

AACR SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2020

2020 JUNE L. BIEDLER PRIZE FOR CANCER JOURNALISM RECIPIENTS



AUDITORY JOURNALISM

Michelle Fay Cortez | Reporter
Bloomberg News

“How Scared Should We Be of Our DNA?”



LARGE NEWSPAPER

Alejandra Reyes-Velarde | Staff Writer
Los Angeles Times

“Would Cancer Get Her Next?”



MAGAZINE

Kelly M. Servick | Reporter
Science Magazine

“War of Nerves”

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ONLINE/MULTIMEDIA

Eric S. Boodman | Reporter
STAT News



"The Medicine Hunters, Parts One and Two"

SMALL NEWSPAPER

Jennifer Berry Hawes
Watchdog and Public Service Reporter
The Post and Courier



"Last Rights"

TELEVISION

Cynthia E. Newsome | Co-Recipient
News Anchor and Reporter
KSHB-TV



Matt Reeb | Co-Recipient
Photojournalist
KSHB-TV



"Newsome's House Calls"

2020 DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD

Ensign Professor of Medicine, Chief of Medical Oncology

Yale Cancer Center

New Haven, CT

In recognition of sustained, outstanding leadership in cancer science policy and advocacy, including exceptional stewardship as Chair of the AACR Tobacco Products and Cancer Subcommittee since its inception in 2009, which has resulted in the education of policymakers, other scientists and physicians, and members of the public about the AACR's mission to advance research to reduce the incidence of disease and mortality due to tobacco use.

2020 DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



Douglas R. Lowy, MD, FAACR

Principal Deputy Director,

National Cancer Institute

National Institutes of Health

Bethesda, MD

In recognition of exceptional service and management at the NCI, specifically as acting director for two recent separate time periods and for providing critical leadership to advance the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative that Vice President Biden spearheaded during the final year of the Obama Administration.

2020 DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



Yoshiyuki Majima

President

NPO Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Japan
Tokyo, Japan

In recognition of outstanding leadership in patient advocacy, education, and support through PanCAN Japan, which has become the largest support organization for pancreatic cancer patients in Japan, and for tireless efforts to improve cancer drug development, approval, and access.

2020 DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



Patricia Spears, BS

Scientific Research Manager and Patient Advocate

University of North Carolina Lineberger
Comprehensive Cancer Center
Raleigh, NC

In recognition of her longstanding advocacy on behalf of cancer patients and their loved ones and caregivers through ongoing initiatives and committees at the AACR, NCI, FDA, and many other organizations.

2020 AACR AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN CANCER RESEARCH

Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, FAACR

Institute Professor and Professor of Biology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA



For his fundamental discovery of RNA splicing and contribution to the mechanisms of RNA biology and mammalian transcription

INAUGURAL AACR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN BASIC CANCER RESEARCH

Cigall Kadoch, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pediatric Oncology, Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA

Institute Member and Epigenomics Program Co-Director
Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
Cambridge, MA



For her pioneering biochemical and functional characterization of normal and aberrant SWI/SNF chromatin remodeling complexes and her elucidation of the mechanisms by which the disruption of these complexes contributes to over one-fifth of human cancers.

2020 AACR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CHEMISTRY IN CANCER RESEARCH



Benjamin F. Cravatt III, PhD

Professor and Gilula Chair

The Scripps Research Institute
La Jolla, CA

For major technical advances in activity-based protein profiling. His methods exploit the power of chemistry to generate new tools and assays for the global analysis of protein activities, and he has applied these tools to identify new targets and drug candidates for cancer treatment.

2020 AACR PRINCESS TAKAMATSU MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP



Tyler Jacks, PhD, FAACR

Director

Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA

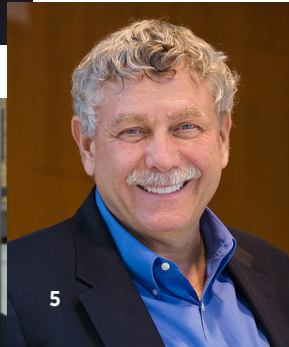
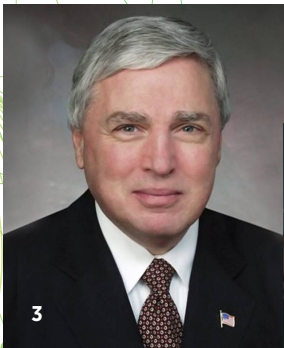
For transforming cancer research and the development of therapeutic treatments through his remarkable advancement of genetically engineered mouse models and for his seminal discoveries related to oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes, cell death and immune system regulation of tumor progression.

2020 AACR TEAM SCIENCE AWARD

The Cancer Genome Atlas Founding Members

National Institute of Health
Bethesda, MD

For leadership and enormous collective contributions as the founding members of the Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) and for their critical role in the design, initiation, and establishment of TCGA, which has enabled and driven the development of new technologies that have exponentially improved genetic sequencing capabilities and is the foremost initiative responsible for supporting the emergence and implementation of precision cancer medicine.



THE CANCER GENOME ATLAS



PILOT PROJECT LEADERS

TCGA Founders

1. Anna D. Barker, PhD
2. Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD

National Cancer Institute (NCI) Directors During Launch of TCGA Pilot Projects

3. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, MD (2002-2006)
4. John E. Niederhuber, MD (2006-2010)

National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) Working Group on Biomedical Technology Leaders

5. Eric S. Lander, PhD, FAACR (Co-Chair)
6. Leland H. Hartwell, PhD, FAACR (Co-Chair)

THE CANCER GENOME ATLAS (TCGA) PILOT PROJECT NETWORK MEMBERS

TCGA Project Management Team

Anna D. Barker, PhD (Chair)
Mark S. Guyer, PhD (Co-Chair)
Carolyn C. Compton, MD
Peter A. Covitz, PhD
Gregory Downing, DO, PhD
Daniela S. Gerhard, PhD
Peter J. Good, PhD
Bradley A. Ozenberger, PhD
Jane Peterson, PhD
Elizabeth J. Thomson, RN, MS
Joseph G. Vockley, PhD

TCGA Advisory Committee

Ronald A. DePinho, MD, FAACR (Chair)
Geoffrey M. Duyk, MD, PhD (Co-Chair)

Cancer Genome Characterization Centers

Devin M. Absher, PhD
Stephen B. Baylin, MD, FAACR
Cameron W. Brennan, MD
Lynda Chin, MD

Gaddy A. Getz, PhD
Joe W. Gray, PhD, FAACR
David Neil Hayes, MD, MPH
Raju Kucherlapati, PhD
Marc Ladanyi, MD
Peter W. Laird, PhD
Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD
Richard M. Myers, PhD
Charles M. Perou, PhD
Paul T. Spellman, PhD

Genome Sequencing Centers

Stacey B. Gabriel, PhD
Richard A. Gibbs, PhD
Elaine R. Mardis, PhD, FAACR
David A. Wheeler, PhD
Richard K. Wilson, PhD

Biospecimen Core Resource Center

Robert J. Penny, MD, PhD

Data Coordinating Center

Kenneth H. Buetow, PhD
Ari E. Kahn, PhD

2020 AACR TEAM SCIENCE AWARD

The Cancer Genome Atlas Current Project Team

National Institute of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Team Leader: Jean C. Zenklusen, PhD

For their extensive collaborations to compiling the largest-ever set of tumor characterization data that has since opened new avenues of research to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of various cancers



2020 AACR-AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AWARD FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTION



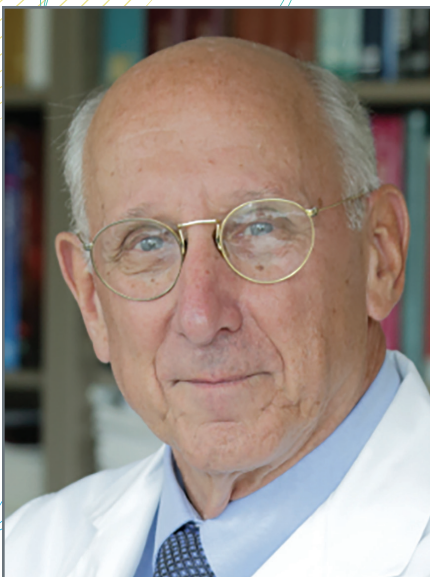
Christopher I. Amos, PhD

Director, Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
Associate Director for Population and Quantitative Science

Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

For his unique blend of expertise in biostatistics and bioinformatics, genetics, and cancer epidemiology. He has brilliantly leveraged these skills to capitalize on genomic technologies, making seminal contributions to the understanding of the joint contributions of genetic and environmental factors in causing complex diseases such as cancer.

2020 AACR-CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE LLOYD J. OLD AWARD IN CANCER IMMUNOLOGY

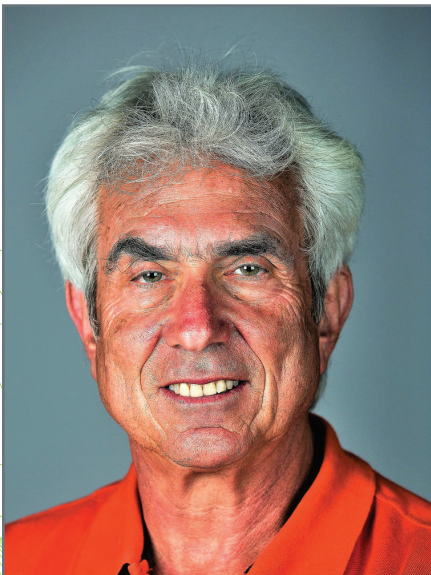


Steven A. Rosenberg, MD, PhD, FAACR

Chief, Surgery Branch
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, MD

For his discovery and visionary development of the first cell transfer immunotherapies in both solid and blood-based cancers.

2020 AACR-G.H.A. CLOWES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING BASIC CANCER RESEARCH



Michael Karin, PhD, FAACR

Professor

University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, CA

For unraveling the role of metabolic stress, inflammation, and immunosuppression in cancer by establishing the tumorigenic function of NF- κ B in cancer progenitors and myeloid cells, and for explaining how inflammation and cancer are linked, laying down the basis for use of anti-cytokine and anti-inflammatory drugs in cancer prevention and treatment.

2020 AACR-IRVING WEINSTEIN FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP



Barbara J. Wold, PhD

Bren Professor of Molecular Biology
Director, Richard N. Merkin Institute for Translational Research
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA

For extraordinary and pioneering scientific contributions to the first use of next generation sequencing (NGS) to study RNA expression in the mouse using deep NGS profiling, noting not only the expression of known genes but also of not yet annotated genes and splice isoforms; and for defining bioinformatic methods to characterize RNAseq data and emphasizing the importance of standards for establishing reproducibility in data analysis.

2020 AACR-JOSEPH H. BURCHENAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH

Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD

Lloyd J. Old/Virginia and Daniel K. Ludwig Chair
in Clinical Investigation
Chief of Immuno-Oncology Service

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY



For his leadership in the groundbreaking clinical development of CTLA-4 antibody therapy for melanoma and for his pivotal role in ushering in the field of checkpoint inhibitor therapies for cancer.

2020 AACR-MARGARET FOTI AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP AND EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS IN CANCER RESEARCH

Michelle M. Le Beau, PhD

Arthur and Marian Edelstein Professor of Medicine
University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL



For using cytogenetic and molecular genetic tools to identify critical recurring abnormalities in human leukemia, including inversions, translocations, and deletions of chromosomes 5 and 7 in leukemia following cancer treatment and for serving as a tireless champion of cancer research on the international stage.

2020 AACR-MINORITIES IN CANCER RESEARCH JANE COOKE WRIGHT LECTURESHIP



Lisa A. Newman, MD, MPH

Chief, Division of Breast Surgery
Director, Interdisciplinary Breast Program
Medical Director, International Center for the Study
of Breast Cancer Subtypes

Weill Cornell Medical Center
New York, NY

For her significant contributions to the identification of biomarkers for triple-negative breast cancer in African American and African women, and her dedication to mentoring students and trainees from groups traditionally underrepresented in medicine and research.

INAUGURAL AACR- ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH



James R. Downing, MD

President and Chief Executive Officer,
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital,
Memphis, TN

Director, Molecular Pathology Laboratory
Donald Pinkel Chair of Childhood
Cancer Treatment

For the identification and characterization of fusion oncoproteins, in describing the role of the core binding factor transcription complex in hematopoiesis, in the molecular pathology of acute leukemia, and in leadership of the Pediatric Cancer Genome Project.

2020 AACR-WAUN KI HONG AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN TRANSLATIONAL AND CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH



Luis A. Diaz, Jr., MD

Head of the Division of Solid Tumor Oncology
Grayer Family Chair

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY

For pioneering novel applications of cancer genomics and circulating tumor DNA for early cancer detection as well as prognosis and recurrence prediction, and for his groundbreaking work involving immune checkpoint blockade in DNA mismatch repair-deficient (MMR-deficient) tumors.

2020 AACR-WOMEN IN CANCER RESEARCH CHARLOTTE FRIEND LECTURESHIP



Patricia S. Steeg, PhD

Deputy Chief, Women's Malignancies Branch;
Co-Director, Office of Translational Research;
Associate Director, Center for Cancer Research

National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, MD

For her groundbreaking research on breast cancer metastasis, including the discovery of the first metastasis suppressor gene and development of a clinical-translational program for brain metastases.



PEZCOLLER FOUNDATION- AACR INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT IN CANCER RESEARCH

John E. Dick, PhD, FAACR

Senior Scientist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre McEwen Centre
for Regenerative Medicine, University Health Network
Professor of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto
Co-Leader, Acute Leukemia, Translational Research

Initiative Ontario Institute for Cancer Research
Ontario, Canada



*For discovering and characterizing the mechanisms by which
stem cells contribute to normal and leukemic hematopoiesis.*