On the cover:
Top row (left to right): Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, 2018-2019 AACR President; Chuck Dandridge (second from right), an acute myeloid leukemia survivor featured in the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018; Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, FAACR, 2017-2018 AACR President; Tori Lee (center), a leukemia survivor featured in the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018.
Middle row (left to right): Margaret Foti, AACR Chief Executive Officer; Laurie Trotman, a breast cancer survivor featured in the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018.
Bottom row (left to right): Lucile L. Adams-Campbell, PhD, Chair of the AACR Women in Cancer Research Council; Matt Marx, a non-Hodgkin lymphoma survivor featured in the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018; James P. Allison, PhD, FAACR, a former member of the AACR Board of Directors who received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2018 for his shared discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation; Ron Scolamiero (left), a prostate cancer survivor featured in the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018.
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

We are pleased to present the 2018 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, funding, and advocacy.

The theme of the AACR Annual Meeting 2018, “Driving Innovative Cancer Science to 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 the laboratory to the clinic to improve the lives of cancer patients.

As the report documents, 2018 was a spectacular year for the AACR, one that was marked by several milestones. The AACR Annual Meeting attracted a record number of participants, as we welcomed more than 22,500 scientists, clinicians, other health care professionals, survivors, and advocates to Chicago to share the latest breakthroughs in cancer science. The organization expanded its global outreach, collaborating with 16 different international scientific organizations to foster progress against cancer around the world. And the AACR Project GENIE (Genomics Evidence Neoplasm Information Exchange) doubled in size, welcoming 11 new participating institutions that are committed to its goal of delivering the benefits of precision medicine to cancer patients.

The AACR Chief Executive Officer, Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (HC), and the AACR President, Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, share their perspectives on the report’s themes:

Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (HC)

Dr. Foti discusses the theme of the report, “Driving Innovative Cancer Science to Patient Care,” and the AACR’s role in supporting cancer research and finding breakthroughs.

Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR

Dr. Jaffee highlights the contributions of the AACR to cancer research, including the importance of collaboration and the impact of innovation in advancing cancer science.

The AACR’s mission is to advance the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer through groundbreaking research and education. The AACR is focused on driving innovative cancer science to patient care through its research programs, educational initiatives, and advocacy efforts. The AACR is uniquely positioned to support cancer research and accelerate the translation of discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic, as evidenced by the success of the AACR’s Project GENIE and the continuous expansion of its global network.

In 2018, the AACR continued to make significant strides in advancing cancer science and patient care. The organization welcomed more than 22,500 scientists, clinicians, other health care professionals, survivors, and advocates to Chicago for the Annual Meeting, where the latest breakthroughs in cancer science were shared. The AACR also expanded its global outreach, collaborating with 16 different international scientific organizations to foster progress against cancer around the world. And the AACR Project GENIE doubled in size, welcoming 11 new participating institutions that are committed to delivering the benefits of precision medicine to cancer patients.

The AACR will continue to support cancer research and accelerate the translation of discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic, as evidenced by the success of the AACR’s Project GENIE and the continuous expansion of its global network. The AACR is dedicated to advancing the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer through groundbreaking research and education, and will continue to drive innovative cancer science to patient care.
Research discoveries providing deep insights into the complexities of cancer are driving vital progress in public health and spurring the development of lifesaving improvements across the cancer care spectrum. Research-fueled advances in 2018 include the 18 new therapeutics approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating patients with various types of cancer. During this time period, the FDA also approved 10 previously approved anticancer therapeutics for treating new types of cancer.

The pace at which research discoveries are being converted to new anticancer therapeutics has been accelerating in recent years, as illustrated by the fact that the number of new anticancer therapeutics approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 2009 to 2018 (yellow bar) was more than double the number approved by the agency in the previous decade (1999–2008; blue bar). Adapted from the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018 (Fig. 9).

A featured survivor in the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018, Ron Scolamiero (with his wife, Laurie) participated in a clinical trial of apalutamide, a new molecularly targeted therapeutic, to treat his prostate cancer. He is currently cancer free. Apalutamide was approved for patients with non-metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer in 2018.

PROGRESS AGAINST CANCER 2018

DRIVEN BY RESEARCH

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One of the areas of cancer treatment in which researchers are making extraordinarily rapid progress is immunotherapy, which refers to the use of therapeutics that harness the power of a patient’s own immune system to treat his or her cancer. Several revolutionary anticancer therapeutics include several of the therapeutics to gain FDA approvals in 2018. Including these approvals, the number of types of cancer that can be treated by at least one immunotherapeutic has more than tripled in the past decade, increasing from one in two to six.

A featured survivor in the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018, Nicole DiCamillo was diagnosed with gastrointestinal neuroendocrine tumor—a rare type of cancer, which used to be called carcinoid cancer, that can arise in the pancreas or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract—at the age of 27. For the next 12 years she underwent surgeries, chemotherapies, radioactive ablations, and other treatments, which kept the cancer at bay but did not control the debilitating symptoms it caused. In 2016, Nicole began a targeted radiation treatment called Lutathera, which delivers a radioisotope directly to the cancer cells after it has been infused or injected.

DiCamillo was diagnosed with gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine cancer in 2008. At the age of 27, she began a targeted radiation treatment called Lutathera, which delivers a radioisotope directly to the cancer cells after it has been infused or injected.

Nicole DiCamillo
CANCER SURVIVOR

In 2016, Nicole began a targeted radiation treatment called Lutathera, which delivers a radioisotope directly to the cancer cells after it has been infused or injected. To date, she has been infused twice with Lutathera. Nicole was diagnosed with gastrointestinal neuroendocrine tumor—a rare type of cancer, which used to be called carcinoid cancer, that can arise in the pancreas or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract—at the age of 27. For the next 12 years she underwent surgeries, chemotherapies, radioactive ablations, and other treatments, which kept the cancer at bay but did not control the debilitating symptoms it caused. In 2016, Nicole began a targeted radiation treatment called Lutathera, which delivers a radioisotope directly to the cancer cells after it has been infused or injected.

Nicole DiCamillo
CANCER SURVIVOR

Another two anticancer therapeutics to gain FDA approval in 2018 are providing oncologists with an exciting new way to use radiotherapy to treat neuroendocrine tumors. These pioneering targeted radiotherapeutics are benefiting many patients, including Nicole DiCamillo (far left).

The AACR is proud to have helped catalyze the progress made against cancer in 2018 through its many programs, services, and initiatives. For example, early data from one of the trials that led to the November 2018 approval of larotrectinib for treating certain patients with solid tumors that have a particular type of NTRK gene mutation were presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.

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 initiatives. For example, early data from one of the trials that led to the November 2018 approval of larotrectinib for treating certain patients with solid tumors that have a particular type of NTRK gene mutation were presented at the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.

As AACR President (2016–2018) Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, noted in the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018, “Enlisting experts from an even broader spectrum of disciplines, including physics, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, and computer science, will significantly accelerate the pace of progress in the future.”

ELIZABETH M. JAFFEE, MD, FAACR, AACR PRESIDENT (2016-2018)
The AACR Annual Meeting sets the research agenda for the individuals and institutions working across the full spectrum of basic, translational, and clinical science to prevent and cure cancer. For the sixth consecutive year, the meeting hosted a record number of attendees; the AACR welcomed more than 22,500 scientists, clinicians, other health care professionals, survivors, patients, and advocates to Chicago to share and discuss the latest breakthroughs in cancer science. With its expanding audience and broad scientific focus, the Annual Meeting has become the forum of choice for thought leaders in the cancer research community.

**WELCOMING THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (NCI)**

Six months after being sworn in as the 15th director of the NCI, Norman E. Sharpless, MD, FAACR, chose the AACR Annual Meeting 2018 as the forum for his first major public address. Reporting to AACR members and other meeting attendees on the results of his listening tour of the National Cancer Program, Dr. Sharpless discussed four key areas of focus for the NCI that will catalyze progress against cancer:

- **Workforce Training and Development.** Support the cancer research enterprise by fostering a diverse and talented cancer workforce.
- **Basic Science.** Rethink the NCI's commitment to basic science to drive novel approaches and technologies.
- **Clinical Trials.** Fully realize the power of clinical trials through innovative design, administration, and analysis.
- **Big Data.** Increase data aggregation and interpretation to accelerate research and improve patient care.

After his address, Dr. Sharpless joined AACR Immediate Past President Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, FAACR, and AACR President Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, for a “fireside chat” to discuss the key focus areas in more detail and take questions from the audience.

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**NEW DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE REPORTS ON his first major public address,** Dr. Sharpless, joined AACR Immediate Past President Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, FAACR, and AACR President Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, for a “fireside chat” to discuss the key focus areas in more detail and take questions from the audience.

Modified by incoming AACR President Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, the event featured leading experts in cancer research discussing the current state of cancer prevention and interception and breakthroughs in cancer treatment—specifically, precision medicine and immunotherapy. The event concluded with a panel of patient advocates who shared their experiences into the context of their own cancer journeys.

**“PROGRESS AND PROMISE” IN CHICAGO**

The AACR Annual Meeting brings together all stakeholders in the cancer research enterprise to share the latest advances in cancer research and treatment; for the third consecutive year, the AACR brought these advances to the local community. The AACR partnered with the Chicago Tribune Prime Expo to present “Progress and Promise against Cancer,” an educational event for residents in the Chicago area.
ANNUAL MEETING 2018

INNOVATIVE CANCER SCIENCE

The theme of the AACR Annual Meeting 2018, Driving Innovative Cancer Science to Patient Care, emphasized how progress against cancer is driven by discoveries in all areas of cancer research and the cancer-related sciences. The program for the meeting, which featured the latest advances across the cancer research continuum, was developed with the goal of catalyzing new breakthroughs for patients.

Highlights of the cutting-edge research presented at the meeting were summarized by AACR experts in a wrap-up plenary session.

The first presenter, Avrum E. Spira, MD, MSc, gave an overview of some of the cancer prevention, early detection, and innovation research reported at the meeting. He opened by focusing on two presentations about efforts to create a preventive platform similar to The Cancer Genome Atlas but in premalignancy of systems biology approaches to model how new generations sequencing is discovering our knowledge of the cancer genome and epigenome. He highlighted the challenges facing cancer survivors that were discussed in a special cancer survivorship session held in memory of Fellow of the AACR Academy and AACR President-Elect 2018-2019, Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR.

Elaine R. Mardis, PhD, 2018-2019 AACR President Elect, discussed key basic science research presentations with a focus on those showing how new technologies and computational analysis approaches are significantly increasing our understanding of cancer. Dr. Mardis, who was chair of the 2018 Annual Meeting Program Committee, highlighted presentations outlining how new discoveries are being used to understand how cancers become resistant to treatment over time, and how advanced technologies are being used to study the molecular characteristics of individual cells in a tumor—including cancer cells, immune cells, and other cells in the tumor environment. She also summarized two presentations on the use of systems biology approaches to model cancer, which have yielded new insights into cancer biology and identified potential new combination treatments. Dr. Mardis concluded by reminding the audience that as technological advances continue to drive progress in basic cancer science, we will see further application of precision cancer medicine and better outcomes for patients.

Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, FAACR, AACR President 2017-2018, highlighted some of the groundbreaking clinical research presented at the meeting. He began by discussing two promisingly-practice-changing phase III clinical trials testing immunotherapies called checkpoint inhibitors as initial treatment for metastatic non–small cell lung cancer. Results from the first trial, KEYNOTE-189, showed that adding the checkpoint inhibitor pembrolizumab to chemotherapy significantly improved overall survival, and results from the second trial CheckMate-227, showed that patients who received two checkpoint inhibitors—nivolumab plus ipilimumab—had significantly longer progression-free survival compared with those who received chemotherapy. Dr. Caligiuri then highlighted several presentations about clinical trials testing molecularly targeted therapeutics, including the ARROW trial of BLU-667 for RET-altered cancers, the EORTC-26011 trial of crizotinib for ALK-rearranged non–small cell lung cancer, and biomarker data from the PELAGEN trial of palbociclib for HR+/HER2-negative breast cancer. Throughout his presentation, Dr. Caligiuri emphasized how identifying biomarkers of response is essential if we are to optimize the use of immunotherapies and molecularly targeted therapeutics—and to move these revolutionary therapeutics to earlier lines of treatment—in a safe and effective way.

The second presenter, Jimmie C. Holland, MD, FAACR, delivered his presentation on “Liquid biopsy: Novel technologies and clinical applications” at the opening plenary session of the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.

Klaus Pantel, MD, PhD, delivers his presentation on “Liquid biopsy: Novel technologies and clinical applications” at the opening plenary session of the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.
ANNUAL MEETING 2018

AT A GLANCE

22,500
People attended the meeting. The Annual Meeting 2018 was the largest in the history of the AACR.

69
Countries were represented at the meeting.

6,328
Proffered papers were accepted for presentation in poster sessions or mini-symposia. A total of 27 of these papers were selected for presentation in poster discussion sessions; this new type of session provided the presenters of highly-rated posters with an opportunity to share their work in a brief oral presentation.

253
Scientific sessions highlighted the latest in innovative basic, translational, and clinical cancer science—including 44 major symposia, five plenary sessions, and 47 educational sessions. The program included three “Unsolved Mysteries” sessions; these sessions brought together experts to address some of the major challenges in cancer research, such as the problem of cancer cachexia, the failure to translate IGF-1R and PI3K inhibitors into effective treatments, and how the age of patients at the time of cancer diagnosis impacts cancer prognosis and drug development.

167
Clinical trials were presented, the largest number of trials ever presented at an AACR Annual Meeting. Several high-impact trials were presented in special sessions, including two trials that received significant media coverage for their practice-changing results that demonstrate the potential of cancer immunotherapy:

• According to data from the phase III KEYNOTE-189 trial, treatment with pembrolizumab in combination with chemotherapy improved the overall response rate in patients with metastatic nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer, reducing by half the risk of death for previously untreated patients. These results set the stage for pembrolizumab to become a standard treatment for patients with non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

• Results from another phase III trial (CheckMate-227) demonstrated that, among patients newly diagnosed with advanced NSCLC with high tumor mutational burden (TMB), those who received nivolumab plus ipilimumab had significantly improved progression-free survival compared with patients who received the standard-of-care chemotherapy. These data could establish the combination of nivolumab plus ipilimumab as a first-line treatment option for patients with high-TMB NSCLC.

33
Recent Advances sessions were presented at the meeting to provide attendees with the latest updates in critical areas of research. In addition to sessions on organ sites, diagnostics and therapeutics, and cancer prevention, the program featured sessions on Recent Advances in Cancer Health Disparities. These sessions—which were added to the program by 2017-2018 AACR President Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, FAACR, as part of his presidential initiative to highlight the issue of cancer health disparities—focused on the scientific questions that must be answered to ensure that all patients benefit from breakthroughs in cancer treatment regardless of race or socioeconomic status.
The AACR Annual Meeting 2018 generated global interest, as the innovative cancer science presented in Washington produced a significant amount of news coverage and social media activity.

33 News releases were distributed.
185 Reporters registered to cover the meeting.
2,666 Media mentions were generated.
21,592 People viewed the AACR's Facebook Live broadcasts during the Annual Meeting.
33 News releases were distributed.

The AACR conducted seven live broadcasts during the meeting, including a discussion of important science presented at the meeting. 2017-2018 AACR President Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, FAACR, hosted the broadcast, which featured Annual Meeting Program Chair Elaine R. Mardis, PhD.

40,482 Tweets mentioned the #AACR18 hashtag.
10,324 Unique users joined the Annual Meeting conversation on Twitter.
500 Number of followers for the @AACRPres Twitter account. The AACR launched the social media account during the Annual Business Meeting of Members, when Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, began her term as President. The account offers followers a perspective on the unique experience of serving as President of the AACR.
The eight journals in the AACR’s scientific publishing program represent four percent of all journals in the oncology field but they garner 15 percent of all citations in that field (Journal Citation Report®, 2018). This impact on the field—which is due in large part to the vision of their editors-in-chief and the expertise of their editorial boards—marks AACR journals as publication venues of choice across the spectrum of basic, translational, clinical, and epidemiological cancer research.

Authors of the most cited articles published in AACR journals in 2016 were recognized during a reception at the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.

AACR JOURNALS: PUBLISHING HIGH-IMPACT CANCER SCIENCE

NEW EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP FOR CANCER RESEARCH

In January 2018, Chi Van Dang, MD, PhD, began his appointment as the new editor-in-chief of Cancer Research, the AACR’s longest-running journal. Dr. Dang—whose work has significantly contributed to the understanding of molecular signaling pathways and mechanisms that govern the unusual metabolism of cancer cells—currently serves as Scientific Director of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research.

The second-most frequently cited cancer journal in the world, Cancer Research publishes high-impact papers in all areas of cancer science. The cancer field changes rapidly, and in his first year Dr. Dang has launched new sections of the journal to reflect those changes. By inviting engineers, mathematicians, physicists, and data scientists to share their work in Cancer Research, and by introducing to the cancer research community emerging tools and technologies to attack the cancer problem, Dr. Dang has enhanced the journal’s position as a critical driver of progress against cancer.

Chi Van Dang, MD, PhD, new editor-in-chief of Cancer Research, discusses the journal at a Meet the Editor session during the AACR Annual Meeting.
Since his appointment as editor-in-chief began in 2008, Timothy R. Rebbeck, PhD, has positioned CEBP as a critical cross-disciplinary publication venue for a range of interdependent fields, including epidemiology, translational science, survivorship, and prevention. During his tenure, Dr. Rebbeck emphasized the importance of population science and shaped the journal’s content via commissioned articles that addressed high-priority issues, including genetic epidemiology, emerging technologies, survivorship, and surveillance. In addition, he increased the journal’s focus on the full range of health disparities research, to ensure that all patients—including minorities and medically underserved populations—benefit from advances in cancer screening and treatment.

CEBP published high impact research across a wide range of fields under Dr. Rebbeck’s leadership, including the following highly-cited articles:

• A review describing the changing global patterns of cancer incidence and mortality for select common cancer sites using data compiled by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).
  [Sobolev et al., August 2018]

• A study demonstrating the expression of PD-L1 and PD-L2 in pancreatic mucinous cystic neoplasm is a substantial proportion of solid tumors, including some aggressive subtypes that lack targeted treatment modalities.
  [Sardana et al., December 2016]

• The first study to project cancer prevalence in the U.S. through 2040 in an aging context, predicting a “silver tsunami” in which 73 percent of U.S. cancer survivors in 2040 will be 65 or older.
  [Bluethmann et al., July 2016]

• An introduction to the Cholangiocarcinoma: an insurmountable genetic mystery, increasingly developed by a worldwide community of investigators to understand common causes of cancer susceptibility and progression.
  [Amos et al., January 2017]

As the founding editor-in-chief, Scott Lippman, MD, established Cancer Prevention Research as the first scientific journal devoted exclusively to cancer prevention. In addition to providing a critical bridge between basic and clinical research, Dr. Lippman vision for the journal included creating a forum for emerging science that attempted to extend the current conceptual and practical boundaries of prevention. His focus on cutting-edge science—coupled with an emphasis of changes in the current paradigm—established Cancer Prevention Research as the preferred publication outlet for groundbreaking studies, including:

• The first prospective assessment of a single dose of HPV vaccine. Several international trials are underway to investigate the study’s implication that that one dose of the HPV vaccine may be sufficient—which could have a major impact on implementation science.
  [The CTVT Group, November 2017]

• An evaluation of the approval of the first CDK4/6 inhibitor for high-risk estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer. The approval of abemaciclib as a new, much needed treatment for women with hormone receptor-positive breast cancer that have failed standard hormonal therapy and trastuzumab.
  [Baselga et al., 2017]

In his inaugural editorial as editor-in-chief, Napoleone Ferrara, MD, FAACR, noted that despite the great progress made in cancer treatment, more than 90% of phase III clinical trials in oncology still fail to meet their primary endpoints—a reminder of the ongoing need to improve the safety and efficacy of new drugs, the predictability of preclinical and early-stage clinical studies, and strategies for clinical drug development. During his tenure, he transformed MCT to address these challenges, expanding the journal’s focus in critical areas such as biomarker and companion diagnostics as well as new methodologies that have expanded the number of high-quality reviews in the journal with the launch of MCT Focus issues, under his stewardship, the citation impact of review articles published in MCT increased.

MCT published high priority research across the spectrum of oncology drug discovery and preclinical development during Dr. Ferrara’s tenure, including the following highly-cited articles:

• A review of PD-L1 IHC as a predictive biomarker for anti–PD-L1/PD-1 therapy across multiple tumor types. [Patel et al., April 2017]

• A detailed study of EP304, an EZH2 inhibitor (for phase I trials) in the mice that resulted in profound and durable tumor regression. [König et al., April 2018]

• A characterization of CR-AIM, a newly-discovered glutaminase inhibitor that may have therapeutic benefit for patients with triple-negative breast cancer and perhaps other glutamine-dependent cancers. [Ernst et al., April 2018]

• A study demonstrating that the long non-coding RNA, ARID5B promotes proliferation of non-small cell lung cancer and inhibits apoptosis. [Nie et al., January 2019]
SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

BY THE NUMBERS

24,373
Current Impact Factor for Cancer Discovery—which ranks sixth out of 222 journals in the Oncology category—according to the 2017 Journal Citation Report.

4
AACR journals ranked in the top 4% in the Oncology category with regard to Impact Factor, according to the Journal Citation Report released in July 2018. Cancer Discovery ranked sixth out of all oncology journals, followed by Clinical Cancer Research (12th), Cancer Immunology Research (16th), and Cancer Research (17th).

35
Days from manuscript submission to first decision (on average). The AACR has made a concerted effort to reduce turnaround times for peer review and to improve the overall author experience.

26 million
Full-text views of AACR journal articles were recorded in 2018.

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

The AARC thanks its editors-in-chief for their hard work and stewardship of its scientific publishing program during 2018.

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COLLABORATIONS ADVANCING CANCER SCIENCE WORLDWIDE

With programs in 12 countries and members in 120 countries, the AACR collaborates on a global scale to promote scientific excellence and benefit all people by reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality. Through collaborations with 16 international organizations, the AACR provided scientific conferences, educational workshops, and financial support to the cancer research community on six continents in 2018.

The AACR and the Korean Cancer Association (KCA) collaborated to host the AACR-KCA Joint Conference on Precision Medicine in Solid Tumors. Held in November, the conference was the first AACR-KCA joint program presented in Seoul, Korea.

(Opposite page) AACR President (2017-2018) Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, FAACR, and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Chief Clinician Charles Swanton, MD, PhD, FRCP, announce a new international alliance between the AACR and CRUK during the opening ceremony of the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.
The alliance between the world’s largest fundraising medical research charity and the world’s largest cancer research organization will build transatlantic collaborations to influence global research policy.

In 2018, the AACR offered an expanded date of symposia, conferences, educational workshops, and joint symposia: conferences, educational workshops, and international cancer research organizations while developing joint collaborations to advancing the cause of cancer research.

The AACR and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) announced a new international collaboration aimed at accelerating the pace of progress against cancer. The announcement was made jointly by AACR President (2017-2018) Michael A. Calingaert, MD, FACS, and CRUK Chief Executive Charles Swanton, MD, FMedSci. During the opening ceremony of the AACR Annual Meeting, the alliance between the world’s largest cancer research organization and the world’s largest fundraising medical research charity will build transatlantic collaborations by establishing joint programs, convening international meetings and workshops, and uniting the community to reduce the global burden of cancer.

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Established in 2013, the AACR Academy recognizes and honors distinguished scientists whose major scientific contributions have propelled significant innovation and progress against cancer. Fellows of the AACR Academy serve as a vital resource to AACR leadership, advancing the organization’s mission by providing scientific guidance and a powerful voice in support of sound science policy.

FELLOWS OF THE AACR ACADEMY: LEADING PROGRESS AGAINST CANCER

The AACR Academy gathered at the AACR Annual Meeting 2018 to induct a new class of Fellows.

JUDY E. GARBER, MD, MPH, FAACR
CARLOS L. ARTEAGA, MD, FAACR
JOAN S. BRUGGE, PHD, FAACR
MICHAEL A. CALIGIURI, MD, FAACR
RAYMOND N. DUBOIS, MD, PHD, FAACR
TYLER JACKS, PHD, FAACR
KAREN H. VOUSDEN, PHD, FAACR

PRESIDENT-ELECT (2018-2019)
AACR ACADEMY PRESIDENT (2019-2021)

AACR ACADEMY ESTABLISHES GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP BODY
To formalize its advisory and advocacy roles within the organization, the AACR established a governance structure for the AACR Academy in 2018. This leadership body consists of an elected president-elect, who will serve for one year and then transition to a two-year term as Academy president at the AACR Annual Meeting 2019, and six electedSteeringCommittee members who will serve three-year terms.

The following AACR Fellows are inaugural members of the AACR Academy leadership body:

CARLOS L. ARTEAGA, MD, FAACR
JOAN S. BRUGGE, PHD, FAACR
MICHAEL A. CALIGIURI, MD, FAACR
RAYMOND N. DUBOIS, MD, PHD, FAACR
TYLER JACKS, PHD, FAACR
KAREN H. VOUSDEN, PHD, FAACR
For characterizing the significance of cancer susceptibility genes, notably BRCA2, in the pathogenesis of cancer, and for his contributions to the establishment of PARP inhibitors as effective therapeutic options for the treatment of ovarian cancer.

LAUREN J. BLUMHORN, MD
University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
For her central discoveries in the fields of transcriptional regulation, chromatin biology, and cancer immunology, and for her transformative efforts to improve access to care, health equity, and cancer education.

RICHARD D. KLAUSNER, MD
Juno Therapeutics
Los Altos Hills, California
For defining molecular mechanisms of intracellular trafficking, translation, and protein assembly, and for leading the creation of national and international programs to support the spectrum of cancer research, resulting in improved cancer diagnosis and treatment strategies.

NORMAN E. SHARPLESS, MD
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland
For his seminal contributions to stem cell biology and to demonstrating the relationship between tumor suppressor activity, cell cycle control, cellular senescence, and molecular aging in tumorigenesis.

ARTHUR D. LEVINSON, PHD
Calico Life Sciences LLC
South San Francisco, California
For his visionary leadership and relentless commitment to the discovery and development of targeted therapeutics for the treatment of various malignancies, including HER2/neu monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of breast cancer.

MICHAEL A. CALIGIURI, MD
City of Hope National Medical Center
Duarte, California
For elucidating the fundamental mechanisms of natural killer cell development and immune surveillance, and for his commitment to advancing cancer health disparities research and promoting the collection and use of clinical samples to guide screening, treatment, and surveillance protocols.

ELIZABETH M. JAFFEE, MD
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland
For her groundbreaking efforts dedicated to the development of cancer vaccines and vaccine combinations that bypass tumor-associated immunotolerance, and for exploiting genomic and proteomic technologies to define biomarkers required for cancer onset, progression, and metastasis.

ROGER D. KORNBERG, PHD
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California
For his pioneering discovery of the structure and function of nucleosomes, and for revolutionizing the understanding of the molecular machinery and orchestrated mechanisms required for eukaryotic gene transcription.

RENÉ BERNARDS, DPHIL
Netherlands Cancer Institute
Amsterdam, Netherlands
For establishing innovative strategies to categorize biomarkers of treatment response and effective treatment combinations, and for pioneering the use of genetic screening tests to identify and stratify individuals at risk for developing breast cancer.

CH-VAN DAM, MD
Peking University Shenzhen Hospital
Shenzhen, China
For elucidating the role of the ubiquitin–proteasome system in cancer progression.

HONORING SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS OF 2018 INDUCTION
FELLOWS OF THE AACR ACADEMY CLASS OF 2018

At a ceremony on the evening before the Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, the 2018 class of Fellows of the AACR Academy, and newly inducted, was formally inducted.
Progress against cancer requires innovative thinking and discovery across the full spectrum of research. AACR Scientific Achievement Awards and Lectureships recognize innovative investigators in all fields of inquiry and provide research funding to support their next breakthroughs.

The ability of the AACR Scientific Achievement Awards program to identify paradigm-shifting excellence in cancer research was confirmed in October 2018 when AACR member and former member of the AACR Board of Directors James P. Allison, PhD, FAACR, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his shared discovery with colleague Tasuku Honjo, MD, PhD, of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation. Before culminating in this recognition by the international scientific community, Dr. Allison’s career was marked by several AACR awards, including:

- The AACR-CRI Lloyd J. Old Award (2013), for innovative research that stimulates new directions in cancer immunology;
- The AACR G.H.A. Clowes Memorial Award (2014), for outstanding accomplishments in basic cancer research, and;
- The Pezcoller Foundation-AACR International Award for Cancer Research (2015, above right), for outstanding basic research that holds promise for continued substantive contributions to progress in the field of cancer.

By honoring exceptional scientists in all scientific areas and at all career stages, AACR Scientific Achievement Awards highlight the critical steps along the path of progress against cancer.
HONORING SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT

2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS AND LECTURERS

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

LESLIE BERNSTEIN, PHD
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center
Duarte, California

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

JOHANN S. DE BONO, MD, PHD
Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden
Sutton, United Kingdom

Twelfth AACR Award for Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry in Cancer Research

JOHN A. KATZENELLENBOGEN, PHD
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, Illinois

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

PASI A. JÄNNE, MD, PHD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Fourteenth AACR-Irving Weinstein Foundation Distinguished Lectureship

JENNIFER A. DOUDNA, PHD, FAACR
University of California Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Fifteenth AACR Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research

JOSEPH R. BERTINO, MD, FAACR
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Twenty-First AACR-Women in Cancer Research Charlotte Friend Memorial Lectureship

DAFNA BAR-SAGI, PHD
New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York

Thirteenth AACR-Minorities in Cancer Research Jane Cooke Wright Memorial Lectureship

JOHN D. CARPTEN, PHD
University of Southern California
Keck School of Medicine
Los Angeles, California

Eleventh AACR Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research, funded by the Breast Cancer Research Foundation

ANN PARTRIDGE, MD, MPH
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, Massachusetts

Fifty-Eighth AACR G.H.A. Clowes Memorial Award

SCOTT W. LOWE, PHD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York

Sixth AACR-CRI Lloyd J. Old Award in Cancer Immunology

ANTONI RIBAS, MD, PHD
Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center
Parker Institute for Cancer Immunology at the University of California Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Twelfth Margaret Foti Award for Leadership and Extraordinary Achievements in Cancer Research

ISAIAH J. FIDLER, DVM, PHD, FAACR
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

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

TONY HUNTER, PHD, FAACR
The Salk Institute
La Jolla, California

Ninth AACR Distinguished Lectureship on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities, funded by Susan G. Komen

CHANITA HUGHES-HALBERT, PHD
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

Twelfth AACR Princess Takamatsu Memorial Lectureship

LISA M. COUSSENS, PHD
Knight Cancer Institute
Portland, Oregon

Eleventh AACR Distinguished Lectureship in Breast Cancer Research

ZENA WERB, PHD
University of California San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Twelfth Annual AACR Team Science Award OMINC APPROACHES TO PREVENTING AND TREATING ASIAN-PREVALENT CANCERS TEAM

PATRICE TAN, MD, PHD
Singapore
Duke-NUS Medical School
Cancer Science Institute of Singapore
Singapore

CHIA CHUEN KHOR, MBBS, PHD
Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)
Singapore

TATSUHIRO SHIBATA, MD, PHD
University of Tokyo
National Cancer Center
Tokyo, Japan

CHAWALIT PAIROJKUL, MD
Khon Kaen University
Khon Kaen, Thailand

NARONG KHUNTIKEO, MD
Khon Kaen University
Khon Kaen, Thailand

JACOB SEE-TONG PANG, MD, PHD
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital
Linkou, Taiwan

SEN-YONG HSIEH, MD, PHD
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital
Linkou, Taiwan

PATRICK TAN, MD, PHD
Team Leader
Duke-NUS Medical School
Cancer Science Institute of Singapore
Singapore

BIN TEAN TEH, MD, PHD
Duke-NUS Medical School
Cancer Science Institute of Singapore
Singapore

STEVEN ROZEN, PHD
Duke-NUS Medical School
Singapore

SOON THYE LIM, MBBS, MRCP (UK), FAMS
National Cancer Centre Singapore
Duke-NUS Medical School
Singapore

CHOON KIAT ONG, PHD
National Cancer Centre Singapore
Agency for Science, Technology and Research
Singapore

CHIRA OKONKWO, MBBS, PHD
Singapore Institute of Technology and Research
Singapore

TATSHIROSSH SHIBATA, MD
University of Tokyo
National Cancer Center
Tokyo, Japan

CHAHNJEE PARK, MD
Chungang National University
Seoul, Korea

NAOMI KOUSHIKI, MD
Osaka University
Osaka, Japan

JACOB SEE-TONG PANG, MD, PHD
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital
Linkou, Taiwan

SEN-YONG HSIEH, MD, PHD
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital
Linkou, Taiwan

South AACR Distinguished Lectureship on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities, funded by the American Health Assistance Foundation

ANDREW PAPAGEORGIO, MD, PHD
University of Wisconsin Madison
Madison, Wisconsin

Twelfth Annual AACR Team Science Award OMINC APPROACHES TO PREVENTING AND TREATING ASIAN-PREVALENT CANCERS TEAM

American Association for Cancer Research Annual Report 2018

American Association for Cancer Research Annual Report 2018 | 33
The AACR identifies the challenges facing cancer scientists and clinicians; assembles leaders in various fields to address those challenges; and works with academic, industry, and government institutions to implement solutions that drive progress against cancer.

**AACR PROJECT GENIE: POWERING PRECISION MEDICINE**

As the founder of Project GENIE (Genomics Evidence Neoplasia Information Exchange), the AACR is working to deliver on the promise of precision medicine. Built upon data sharing between the world’s leading cancer centers, AACR Project GENIE is an international cancer registry that aggregates clinical-grade tumor sequencing data with limited clinical data to build virtual cohorts of patients on whom detailed outcomes data can be retrieved. By offering insights into the relationships between genotype and patient outcomes, the project powers translational and clinical research—facilitating the development of new therapies, informing the design of better clinical trials, and improving clinical decision-making for the benefit of all cancer patients.

The increasing momentum of AACR Project GENIE over the past year was reflected in the number of institutions expressing interest in joining the consortium, which more than doubled in size in 2018 as 11 new participating organizations joined the eight founding participants (p. 36). The expansion of the consortium was accompanied by an expansion of the data set, as releases in January and July increased the number of sequenced tumors by more than 50 percent. AACR Project GENIE is now one of the largest fully public cancer genomic datasets, with more than 48,000 de-identified genomic records covering more than 80 cancer types.

In February 2018—one year after the release of the first data set—members of the consortium published a paper in the journal JCO Clinical Cancer Informatics that detailed the genesis of the project and shared the perspectives of the founding institutions. This paper, which was intended to share best practices and serve as a guide for other organizations who wish to develop their own genomic data-sharing consortia, was among the most read articles in the journal in 2018.

AACR Project GENIE is also supporting the “2020 by 2020” Presidential initiative and collaboration. Announced in March 2018, this initiative from AACR President (2017-2018) Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, FAACR, will perform genomic sequencing of both tumor and normal tissue from 2,020 consented African-American cancer patients by the year 2020 and aggregate the

Members from each AACR Project GENIE participating center and strategic partners gathered at the AACR offices in January for their Winter Summit.
valuable information with clinical data from those patients. The genomic data will be made publicly available through the Project GENIE registry and the Oncology Research Information Exchange Network (ORIEN) to benefit researchers who are studying cancer and cancer outcomes in African-American patients in clinical trials; 2) developing innovative solutions to those challenges for the benefit of cancer patients; and 3) training the key resources to accelerate cancer health disparities research; and 2) developing innovative solutions to those challenges for the benefit of cancer patients in clinical trials; 2) developing innovative solutions to those challenges for the benefit of cancer patients.

**CANCER PREVENTION SUMMIT: WRITING WHITE PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF CANCER PREVENTION**

In February 2016, the AACR convened a three-day Cancer Prevention Summit, bringing together nearly 100 scientists, clinicians, patient advocates, and funders to set a course for future efforts in cancer prevention research. In December, under the leadership of chairs Ernest T. Hawk, MD, MPH, and Scott M. Lippman, MD, the task force gathered thought leaders and stakeholders in academia, industry, and government to survey the challenges facing the field of cancer prevention and to develop innovative solutions to those challenges for the benefit of cancer patients.

**CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES**

One of the major goals of Dr. Calipari’s presidential year was to confront and overcome the challenges of cancer health disparities. A major step toward reaching this ambitious goal was the formation of an AACR Think Tank on Cancer Health Disparities. Under the leadership of chair John D. Carron, PhD, and cochair Marcus R. Gray-Grice, MD, PhD, Brian M. Rivera, PhD, MPH, and Sanya A. Springfield, PhD, the think tank met in Washington, DC, in October to address three critical elements of the cancer disparities problem: 1) increasing participation of underrepresented/minority patients in clinical trials; 2) developing innovative solutions to those challenges for the benefit of cancer patients in clinical trials; 2) developing innovative solutions to those challenges for the benefit of cancer patients.

**AACR THINK TANK ON CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES**

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**AACR PATHOLOGY TASK FORCE**

Recognizing the vital role that pathologists play in delivering timely and accurate diagnoses to support the most effective treatment decisions, the AACR convened a Pathology Task Force in December to identify ways the association can better serve the field. chaired by Massimo F. Lopez, MD, the task force gathered thought leaders and stakeholders in academia, industry, and government to survey the challenges facing the field of cancer pathology and to develop innovative solutions to those challenges for the benefit of cancer patients.

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SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

RADIATION SCIENCE AND MEDICINE (RSM): NEW CHALLENGES, NEW COLLABORATIONS

The mission of the AACR Radiation Science and Medicine Working Group (RSM; above) is to foster the application of radiation science and medicine to understand and treat cancer malignancies. In June, RSM advanced that mission by hosting a think tank on Illuminating Technological Advances and Challenges in Precision Radiotherapies. Supported in part by Bayer Pharmaceuticals, the think tank convened more than 30 experts in all areas of radiation science—including radiobiology, medical physics, and nuclear medicine—to highlight current and emerging radiotherapy technologies, address the critical needs of the field, and discuss the most effective approaches to improving patient care.

Preventing and curing cancer through collaboration is one of the pillars of the AACR mission, and RSM joined forces with two other scientific organizations in 2018 to advance that mission:

• A major concern among clinicians is the lack of cancer drugs intended specifically for use with radiation therapy. In February, the AACR partnered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) to host a regulatory science and policy workshop on Clinical Development of Drug-Radiotherapy Combinations. The workshop brought together regulators with academic and industry scientists to identify the drug development challenges and to develop a strategy to overcome them.

• In March, the AACR worked with the Radiation Research Society (RRS) to cohost a workshop on Targeting Cancer Metabolism to Improve Radiotherapy that explored the critical interface between tumor metabolism and radiotherapy response. Chaired by Julie Schwartz, MD, PhD, Douglas Spitz, PhD, and David Gans, MD, PhD, the workshop gathered radiobiologists, radiologists, and radiation oncologists to share their program with basic scientists focused on tumor metabolism.

• The AACR and ASTRO collaborated again to host a workshop on Targeting the Tumor Microenvironment in Radiation Oncology in July. The meeting—which was chaired by Wendy Woodward, MD, PhD, and Amato Giaccia, PhD—addressed critical topics such as tumor stromal effects on radiosensitivity and radioresistance, immune response to radiotherapy, and the effect of metabolism on the tumor microenvironment and the efficacy of radiotherapy efficacy.

MOLECULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKING GROUP (MEG): ADDRESSING CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES

At the AACR Annual Meeting 2018, MEG worked with the AACR Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR) Council to present an inaugural joint symposium on “Aggressive Cancer Phenotypes in Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations: Opportunities and Challenges.” Moderated by MICR Council Chair-Elect Leela Perumal, PhD, and MEG Steering Committee Chair Melissa L. Brady, PhD (above), the session addressed the greater susceptibility of different minority populations to aggressive forms of cancer.

SCIENCE EDUCATION, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Continued progress against cancer requires a robust workforce consisting of dedicated scientists and clinicians at all career levels. Through its science education and professional development programs, the AACR inspires and prepares young people to pursue careers in cancer science and supports these emerging investigators at all stages of their career paths.
SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

STUDENT MEMBERS: FOSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CANCER SCIENTISTS

The AACR continued its long-standing support of students interested in careers in science at the Annual Meeting 2018. In the annual Special Program for High School Students, nearly 300 students were welcomed to Chicago to participate in interactive lectures on cancer development and prevention, and to tour the exhibits and poster sessions. In addition, 11 high school students presented their own research and received feedback on their projects from AACR scientist mentors.

More than 280 undergraduate students also attended the AACR Annual Meeting to participate in the Thirteenth Annual Undergraduate Student Caucus and Poster Competition. The poster competition featured presentations from more than 115 students, whose research projects were evaluated by leading AACR members. Presenters of the most highly rated posters were recipients of the Margaret Foti Foundation Undergraduate Prizes for Cancer Research. Funded by AACR Chief Executive Officer Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), the prizes encourage college students who are interested in science to pursue careers in cancer research.

Supporting Postdoctoral Fellows

The National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) is a nonprofit member organization that works to enhance the quality of the postdoctoral experience in the United States. As a sustaining member of the NPA, the AACR expresses its appreciation for the vital contributions of postdoctoral scholars to the cancer research enterprise and demonstrates its commitment to expanding the opportunities available to postdocs through education and training.

In September, the AACR participated in National Postdoc Appreciation Week activities by hosting two Cancer Careers Clinics at Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania. AACR staff provided participants with advice on navigating the interview and negotiation processes, managing the transition to a full-time position, and submitting successful publications and grant applications.

Continuing Medical Education

As an ACCME-accredited provider, the AACR offered CME credit at 20 different meetings in 2018, including ten focused special conferences, three joint conferences, two educational workshops, two joint providership activities, and the AACR Annual Meeting. AACR journals provided another educational resource, offering credit to investigators for reviewing manuscripts. A total of 3,611 researchers and clinicians claimed CME credit from the AACR in 2018, taking advantage of opportunities to maintain their professional competence and incorporate new knowledge into their practices.

MYA ROBERSON, MSPH
AACR ASSOCIATE MEMBER
PAST AACR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLAR

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MEETINGS AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

AACC meetings and educational workshops bring the latest advances in cancer science to researchers around the world. The AACR collaborated with 16 scientific organizations to convene 32 meetings in ten countries in 2018, the most in its history. The organization also recognized a significant milestone in 2018, which marked the 30th year of its special conferences program. To celebrate 30 years of scientific excellence, the AACR invited Nobel Laureate Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, FAACR—the chairperson of the first special conference in 1988—to chair the AACR’s top leadership of Scientific Committee chair Ari M. Melnick, MD, the meeting employed a unique, discussion-driven format to discuss recent advances and emerging areas of lymphoma research and their potential for transforming patient care. Going forward, the meeting will be held annually and will alternate between the United States and Switzerland, ensuring that hematological malignancies remain a critical priority for the cancer research community.

2018 WORKSHOPS

ACCELERATING ANTICANCER AGENT DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION WORKSHOP—Workshop Held outside USA
May 2-4, Bethesda, Maryland
Executive Committee: B. Kim Erdly, MD, Richard Fendler, MD, Gregory R. Reaman, MD, and Mary Swearer, MA

ACCREDIA—THE AACR FOCUS WORKSHOP ON DISTRIBUTE IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH—June 20-21, East, The Netherlands
CODIRECTORS: Stefan Reuter, MD, PhD; Lee M. Ellis, MD; Cornelia Konrad, MSc; and Elisabeth Cavan, MD, PhD

INTERACTIVE MOLECULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKSHOP—RESEARCH CAREER MIGRATION AND PRECISION MEDICINE—July 9-12, Boston, Massachusetts
Directors: Thomas A. Sellers, PhD, MPH; Codirectors: Peter Kraft, PhD, and Lorelei A. McEliot, MD, MPH

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH—July 20-24, Snowmass Village, Colorado
Directors: Ross L. Levine, MD; Codirectors: Mark W. Grunen, MD; Christine M. Leach, MD, PhD, and Paul Y. Tan, MD, PhD

AACR/SU2C METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH WORKSHOP—September 9-14, Magenta Shores NSW Central Coast, Sydney, Australia
Organizing Committee: Zeba Aziz, MBBS, Martin Stockler, MD, PhD, and Nirav P. Trivedi, MS, MCh
CODIRECTORS: Patricia M. LoRusso, DO, Jyoti M. Ellis, MD, Corneel Coens, MSc, and Emiliano Calvo, MD, PhD

AACR/ASCO METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH WORKSHOP—September 16-18, Sydney, Australia
CODIRECTORS: Stefan Sleijfer, MD, PhD; Lee M. Ellis, MD, Corneel Coens, MSc, and Emilio Calvo, MD, PhD

IMPROVEMENT IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH—November 4-9, Boston, Massachusetts
Director: Ross L. Levine, MD

EMILIANO CALVO, MD
AACR/SU2C METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

Nnadozie W. Ozuah, MD
Physician, Pediatric Oncology—Pediatric Oncology—Pediatric Hematology—Oncology—Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Excellence (HOPE) Program at Texas Children’s Cancer and Hematology Centers. His main interest is improving treatment outcomes for children with cancer in resource-limited settings, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa.

In July, Dr. Ozuah participated in the 2018 AACR/SU2C Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop, an intensive one-week program that teaches clinical fellows and junior faculty clinical researchers the essentials of effective clinical trial design of hematologic interventions in the treatment of cancer. At the end of the workshop, Dr. Ozuah was awarded the Daniel D. Von Hoff Innovator Award. Named for founding Workshop Director and AACR Past President Daniel D. Von Hoff, MD, FAACR, the award recognizes the most innovative and impactful protocol developed by a workshop participant. Dr. Ozuah awarded winning protocol—addressing the feasibility of dose-intensity response-based chemotherapy for pediatric Hodgkin’s lymphoma in Malawi—has the potential to profoundly impact pediatric care in Africa.

In August, Dr. Ozuah participated in the AACR/ASCO Vail workshop greatly exceeded my expectations. No training to date has better prepared me for a career in clinical research. The career guidance and networking opportunities through the outstanding career faculty continued past the workshop, further demonstrating a strong commitment to the successful careers of budding investigators in oncology research. I am grateful for the opportunity to take the lessons learned at AACR and SU2C research protocols that will ultimately improve the prognosis of children with cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this awesome workshop.

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The AACR Grants Program advances the frontiers of cancer science for the benefit of cancer patients by investing in promising basic, translational, and clinical researchers at all career levels. Over the last 20 years, the program has distributed more than $86 million in vital support through the work of the AACR Foundation. New and ongoing partnerships with nonprofit organizations, foundations, and pharmaceutical companies fueled a dramatic expansion of the grants program in 2018, enabling the AACR to foster cancer science and develop the next generation of leaders in the United States and around the world.
Since the AACR Grants Program launched in 1993, AACR grantees have earned more than $70 million in additional funding. In addition, they have published more than 700 original research articles on innovative cancer science and technologies, including the identification of novel cancer targets and pathways as well as potential therapeutics. These articles have been cited more than 58,000 times, exemplifying the impact that AACR grantees have on the field.

In 2018, the AACR partnered with AstraZeneca and Bayer to offer a unique funding model designed to foster collaboration between academic research centers and the pharmaceutical industry. The Stimulating Therapeutic Advancements through Research Training (START) grants are among the first of their kind in non-profit grantmaking, offering postdoctoral and/or clinical research fellows the opportunity to spend one year of their training conducting research onsite at a pharmaceutical company.

In addition, through the support of the Johnson & Johnson Lung Cancer Initiative, AACR offered three new Team Science grants focused on lung cancer interception and prevention. The AACR-Johnson & Johnson Lung Cancer Innovation Science Grants are expected to drive innovation by supporting collaborative teams science focused on identifying novel approaches to the prevention, interception, and care of lung cancer.

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Scientists from 41 institutions were funded by AACR grants in 2018; these investigators received more than $10 million in support of research across the spectrum of cancer science.

Applications for AACR grants were evaluated in 2018.

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In 2018, Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) marked its tenth year of accelerating the delivery of new therapies to cancer patients by supporting collaboration and innovation in translational cancer research. The AACR has proudly served as SU2C’s Scientific Partner throughout those ten years, providing expert peer review, scientific oversight, policy guidance, communications, and grants administration to ensure that SU2C’s groundbreaking funding models deliver outstanding results.

**THE AACR AND STAND UP TO CANCER: PARTNERS IN PROGRESS**

SU2C SUMMITS: REVIEWING PROGRESS, CHARTING FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Collaboration and accountability are critical elements of the SU2C funding model. By bringing together partners on a regular basis, SU2C and the AACR monitor the progress of funded research projects and encourage project leaders to explore new opportunities to work together.

• **Annual Scientific Summit.** In January, AACR staff worked with the SU2C Scientific Advisory Committee to host the largest Scientific Summit in SU2C’s ten-year history. Dream Team leaders and individual grant recipients reported on the status of their research programs. Guest speakers at the summit included Norman E. Sharpless, MD, FAACR, director of the National Cancer Institute, and Martha Donoghue, MD, clinical lead on the FDA’s Gastrointestinal Cancers Team.

• **Pancreatic Cancer Mini-Summit.** Because of its devastating effects on cancer patients and the limited treatment options available, pancreatic cancer has always been a major focus of SU2C. At the AACR Annual Meeting in April, SU2C joined with the Lustgarten Foundation to announce the launch of the Pancreatic Cancer Collective, a formal strategic partnership to accelerate research to improve outcomes for pancreatic cancer patients. In August, the AACR organized a summit focused exclusively on pancreatic cancer. Supported by the Lustgarten Foundation and Cancer Research UK, the summit gathered about 150 leaders in the field—including 2018-2019 AACR President Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR (above right)—to review progress and explore new collaborations.

NEW SU2C MULTIPLE MYELOMA DREAM TEAM: SCREENING AND INTERCEPTION OF PRECURSOR MYELOMA

The primary element of the SU2C funding model is the Dream Team, a scientific task force focused on a specific cancer problem that incentivizes collaboration among leading researchers from different institutions. At the AACR Annual Meeting in April, SU2C announced the launch of a new $10 million Dream Team to address the challenge of multiple myeloma.

A cancer affecting the plasma cells of the blood, multiple myeloma is often not diagnosed until its later stages, and patients do not receive treatment until their disease has progressed and they have overt end-organ damage. Led by Irene Ghobrial, MD, and Ivan M. Borrello, MD, this new Dream Team seeks to change the disease treatment paradigm by characterizing the genomic, epigenomic, microenvironmental, and immune regulators of progression, and developing effective strategies to intercept disease progression.

**THE AACR AND STAND UP TO CANCER: PARTNERS IN PROGRESS**
PHILLIP A. SHARP INNOVATION IN COLLABORATION AWARDS

Through its focus on team science and its emphasis on interaction at annual Scientific Summits, SU2C has fostered a community of leading researchers addressing the most difficult challenges in cancer research. The Phillip A. Sharp Innovation in Collaboration Awards encourage members of that community to identify new research questions and form new teams to answer them. Named for Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, FAACS, chair of the SU2C Scientific Advisory Committee, the awards provide these new teams with support to accelerate progress for the benefit of cancer patients. The 2018 Sharp Awards provided $250,000 grants to each of the following five teams:

- **Defining Effective T-Cell Response in Viral and Nonviral Gynecologic Cancers**
  Leaders: Claire F. Friedman, MD, and Marta Łuksza, PhD

- **Cupid-Seq—High Throughput Transcriptomic Spatial Mapping of Immune-Tumor Interactions in the Microenvironment**
  Leaders: Raul Rabadan, PhD, and Dan A. Landau, MD, PhD

- **Interrogating Impact of Epigenetic Modifiers on Durable Reprogramming of Exhausted CD8 T Cells in Patients with NSCLC Treated with PD-1 Blockade**
  Leaders: E. John Wherry, PhD, and Matthew D. Hellmann, MD

- **Characterizing Immuno-variability in Children following Standard of Care Treatment to Enable Precision Assignment to Immunotherapy Trials**
  Leaders: Trevor J. Pugh, PhD, and David M. Barrett, MD, PhD

Support for this award includes $125,000 from the Emily Whitehead Foundation.

SIXTH SU2C TELECAST: RISING AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR CANCER RESEARCH

On September 7, with the support of the AACR, SU2C produced its sixth biennial telecast. The broadcast raised more than $123.6 million in pledges collectively in the United States and Canada to support SU2C’s innovative collaborative research programs. During the broadcast, actor Ken Jeong, MD (above left), described the role of the AACR:

“This great organization brings the scientists together and makes sure the funding goes to the best research that will save lives now. With dedication and brilliance, the American Association for Cancer Research makes it all work.”

- **Studies of Colorectal Cancer Patient-Derived Organoids to Validate Candidate Biomarkers of Resistance to Natural Killer Cells**
  Leaders: Michal Sheffer, PhD, and Hugo J. G. Snippert, PhD

Funding for this grant was provided by the C4C Fund.

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The AACR Office of Science Policy and Government Affairs is an authoritative source of information for policy makers and regulators about the critical value of cancer research. In 2018, the AACR was a powerful voice for the cancer research community, advocating for investments in cancer research; supporting evidence-based policies that advance cancer research, prevention, and treatment; and providing expert guidance based upon the best available science.

ADVOCATING FOR ROBUST ANNUAL FEDERAL FUNDING INCREASES

The AACR led efforts to make public health a continued national priority in 2018, working with individuals and organizations in the broader medical research community to advocate for robust, sustained, and predictable annual funding increases for medical research. These efforts resulted in a $52 billion FY2019 budget increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), $179 million of which is directed to the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The AACR also successfully advocated for $20 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Oncology Center of Excellence in the FY19 draft funding bills.

Participants in the sixth annual Rally for Medical Research Hill Day. The AACR is a founding organizer of the event, which brought advocates on behalf of 350 partnering organizations to Capitol Hill in September 2018 to call on Congress to make biomedical research a national priority.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The AACR associate members gathered in Washington in February for the third annual AACR Early-Career Investigator Hill Day.
• AACR Cancer Progress Report 2018: Harnessing Research Discoveries for Patient Benefit. The keystone of AACR’s advocacy efforts is the AACR Cancer Progress Report. In September, the AACR presented the eighth annual report to members of Congress and their staffs at a briefing on Capitol Hill. AACR President Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR (center right), and Chief Executive Officer Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc) (far right) joined cancer survivors and leading experts to highlight the benefits of federally funded cancer research, from supporting advances like CAR-T immunotherapy to reducing cancer health disparities. Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX), a leukemia survivor whose story was included in the report, was a featured speaker at the briefing.

• Rally for Medical Research Hill Day. As the founding organizer of the Rally for Medical Research, the AACR worked with 350 partnering organizations to organize the Rally for Medical Research Hill Day, bringing hundreds of advocates from across the country to Capitol Hill in September to advocate for making NIH funding a national priority. The associated Rally for Medical Research National Day of Action enabled individuals across the country to participate by contacting their legislators directly and posting social media messages in support of sustained increases to the NIH budget.

• 2018 Capitol Hill Days. In addition to the Rally for Medical Research Hill Day, the AACR provided two other opportunities in 2018 for researchers, physician-scientists, cancer survivors, and advocates to present the case for federal investment in cancer research. In February, the AACR brought 15 associate members to Washington for the third annual AACR Early-Career Investigator Hill Day. The early-career scientists completed over 30 visits to House and Senate offices, where they had the opportunity to discuss the importance of federal funding in sustaining and expanding the cancer research workforce. In April, the AACR continued its annual partnership with the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) to bring stakeholders from across the cancer community to Capitol Hill, including directors and representatives from the 70 NCI-designated cancer centers (right). The participants in the 2018 AACR-AACI Hill Day provided insights on the impact of cancer research funding to congressional offices, including those of leading members in the House and Senate.

EDUCATING, ADVOCATING, AND ADVISING ON FUNDAMENTAL CANCER HEALTH POLICY ISSUES

As a trusted source of cancer information, the AACR engages lawmakers and government agencies in discussions of science-based policies that can accelerate progress in the prevention and cure of all cancers.

• E-Cigarettes: The State of the Science and Reducing Youth Uptake. In July, the AACR held a congressional briefing about the growing incidence of e-cigarette use among youths (right). Cosponsored by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Representative Jackie Spier (D-CA), the briefing addressed the state of the science around e-cigarettes, recent research on the use, sale, and marketing of e-cigarettes, and potential policy solutions. Participants discussed options for halting youth vaping, balanced against the need for research to determine the efficacy of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid. [For a summary of the congressional briefing, visit the AACR Blog, Cancer Research Catalyst, at AACR.org/Ecig.]

• Advocating for the Elimination of Human Papillomavirus (HPV). In June, the AACR joined five other national cancer organizations and all 70 NCI-designated cancer centers in issuing a Consensus Statement urging increased HPV vaccination rates and screening measures to achieve the goal of eliminating HPV-related cancers.

• Providing Expert Recommendations to Policy Makers and Regulators. Throughout 2018, the AACR worked with legislators to provide expert comments on draft legislation and provided guidance to regulators by attending public hearings and submitting public comments. The AACR provided guidance to the FDA on five occasions, informing the discussion of the regulation of e-cigarettes and tobacco products as well as the structure and function of the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence.
To accelerate progress against cancer, the AACR promotes engagement between the cancer research community and federal regulators. The Regulatory Science and Policy track at the AACR Annual Meeting 2018—which included 10 sessions on a large range of topics, including precision cancer drug development, real-world evidence, and CAR T therapies for solid tumors—was a major component of this effort. In addition, the AACR partnered with the FDA to host three workshops on cutting-edge issues in cancer regulatory science in 2018. These workshops brought together leading experts from industry and academia along with regulators from the FDA to discuss challenges and opportunities for advancement in critical areas:

- FDA-AACR-ASTRO Clinical Development of Drug-Radiotherapy Combinations Workshop. In the era of precision medicine, the combination of radiation and targeted therapy holds potential for the treatment of many cancers. However, little progress has been made toward developing specific drug-radiotherapy combinations. In February, the AACR partnered with the FDA and the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) to convene a two-day workshop on the topic, bringing stakeholders together to discuss the problem and derive a path forward. The outcomes of the workshop were summarized in an article published in the AACR journal Clinical Cancer Research.

- FDA-AACR-SGO Drug Development for Gynecologic Malignancies Workshop. The development of new treatments for cancers of the uterus, ovaries, cervix, and vulva to reduce mortality rates for these diseases. In June, the AACR worked with the FDA and the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) to organize this workshop (right), creating a forum for open discussion among stakeholders on the way forward for the diagnosis and treatment of very common and rare gynecologic cancers. Presenters at the workshop highlighted the unique molecular characteristics of rare gynecologic cancers that can serve as effective therapeutic targets.

- FDA-AACR Nonclinical Models for Safety Assessment of Immuno-oncology Products Workshop. In September, the AACR joined the NCI and the FDA to host a workshop to address the scientific and practical aspects of developing models for the study of immunology products. Participants discussed current challenges and opportunities in the use of nonclinical models to predict toxicities of immune checkpoint inhibitors and stimulators in patients.

The AACR is the authoritative voice of cancer research, using meetings, publications, and other programs to disseminate breakthrough discoveries made by scientists and clinicians. Equally important, the AACR’s Survivor and Patient Advocacy programs give a voice to cancer patients, providing forums that empower patients to tell their stories and share their perspectives with the cancer research community.

**SCIENTIST—SURVIVOR PROGRAM**

The cornerstone of the AACR’s survivor and patient advocacy efforts is the Scientist—survivor Program (SSP), which brings patient advocates together with scientists and clinicians to attend sessions at AACR scientific meetings. Participants attend sessions with their scientist counterparts, gaining an understanding of the innovative science behind treatment decisions while providing their counterparts with vital patient perspectives.

In 2018, the AACR celebrated the 20th anniversary of the SSP—the longest-running survivor program in the cancer research community. This milestone was commemorated during the opening ceremony of the AACR Annual Meeting 2018 with a video highlighting the history of the program and sharing its future direction. In addition, Anna D. Barker, PhD (left)—who founded the Scientist—survivor Program with AACR CEO Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc)—was presented with the AACR Distinguished Award for Exceptional Leadership in Cancer Science Policy and Advocacy in recognition of her two decades of dedication to patient advocates through the remarkable and impactful program. During the life of this program, more than 500 advocates from all over the world have participated in this educational experience.

Nearly 40 patient advocates participated in the SSP in 2018, joining scientists and clinician counterparts at the AACR Annual Meeting in April and the Science of Cancer Health Disparities conference in November. Nearly 150 annual Meeting program participants included patient advocates from Trinidad and Tobago, Japan, and Canada. During the Annual Meeting, two AACR members were named Emeritus Mentors in recognition of their long-standing commitment to the SSP. The advocates thanked Peter Kuhn, PhD, and Christopher Kissinger, PhD, for sharing their time and expertise with program participants for more than three years.

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Under the leadership of editor-in-chief William G. Nelson, MD, PhD, Cancer Today pursued two major initiatives in 2018 to expand its presence among patients and their loved ones:

• “Searching Blood for Cancer Clues” (Spring 2018). Liquid biopsies offer a new way to analyze a tumor’s genetics and to monitor and treat. Cancer patients currently being diagnosed with liver cancer, research and new therapies are on the upswing, bringing options and hope to those who smoking, obesity, and hepatitis B and C could cut liver cancer deaths in half.

• “Teen Cancer on the Rise” (Spring 2018). More people are being diagnosed with liver cancer. Contributing editor Sue Rochman examines how avoiding exposure to risk factors like cigarette smoking, obesity, and hepatitis B and C could cut liver cancer deaths in half.

“Unlinking the Immune System to Its Limits” (Summer 2018). Associate editor Kate Yandel writes about how, while immunotherapy drugs have shown remarkable success in some cancer patients, they carry an array of side effects that can be challenging to monitor and treat.

“New Tactics for Bladder Cancer” (Fall 2018). After decades of minimal advances in the treatment of bladder cancer, research and new therapies are on the upswing, bringing options and hope to those who face the disease.

A promise cancer survivor, Colonel Williams is an alumnus of the AACR Scientist–survivor Program and has been a passionate advocate for funding and research dedicated to men’s health issues—in particular, the need for improved care for men from a social and ethnic minority. He shared his story in the Summer 2016 issue of Cancer Today, and also serves as a member of the magazine’s Editorial Advisory Board.

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As the chair of the AACR Public Education Committee from 1992-2001, and later as the founding chair of theacs Scientific Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee from 2001-2012, Dr. Barker has been instrumental in defining and achieving the AACR’s science and public policy goals. In addition, he has efforts to launch the AACR Scientist–survivor Program—which celebrated its 20th为一体——in 2007—established the AACR as an leader in survivor and patient advocacy.

AACR Distinguished Leadership Awards

AAOAC Distinguished Leadership Awards

Distinguished Service Award for Exceptional Leadership in Cancer Advocacy

C. KENT OSBORNE, MD

RHODES COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Oxlore, Texas

Dr. Osborne has not only made groundbreaking research contributions, but he has also provided vision and leadership to the field of breast cancer science and medicine. Since 1992, he has served as a member of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS), which is considered the world’s largest and most prestigious conference on breast cancer research. In March, the Cancer Today staff met with the author on the magazine’s 25th anniversary in 2018—established the AACR Scientist–survivor Program and has been a passionate advocate for funding and research dedicated to men’s health issues—in particular, the need for improved care for men from a social and ethnic minority. He shared his story in the Summer 2016 issue of Cancer Today, and also serves as a member of the magazine’s Editorial Advisory Board.

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The AACR’s ambitious mission to prevent and cure all cancers is driven by its members. More than 40,000 member scientists, clinicians, and other health care professionals in 120 countries around the world advance the frontiers of understanding in all areas of inquiry, from epidemiology, prevention, early detection, and interception, to basic, translational, and clinical research. AACR programs foster communication and collaboration among these members, aligning their efforts and catalyzing progress for cancer patients.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

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<th>MEMBERSHIP</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACTIVE MEMBERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Established laboratory researchers, physician-scientists, clinicians, and population scientists</td>
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<td><strong>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Young laboratory scientists and physician-in-training (graduate students, medical students and residents, and clinical and postdoctoral fellows)</td>
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<td><strong>STUDENT MEMBERS</strong></td>
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<td>Undergraduate and high school students</td>
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<td>Active members who have reached the age of 70 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other health care professionals (practicing oncologists, nurses, laboratory technicians, non-scientific corporate professionals, and patient advocates)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEMBERS BY CATEGORY**

- Active Members 48%
- Associate Members 33%
- Affiliate Members 6%
- Emeritus Members 6%
- Student Members 7%
- Emeritus Members 6%

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.
4,888 New members joined the AACR in 2018.

63 Nobel laureates have been members of the AACR, including James P. Allison, PhD, FAACR, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in October 2018 for his shared discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation.

3,416 Individuals have been AACR members for more than 25 years.

140 Individuals have been AACR members for more than 50 years.

120 Countries are represented by AACR members.

277 Patient advocates are members of the AACR.

Women
40%

Men
56%

United States
70%

International
30%

Not Indicated
4%

Women
45%

Men
55%

Not Indicated
4%

The AACR fosters diversity in the cancer research workforce through the efforts of three vital groups: Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR), Women in Cancer Research (WICR), and the Associate Member Council (AMC). Through training and mentorship, these groups empower talented scientists from populations that have been historically underrepresented in the scientific community—ensuring that the AACR membership more comprehensively reflects the patients that it serves.
The highlight of the year-long celebration was the announcement of the diminution of annual dues for AACR associate members—ensuring that the benefits of AACR membership will be available to all early-career scientists.

In March, 14 associate members visited their senators and congressional representatives during the Third Annual Early-Career Investigator Hill Day. Organized by the AMC and the AACR Office of Science Policy and Government Affairs, the event gave early-career scientists the opportunity to thank their representatives for their February vote to pass the Bipartisan Budget Agreement Act of 2018—which facilitated a $2 billion increase to the 2018 NIH budget—and to advocate for predictable and sustained funding increases in the future.

The AACR-MICR Distinguished Lecture Series brings together leading researchers to present the latest developments in cancer research to students and faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions or other educational institutions that serve large minority populations in order to inspire these students and educators to pursue careers in cancer research. MICR organized two lecture sessions in 2018 that addressed the critical topics of cancer health disparities. At the AACR Annual Meeting in Chicago, Robert A. Winn, MD, PhD (above center), of the Keck School of Medicine, delivered his lecture, titled “Towards Understanding Y ork-mediated Tumorigenesis,” at the AACR Annual Meeting 2018. Dr. Bar-Sagi delivered her lecture, titled “Unraveling Mechanisms of Oncogenic Ras-mediated Tumorigenesis,” at the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.

The AACR-WICR Charlotte Friend Memorial Lecture 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 2018 edition of the lecture featured John D. Carpten, PhD (above left), of the University of California, San Francisco Cancer Sciences Center.


Driving Innovative Cancer Research to Patient Care and Health Equity “ In November, at the AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in New Orleans, MICR hosted a session titled “Advances in Cancer Disparities Research: Understanding the Drivers vs. Passageways” at the Louisiana State Health Sciences Center.

The AACR-WICR Jane Cooke Wright Memorial Lecture 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 2018 edition of the lecture featured Dr. Bar-Sagi’s keynote address on “Finding Your Inner Wonder(ful). ”

The AACR first offered the benefits of annual dues for AACR associate members—ensuring that the benefits of AACR membership will be available to all early-career scientists in 1988 with the introduction of associate membership to early-career scientists in the cancer research community. In 2018, the AMC and the AMC commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the Associate Member category with a series of events at the Annual Meeting and throughout the year (above).
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.
LEADERSHIP

AACR FOUNDATION
OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

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.

Mitchell R. Stoller, Executive Director of the AACR Foundation, thanks supporters of the AACR at the Partners in Progress Reception during the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.
COMMITTEE CHAIRS

LEADERSHIP

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A. WILLIAM BLACKSTOCK, JR., MD

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

ELAINE R. MARDIS, PHD

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

EDWARD CHU, MD

Finance and Audit Committee

VICTOR E. VELCULESCU, MD, PHD

ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Annual Meeting Program Committee

JOHN D. CARPENT, PHD, CHAIR

KENNETH C. ANDERSON, MD, FAACR, VICE CHAIR

MARCIA R. CRUZ-CORREA, MD, PHD, VICE CHAIR

TODD R. GOLUB, MD, VICE CHAIR

STEPHEN D. HURSTING, PHD, VICE CHAIR

PATRICIA M. LORUSSO, DO, VICE CHAIR

RICHARD M. MARAIS, PHD, VICE CHAIR

AVIV REGEV, PHD, VICE CHAIR

ANTONI RIBAS, MD, PHD, VICE CHAIR

BRIAN M. RIVERS, PHD, VICE CHAIR

DAVID A. TUVESON, MD, PHD, VICE CHAIR

SATELLITE EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIA COMMITTEE

GEORGE D. DEMETRI, MD

ANNUAL MEETING CLINICAL TRIALS COMMITTEE

NEIL R. AZAD, MD

LOUIS M. WEINER, MD

ANNUAL MEETING SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

KATHLEEN W. SCOTTO, MD

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

VICTOR E. VELCULESCU, MD, PHD

SCIENCES COMMITTEE

C. WILLIAM BLACKSTOCK, JR., MD

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

ELAINE R. MARDIS, PHD

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

EDWARD CHU, MD

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

THOMAS J. LYNCH, JR., MD

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FRANK MCCORMICK, PHD, FAACR

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

JOSÉ BASELGA, MD, PHD, FAACR

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

VICTOR E. VELCULESCU, MD, PHD

SCIENCE EDUCATION AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

KATHLEEN W. SCOTTO, MD

SCIENCE POLICY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

KATHLEEN W. SCOTTO, MD

SPECIAL CONFERENCES COMMITTEE

DON J. SHEN, MD

SPECIAL CONFERENCES COMMITTEE

DON J. SHEN, MD

APPOINTMENT PENDING

TASK FORCE CHAIRS

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP CHAIRS

CANCER IMMUNOLOGY WORKING GROUP

DERRICK J. SABRICK, MD, PHD

CHEMISTRY IN CANCER RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

JULIAN BLASS, DPhil

MOLECULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKING GROUP

ELLIS R. GOODE, MD, PhD

PERINATAL CANCER WORKING GROUP

YIBIN KANG, MD

Science Education and Career Advancement Committee

KATHLEEN W. SCOTTO, MD (left)

presents an AACR-Thomas J. Bardos Science Education Scholar Award to undergraduate student Leah V. Dods during the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.

AACR Science Education and Career Advancement Committee Chair Kathleen W. Scotto (left) presents an AACR-Thomas J. Bardos Science Education Scholar Award to undergraduate student Leah V. Dods during the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.

Massimo Loda, MD, chair of the AACR Pathology Task Force.

Mauricio Luna, MD, chair of the AACR Pathology Task Force.


AACR-Thomas J. Bardos Science Education Scholar Award to undergraduate student Leah V. Dods during the AACR Annual Meeting 2018.
The mission of the AACR—to prevent and cure all cancers through research, education, communication, collaboration, policy and advocacy, and funding—is an ambitious one. The goal of the AACR Foundation—to provide the full range of resources needed to support the AACR’s mission—is equally ambitious. By creating a community of supporters from all sectors of the field—including nonprofit organizations; foundations; industry partners; and cancer survivors, family, and friends—the AACR Foundation accelerates progress against cancer.

Mark Schoneveld was diagnosed with grade III anaplastic astrocytoma in 2013. After two brain surgeries, proton therapy, and a course of chemotherapy, he has been cancer-free for nearly four years. A stay-at-home dad to son Soren and twins Mira and River, Mark focuses on each day, running to stay healthy in the face of a disease that may return some day.

Mark began working with the AACR as an Ambassador in 2018, and he ran in the 2018 AACR Philadelphia Marathon as part of the AACR Runners for Research team to raise money to support lifesaving cancer science.

“I love the premise of research and how it benefits cancer patients today like me. And I want to support cancer researchers in any way I can.15

Learn more about Mark’s story: AACR.org/Mark

15 The piece of the disease that hits me every day is that this day matters, because I’m alive and I can talk and I can walk and I can run.

I love the promise of research and how it benefits cancer patients today like me. And I want to support cancer researchers in any way I can.

Learn more about Mark’s story: AACR.org/Mark

AACR Runners for Research team member Mamadou Ba sprints out to the lead in his starting group during the 2018 AACR Philadelphia Marathon. The Runners for Research team raised over $400,000 to support lifesaving cancer research.
AACR FOUNDATION

EXPANDING 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 2018. The AACR’s Sustaining Member program expanded to a total of 26 corporate partners, and two longtime AACR supporters made substantial financial commitments to advance the AACR’s mission.

In February, Johnson & Johnson announced a $10 million contribution to the AACR, the largest single gift ever received from a pharmaceutical partner. Supported by the Johnson & Johnson Lung Cancer Initiative, the gift was used to fund three AACR-Johnson & Johnson Lung Cancer Innovation Science Grants that support multidisciplinary research teams seeking novel approaches to the prevention, interception, and cure of lung cancer.

In March, AstraZeneca and its global cancer research and development arm, MedImmune, announced a contribution of $2.9 million to the AACR to support groundbreaking science.

LOCAL OUTREACH

GLOBAL IMPACT

While its industry partnerships continue to reignite 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 mission.

AACR Philadelphia Marathon. In its second year as the Title Partner of the AACR Philadelphia Marathon, the AACR joined the City of Philadelphia in welcoming more than 30,000 participants for race weekend, November 17-18. The participants included more than 700 members of the AACR Runners for Research team, who made their miles count by raising $489,000 to support lifesaving cancer research.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF THE AACR MISSION

Dr. Bayard D. Clarkson Legacy Society

In 2017, the AACR Legacy giving society was renamed in honor of Bayard D. Clarkson, MD, AACR’s past president, sixty-five year AACR member, Fellow of the AACR Academy, and founding chair of the AACR Foundation. Inspired by Dr. Clarkson’s lifetime of service to the AACR’s mission, a record number of AACR members made an endowed, estate, or other planned gift to benefit the AACR in 2018. These generous supporters will sustain the AACR’s ongoing pursuit of its mission to prevent and cure all cancers.

AACR ANNUAL MEETING

In 2018, the 2018 AACR Annual Meeting in Chicago focused on prostate cancer with the Friends of prostate cancer research. At the AACR Annual Meeting, March 29-April 4, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois, Veronica Rodriguez-Bravo, PhD, Assistant Professor, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) at Jefferson, to receive the Friends of the AACR Foundation Early Career Investigator Award. The Early Career Investigator Award provides a grant to support Dr. Rodriguez-Bravo’s research on the neoplastic transformation and vulnerabilities of cancer cells.
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS
ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETY
Annual giving offers all AACR members an opportunity to support lifesaving cancer research and sustain the mission of the AACR. We gratefully acknowledge those individuals and family foundations who contributed $500 or more, and those special events, associations, corporations, and foundations that contributed $5,000 or more during the calendar year.

1 - AACR Member
2 - AACR Board of Directors
3 - AACR Foundation Trustees
4 - AACR Fellow
5 - 50 year-plus AACR Member
6 - AACR Staff Member
7 - AACR Sustaining Member
8 - 25-49 year AACR Member
9 - Dr. Bayard D. Clarkson Legacy Society
10 - AACR Monthly Giving/Sustaining Hope Club
11 - The 1907 AACR Founders Society
12 - The Medaled Society
13 - 15-24 year AACR Member
14 - Trustee Emeritus
* - Deceased

PILLARS OF SCIENCE
VISIONARIES ($1,000,000 OR MORE)
Amgen, Inc.7, 11
AstraZeneca7, 11
Bristol-Myers Squibb7, 11
Genentech, a member of The Roche Group11
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network11
Stand Up To Cancer, a program of the Entertainment Industry Foundation7, 11

INNOVATORS ($500,000 TO $999,999)
Bayer7, 11
Incyte Corporation7, 11
Merck & Co., Inc.7
Pfizer Oncology7

LAUREATES ($250,000 TO $499,999)
Aflac11
Debbie’s Dream Foundation
Estate of Gerda Sitko9, 12
Lilly Oncology7, 11
Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation11
Puma Biotechnology, Inc.12
Takeda Oncology7

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE
STEWARDS ($100,000 TO $249,999)
AbbVie, Inc.11
Boehringer Ingelheim7, 11
Celgene Corporation7, 11
Virginia and Bayard D. Clarkson, MD, FAACR1, 3, 4, 5, 12
Gilead Sciences, Inc.7
GlaxoSmithKline7, 11
IBEW Local Union 98
Kure It Cancer Research11
Loxo Oncology7
Novartis7, 11
Novocure12
Ocular Melanoma Foundation12
Pharmacyclics, LLC12
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson12
Susan G. Komen
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research7, 12
Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation

Michele Cleary, PhD (left), Chief Executive Officer at The Mark Foundation, and Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, FAACR (right), AACR President (2017-2018), present the inaugural AACR-The Mark Foundation NextGen Grant for Transformative Cancer Research to Birgit Knoechel, MD, PhD (center).
## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In 2018, 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 $111.5 million and total expenditures closely matched revenues. The net result of revenues and expenses resulted in an overall net deficit of $4.4 million for the year. Fortunately, the AACR was able to manage its operating budget without using investment income, so the negative market returns did not have an adverse effect on its overall operating income.

As a result of the financial performance for the year 2018, the AACR’s unrestricted net assets are now $71.8 million. These reserves ensure continued investment in the programs and initiatives that support the AACR mission to prevent and cure all cancers.

### UNRESTRICTED REVENUES AND EXPENSES (UNAUDITED)

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>2018 Revenue (USD)</th>
<th>2017 Revenue (USD)</th>
<th>2018 % of Total Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$6,188,958</td>
<td>$6,298,281</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Meetings / Educational Workshops</td>
<td>$22,668,790</td>
<td>$25,710,095</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific Publishing</td>
<td>$17,920,478</td>
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<td>Scientific Publishing</td>
<td>$11,622,941</td>
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<td>$15,065,088</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication / Science Policy / Patient Education</td>
<td>$9,242,068</td>
<td>$9,428,871</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Services / Support Services</td>
<td>$795,289</td>
<td>$800,191</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising / Development</td>
<td>$6,666,576</td>
<td>$5,561,547</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal: Support Expenses</td>
<td>$11,798,865</td>
<td>$13,354,248</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUE</td>
<td>$112,971,436</td>
<td>$112,109,529</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2018 Expense (USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Grants / Scientific Awards</td>
<td>$54,556,901</td>
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<td>47%</td>
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<td>Professional Education / Scientific Programs</td>
<td>$4,464,488</td>
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<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support NIH Grants</td>
<td>$911,665</td>
<td>$940,501</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$15,867,776</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Surplus before Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$(5,865,862)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR</td>
<td>$60,840,037</td>
<td>$75,796,424</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</td>
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### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH, INC. AND AACR FOUNDATION

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AACR programs and initiatives have fostered collaboration, sparked innovation, and driven progress against cancer in the past year. Entering 2019, the AACR will continue that progress in critical areas, forging international alliances and redefining the frontiers of cancer science for the benefit of patients.

LEADING DISCOVERIES, TARGETING CURES

FUTURE OF CANCER RESEARCH INNOVATION SUMMITS

AACR President (2018-2019) and Fellow of the AACR Academy Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD (above), will lead the organization’s efforts to explore and advance two critical areas of cancer science by serving as the chair of two Future of Cancer Research Innovation Summits to be launched in 2019:

- **Combination Therapies.** Convening in June 2019 under the leadership of Dr. Jaffee and cochairs Jennifer Rubin Grandis, MD, Albert C. Koong, MD, PhD, Patricia M. LoRusso, DO, and Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD, this summit will bring together leaders in immunotherapy, targeted drug therapies, surgical oncology, radiation therapy, and surgical oncology to discuss the current status of and challenges to the success of combination cancer therapies. The goal of the summit is 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.

- **Convergence Cancer Science.** This summit, which will convene in the fall of 2019, will bring together experts from diverse areas of science—including life sciences, engineering, mathematics, chemistry, and physical sciences—to discuss recent and emerging technologies and methodologies that are uncovering new cancer pathways. Guided by Dr. Jaffee and cochairs Anna D. Barker, PhD, Joe W. Gray, PhD, FAACR, Peter Kuhn, PhD, and Charles Swanton, MD, PhD, the summit participants will work to understand the current activities that are uniting experts with multiple areas of expertise to attack the cancer problem, to identify the challenges in integrating convergent disciplines, and to determine how the AACR can address these challenges in the future.
THE AACR IN 2019: A LOOK AHEAD

CANCER (ITCC) and the European Society for Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer (SIOPE) were created in 2013 by the European Consortium for Pediatric Drug Development. In June 2018, ITCC and SIOPE launched a project to reorganize and expand the ACCELERATE platform beyond Europe, strengthening international cooperation to improve the global development of new pediatric oncology drugs. In 2019, the AACR Pediatric Cancer Working Group (PCWG) will work with ITCC and SIOPE to realize that vision. Chaired by Crystal L. Mackall, MD (PCWG), the PCWG, along with Marc T. Goodman, PhD, and Sophia S. Wang, PhD, along with Peter Kraft, PhD, along with David Malkin, MD, of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, will address the ways in which population scientists can transform their methodologies to incorporate “big data,” including data from wearable technologies and electronic medical records. The conference will also address the role of mobile and social media outreach for study recruitment and retention, increasing participation in population studies by responding to changes in the way populations interact.

EXPANDING COLLABORATIONS IN CANADA

The AACR’s international outreach has included efforts to enhance relationships with organizations in Canada. These efforts will impact several AACR programs and initiatives in 2019.

• The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will sponsor the AACR’s special conference on Advances in Cancer Science in the Digital Age, cochaired by David Malkin, MD, of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, in September.

• The AACR will host a special conference on Modernizing Population Sciences in the Digital Age, to be held in Montreal, Quebec, in September. Chaired by Elaine R. Mardis, PhD (above), the conference will address the ways in which population scientists can transform their methodologies to incorporate “big data,” including data from wearable technologies and electronic medical records. The conference will also address the role of mobile and social media outreach for study recruitment and retention, increasing participation in population studies by responding to changes in the way populations interact.

EXPANDING AND TRAINING THE CANCER RESEARCH WORKFORCE

As the cancer workforce expands, the AACR will take steps in 2019 to ensure that these scientists and clinicians receive the best possible training with the launch of the AACR Sciento•Gator Program at the 2019 AACR Annual Meeting in Atlanta. These scientist and clinician mentors at a critical point in their careers. As the cancer workforce expands, the AACR will take steps in 2019 to ensure that these scientists and clinicians receive the best possible training with the launch of the AACR Sciento•Gator Program at the 2019 AACR Annual Meeting in Atlanta. These scientist and clinician mentors at a critical point in their careers. As the cancer workforce expands, the AACR will take steps in 2019 to ensure that these scientists and clinicians receive the best possible training with the launch of the AACR Sciento•Gator Program at the 2019 AACR Annual Meeting in Atlanta. These scientist and clinician mentors at a critical point in their careers.