



American Association
for Cancer Research®

FINDING CURES TOGETHER®

PHILANTHROPY BRIEF

WINTER 2020

Letter from the Chief Philanthropic Officer



Dear Friend of the AACR,

As we embark on a new year and a new decade, I want to send greetings and well wishes your way. Your continued belief and support of the AACR's mission makes our ongoing work possible and filters more funding towards cancer researchers working tirelessly to find cures. Your kindness helps us meet the

growing demand for cancer research grants and scholarships and I thank you again for your support of our mission.

I want to take a moment to discuss the importance of philanthropy, especially as we begin a fresh new decade that is ripe with opportunity. Philanthropy is a Greek term which translates to "love of humanity." It is defined as goodwill to fellow members of the human race.

Philanthropy is essential to improve our lives and the lives of those around us. There are few people who have not been touched in some way by philanthropic giving. Without some form of philanthropy, many of humanity's greatest achievements simply

would not have occurred. Without philanthropy, we would not be able to scale good ideas. Without philanthropy, we would not be able to further research and develop cancer cures.

Philanthropy allows us to connect with others and share what is most important to us. Philanthropists are those who act out of their hearts and their desire to help contribute to the greater good. Philanthropists come in many forms. Whether someone establishes their own, makes an individual contribution to their favorite charity, or volunteers their time, these people have one thing in common: they are moved to help others.

Thank you for helping the AACR work toward achieving its mission. We are able to fund life-saving research because of your kindness and goodwill and we truly appreciate you. I hope that you will keep philanthropy at the top of mind this year as scientists work to save more lives in this new decade.

With deep gratitude,

Mitch Stoller
Chief Philanthropic Officer

Save the Dates!

April 24-29
AACR Annual Meeting 2020
San Diego, CA

April 25
AACR Annual Meeting 5K Run/Walk
San Diego, CA

May 2020
National Cancer Research Month

Giving Through Your IRA

The charitable IRA rollover, or qualified charitable distribution (QCD), is a tax-wise giving option for donors age 70 ½ and over. The tax law allows individuals meeting certain requirements to transfer up to \$100,000 tax-free from an IRA directly to a charitable entity, like the AACR. Consider turning your yearly required minimum distribution (or part of it), into a gift to the AACR.

Simply request a form from us or speak with your plan administrator.

To learn more, go to: AACR.org/Legacy.

Donor Advised Funds

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a simple, flexible and tax efficient way to support the AACR's mission. The sponsoring organization of your DAF will handle all the record-keeping, disbursements, and tax receipts, allowing you to simplify your charitable

giving and focus on your philanthropic goals. Consider recommending the AACR as an organization to support through your donor-advised fund or naming the AACR as a beneficiary/successor of your account.

To learn more, go to: [AACR.org/Legacy](https://aacr.org/legacy)

Supporting Research for a Rare Cancer in Her Own Way

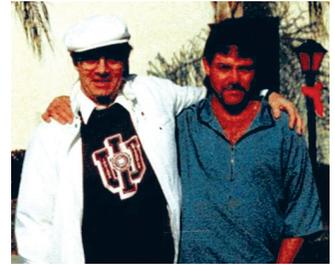
As a registered nurse of over 40 years, Sheryl Warner understands what it's like to take care of others. She has cared for multiple cancer patients over the years, but never anticipated cancer striking her own family.

In 2004 at age 56, her oldest brother, John, was diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma, a rare cancer. He fought a long hard battle with chemotherapy but lost his fight 14 months later.

It was at that time that Sheryl decided she wanted to raise money to fight this cancer for which there was no cure. Sheryl began to work with the AACR, establishing the John W. Warner Scholarship in Training Fund to support early-career investigators who will study the type of cancer that afflicted her brother. Sheryl contributes to the fund by fundraising—and even completed two 100-mile bike rides.

Sheryl never thought she would face this same scenario again, when in April 2019 her younger brother, Joe, was

diagnosed at age 62. He lost his fight just three months later. He had been diagnosed with the same rare cancer.



Sheryl has changed name of the award to the “John and Joe Warner Scholarship in Training Fund”. She says, “This is in honor of both of my brothers who succumbed to the same cancer.”

As far as what she'd like to see achieved with the research made possible by the scholarship, she says “I would like to see early detection for this type of cancer and eventually a cure for this deadly disease.”

To learn more, go to: [AACR.org/WaysToGive](https://aacr.org/WaysToGive).

Running to Honor “Second Mom”



Levi Tanksley ran his first ever Marathon this past November—and for a very special reason.

Levi ran in memory of Renee Berger, the mother of his good friend, Jason, who he met during college. Levi considered Renee his “second mom”, describing her as an “amazing person to be around...she always

made you laugh.” Levi explained, “I can't say enough about the person that she was and how she positively impacted my life.”

Levi was devastated when he got the call from Jason saying that Renee had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. From there, she had multiple surgeries to try and remove the cancer but unfortunately the disease spread to her liver. She passed away in February 2019.

When Levi registered for the Philadelphia Marathon, he wasn't aware that there was a team that he could run with to support cancer research. He says, “When I found out I could raise money to go towards cancer research to help those who need it most, that's when I decided to not only run the marathon in Renee's honor, but also raise money to make an impact in the Philadelphia community.” Levi joined the AACR Runners for Research.

Originally from Philadelphia, Levi currently resides in Rhode Island with his wife, Tanya, and golden retriever puppy, Henry. Levi had never considered himself a runner—he and his wife have run a handful of shorter races, but never a full marathon.

Levi took to social media to document his training process and to magnify why he was running with the AACR Runners for Research. Levi found that fundraising at an individual level provided a way to connect him with others who have been down the same road, to create positivity out of a tragic loss.

Levi raised \$6,000 for the AACR in honor of Renee, making him the second-highest fundraiser in 2019.

You can follow his journey at @irun4renee on Instagram or learn more about the AACR Runners for Research at [RunnersForResearch.org](https://runnersforresearch.org).

A Decade of Racquetball for Cancer Research

For the past ten years, a group of individuals from East Longmeadow, MA have gathered together to host a holiday Racquetball Tournament to raise money for the AACR.

Head of the Cancer Research Event Team, Paul Stierer explains that prior to establishing the event, the players were playing in smaller competitive tournaments in the area. “We were there for the social aspects—to have a good time with good friends.” The group of racquetball players decided that they enjoyed the format of the tournaments, but they wanted to establish a tournament that would support a good cause. The players chose the AACR, as it covered all types of cancer.

“Our thought is that everyone has friends or family that has been touched by this insidious disease, and this is our opportunity to honor them collectively,” Paul says.

Stierer says, “There are a number of great, great charities out there. This one just seemed to stand out. There are so many kinds of cancer, it’s very saddening, but the AACR seemed to provide an umbrella for many cancer fighting organizations, and we appreciate the research they’re doing and the high percentage of all the dollars that come in that are dedicated to the research.”



The amount raised by the tournament to support cancer research has grown year over year and the number of attendees has increased to around 100.

“The first party was 10 years ago, we held it at the Healthtrax in West Springfield,” Paul explained. “We’ve grown from raising \$1,000 that first year to this past year where we raised more than \$18,000---and we’ve done that through the tremendous support of local communities, businesses and the racquetball players.”

To learn more, go to: AACR.org/WaysToGive.

The AACR’s Very First Sustaining Hope Club Member: Renee Crews



A social worker and lover of the outdoors, Renee Crews lives with her husband in the mountains of Colorado. She is also the AACR’s very first monthly donor. Renee was looking for an easy way to be more philanthropic and support cancer and reached out to the AACR, which began a monthly giving program—The Sustaining Hope Club-- at her request.

When asked about her personal relationship with cancer, Renee says, “I have had many family members and friends who have battled cancer over the years. It became very personal, however, when my husband Dan was diagnosed with testicular cancer back in 2009.”

The treatment for Dan’s cancer was successful and, luckily relatively short, and it had a major impact on her family.

“We learned that 40 years ago, Dan’s treatment outcome might have been very different. We were very lucky that research efforts identified a combination of drugs that turned the survival rates upside down--from 5% to 95%-- for testicular cancer.”

This fact convinced the family that cancer research funding is incredibly important. They decided they wanted it to be part of their annual giving.

“My husband Dan & I really wanted to focus on research organizations and after some searching on the internet, we identified AACR as an organization committed to just that. We really like that the organization supports young scientists in the early stages of their research.”

She chose to donate on a monthly basis as opposed to once annually because it spread the cost out and makes the donation more affordable.

“It is only through research that better outcomes can be achieved,” Renee says. “Because this truly impacts everyone in the world, we believe it is a very worthy cause.”

To learn more, go to: AACR.org/WaysToGive.

Mingen Liu: Recipient of AACR-Aflac, Inc. Scholar-in-Training Award



Since its inception in 1986, the AACR Annual Meeting Scholar-in-Training Award program has provided more than 4,700 grants to early-career investigators and has received support from 60 cancer research foundations, corporations, individuals, and other organizations dedicated to the fight against cancer.

At the 2018 AACR Annual Meeting, Mingen Liu was the recipient of the AACR-Aflac, Inc. Scholar-in-Training Award. During the 2018 AACR Annual Meeting, he was selected to give an oral presentation of his research on macrophage metabolism and overcoming resistance in pancreatic cancer.

Mingen Liu has been an AACR member since starting graduate school in 2015. Prior to attending school, Mingen's mother was unfortunately diagnosed with metastatic cancer, which turned out to be a deeply personal experience that impelled him to pursue his medical education. His goal was to develop a strong clinical framework for applying his research toward cancer treatment.

He explains, "The AFLAC Scholar-In-Training Award proved to be a career-defining moment for me. It was an invaluable opportunity that not only helped me attend the meeting to present my work, but it also introduced me to dozens of young scientists pursuing similar questions from different angles. Meeting the Scholar-in-Training awardees highlighted the tightly knit community at the core of the AACR and generated new questions that I will be carrying forth in my studies."

Of his relationship with the AACR, Liu says, "I am tremendously grateful for the inspiration and education that AACR has provided along my research journey."

Lifesaving Cancer Science. Make It Your Legacy.

A legacy commitment to the AACR ensures a lasting impact on scientific discovery and innovation in the treatment and prevention of cancer for generations to come. The Dr. Bayard D. Clarkson Legacy Society gratefully acknowledges those who have made a legacy commitment to the AACR. Consider joining the Dr. Bayard D. Clarkson Legacy Society through:

- Designating the AACR as a beneficiary of your will or living trust.
- Naming the AACR as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement account or piece of property.
- Making a gift now, or through your estate, to the AACR's endowment fund.

To learn more about the Dr. Bayard D. Clarkson Legacy Society and making a planned gift to the AACR, please contact legacy@aacr.org or call (844) 385-2064, or simply complete and return the enclosed reply card using the postage-paid envelope.



ADVOCATE

Learn how you can help raise awareness at AACR.org/Advocate.

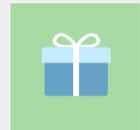
Be a powerful voice for lifesaving cancer research by contacting policymakers in Congress or encourage and inspire others by sharing your own cancer story.



PARTICIPATE

Get involved by visiting AACR.org/Action.

From San Diego to Syracuse, thousands of people are running, walking, and volunteering to support the AACR.



DONATE

Please donate today at AACR.org/Donate.

Donate today to help us achieve our goal of a world without cancer.

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