AACR Basic Cancer Research Fellowships

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PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PROGRAM SUMMARY
These guidelines pertain to the following fellowships to be presented in 2015:

- AACR-John and Elizabeth Leonard Family Foundation Basic Cancer Research Fellowship (one)
- AACR Anna D. Barker Basic Cancer Research Fellowship (one)
- AACR Basic Cancer Research Fellowships (multiple)

The AACR Basic Cancer Research Fellowships are open to postdoctoral and clinical research fellows working at an academic, medical, or research institution who will be in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year of their postdoctoral training at the start of the grant term. The research proposed for funding may be in any area of basic cancer research.

The fellowships provide one-year grants of $50,000 to support the salary and benefits of the Fellow while working on a mentored basic cancer research project. A partial amount of funds may be designated for non-personnel expenses, such as research/laboratory supplies, equipment, publication charges for manuscripts that pertain directly to the funded project and other research expenses.

It is anticipated that multiple fellowships will be funded.

LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE
October 28, 2014 at noon, U.S. Eastern Time

APPLICANTS NOTIFIED OF DECISION STATUS OF LETTER OF INTENT
January 2015

APPLICATION DEADLINE (for those invited to apply based on the Letter of Intent)
February 10, 2015 at noon, U.S. Eastern Time

DECISION DATE
March 2015

ANNUAL GRANTS RECEPTION AND DINNER AT ACR ANNUAL MEETING 2015
April 21, 2015- Grant recipient must attend the Grants Reception and Dinner and formally accept the grant. Grant funds may be used to support the grantee’s registration and attendance at this Annual Meeting.

START OF GRANT TERM
July 1, 2015

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Applicants must have a doctoral degree (including PhD, MD, DO, DC, ND, DDS, DVM, ScD, DNS, PharmD, or equivalent doctoral degree) in a related field and not currently be a candidate for a further terminal degree.

At the start of the grant term on July 1, 2015, applicants must:

- Be in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year of a postdoctoral or clinical research fellowship (i.e., must have started fellowship no earlier than July 2, 2012 and no later than July 1, 2015)
• Work under the auspices of a mentor at an academic, medical, or research institution anywhere in the world (There are no citizenship or geographic requirements; however, an applicant applying from an institution located within a country where he or she is not a citizen or permanent resident, by submitting a Letter of Intent for this grant, assures that his/her visa status will provide sufficient time to complete the project and grant term at the institution from which they applied.)

• Dedicate no less than 50% effort to the proposed research project

When calculating the experience of an applicant with two doctoral degrees, AACR includes all days of mentored cancer research experience from the date of the applicant's most recently obtained doctoral degree or first date the mentored position began, whichever is first. All days of cancer related mentored experience will be combined to determine an applicant's eligibility, including research conducted in separate laboratories and research that is not consecutive.

For applicants possessing an MD, clinical training time with no research involvement (e.g., residency training) is not included against the eligibility limit. Parental leave or other well justified leave from mentored research training for pressing personal or family situations of generally less than 12 months duration is also not included against the eligibility limit for all applicants. Applicants whose experience exceeds the maximum but who believe they are eligible (e.g., residency training, some of their mentored research experience was in a field other than cancer research or there was a break in their career as described above) should contact AACR before submitting a Letter of Intent to verify their eligibility.

Applicants who believe that they are at the level of postdoctoral or clinical research fellow, but hold a different title (e.g., MD with an Instructor title), may be eligible and should contact AACR before submitting a Letter of Intent.

Employees or subcontractors of a U.S. government entity or for-profit private industry are not eligible.

AACR membership is required. Nonmembers interested in this grant opportunity must submit a satisfactory application for AACR Associate Membership by Tuesday, October 28, 2014. The application will be applied to 2014 membership dues. Applications may be submitted using the Official Application for Membership online or downloaded as a PDF and submitted to the AACR office with the required documents.

Any individual who currently holds an active AACR grant may not apply. Past grantees may apply if they complied with all progress and financial report requirements.

Investigators may submit only one letter of intent for the AACR Basic Cancer Research Fellowships but may concurrently apply for other AACR grants. However, applicants are expected to accept the first grant they are awarded. Individuals may accept and hold only one AACR grant at a time.

Investigators currently or previously holding the rank of instructor, adjunct professor, assistant professor, research assistant professor, the equivalent or higher are not eligible. Qualified researchers are invited to apply for an AACR Career Development Award.

Exception: If you are an MD who is considered a postdoctoral fellow but hold the title of instructor so that you can see patients, you may be eligible. Potential applicants possessing an MD are encouraged to contact AACR before submitting a Letter of Intent to verify your eligibility.

All applicants with questions about eligibility should contact AACR at grants@aacr.org before submitting a Letter of Intent.
TOBACCO INDUSTRY FUNDING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST STATEMENT
A Fellow whose named mentor is funded by the tobacco industry for any research project is not eligible for any AACR grant. A Grantee or his/her named mentor who accepts funding from the tobacco industry for any research project during the term of an AACR grant must inform AACR of such funding, whereupon the AACR grant will be immediately terminated.

Tobacco industry funding is defined for purposes of AACR grant applicants and recipients as money provided or used for all or any of the costs of any research project, including personnel, consumables, equipment, buildings, travel, meetings and conferences, and operating costs for laboratories and offices. It is not defined as money provided or used for meetings or conferences that do not relate to any particular research project.

Tobacco industry funding includes: funds from a company that is engaged in or has affiliates engaged in the manufacture of tobacco produced for human use; funds in the name of a tobacco brand, whether or not the brand name is used solely for tobacco products; funds from a body set up by the tobacco industry or by one or more companies engaged in the manufacture of tobacco products.

The following do not constitute tobacco industry funding for the purposes of this policy:

* Legacies from tobacco industry investments (unless the names of a tobacco company or cigarette brand are associated with them)
* Funding from a trust or foundation established with assets related to the tobacco industry but no longer having any connection with the tobacco industry even though it may bear a name that (for historical reasons) is associated with the tobacco industry

RESEARCH PROJECT CRITERIA
Research projects may be in any area of basic cancer research.

LETTER OF INTENT DESCRIPTION
A Letter of Intent is an application tool designed to identify the projects with the greatest scientific potential and alignment with the Program Guidelines without requiring applicants to first submit a full application. A Letter of Intent is not written as correspondence to the Scientific Review Committee, but instead follows a prescribed template which gathers information summarizing the proposed research project. Letters of Intent have also be called "pre-applications," "concept papers," or "letters of inquiry" by other funders.

The Letter of Intent for an AACR Basic Cancer Research Fellowship is limited to 2 pages and must describe the proposed basic cancer research project, including the Specific Aims; Rationale, Preliminary Data, Methodology, and Approach; and Significance and Statement of Relevance to Cancer. Relevant references must be attached and are limited to 2 pages.

The Letter of Intent must be accompanied by:

* Scientific abstract, limited to 3,000 characters including spaces, which provides a clear, concise and comprehensive overview of the proposed basic cancer research project
* Applicant’s curriculum vitae
* Mentor’s biographical sketch
* Letter(s) of Reference
Only one Letter of Intent per applicant will be accepted. A limited number of applicants whose Letters of Intent are deemed most meritorious, typically 25% of the total submitted, will be invited by the Scientific Review Committee to submit full applications.

LETTERS OF REFERENCE
Each applicant must have a letter of reference from his/her mentor accompany the online Letter of Intent submission. If the mentor is not an active, emeritus, or honorary member of AACR, an additional letter of reference from an endorser who is an active, emeritus, or honorary member of AACR must accompany the Letter of Intent. If the applicant is being co-mentored, a co-signed letter of reference may be provided. Instructions for submitting letter(s) of reference are addressed in Section 6 of the Letter of Intent Instructions.

NOTE: Due to the mentorship component of this grant, significant weight will be given to this letter in the evaluation of the Letter of Intent.

EVALUATION OF LETTERS OF INTENT AND INVITED APPLICATIONS
Letters of Intent and invited applications are peer-reviewed by a Scientific Review Committee comprised of researchers and physician-scientists respected for their own accomplishments in basic cancer research and as leaders in the field. The President of AACR will appoint the members of the Scientific Review Committee.

The Committee will consider the following criteria when reviewing Letters of Intent and invited full applications:

* Applicant. What training and experience does the applicant have to ensure successful implementation of the proposed project? Is his/her academic record and research experience of high quality? Does the applicant have the potential to develop as an independent and productive researcher in basic cancer research?

* Project Proposal. Is the proposed project of high scientific quality? Is the budget fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed project? (The budget-related question will be used to evaluate the full applications.)

* Mentor. Does the mentor have research qualifications and a demonstrated record of mentorship? Is there evidence of a match between the research interests of the applicant and that of the mentor to ensure the applicant’s development as a basic cancer researcher?

* Training Environment. Is the institutional environment for the scientific development of the applicant high quality? Is there appropriate institutional commitment to foster the applicant’s training to become a productive basic cancer researcher? (The environment-related question will be used to evaluate the full applications.)

The Committee will consider each year’s applicants independently, without regard to the topics covered in previously funded proposals or to the institutions of the previous grantees.
LETTER OF INTENT INSTRUCTIONS

LETTER OF INTENT PROCEDURES

In order to submit a complete application, applicants need to directly input information into the online application platform as well as upload a number of documents. The following instructions provide details about information that needs to be inputted and the materials that need to be uploaded. The section numbering corresponds with the section number of the online application.

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GETTING STARTED IN proposalCENTRAL
If you are a new user of proposalCENTRAL, follow the “REGISTER” link and complete the registration process. After you register, complete your Professional Profile (green tab, second from the left) before starting the Letter of Intent submission process.

If you are already registered with proposalCENTRAL, access the site and log in with your Username and Password. If you have forgotten your password, click on the “Forgot your password?” link. Supply your User ID or e-mail address in the space provided; your password will be sent to you by e-mail.

To start a Letter of Intent, select the “Grant Opportunities” tab (gray tab furthest to the right). A list of grant mechanisms will be displayed. Find the “AACR Basic Cancer Research Fellowships” and click the “Apply Now” link (second to last column).

Complete all sections of the online Letter of Intent and the template that is provided. Upload all requested documents in portable document format (PDF). See the proposalCENTRAL FAQ section, https://proposalcentral.altum.com/FAQ/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.asp, for more information.
If you have any difficulties registering, logging in, or creating your Letter of Intent, contact proposalCENTRAL Customer Support immediately:

Phone: 1-800-875-2562 or (703) 964-5840  
E-mail: pcsupport@altum.com

**LETTER OF INTENT FORMAT**

The following information is required to submit a complete Letter of Intent. Numbers correspond to the sections found on the left side of the proposalCENTRAL website.

1. **TITLE PAGE.** Enter the title of the research project directly into proposalCENTRAL system. The title is limited to no more than 75 characters in length (including spaces). Do not use abbreviations. A project title must be entered and saved before additional sections may be accessed.

2. **DOWNLOAD TEMPLATES & INSTRUCTIONS.** The Program Guidelines and Letter of Intent Instructions document, Grant Agreement document, and the Letter of Intent template can be downloaded from this page.

   To download and complete the Letter of Intent template:
   - Click the “Download” link to save the Letter of Intent template to your computer.
   - Use your word processing software (e.g., MS Word, WordPerfect) to complete the template on your computer and then convert the template to PDF format. You do not need to be connected to the internet or proposalCENTRAL while working on the template.
   - Upload the completed template file to your online Letter of Intent.

   See Section 8 of the Letter of Intent Instructions for how to complete and upload the template. This Letter of Intent also requires additional attachments for which templates are not provided (applicant’s curriculum vitae and mentor’s biographical sketch).

3. **ENABLE OTHER USERS TO ACCESS THIS PROPOSAL.** Optional.

4. **APPLICANT.** Enter information for the applicant directly into proposalCENTRAL system.

5. **INSTITUTION & CONTACTS.** Enter information regarding the lead institution, the mentor, the endorser (if applicable), and signing official directly into proposalCENTRAL system.

6. **LETTERS OF REFERENCE.** Enter directly into proposalCENTRAL system the e-mail address of the mentor submitting a letter of reference. Enter the e-mail address again to confirm and click “Add.” If the mentor’s e-mail address is in the proposalCENTRAL system, you will be prompted to “Send E-mail” to the mentor. The e-mail will contain instructions and a link to upload the letter of reference directly to the application. If the mentor’s e-mail address is not in the proposalCENTRAL system, you will be prompted for the mentor’s first and last name before being prompted to “Send E-mail.”

   If the mentor is not an active, emeritus, or honorary member of AACR, repeat the steps above to send a letter of reference request to an endorser who is an active, emeritus, or honorary member of AACR. If the mentor is an AACR member, a letter of reference from an endorser will not be accepted in addition to the mentor’s letter of reference.

   If the applicant is being co-mentored, the mentors may provide a co-signed letter providing the mentorship details described in the e-mail instructions as they pertain to each member of the mentorship team. Co-signed letters should be uploaded by only one member of the mentorship team, the primary mentor. Only the primary mentor is required to sign the Signature Page. If a co-
signed letter of reference is used, and a member of the mentorship team is an active, emeritus, or honorary member of AACR, no additional letters of reference will be accepted.

The letter(s) of reference are uploaded directly from the mentor and endorser (if necessary) to the proposalCENTRAL application, these letters must be uploaded before the application can be submitted. Applications cannot be submitted without a Letter of Reference. Applicants can view letter submission status by returning to proposalCENTRAL’s Letters of Reference section.

7. **SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT.** Enter the abstract directly into proposalCENTRAL system. The abstract is limited to 3,000 characters (including spaces) and should provide a clear, concise and comprehensive overview of the proposed work, including the background; preliminary data; objective or hypothesis and its supporting rationale; specific aims of the study; study design; and relevance of the proposed work to cancer.

**NOTE:** The proposalCENTRAL system does not lock the scientific abstract field after 3,000 characters have been entered. You may erroneously enter more than the maximum allowed. To ensure that your abstract submission is not too long, before proceeding to the next section, click the red “Save” button at the top or bottom of the screen. If your scientific abstract is too long, you will receive an error message at the top of the page.

From the list provided, select the research areas that are most applicable to this project. Select no more than two areas.

From the list provided, select the tumor site that is most applicable to this project. Select only one tumor site.

From the list provided, please respond regarding how you found out about this grant opportunity.

8. **LETTER OF INTENT DOCUMENTS.**

**Formatting Instructions.** Applicants must adhere to the following instructions in completing the template. Failure to observe type size specifications and/or page limits may result in the return of the Letter of Intent without review.

* **Type size.** Must use 12-point Times New Roman for the text, and no smaller than 9 point type for figures, legends, and tables.

* **Single-spaced text.** Single-spacing is acceptable, and space between paragraphs is recommended.

* **Margins.** The page margins must be no less than .75 inches on each side.

* **Page numbering.** The Letter of Intent Narrative must be numbered consecutively; do not use section designations such as "3A" or "3B."

* **Tips and techniques for inserting images in documents.**

  * Reduce the file size of documents with images by “inserting” the image (as opposed to “cutting” and “pasting”). Save graphical images as a JPG or GIF file. Insert the image into the document by selecting “Insert – Picture – From File” from the MS Word menu.

  * Insert only GIF or JPG graphic files as images in your Word document. Other graphical file formats are either very large or difficult to manipulate in the document.

  * Do not insert Quick Time or TIFF objects into your document.

  * Anchor the images you embed in your document.
Once you have anchored the inserted image, you can format text to wrap around the image.

Do not edit your images in Word. Use a graphics program.

Do not embed your images in tables, text boxes, and other form elements.

Do not add annotations over the images in Word. Add annotations to the images itself in a graphics program.

**Using the template when provided, prepare and upload the following documents in portable document format (PDF):**

A. **Letter of Intent.** Complete on the template available from the proposalCENTRAL website. (Refer to Section 2 of the Letter of Intent Instructions for details.) The information must be presented in this order:

   I. **Letter of Intent Narrative.** Limited to 2 pages. Must describe the proposed basic cancer research project and include the Specific Aims; Rationale, Preliminary Data, Methodology, and Approach; and Significance and Statement of Relevance to Cancer.

   II. **References.** Limited to 2 pages. AACR reference style follows that of the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*. Note that the *Uniform Requirements* specify that, for articles with more than 6 authors, the names of the first 6 authors must be listed, followed by "et al." For articles with 6 or fewer authors, all authors should be listed.

   **Reference examples:**

   **Journal article**


   **Book chapter**


   **Article in press**

   Articles in press may be listed among the references provided a journal name and tentative year of publication can be verified.

B. **Applicant’s Curriculum Vitae (CV).** The CV must be in English and include a complete list of publications.

   **Note:** The NIH Biographical Sketch Format Page will not be accepted from the applicant.

C. **Mentor’s Biographical Sketch.** The biographical sketch must be in English. The NIH Biographical Sketch Format Page is an acceptable format. The mentor’s biographical sketch may not exceed four pages.

   If a co-signed letter of reference is being provided, a biographical sketch must be provided for each member of the mentorship team signing the letter.

D. **Grant Agreement Document.** In order to ensure that the applicant is informed of the terms and conditions of the grant should he/she be selected as a recipient, a copy of the Grant Agreement must be downloaded from the proposalCENTRAL site. Applicants must remove
the final page of the Grant Agreement document and sign and date it, indicating that they have reviewed the document. The terms of the Grant Agreement may be modified or amended by AACR prior to execution of the Grant Agreement. A scanned copy of the signed final page must be uploaded to your online Letter of Intent in the section for attaching files.

E. Signed Signature Page. In order to ensure that the applicant, mentor, and institution have approved the application, applicants must print the signature pages, as described in section 12 below, and obtain all required signatures. The signed signature page (with original signatures from the applicant, mentor, and institution’s signing official) must then be scanned and uploaded into the online application in the Application Documents section. These signatures transmitted by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as original signatures.

**Uploading the attachments into your submission.** Once you have converted your attachments to PDF files, the next step is to upload the files to your online submission.

- Make certain that the converted PDF files are closed on your computer.
- Open your online Letter of Intent in proposalCENTRAL and go to the section for attaching files.
- Enter your own description of the file in the “Describe Attachment” field.
- Select the appropriate type of attachment from the drop-down list. *Note: After selecting attachment type, the screen will show the file types (e.g., PDF, .doc) that are allowed for that type of attachment. Only PDF attachments are permitted for this Letter of Intent submission.*
- Click on the “Browse” button to select the file from your computer.
  - A “choose file” dialog box opens for you to search for the template file on your computer’s hard disk or local area network.
  - Select the file and click “Open.”
  - The file location and name will display in the window adjacent to the “Browse” button.
- Click on the “Upload Attachment” button. You will get a confirmation message on your screen that the file was uploaded successfully. You will also see that your file is now listed in the “Uploaded Attachment” section of the screen. Two links are available in each row of an uploaded attachment: DEL and SHOW. “DEL” allows you to delete the file, if necessary, and “SHOW” opens the uploaded file. **Open and review your uploaded file.**

In the section for attachments, all the required attachments are listed in the middle of the screen, just below where you upload your files. This list of required attachments helps you track completion and uploading of your required attachments. Once you upload a required attachment, that attachment type will be removed from the required list and will be displayed in the “Current list of uploaded attachments.”

If you wish to modify the attached file, make the revisions to your original file on your computer (off-line), convert the file to PDF, and use the same process above to attach the newly revised file. **Delete any previously submitted versions of the file before submitting your Letter of Intent.**
SUBMITTING COMPLETE LETTER OF INTENT

9. **PI DATA SHEET.** This is an automatically populated data sheet based on the applicant’s proposalCENTRAL profile. Information for gender, race, and ethnicity must be provided to AACR. If fields are not populated, go to Section 4, Applicant, and select the “Edit Professional Profile” tab in the center of the screen. The applicant must then go to the column on the left side of the screen, select “4) Personal Data for Application,” and enter his/her gender, race, and ethnicity. The Scientific Review Committee does not receive this information.

10. **VALIDATE.** Validate the Letter of Intent on proposalCENTRAL. This is an essential step. A Letter of Intent that has not been validated cannot be submitted. “Validate” checks for required data and required attachments. You will not be able to submit if all the required data and attachments have not been provided.

11. **SIGNATURE PAGE(S).** After completing sections 1, 4, 5, and 7 of the online application (these sections also correspond to the sections of the Application Instructions), you may print the signature pages. Use the “Print Signature Pages” button to print the signature pages for signature.

   **NOTE:** Data that you entered in sections 1, 4, 5, and 7 of the online application are automatically included in the signature pages. The following signature page fields will remain blank until the full application process: Dates of Proposed Project, Proposed Budget, Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, Recombinant DNA, and Biohazards. If additional information is missing in the signature pages, it could be because you have not entered the information in one of the online application sections OR the information is not required for this grant program. If the institution’s Employer Identification Number (EIN) is not completed on the signature page, please request your institution to provide that information in their proposalCENTRAL profile.

   The print option “Print Signature Pages” prints the Signature Page, Application Contacts, and Scientific Abstract. If your institution wishes to review the application in its entirety, select the “Print Signature Pages and Attached PDF Files” option.

   **Obtain required signatures and upload the signed signature page into the application** in the Application Documents section. These signatures transmitted by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as original signatures. Do not upload the Application Contacts or Scientific Abstract pages with the Signature Page.

   If you are not a current AACR Associate Member, you must apply for membership using the Official Application for Membership online or downloaded as a PDF. The application must be submitted to the AACR office with the required documents before Tuesday, October 28, 2014, the Letter of Intent deadline. Should you be deemed ineligible for the AACR Associate Membership category required for this grant, your Letter of Intent will be withdrawn from consideration.

12. **SUBMIT.** After successfully passing the validate check, click the “Submit” link. An e-mail will be sent to you confirming your submission.

   Once your Letter of Intent is submitted you may view it by accessing the ‘Submitted’ link under the Manage Proposals tab. The status column will show “Submitted” and the date submitted. You may need to refresh your browser screen after submitting the Letter of Intent to see the updated status.
CHANGES TO YOUR LETTER OF INTENT

Withdrawal of Letter of Intent. Please advise AACR promptly, in writing, should you decide to withdraw your Letter of Intent for any reason. Your letter (or e-mail) should include your name, the grant opportunity to which you applied, the project title, and the reason for withdrawal.

Change of Address. Notify AACR in writing of any changes of address, e-mail or phone number, following the submission of a Letter of Intent. Include your name and the Letter of Intent number. The e-mail address provided with your Letter of Intent will be utilized for all official communication about your submission including the Letter of Intent result; this e-mail address must be kept up to date.

Change of Institution or Position. If you change your institution or professional position, contact AACR to determine whether your Letter of Intent is still eligible for review.

INQUIRIES

Inquiries or technical issues regarding proposalCENTRAL and the online submission process should be directed to customer support at: 703-964-5840, or toll free at 1-800-875-2562, or by e-mail to pcsupport@altum.com.

Inquiries about the program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and Letter of Intent materials can be directed to Ms. Hanna Hopfinger at AACR at 215-446-7191, or by e-mail to grants@aacr.org.
MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERS

The Leonard Family Foundation was created in January 2011 by John and Elizabeth Leonard. The Foundation’s charter is to continue the history of charitable and philanthropic giving initiated by John and Elizabeth. The endowment of The Foundation was created by a charitable donation in 2011 by John and Elizabeth Leonard and expanded in May 2013 by the addition of the remainder from a Charitable Remainder Trust formed by them in 2003. The Leonard Family Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of others by promoting medical research and education, by supporting the health and welfare of the disadvantaged, and by promoting environmental awareness. The Foundation was formed to foster translational research, to promote education in mathematics and the sciences so that students may succeed in our technologically complex world, to support the basic health and welfare needs of members of our society, and to address issues associated with environmental awareness and sustainability.

Founded in 1907, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is the world’s oldest and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing cancer research and its mission to prevent and cure cancer. AACR membership includes more than 34,000 laboratory, translational, and clinical researchers; population scientists; other health care professionals; and cancer advocates residing in more than 90 countries. The AACR marshals the full spectrum of expertise of the cancer community to accelerate progress in the prevention, biology, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer by annually convening more than 20 conferences and educational workshops, the largest of which is the AACR Annual Meeting with more than 18,000 attendees. In addition, the AACR publishes eight peer-reviewed scientific journals and a magazine for cancer survivors, patients, and their caregivers. The AACR funds meritorious research directly as well as in cooperation with numerous cancer organizations. As the scientific partner of Stand Up To Cancer, the AACR provides expert peer review, grants administration, and scientific oversight of team science and individual grants in cancer research that have the potential for near-term patient benefit. The AACR actively communicates with legislators and policymakers about the value of cancer research and related biomedical science in saving from cancer. For more information about the AACR, visit www.AACR.org.
In 1999, AACR awarded the first AACR Anna D. Barker Basic Cancer Research Fellowship to honor Dr. Barker’s contributions to the AACR and the cancer community.

Anna D. Barker, PhD  
*Director, Transformative Healthcare Knowledge Networks*  
*Co-Director, Complex Adaptive Systems*  
*Professor, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University*  
*Director, National Biomarker Development Alliance*

Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS) at ASU serves as an organizing construct to approach understanding and solving multi-dimensional problems in the biomedical biosocial and health sciences. In her role as Co-Director of CAS, Dr. Barker designs and implements transformative knowledge networks specifically directed toward addressing major problems in biomedical research and biomedicine. These multi-sector networks serve as a foundation for the development of new research models that leverage convergent knowledge, innovative teams and novel funding approaches to better prevent and treat acute and chronic disease and address major healthcare problems. Several initiatives are underway including: a national effort in biomarker discovery and development, the National Biomarker Development Alliance (NBDA); and an alliance that brings together leaders from cancer biology with neuro and physical scientists to “rethink glioblastoma multiforme” – the most common adult brain tumor.

Prior to joining ASU, Dr. Barker served for several years as the Deputy Director and Deputy Director for Strategic Scientific Initiatives for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH). At the NCI she developed and led or co-led a number of trans disciplinary programs including the: Nanotechnology Alliance for Cancer; The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA); Clinical Proteomics Technologies Initiative for Cancer and the Physical Sciences- Oncology Centers – PS-OCs. Under her leadership the NCI also developed major initiatives in biospecimen science and bioinformatics. Dr. Barker was founding co-chair of the NCI-FDA Interagency Task Force (IOTF) and was founding co-chair of the Cancer Steering Committee of the FNIH Biomarkers Consortium (FNIH-BC). As a volunteer, she has served in a number of capacities and led key programs for several government and professional organizations including the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), founding member and Chair of the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Program Integration Panel, Chair of the NCI Cancer Centers Study Section, Chair of the C-Change Research Committee, and a number of others. Her service to the AACR has included the Board of Directors, leadership of the Scientist-Survivor Program, and Public Forum and Chair of the Science Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee and service on numerous other committees. Dr. Barker has received a number of awards for her contributions to cancer research, cancer patients, professional and advocacy organizations and the Nation’s effort to prevent and cure cancer, including: the AACR Margaret Foti Award for Leadership and Extraordinary Achievements in Cancer Research and most recently a distinguished alumni award from the Ohio State University, College of Arts and Sciences. She served for over 18 years as a senior scientist and subsequently as a senior executive in biomedicine at Battelle Memorial Institute; and co-founded and served as the CEO of a public biotechnology drug development company. Her research interests include complex adaptive systems (CAS) science, biomarker discovery and development, experimental therapeutics and free-radical biochemistry in cancer etiology and treatment. Dr. Barker completed her M.A. and PhD at the Ohio State University, where she trained in immunology and microbiology.