of cancer research and who has, through leadership or example, furthered the advancement of women in science. The 2019 edition of the lectureship honored Jennifer Rubin Grandis, MD (*above right*), of the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Grandis—who was recognized by WICR Council Past Chair Lucile L. Adams-Campbell, PhD (*above left*), presented her lecture, titled “Leveraging Biologic Insights to Prevent and Treat Head and Neck Cancer,” at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNCIL (AMC; 2019 COUNCIL CHAIR: ROBERT T. JONES, BS)

AMC serves as the leadership body for AACR associate members, who consist of graduate students, medical students and residents, and clinical and postdoctoral fellows. The council develops programs that address the particular needs of early-career scientists.

The AACR is a Sustaining Member of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), which is dedicated to enhancing the quality of the postdoctoral experience for all participants. In September,

the NPA organized National Postdoc Appreciation Week, which the AACR supported by organizing a series of AACR Cancer Careers Clinics in its home city of Philadelphia. During events held at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, and Thomas Jefferson University, members of the AACR staff provided clinical and postdoctoral fellows with professional development advice on transitioning their careers, obtaining grants, getting their research published, and developing a curriculum vitae.



# AACR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



2018-2019 AACR President Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, hands the gavel to incoming (2019-2020) President Elaine R. Mardis, PhD, FAACR, during the presidential transfer of power ceremony, which took place during the Annual Business Meeting of Members at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.

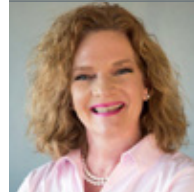
Members of the AACR Board of Directors for 2019-2020.



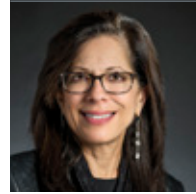
AACR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The AACR thanks its officers and members of the board of directors for their vision, their wisdom, and their hard work in support of the AACR's mission.

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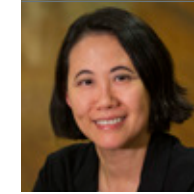
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*Netherlands Cancer Institute and Utrecht University  
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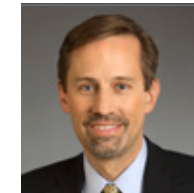
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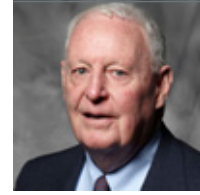


AACR Foundation Chairman and President  
Raymond N. DuBois, MD, PhD, FAACR.

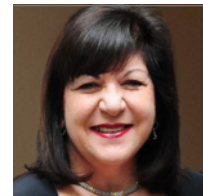
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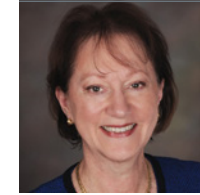


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**MARGARET FOTI, PHD, MD (HC)**  
American Association for Cancer Research  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



**Executive Director of the AACR Foundation**  
**MITCHELL R. STOLLER**  
American Association for Cancer Research  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

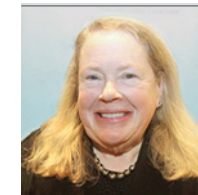
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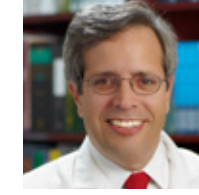
**FAYE FLORENCE, ESQ.**  
Attorney, Non-Profit Board Member  
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts



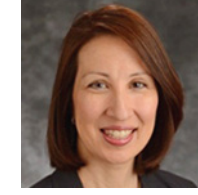
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Author, Consultant  
Ipswich, Massachusetts



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UT Southwestern Medical Center  
Dallas, Texas



**MICHAEL A. CALIGIURI, MD, FAACR**  
City of Hope National Medical Center  
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Mayo Clinic  
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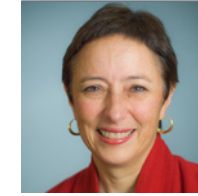
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**CHRISTIANA BARDON, MD**  
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MPM Capital  
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**JUDY E. GARBER, MD, MPH, FAACR**  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Boston, Massachusetts

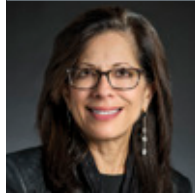


**RICHARD A. HEYMAN, PHD**  
Metacrine, Inc.; ORIC Pharmaceuticals  
Del Mar, California

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Eighty-eight cents of every dollar raised by the AACR Foundation goes to support lifesaving cancer science. The AACR thanks the officers and trustees of the Foundation for their efforts to maximize the impact of donations on the lives of cancer patients.

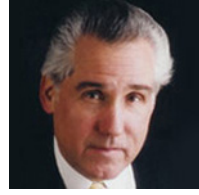
TRUSTEES (continued)



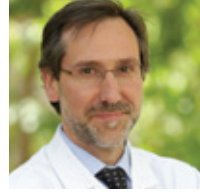
**ELIZABETH M. JAFFEE, MD, FAACR**  
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**LAURENCE J. MARTON, MD**  
Consultant, Board Member, Advisor  
Palo Alto, CA



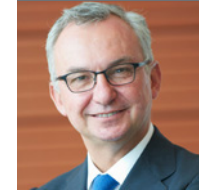
**ANTONI RIBAS, MD, PHD**  
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Los Angeles, California



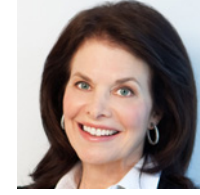
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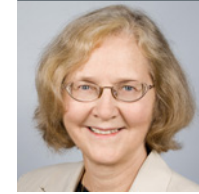
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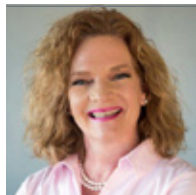
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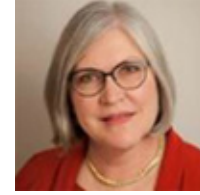
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Members of the AACR Runners for Research team gather before the start of the AACR Philadelphia Marathon. Team members participating in the Marathon Weekend races raised \$300,000 to support the AACR's mission.

# INVESTING IN LIFESAVING CANCER SCIENCE

Driving innovation across the full spectrum of cancer science and medicine to improve the lives of cancer patients requires the concerted efforts of the AACR's 45,000 members and thousands of other cancer researchers and health care professionals. It also requires significant financial resources to support the programs and initiatives that foster progress against cancer. The AACR Foundation sustains the groundbreaking work of the AACR by enlisting nonprofit organizations, foundations, industry partners, and cancer survivors, family, and friends in support of its mission.

Cancer survivor and AACR ambassador Lou Lanza (left) at the finish line of the AACR Philadelphia Marathon with Wendy Ross, MD (right). Dr. Ross and a team of friends and colleagues ran the 8K during Marathon Weekend to raise money for cancer research in honor of her husband, Michael Ross, MD, an AACR ambassador and stage 4 colon cancer survivor who died in September 2019.



### EXPANDED FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

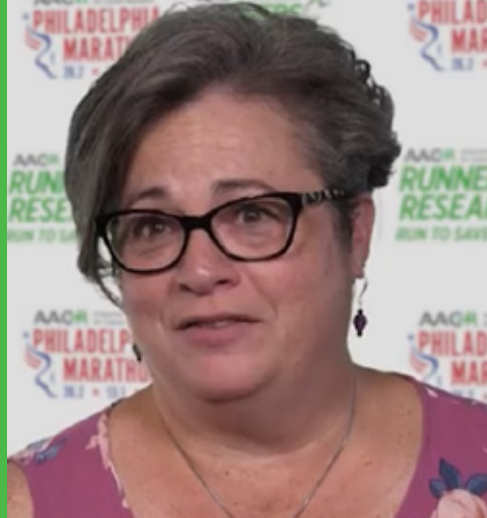
The John and Elizabeth Leonard Family Foundation has worked with the AACR to provide fellowships to young investigators working in basic cancer research. Through the leadership of John E. Leonard, PhD, who has served on the AACR Foundation Board of Trustees since 2014, the foundation increased the amount and duration of this vital fellowship in 2019—expanding the one-year grant of \$50,000 to a \$110,000 grant over two years.

### INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Industry plays a vital role in the cancer research enterprise, and the AACR's industry partners increased their critical support of its programs and initiatives in 2019. The AACR's Sustaining Member program expanded to a total of 29 corporate partners, three of which made substantial financial commitments to advance the AACR's mission:

- Through the generous support of Genentech, in 2019 the AACR offered its first research fellowships focused specifically on cancer disparities. The AACR-Genentech Cancer Disparities Research Fellowships provide \$120,000 over two years to support postdoctoral or clinical research fellows in establishing a career path in basic, translational, clinical, or epidemiological research on cancer disparities.

**AMY BERNHARDT**  
CANCER SURVIVOR  
AACR AMBASSADOR



A two-time cancer survivor, Amy Bernhardt lost both of her grandmothers and her mother to cancer.

Amy started running in part to cope with the loss of her mother. Her running coach was training to run the 2019 AACR Philadelphia Marathon in November, and when Amy learned about the AACR she was inspired to register for the race herself. She joined the AACR Runners for Research team and raised money to support lifesaving cancer research:

“Cancer research is important to me because the researchers are looking at the broad spectrum [of] cancer.... The American Association for Cancer Research...looks across the board and for everybody. So, [the AACR is] an advocate for everyone out there, and that’s why this was important.”

Learn more about Amy’s story: [AACR.org/Amy](https://aacr.org/Amy)



More than 400 members of the AACR Runners for Research team participated in the AACR Philadelphia Marathon weekend.

- The AACR worked with Bristol-Myers Squibb to foster the career development of women scientists in the field of immunology. The AACR-Bristol-Myers Squibb Midcareer Female Investigator Grant provides \$225,000 over three years to support midcareer female physician-scientists and researchers in conducting immuno-oncology research and in transitioning into a senior investigator role.
- Novocure continued its partnership with the AACR in 2019 to support innovative research focused on Tumor Treating Fields—intermediate frequency, low intensity, alternating electric fields that disrupt cell division in cancer cells. The inaugural AACR-Novocure Tumor Treating Fields Research Grants provide \$250,000 over two years to support collaborative research projects that explore the mechanisms of action of this novel treatment modality and to accelerate the development of new treatment strategies.

### LOCAL OUTREACH, GLOBAL IMPACT

While its industry partnerships continue to raise the AACR’s national and international profile, the AACR Foundation maintains a strong presence in its home city of Philadelphia—raising funds locally to support the AACR’s mission.

- **AACR Revolutions for Research.** The fourth edition of this annual indoor cycling event was held in October. More than 125 cyclists gathered to ride for 60-minute or 120-minute sessions to raise funds to support the AACR’s mission.
- **Party With a Purpose.** The Friends of the AACR Foundation hosted the fourth edition of this elite fundraising gala in October, raising more than \$320,000 to support brain cancer research. The Party With a Purpose Scientific Achievement Award was presented to M. Sean Grady, MD, chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Penn



Left to right: M. Sean Grady, MD, Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), and John Y.K. Lee, MD, MSCE, at the 2019 Party With a Purpose gala.

Medicine in Philadelphia. As part of his award, Dr. Grady selected John Y.K. Lee, MD, MSCE, to receive the Friends of the AACR Foundation Early Career Investigator Award. The award provides a grant to support Dr. Lee’s work on fluorescent-guided surgery.

The Party With a Purpose Humanitarian Award was presented to Esperanza Neu and David Neu in recognition of their philanthropic efforts to establish the Neu Center of Supportive Medicine and Cancer Survivorship at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health in Philadelphia.

- **AACR Philadelphia Marathon.** In its third year as the Title Partner of the AACR Philadelphia Marathon, the AACR joined the City of Philadelphia in welcoming more than 32,000 participants for race weekend, November 23–24. The participants included more than

400 members of the AACR Runners for Research team, who made their miles matter by raising \$300,000 to support lifesaving cancer research.

- **Race to \$23K with Rodney McLeod.** A professional football player for the Philadelphia Eagles, Rodney McLeod partnered with the AACR to honor his grandmother, who died of pancreatic cancer when he was in high school. Mr. McLeod pledged to donate \$1,000 to the AACR for every interception, forced fumble, sack, or tackle for a loss he made during the 2019 football season up to a total of \$23,000.

### BUILDING A CULTURE OF LEGACY GIVING

While AACR member scientists, industry partners, patients, and advocates have long supported the organization’s mission, the AACR continued its efforts



Left to right: John J. Parker Sr., Mitch Stoller, Esperanza Neu, Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), and David Neu at the 2019 Party With a Purpose gala.

over the past year to establish itself as a beneficiary of choice among the general public. The AACR fostered partnerships with the estate planning community, establishing relationships with financial planning professionals and working with estate planning councils in the greater Philadelphia area to sponsor informational events. In addition, the AACR joined FreeWill, an online tool that enables families to create a will at no charge and to establish bequests to their favorite charitable organizations. This increased public awareness of the AACR’s mission led to increased support in 2019, as the organization received more than \$2 million in bequests—with an additional \$700,000 in bequests committed from FreeWill users—to support innovative cancer research.

RESEARCH  
GRANT  
FUNDERS

Daniel D. Karp, MD (left), chairperson of the Scientific Review Committee for the Bosarge Family Foundation-Waun Ki Hong Scholar Award for Regenerative Cancer Medicine, presents the inaugural award to Alfredo Oliveros, PhD (right).

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
OF SUPPORTERS

Recipients of the AACR-Novocure Tumor Treating Fields Research Fellowships and Grants (left to right): Francesca Anna Carrieri, PhD, Michael D. Story, PhD, Emil Lou, MD, PhD, Matthew R. Sarkisian, PhD, Gerben R. Borst, MD, PhD, and Preshita Desai, PhD.

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ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETY

Annual giving offers all donors an opportunity to support lifesaving cancer research and sustain the mission of the AACR. We gratefully acknowledge those individuals and family foundations who gave \$500 or more, and those special events, associations, corporations, and foundations that contributed \$5,000 or more during the calendar year.

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### AACR SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

The AACR Sustaining Membership  
 Program is a support mechanism that  
 engages industry partners in the AACR's  
 mission-based activities year-round.

### LEADERSHIP: \$100,000

Amgen  
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 Bayer Healthcare, LLC  
 Boehringer Ingelheim  
 Bristol-Myers Squibb  
 Genentech, a member of the Roche Group  
 Merck & Co., Inc.  
 Novocure  
 Pfizer, Inc.  
 Takeda Oncology, Inc.

### STRATEGIC: \$70,000

Incyte Corporation  
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### MAJOR: \$40,000

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 Eisai Co., Ltd.  
 Fondazione Pezcoller  
 Gilead Sciences, Inc.  
 GlaxoSmithKline  
 Janssen Research & Development, LLC  
 Lilly Oncology  
 Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation  
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 Theradex Oncology, Inc.

### ASSOCIATE

Asana Biosciences

# REVENUE AND EXPENSES 2019

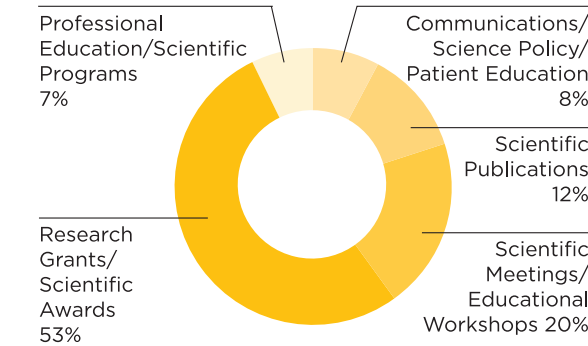


In 2019, the AACR reported another year of positive operating returns. This financial stability enables the AACR to comprehensively meet the challenges of the cancer problem. Operating revenues totaled \$97 million and total expenditures closely matched revenues. The net impact of revenues and expenses resulted in an operating surplus of \$3 million. As outlined in this report, several major projects were launched in 2019, and the AACR was able to outperform the budget through successful programming, revenue growth, and prudent financial management.

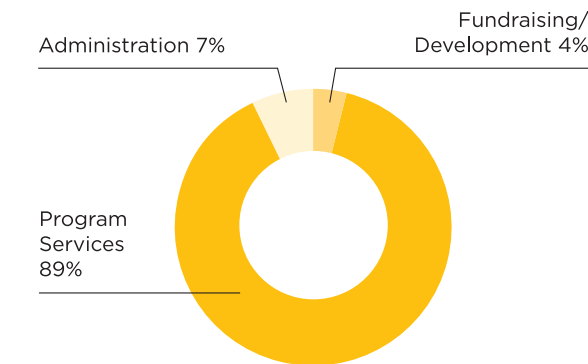
Non-operating activities are primarily related to long-term investments. The AACR's investments provided strong returns in the amount of \$16.7 million in 2019 and outperformed comparable market indexes.

As a result of the financial performance for the year 2019, the AACR's unrestricted net assets are now \$91.8 million. These reserves ensure continued investment in the programs and initiatives that support the AACR's mission to prevent and cure all cancers.

## 2019 TOTAL EXPENSES



## 2019 PROGRAM EXPENSES



### American Association for Cancer Research, Inc. and AACR Foundation UNRESTRICTED REVENUES AND EXPENSES (UNAUDITED) AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2019	2019 PERCENT OF TOTAL
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Membership Dues	\$4,296,301	\$4,468,920	4%
Publications	\$20,255,103	\$19,250,026	16%
Scientific Meetings and Educational Workshops	\$25,709,669	\$27,275,031	22%
Other Revenue	\$2,601,487	\$5,050,857	4%
<b>Subtotal Program Revenue</b>	<b>\$52,862,560</b>	<b>\$56,044,834</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Support</b>			
NIH Grants	\$940,501	\$1,014,481	1%
Contributions	\$59,743,733	\$65,906,634	54%
<b>Subtotal Support Revenue</b>	<b>\$60,684,234</b>	<b>\$66,921,115</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$113,546,794</b>	<b>\$122,965,949</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Research Grants and Scientific Awards	\$52,983,961	\$57,505,643	48%
Scientific Meetings and Educational Workshops	\$19,630,466	\$21,056,344	17%
Scientific Publications	\$11,880,364	\$12,751,083	11%
Communications, Science Policy, and Patient Education	\$8,256,107	\$8,437,727	7%
Professional Education and Scientific Programs	\$5,646,414	\$7,846,974	7%
<b>Subtotal Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$98,397,312</b>	<b>\$107,597,771</b>	<b>89%</b>
Member Services and Support Services	\$8,687,678	\$7,902,730	7%
Fundraising and Development	\$4,445,610	\$4,994,861	4%
<b>Subtotal Support Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,113,288</b>	<b>\$12,897,591</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$111,530,600</b>	<b>\$120,495,362</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Operating Surplus before Investments</b>	<b>\$2,016,194</b>	<b>\$2,470,587</b>	
Investment Income	(\$5,856,490)	\$16,768,299	
<b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>(\$3,840,296)</b>	<b>\$19,238,885</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$75,796,624</b>	<b>\$71,956,328</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$71,956,328</b>	<b>\$91,195,214</b>	

# ADVANCING A SCIENTIFICALLY BOLD AGENDA



## VISION 2020: AACR STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2016, the AACR Board of Directors and the AACR staff developed Vision 2020, a five-year strategic plan to set a course for the organization's growth and impact on cancer research. This plan established a series of strategic priorities for the AACR, including a directive to "identify and foster innovative science that is of the highest priority and potential for impact in reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality." In the coming year, the AACR will finalize the work outlined in Vision 2020, implementing programs and initiatives that support its vision—to fundamentally change the face of cancer by being the most effective catalyst for the prevention and cures of all cancers.

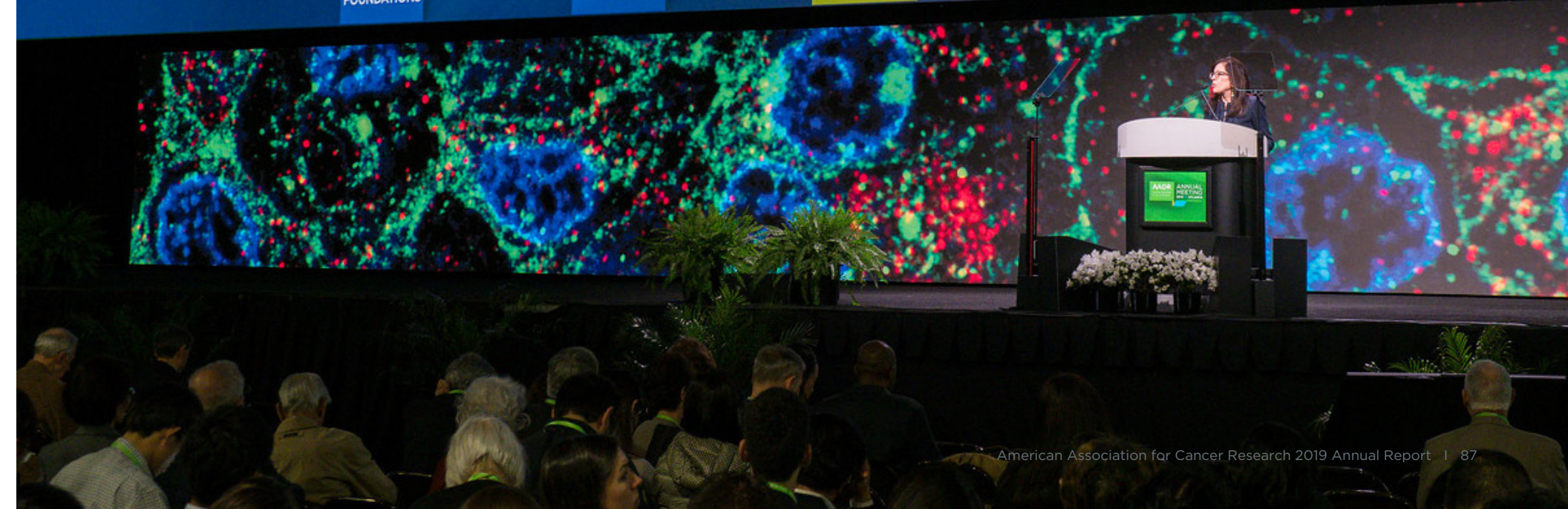
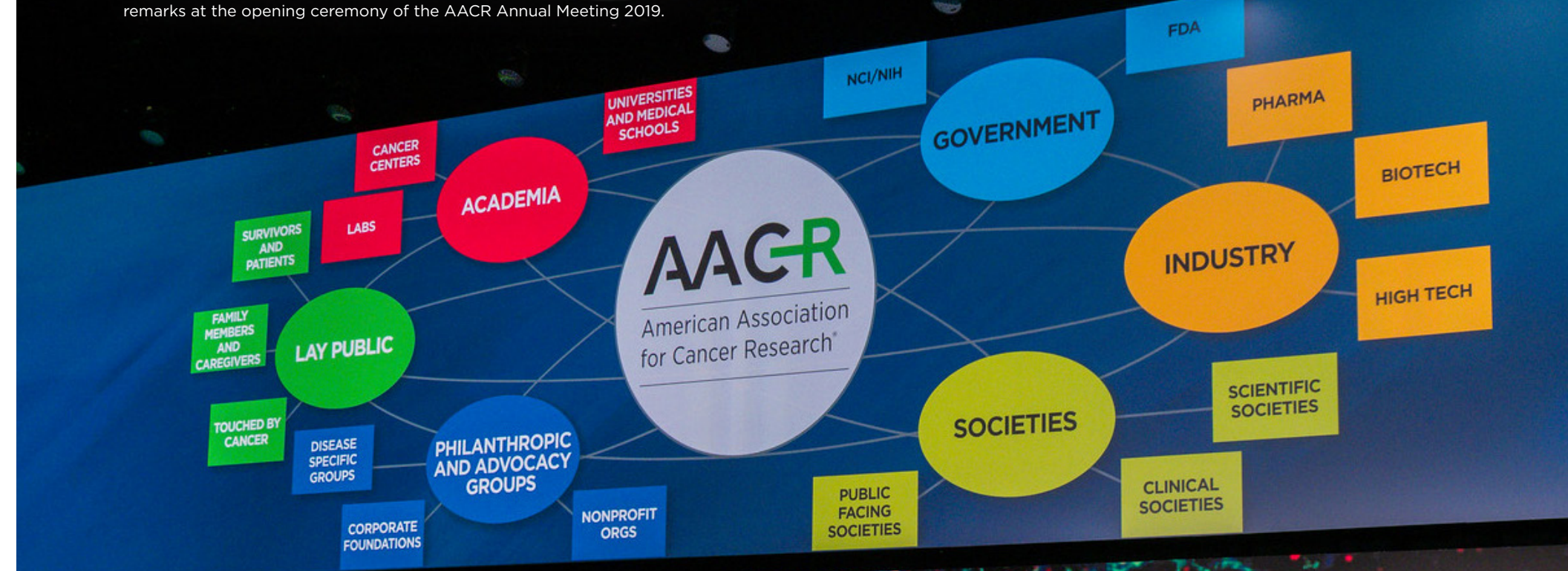
During the past year, AACR programs and initiatives have translated innovative cancer science to improve the lives of cancer patients. Entering 2020, the AACR will continue to advance a bold scientific agenda in pursuit of its mission to prevent and cure all cancers.

## DEPLOYING NOVEL APPROACHES TO ADVANCE PRECISION MEDICINE DRUG DEVELOPMENT

Solving the cancer problem requires a comprehensive approach, and the broad expertise and bold vision of its members enable the AACR to develop such an approach. In January 2020, the AACR will focus that expertise on the challenge of precision medicine at a unique special conference titled "Advancing Precision Medicine Drug Development: Incorporation of Real-World Data and Other Novel Strategies."

Chaired by AACR President (2019–2020) Elaine R. Mardis, PhD, FAACR, David M. Hyman, MD, Lillian L. Siu, MD, and Eliezer

AACR President (2018–2019) Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, discusses the AACR's critical role in the cancer research community during her presidential remarks at the opening ceremony of the AACR Annual Meeting 2019.



M. Van Allen, MD, the conference will address traditional cancer research topics such as trial design, diagnostics, and drug development; technology topics such as real-time patient monitoring, electronic health records, and machine learning; and regulatory and financial considerations in the era of precision medicine.

**REALIZING THE BOLD VISION OF HEALTH EQUITY: AACR CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES PROGRESS REPORT**

As the first and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing cancer research, the AACR is the world leader in translating research discoveries to new and better approaches to cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship. Each year since 2011, the AACR has published its *Cancer Progress Report* to highlight the remarkable progress made against cancer as a result of federally funded biomedical science. However, while the pace of progress against cancer has never been more rapid, the benefits of that progress have not been distributed equally, as certain segments of the U.S. population shoulder a disproportionate burden of cancer.



The AACR has long been a scientific leader in the field of cancer health disparities, as it has organized the AACR Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved since 2007. However, in 2019 the AACR leadership determined that realizing the vision of health equity would require a comprehensive effort to inform and educate policy makers, regulators, and the public about the scope of the problem and the steps needed to solve it. To that end, an AACR Steering Committee—chaired by AACR Annual Meeting 2019 Program Chair John D. Carpten, PhD—began work on the *AACR Cancer Health Disparities Progress Report*. Scheduled for release in 2020, the annual report will highlight areas of progress in reducing cancer health disparities and emphasize the vital need for continued transformative research and collaboration to ensure that research-driven advances benefit all people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or the communities in which they live.

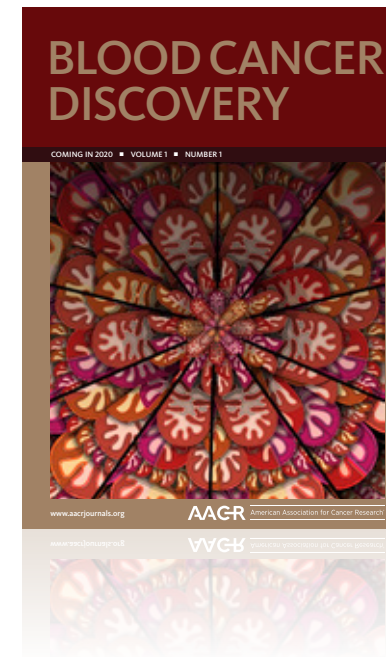
**AACR AND FDA: PARTNERS IN PROJECT RENEWAL**

The FDA has a long-standing commitment to supporting generic drug development and competition, which can help reduce prices, improve access, and benefit public health. A critical element of this commitment is the updating of drug labels, which can become outdated as new information becomes available in the post-marketing setting. In 2018, the FDA launched Project Renewal, an initiative to keep generic oncology product labeling up to date on a more frequent basis. In its first year, the FDA has developed a set of repeatable processes and procedures to evaluate evidence from published literature to inform regulatory decisions for updated product labeling of older oncology drugs.

Beginning in 2020, the FDA will engage the AACR in Project Renewal to provide strategic scientific advice and perspective, enhance the scientific integrity of the repeatable process, and share insights on the evidence evaluation procedures. With the AACR's assistance, this long-term FDA project has the potential to help oncologists in their decision making and guide treatment decisions based on scientific evidence for the benefit of cancer patients.

**LEADERSHIP IN HEMATOLOGICAL MALIGNANCIES**

In 2020, the AACR scientific publishing program will publish the first full issue of the organization's ninth journal, *Blood Cancer Discovery*. Under the leadership of inaugural editors-in-chief Riccardo Dalla-Favera, MD, FAACR, and Kenneth C. Anderson, MD, FAACR, the journal will publish innovative basic, translational, and clinical research on all subtypes of leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma, as well as associated diseases. *Blood Cancer Discovery* is one element of the AACR's effort to take a leadership role in the area of hematologic malignancies; future steps include an expanded slate of conferences in this area as well as initiatives developed by the new AACR Hematologic Malignancies Task Force.



**EXPANDING LEADERSHIP IN PEDIATRIC CANCER**

In 2019, the AACR Pediatric Cancer Working Group fostered increased collaboration with ITCC-SIOPE to accelerate the development of novel drugs for pediatric cancer indications. In 2020, the AACR will launch several initiatives designed to further improve the lives of pediatric cancer patients:

- **Expanded Special Conference Series.** As a leader in pediatric cancer research, the AACR has organized biennial special conferences on the topic since 2013. Beginning in 2020, the frequency of these cutting-edge conferences will increase to match the pace of progress against the disease. Special conferences on pediatric cancer will now be held annually, facilitating expanded communication and collaboration in this critical area.

- **New Partnerships to Highlight and Support Outstanding Pediatric Cancer Research.** At the AACR Annual Meeting 2020, the AACR will partner with the St. Baldrick's Foundation to present a new scientific achievement award focused on pediatric cancer. The AACR-St. Baldrick's Foundation Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pediatric Cancer Research will recognize an individual investigator who has significantly contributed to any area of pediatric cancer research, resulting in the fundamental improvement of the understanding and/or treatment of pediatric cancer. As part of the commitment of the AACR and St. Baldrick's to sustaining the pipeline of innovative cancer researchers, the award recipient will have the opportunity to present a research fellowship to an emerging leader in the field.

