



# AACR SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2021

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**AACR**  
American Association  
for Cancer Research

**ANNUAL  
MEETING** 20  
21

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ VIRTUAL ★ #AACR21 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

## AACR AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN CANCER RESEARCH

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### **Frederick W. Alt, PhD**

Director, Program in Cellular and Molecular Medicine,  
Boston Children's Hospital

Charles A. Janeway Professor of Pediatrics, Professor of  
Genetics, Harvard Medical School

Boston, MA

*For his discovery of gene amplification in mammalian cancer cells, establishing oncogene amplification as a tumor progression mechanism, elucidating non-homologous end-joining, and revolutionizing the understanding of how genomic rearrangements form and how they contribute to cancer.*

## AACR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN BASIC CANCER RESEARCH

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### **Nicholas E. Navin, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of Genetics,  
Division of Basic Sciences

Director, CPRIT Single Cell Genomics Center

Co-Director, Advanced Technology Genomics Core

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Houston, TX

*For his seminal contributions to the understanding of genome evolution and intratumor heterogeneity in breast cancer and for his invention of single-cell DNA sequencing, which has impacted many diverse fields of biology and biomedicine and has directly contributed to the establishment of the single cell genomics field.*

## AACR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CHEMISTRY IN CANCER RESEARCH

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### **Cynthia Wolberger, PhD**

Professor of Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Baltimore, MD

*For her pioneering structural studies elucidating the molecular mechanisms underlying combinatorial regulation of transcription, ubiquitin signaling, and epigenetic histone modifications, which have collectively transformed drug discovery and development efforts worldwide.*

## AACR DANIEL D. VON HOFF AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN CANCER RESEARCH

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### **Daniel D. Von Hoff, MD, FACP, FASCO, FAACR**

Distinguished Professor, Translational Genomics Research  
Institute (TGen), Phoenix, AZ

Virginia G. Piper Distinguished Chair for Innovative Cancer  
Research, HonorHealth Clinical Research Institute

Margaret Givan Larkin Endowed Chair in Developmental Cancer  
Therapeutics, Hoag Family Cancer Institute

Chief Scientific Officer, US Oncology Research

Professor of Medicine, University of Arizona and Mayo Clinic,  
Scottsdale, AZ

Distinguished Professor, Department of Medical Oncology and  
Therapeutic Research, City of Hope, Duarte, CA

*For groundbreaking accomplishments as a dedicated and inspirational educator, sustained scientific innovation that has accelerated advances in cancer science and medicine, and his extraordinary contributions to the education and training of thousands of clinical cancer investigators.*

## AACR DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP IN BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

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### **Susan E. Hankinson, ScD, MPH**

Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology

Associate Dean for Research, School of Public Health and  
Health Sciences

University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA

*In recognition of fundamental population-based research that has provided insights into the hormonal etiology of breast cancer, and an improved understanding as to how lifestyle alterations (e.g., reducing adiposity, increasing physical activity, reducing alcohol intake) can reduce breast cancer risk.*

## AACR DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP ON THE SCIENCE OF CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES

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### **Lourdes Báezconde-Garbanati, PhD, MPH**

Professor in Preventive Medicine

Associate Dean for Community Initiatives KSOM

Associate Director for Community Engagement

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Los Angeles, CA

Director, Center for Health Equity in the Americas  
Keck School of Medicine (KSOM)  
University of Southern California (USC)  
Los Angeles, CA

*In recognition of national and international contributions to establishing research methods that have been essential to advancing the understanding of cancer health disparities and the ability to intervene effectively in clinical and community settings.*

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

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### **Douglas R. Lowy, MD, FAACR**

Chief, Laboratory of Cellular Oncology  
Principal Deputy Director  
NIH Distinguished Investigator  
Head, Signaling and Oncogenesis Section  
National Cancer Institute  
Bethesda, MD

*For steadfast leadership of the National Cancer Institute since 2010, seminal fundamental research that has led to the development of three FDA-approved HPV vaccines, and for his leadership contributions associated with the NIH's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## AACR OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARD FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

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### **Sherene Loi, MBBS, FRACP, PhD, FAHMS**

National Breast Cancer Foundation of Australia Endowed Chair,  
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre  
  
University of Melbourne  
Melbourne, Australia

*In recognition of pioneering research that has defined the role of the immune microenvironment in breast cancer and for translational work involving the design and conduction of clinical trials involving the integration of immunotherapy agents into breast cancer treatment regimens.*



## AACR TEAM SCIENCE AWARD

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### St. Baldrick's Foundation-Stand Up 2 Cancer Pediatric Cancer Dream Team

**Team Co-Leaders: Crystal L. Mackall, MD and John M. Maris, MD**



*For significant contributions to the pediatric cancer research community including the genesis of over 319 published manuscripts, submission of 44 patent applications, creation of a new clinical trials network, generation of over \$118 million to support innovative research, and for contributing to the treatment of over 1,113 children on early phase clinical trials, with many demonstrating durable complete responses.*

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

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### Stephen J. Chanock, MD

Director, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics  
National Cancer Institute  
Rockville, MD



*For his pioneering role in the discovery and characterization of cancer susceptibility alleles, his paradigm-shifting contributions to the fields of cancer epidemiology, biomarkers and prevention, and for his visionary interdisciplinary approaches to cancer research, which have and continue to impact investigators worldwide.*

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

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### **Ton Schumacher, PhD, FAACR**

Senior Member, Department of  
Molecular Oncology and Immunology, Oncode Institute

The Netherlands Cancer Institute  
Amsterdam

Professor of Immunotechnology

Leiden University Medical Center  
Leiden, The Netherlands

*For groundbreaking work that has defined how the human immune system recognizes cancer cells and for developing innovative new technologies to determine how such recognition may be strengthened for therapeutic purposes, which has led to the ability to examine tumor-specific immune responses and harness this knowledge to develop more specific and effective cancer immunotherapies.*

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

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### **Carol L. Prives, PhD, FAACR**

Da Costa Professor of Biology, Department of Biological Sciences,  
Herbert and Florence Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics

Columbia University  
New York, NY

*For discovering that p53 is a DNA sequence-dependent transcriptional regulator and when mutated, possesses novel oncogenic functions, for identifying p53 and Mdm2 stress signal-induced regulatory mechanisms, and for revealing novel pathways by which p53 functions to suppress cell growth and promote cell death.*

## AACR-IRVING WEINSTEIN FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP

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### **Aviv Regev, PhD, FAACR**

Executive Vice President, Genentech Research and  
Early Development

South San Francisco, CA



*For extraordinary scientific contributions to applying computational modeling to our understanding of molecular circuits and for developing new bioinformatic technologies to study cellular behavior in response to genetic and environmental changes, cellular differentiation, evolution, and disease.*

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

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### **Brigitte C. Widemann, MD**

Chief, Pediatric Oncology Branch

Head, Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Section

Senior Investigator and Deputy Director, Center for Cancer Research

National Cancer Institute

Bethesda, MD



*For relentless and seminal contributions to the understanding of genetic cancer predisposition, the development of novel therapies for predisposition syndromes and rare pediatric cancers, and unwavering leadership of clinical trials including those that have resulted in FDA approval of the first-in-class MEK inhibitor, selumetinib for the treatment of neurofibromatosis type 1 tumors.*

## AACR-MINORITIES IN CANCER RESEARCH JANE COOKE WRIGHT LECTURESHIP

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### **Edith P. Mitchell, MD**

Clinical Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology  
Department of Medical Oncology

Director, Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities

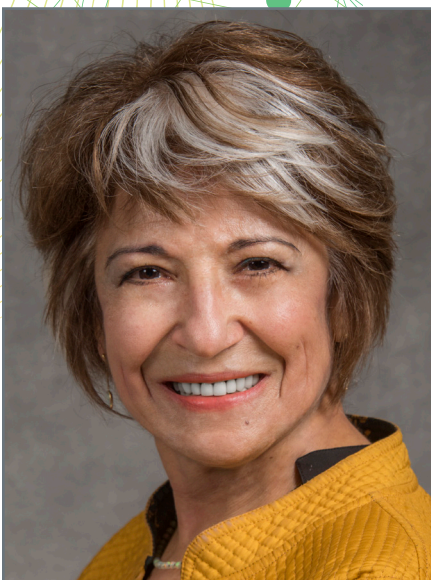
Associate Director, Diversity Affairs, Sidney Kimmel  
Cancer Center at Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA

*For unparalleled efforts to support the advancement of minority investigators in cancer research and for her pioneering research dedicated to working with underserved populations in an effort to elucidate the fundamental drivers of cancer in such communities, specifically breast and prostate cancer in African American populations.*

## AACR PRINCESS TAKAMATSU MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP

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### **Mina J. Bissell, PhD, FAACR**

Distinguished Scientist, Division of  
Biological Systems and Engineering

Director, Life Sciences Division

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Berkeley, CA

*For her trailblazing contributions to the fundamental understanding of cancer, including her characterization of the importance of the tumor microenvironment and extracellular matrix in the regulation of gene expression and tumorigenesis, invention of 3-dimensional organoid culture technology, and for serving as a relentless supporter of research collaborations and mentorship of early-stage trainees and investigators.*

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

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### **Crystal L. Mackall, MD**

Ernest and Amelia Gallo Family Professor of  
Pediatrics and Medicine

Director, Stanford Center for Cancer Cell Therapy

Director, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy at Stanford

Co-Executive Director, Stanford Laboratory for Cell  
and Gene Medicine

Associate Director, Stanford Cancer Institute

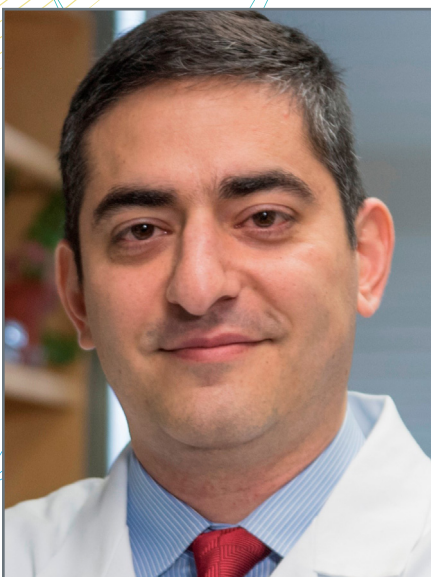
Stanford University

Stanford, CA

For pioneering contributions to the fields of pediatric oncology, immunology, and immunotherapeutics including her discovery of the role of IL-7 in T cell homeostasis, significant efforts to advance the use of CAR-T cell therapies, and for consistent and ongoing translational research dedicated to establishing novel treatments for pediatric cancer patients.

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

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### **Nima Sharifi, MD**

Director, Genitourinary Malignancies Research Center

Kendrick Family Endowed Chair for Prostate Cancer Research,  
Cleveland Clinic

Professor, Department of Molecular Medicine, Case Western  
Reserve University

Cleveland, OH

*For pivotal contributions to the understanding of how steroid metabolism contributes to prostate cancer progression, defining the first example of a gain-of-function steroidogenic enzyme missense mutation that permits dihydrotestosterone synthesis from adrenal precursors, and for characterizing in a series of clinical studies, now validated worldwide, that this missense mutation represents an effective predictive biomarker in castration-resistant prostate cancer.*

## AACR-WOMEN IN CANCER RESEARCH CHARLOTTE FRIEND LECTURESHIP

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### **Marsha A. Moses, PhD**

Julia Dyckman Andrus Professor of Surgery,  
Harvard Medical School

Director, Vascular Biology Program, Boston Children's Hospital  
Boston, MA

*For her unwavering dedication to serving as an inspiration to countless women working in the field of cancer research as well as for her pioneering contributions to our understanding of solid tumor growth and progression and for developing novel, actively targeted nanomedicines and non-invasive diagnostics for human cancers.*

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

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### **Hans Clevers, MD, PhD, FAACR**

Group Leader, Hubrecht Institute for Developmental  
Biology and Stem Cell Research, Princess Máxima Center for  
Pediatric Oncology

University Professor and Oncode Investigator

Utrecht University  
Utrecht, Netherlands

*For his pioneering research that uncovered the mechanisms by which Wnt signaling controls gene expression in colon cancer and the self-renewing gut epithelium, which subsequently led to the identification of adult stem cells in healthy tissue and in tumors; and for his groundbreaking research involving the indefinite expansion of stem cells to form organoids in vitro, and for facilitating the adoption of organoids as an essential model system for the study of various cancers and treatment modalities.*

# DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS



## **Kathy Giusti, BS, MBA**

Founder and Chief Mission Officer

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation  
Boston, MA

*In recognition of two plus decades of extraordinary, steadfast, and inspirational leadership at the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) that has expertly stimulated innovative multiple myeloma research and drug discovery efforts, most specifically by enabling leading research institutions to collaborate with industry to speed the discovery and development of effective new treatments for multiple myeloma.*

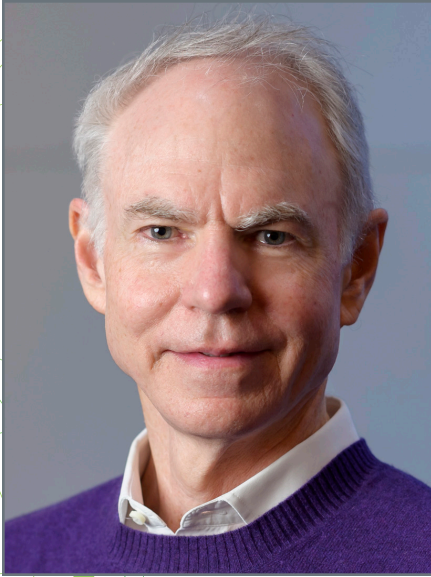


## **Nancy P. Pelosi, BA**

Speaker, United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC

*In recognition of incredible leadership and extraordinary efforts on behalf of science-related issues, most specifically her consistent support over the past many years for robust, sustained, and predictable annual funding increases for the lifesaving research that is supported by the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute.*



## **Charles L. Sawyers, MD, FAACR**

Member, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Chair in  
Human Oncology and Pathogenesis

Chair, Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
New York, NY

*In recognition of dedication to advancing precision medicine by conceptualizing and leading AACR Project GENIE and serving as Chair of the GENIE Executive and Steering Committees, which has led to an international consortium of nineteen participating institutions, nine public data releases now totaling nearly 113,000 sequenced tumors, a user base approaching 10,000 individuals, and hundreds of citations, including the four project publications to date.*