

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings from the MICR Council! It is a great honor for me to serve as Chair of the Council for the 2021-22 season. I can attest to the commitment of my colleagues in the Council and the unwavering support of Dr. Foti and the AACR leadership to the Council goals.

The ongoing COVID pandemic has brought to the forefront the fact that we are all connected to each other as part of one world, where health issues arising in a corner of the world have the potential to have a devastating impact to all humanity. At the same time, it has shone the spotlight on long lasting racial and economic inequities that exist all over the world and impede our ability to bring permanent solutions to the pandemic. In recent months, we had also witnessed the effects of global warming, with the largest summer fires and greatest floods affecting humanity in the USA, Europe, China, and many other areas of the world. Despite all these tragedies, there are multiple reasons to feel hopeful and proud about the triumph of science with the rapid deployment of innovative solutions like mRNA vaccines that have saved hundreds of thousands of lives. We also marvel at the incredible dedication and service of colleagues like Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has given so freely of his time to guide us in these difficult times and our many colleagues who are working tirelessly, caring for patients, and developing new diagnostic tests and treatments with amazing speed. We have also found that scientific discoveries will not succeed if not accompanied by effective implementation and dissemination at the individual community levels.

The MICR Council is committed to working with Dr. Margaret Foti and the AACR leadership to contribute to the lofty goals of achieving equity in cancer care outcomes in our communities and globally, solving the under-representation of minorities in cancer research and increasing the cancer disparities research workforce. We will ameliorate cancer disparities by working at the national level in collaboration with the AACR Science Policy and Government Affairs Committee and bringing solutions to the individual communities in collaboration with patients and caregiver advocates. Our focus remains on improving the lives of our cancer patients and their caregivers, with the ultimate main goal of assuring that all cancer patients have access to the cancer cures that will be forthcoming over the next decades.

Looking forward to working together with all of you. We welcome your ideas and suggestions (please email us at [micr@aacr.org](mailto:micr@aacr.org)). Hoping to meet in person at the AACR Annual Meeting 2022 in New Orleans, LA! Until then, wishing you the best to you and your loved ones, always.



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Sincerely,  
Gerardo Colon-Otero, MD  
2021-2022 MICR Council Chair