MARGARET FOTI, PHD, MD (HC)
Chief Executive Officer
American Association for Cancer Research
Philadelphia, PA

Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), is the chief executive officer of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the first and largest cancer research organization in the world. Under her visionary leadership, membership has grown from about 3,000 members to over 52,000 in 130 countries and territories, and the AACR’s portfolio of peer-reviewed scientific journals has increased from one to ten. Foti progressed through several key editorial and management roles in scientific publishing to become chief executive officer.

In addition to launching ten scientific journals, Foti has also helped launch Cancer Today, a magazine for cancer patients, survivors, and their families and caregivers, a new AACR publication titled Leading Discoveries, and landmark reports. A graduate of Temple University, Foti is one of the most influential voices in advancing the field of cancer research, both in the United States and abroad. She was elected president of three professional societies in scholarly publishing and in cancer research. She has also served as a board member, committee member, and consultant to a number of other nonprofit organizations. There is a legacy of young women, minority scientists, and investigators-in-training whose careers have been advanced as a result of her mentorship and support.

JANE PERLMUTTER, PHD, MBA
Founder and President
Gemini Group
Ann Arbor, MI

Jane Perlmutter, PhD, MBA, is a long-term cancer survivor and active advocate. While her advocacy is largely rooted in her own experiences, it is also informed by her formal training in cognitive psychology and experimental methods, computer and information science, and business. Her career experiences include many years in academia, not-for-profit research and development, corporate senior management, and independent consulting. She currently devotes most of her time to advocacy, specifically on clinical trials.

Perlmutter aims to ensure that the patient voice is considered in the selection of research questions, that the designs of trial protocols are sensitive to patient issues, and she encourages innovation to increase the speed of developing new treatments. She is especially interested in innovative trial designs that can speed new treatments to
patients who need them. As such, she serves on the steering committees and is lead advocate of the I-SPY 2 and TAPUR trials, two groundbreaking trials.

Perlmutter is also a member of the National Cancer Institute’s Breast Cancer Steering Committee, the Alliance Cancer Cooperative Group, and the Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium. In recent years, Perlmutter’s advocacy has expanded to health research policy. For example, she has been involved with the Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative, Friends of Cancer Research, the Reagan-Udall Foundation, the Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center, and she has served on a number of National Cancer Institute and National Academy of Science committees. She is also the past chair of the PCORI Patient Engagement Advisory Panel.

DOUGLAS YEE, MD
Professor, Medicine and Pharmacology, Division of Hematology, Oncology and Transplantation
Director, Masonic Cancer Center
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Douglas Yee, MD is a medical oncologist with a specialty in breast cancer. His laboratory is interested in the regulation of cancer cells by the insulin-like growth factors (IGFs) and insulin. He also maintains an active clinical practice in the medical management of breast cancer. As part of his clinical care, Yee serves as the site principal investigator on several clinical trials that employ experimental therapies targeted against IGF receptor and the PI3K pathway. He is chair in of the Agent Selection Committee of I-SPY2 and serves on the Executive Committee to validate investigational therapies in the neoadjuvant treatment of breast cancer. Yee has been the director of the Masonic Cancer Center since 2007.

Yee received his MD in 1981 from the University of Chicago. He received his internal medicine training and Chief Medical Resident at the University of North Carolina. His medical oncology training was done at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD. Prior to coming to Minnesota, he held faculty positions at Georgetown University Medical Center and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

ROY S. HERBST, MD, PHD
Director, Center for Thoracic Cancers
Deputy Director, Clinical Affairs
Assistant Dean for Translational Research, Office of the School of Medicine
Chief Medical Oncology, Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital
Associate Cancer Center Director, Translational Science
Yale School of Medicine
New Haven, CT

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD is nationally recognized for his leadership and expertise in lung cancer treatment and research. He has worked over several decades as a pioneer of personalized medicine and immunotherapy to identify biomarkers and bring novel targeted treatments and immunotherapies to patients, serving as principal
investigator for numerous clinical trials testing these agents in advanced stage lung cancers. This work led to the approval of several therapies (such as gefitinib, cetuximab, bevacizumab, axitinib), which have revolutionized the field and greatly enhanced patient survival.

Prior to his appointment at Yale, Herbst was the Barnhart Distinguished Professor and Chief of the Section of Thoracic Medical Oncology in the Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology, at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (UT-MDACC) in Houston, Texas. He also served as Professor in the Department of Cancer Biology and Co-Director of the Phase I Clinical Trials Program.

After earning a BS and MS degree from Yale University, Herbst earned his MD at Cornell University Medical College and his PhD in molecular cell biology at The Rockefeller University in New York City, New York. His postgraduate training included an internship and residency in medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. His clinical fellowships in medicine and hematology were completed at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, respectively. Subsequently, Herbst completed an MS degree in clinical translational research at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

LOUIS M. WEINER, MD
Director, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
Chair, Department of Oncology at Georgetown University Medical Center
Director, MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute
Associate VP, Georgetown University Medical Center
Washington, DC

Louis M. Weiner, MD is known for his laboratory and clinical research focusing on new therapeutic approaches that mobilize the patient’s immune system to fight cancer using monoclonal antibodies and other modalities of therapy. His current research focuses on identifying and therapeutically exploiting mechanisms employed by malignant cells to combat immune destruction.

Prior to joining Georgetown Lombardi as director in 2008, Weiner served as chairman of the medical oncology department and vice president for translational research at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pa., and also served as professor in the department of medicine at Temple University School of Medicine. He has served as chair of the NCI Board of Scientific Counselors for Clinical Sciences and Epidemiology and as a member of the NCI Clinical Trials Advisory Committee (CTAC). He also served on the NCI’s blue ribbon panel working group on immunotherapy for the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative and the Advisory Panel of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Center for Scientific Research (CSR).

Weiner earned his bachelor’s degree in biology with honors from the University of Pennsylvania and his MD from Mount Sinai School of Medicine. After completing his internship, residency and service as chief medical resident at the University of Vermont’s Medical Center Hospital, he held clinical and research fellowships in hematology and oncology at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston.
Dr. Barker is the founder and chair of the AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program® and chief strategy officer of the Lawrence J. Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine and distinguished visiting fellow at Arizona State University. She develops information-based strategies through internal research and engagement of networks of leading experts in medicine, science, and engineering to solve complex problems in cancer and other diseases. Previously, Dr. Barker served as the principal deputy director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) where she led the development of Foundational platforms (Clinical Proteomics and National Cancer Nanotechnology Centers) and national programs (e.g., TCGA, Physical-Sciences Oncology Centers) to support the emerging concept of precision medicine. Hallmarks of these strategic innovative programs were networks of global institutions, team science and publicly available data.

Post NCI, Dr. Barker served as director of Transformative Healthcare Networks, co-director of Complex Adaptive Systems -Biomedicine (CAS) and professor of practice, School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University (ASU), where she maintains a courtesy academic appointment. At ASU, she employed CAS approaches through “knowledge networks” to enable progress in areas ranging from clinical trial designs to biomarker discovery and applying concepts from the physical sciences to fundamentally understand and control complex diseases such as cancer.

Dr. Barker also spent several years at Battelle Memorial Institute, a nonprofit transdisciplinary research organization, where she progressed from a research scientist to serve in several senior executive roles. She has received numerous awards for her contributions to cancer research, cancer patients and patient advocates, professional organizations, and the ongoing national effort to prevent and cure cancer. Dr. Barker received her doctoral degree from the Ohio State University.