


AACR SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2022-2023

AACR

American Association
for Cancer Research®

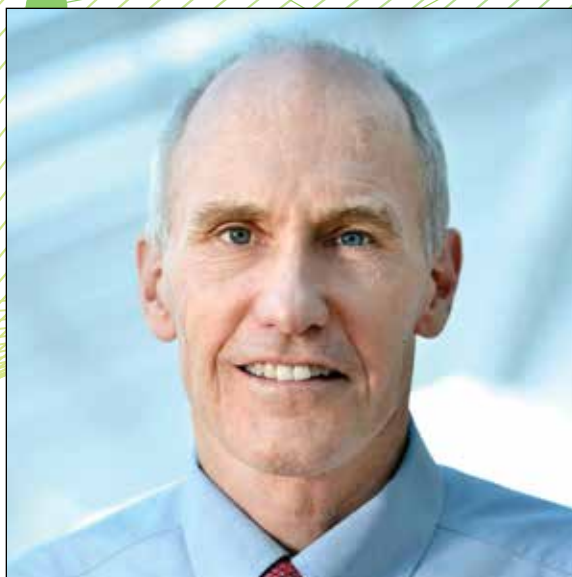
**ANNUAL
MEETING**
— 2023

An abstract graphic featuring a network of nodes and lines that forms the silhouette of a human figure, facing right. The nodes are represented by small circles in various colors including blue, green, yellow, and orange. The lines connecting them are thin and colored to match the nodes. The background is white, and the overall shape of the network suggests a complex, interconnected system.

Since 1961, the AACR has presented hundreds of Prizes, Awards, and Lectureships to recognize the scientific achievements of scientists, clinicians, and physician-scientists who have collectively made significant contributions to the understanding, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer.

The AACR honors these outstanding individuals for their extraordinary accomplishments and for embodying excellence in cancer research.

For more information on AACR's Scientific Achievement Awards including eligibility criteria and nomination deadlines, visit **[AACR.org/SAA](https://aacr.org/SAA)**.



AACR AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN CANCER RESEARCH

Carl H. June, MD, FAACR

Richard W. Vague Professor in Immunotherapy; Director, Center for Cellular Immunotherapies; Director, Parker Institute for Cancer Therapy
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For revolutionary contributions to developing the first gene-edited cell-based therapy for cancer that involves the genetic re-engineering of a patient's own T cells to combat their disease, and for demonstrating that adoptive T-cell therapy can induce remission and in some cases cure patients with advanced cancer.



AACR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN BASIC CANCER RESEARCH

Kathryn E. Wellen, PhD

Professor of Cancer Biology; Investigator, Penn Epigenetics Institute;
Vice Chair, Department of Cancer Biology
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For instrumental contributions to delineating the fundamental links between cellular metabolism, epigenome regulation, and cancer onset and progression including her identification of the link between PI3K/AKT signaling and AKT-dependent ATP-citrate lyase phosphorylation, resulting in elevated histone acetylation and upregulation of cancer cell adhesion and migration genes.



AACR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN BLOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Riccardo Dalla-Favera, MD, FAACR

Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology; Professor of Microbiology and Immunology; Professor of Genetics and Development; Percy and Joanne Uris Professor of Clinical Medicine; Director, Institute for Cancer Genetics; Member, Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center
Columbia University
New York, New York

For fundamental discoveries dedicated to characterizing the genetic drivers of human B cell lymphomas and for uncovering new avenues for cancer prevention and therapy that have been routinely exploited clinically for the diagnosis and determination of novel therapeutic strategies for B cell lymphoma.



AACR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CHEMISTRY IN CANCER RESEARCH

Carolyn R. Bertozzi, PhD, FAACR

Baker Family Director, Sarafan ChEM-H; Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor School of Humanities and Sciences; Professor of Chemistry and, by courtesy, of Chemical and Systems Biology and Radiology; Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
Stanford University
Stanford, California

For groundbreaking contributions to the development of biorthogonal chemistry, profiling cell surface glycosylation alterations commonly associated with cancer, inflammation, and bacterial infection, and for spearheading the development of novel diagnostic probes for the study of cancer-immune cell interactions and immunotherapy development.



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

Polly A. Newcomb, PhD, MPH

Professor Emeritus, Cancer Prevention Program
Public Health Sciences Division
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
Department of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

For tireless support of cancer education and training, highlighted by her many years of mentorship and encouragement of countless graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-stage investigators, including underrepresented minority researcher populations in the cancer research field.

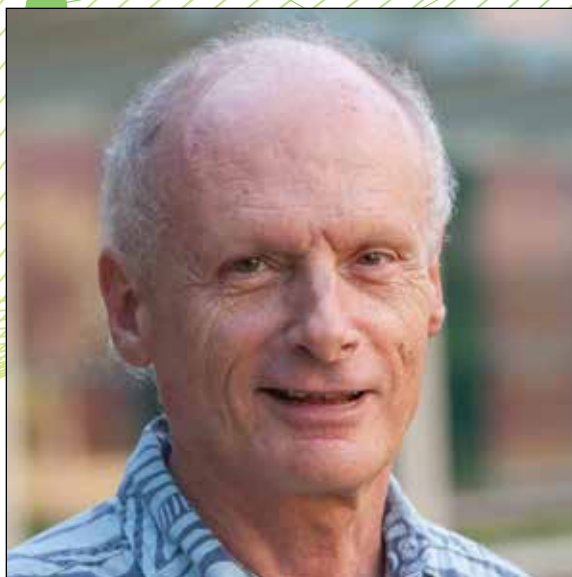


AACR DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP IN BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

Charles M. Perou, PhD, FAACR

The May Goldman Shaw Distinguished Professor of Molecular Oncology;
Co-Director, Computational Medicine Program; Faculty Director, UNC
Lineberger Bioinformatics Group; Co-Director, UNC Lineberger Breast
Cancer Research Program; Professor, Department of Genetics
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

For seminal contributions to the understanding of breast cancer biology and treatment including using RNA expression profiling to classify breast tumors into biologically distinct subtypes, developing the 50-gene Prediction Analysis of Microarray assay to predict breast cancer metastasis, identifying the association of basal-like breast cancer subtypes with triple-negative breast cancer and germline BRCA1 mutation-associated cancers, and for determining that basal-like breast cancer is overrepresented in Black women, which has laid the foundation for understanding racial disparities in breast cancer outcomes.



AACR DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP ON THE SCIENCE OF CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES

Loïc Le Marchand, MD, PhD, MPH

Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement, and Cancer Disparities; Professor and Full Member Population Sciences in the Pacific Program (Cancer Epidemiology)
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
Honolulu, Hawai'i

For significant contributions to advancing our understanding of the role of genetics, biomarkers, and health behaviors in ethnic and racial cancer disparities, and for his versatile and collaborative approaches that have exemplified how classic observational studies, in-depth and innovative biomarker investigations, and randomized interventions may be integrated to reduce cancer and health disparities.



AACR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN CANCER ADVOCACY

Phyllis Pettit Nassi, MSW

American Indian Program
Huntsman Cancer Institute
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah

For longstanding commitment as a patient advocate for American Indian Tribes across the Mountain West and beyond, and for an unwavering commitment to improving health literacy and clinical trial enrollment among American Indian populations that has profoundly impacted these underserved communities and drastically improved their quality of life and access to cancer care.



AACR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN CANCER ADVOCACY

Jane Perlmutter, PhD, MBA

Gemini Group
Ann Arbor, Michigan

For unparalleled leadership as a patient advocate, partly through AACR's Scientist↔Survivor Program®, and dedication to improving the patient experience through innovative clinical trial designs, including ISPY2; and for efforts to ensure that the patient voice is included in research and trial design, accelerating patient access to new treatments and drastically improved their quality of life and overall survivorship.



AACR JAMES S. EWING-THELMA B. DUNN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PATHOLOGY IN CANCER RESEARCH

Arul M. Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD, FAACR

Director, Michigan Center for Translational Pathology; S.P. Hicks Endowed Professor of Pathology and Urology; American Cancer Society Research Professor; Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Ann Arbor, Michigan

For illuminating research contributions to defining the links between chromosomal abnormalities and cancer including his discovery of TMPRSS2-ETS gene fusions in prostate cancer, and for pioneering the use of pathological and bioinformatic methodologies to diagnose and track prostate cancer onset and progression.



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

Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR

Deputy Director, Johns Hopkins Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center; Associate Director, Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy at Johns Hopkins; Dana and Albert “Cubby” Broccoli Professor of Oncology; Professor of Oncology, Immunology, Pathology, and Cellular and Molecular Medicine
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

For exceptional leadership, pioneering research discoveries, and an extraordinary record of service to the cancer community that includes the development of innovative approaches to antigen discovery, which have resulted in the identification of two novel pancreas cancer proteins, mesothelin and Annexin A2 that represent promising targets for antigen-specific immunotherapy in pancreas cancer.



AACR OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARD FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

Adetunji T. Toriola, MD, PhD, MPH

Professor of Surgery, Division of Public Health Sciences, Department of Surgery; Co-Leader, Cancer Prevention Control Program; William H. Danforth Washington University Physician Scholar
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri

For fundamental research dedicated to identifying the molecular determinants of mammographic density and breast cancer risk including demonstrating that RANK-pathway proteins may be used as biomarkers of mammographic breast density in premenopausal women, and that RANK ligand signaling is associated with mammographic breast density among women with elevated progesterone levels, demonstrating the potential utility of targeting the RANK pathway for primary breast cancer prevention.



AACR TEAM SCIENCE AWARD

African Caribbean Cancer Consortium Team

TEAM LEADER

Camille Ragin, PhD, MPH

Associate Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Professor, Cancer Prevention and Control Program; Principal Investigator, African Caribbean Cancer Consortium
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

TEAM MEMBERS

Kellie Alleyne-Mike, MD	Tamara Green, MD	Valerie Odera-Marah, PhD
Kimlin T. Ashing, PhD	Darron A. C. Halliday, MD	JoAnn S. Oliver, PhD
Aviane Auguste, PhD	Maria D. Jackson, PhD	Veronica Roach, SRN, SCM
Rishika Banydeen, MPH	Patricia D. Jones, MD	Robin Roberts, MD
Raleigh Butler, MD	Rukia Kibaya, MSc	Samuel T. Slewion, MA
Samuel Gatherer, MD	Evans Kiptanui, MS	Charles G. Waihenya, MD
Sophia George, PhD	Anne C. R. Korir MPH	Charnita Zeigler-Johnson, PhD, MPH
Natalie S. Greaves, PhD	Delroy M. Loudon, PhD	

For collective contributions to addressing cancer and health disparities by furthering the study of viral, genetic, environmental, and lifestyle risk factors for cancer in patient populations of African descent that have demonstrated far-reaching implications for the improvement of cancer etiology, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention in Black patient populations worldwide.



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

Patricia A. Ganz, MD, FAACR

Distinguished Professor of Health Policy and Management and Medicine, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; Associate Director for Population Science, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

For steadfast commitment to enhancing cancer prevention, characterizing late effects of cancer treatment, and instrumental contributions to improving the field of cancer patient survivorship through advocacy efforts to establish guideline and policy changes that have positively impacted cancer patient symptom management, supportive care, and quality of life.



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

E. John Wherry III, PhD

Chair, Department of Systems Pharmacology and Translational Therapeutics; Richard and Barbara Schiffrin President's Distinguished Professor; Director, Institute for Immunology; Co-Program Leader, Immunobiology Program Abramson Cancer Center; Co-Director, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For essential cancer immunology research findings dedicated to defining the genetic and epigenetic control mechanisms of T cell exhaustion that have contributed to the elucidation of PDL-1 blockade and helped guide the development of immunotherapy treatments for cancer patients including several FDA-approved checkpoint inhibitor therapies for multiple cancer indications.



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

M. Celeste Simon, PhD, FAACR

Arthur H. Rubenstein, MBBCh Professor; Scientific Director, Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute; Associate Director of Shared Resources, Abramson Cancer Center; Department of Cell and Developmental Biology
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For lauded research contributions that have informed the understanding of cancer metabolism, oxygen biology, and tumor hypoxia resulting in the development of murine cancer models and the elucidation of the role of hypoxia-inducible factor-2 alpha in tumorigenesis, which has since led to the development of the FDA-approved therapeutic belzutifan for the treatment of von Hippel-Lindau disease-associated renal cell carcinoma.



AACR-IRVING WEINSTEIN FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP

Andrea Schietinger, PhD

Associate Member, Immunology Program
Sloan Kettering Institute and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York

For unparalleled contributions to elucidating the fundamental cellular mechanisms of immune evasion including demonstrating how antigen specific T cells evade immune-suppressive mechanisms in normal tissues, which has subsequently fueled the development of innovative strategies for molecular and immune-based targeted therapies for the treatment of cancer.

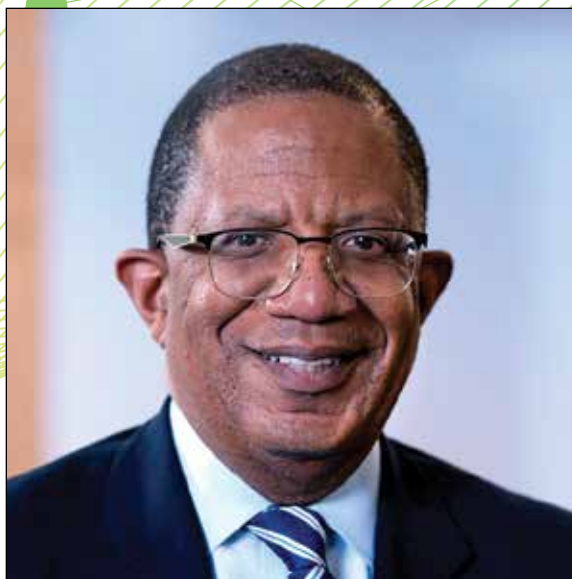


AACR-JOSEPH H. BURCHENAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH

Melissa M. Hudson, MD

Member, St. Jude Faculty; Director, Cancer Survivorship Division; Co-Leader, Cancer Control and Survivorship Program; The Charles E. Williams Endowed Chair of Oncology-Cancer Survivorship
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memphis, Tennessee

For unrivaled clinical research involving hematological malignancies affecting children, adolescents, and young adults that have led to the establishment of the St. Jude Lifetime Cohort Study aimed at cataloguing comprehensive clinical data from over six thousand five-year survivors of pediatric cancer that continue to be translated into practice-changing guidelines for pediatric cancer survivors.



AACR-MINORITIES IN CANCER RESEARCH JANE COOKE WRIGHT LECTURESHIP

Selwyn M. Vickers, MD

President and Chief Executive Officer
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York

For celebrated contributions to the understanding and targeting of pancreas cancer metastasis, including work that has assisted with the development of minnelide, a pro-drug of triptolide for the treatment of pancreas and gastrointestinal cancers that is currently in phase II clinical trials, and for steadfast commitment to leading research dedicated to understanding how to eliminate cancer and health disparities.

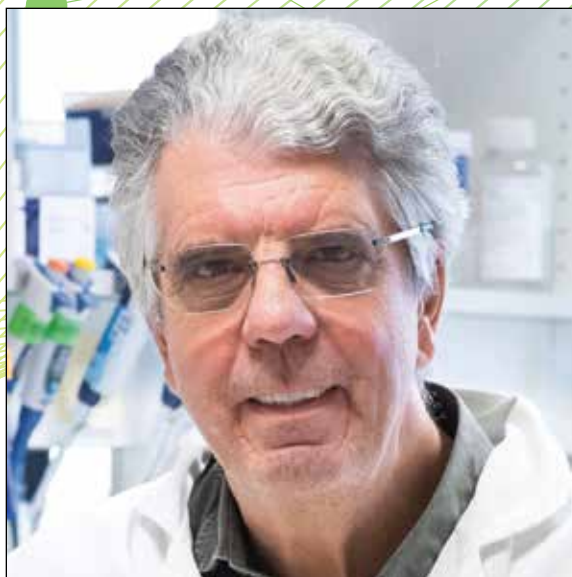


AACR-PRINCESS TAKAMATSU MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP

Robert D. Schreiber, PhD, FAACR

Andrew M. and Jane M. Bursky Distinguished Professor, Department
of Pathology and Immunology; Director, Bursky Center for Human
Immunology and Immunotherapy Programs
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri

For indelible research findings that have led to an improved understanding of immune surveillance in cancer pathogenesis including the definition of the physiologic roles and mechanisms of action of Type I interferon and Interferon gamma in cancer-associated immune responses, and for establishing the concept of “immunoediting” that has since fueled the development of cancer immunotherapeutics.



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

Olivier Delattre, MD, PhD

Director, Institut Curie Care, Innovation, Research for Cancer in Children, Adolescents and Young Adults (SIREDO); Director, Inserm/Institut Curie Paris, France

For paramount research dedicated to identifying the genetic drivers of pediatric cancer including demonstrating the role of the EWS-FLI1 translocation in the onset of Ewing sarcoma and further characterizing the role of various somatic mutations in the pathogenesis of solid pediatric tumors including neuroblastoma.



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

Jun J. Yang, PhD

Member, St. Jude Faculty; Vice-Chair, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Endowed Chair in Pharmacogenomics
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memphis, Tennessee

For inspiring contributions to genomic studies dedicated to analyzing therapeutic response rates in multi-ethnic pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia patient populations that has resulted in the identification of a large number of genomic loci responsible for driving therapeutic response variability, now being leveraged to predict treatment efficacy and toxicity in pediatric cancer populations.

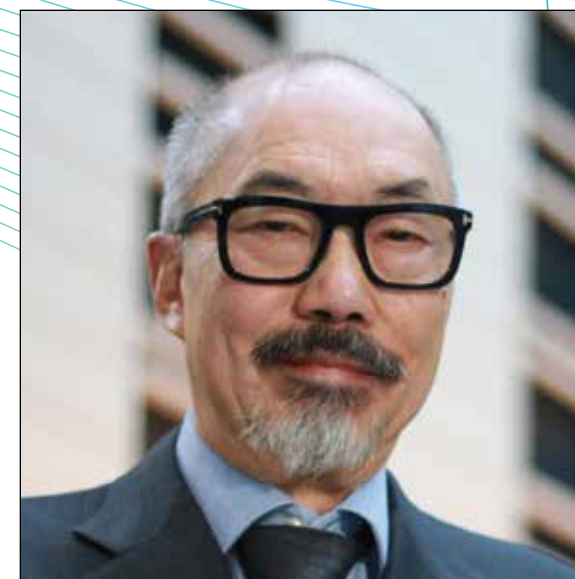


AACR-WOMEN IN CANCER RESEARCH CHARLOTTE FRIEND LECTURESHIP

Cory Abate-Shen, PhD

Robert Sonneborn Professor of Medicine; Professor, Departments of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Urology, Pathology & Cell Biology, and Systems Biology; Chair, Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics
Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center
Columbia University, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
New York, New York

For revered research dedicated to discovering and defining the role of NKX3.1 as a master regulator of prostate differentiation and cancer initiation and progression, generating unique and reliable murine bladder and prostate cancer models, and for steadfast commitment to serving as a leader, mentor, and supporter of female cancer researchers.



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

Tak W. Mak, PhD, FAACR

Director, Campbell Family Institute for Breast Cancer Research
University Health Network
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

For fundamental contributions to the fields of immunology, cancer biology, and cancer therapy, including cloning the beta chain of the human T cell receptor and creating genetically modified mouse strains to elucidate the role of the immune system in tumorigenesis. He also characterized two novel kinases, PLK4 and TTK, now promising targets in Phase II clinical trials, and CTLA-4, a negative regulator of T cell activation, later applied to the development of immune checkpoint blockade therapy.



AACR JUNE L. BIEDLER PRIZE FOR CANCER JOURNALISM AUDITORY JOURNALISM CATEGORY

Taunya English, MS (left)

Senior Editor, Broadcast Innovation, Kaiser Health News,
Kaiser Family Foundation, Washington, DC

"No Mercy Chapter 5: With Rural Hospital Gone, Cancer Care Means a Daylong Trek"

Greg Munteanu, BA (middle)

Audio Production Specialist, Mid-Day Host/Announcer, Saint Louis Public
Radio, University of Missouri–Saint Louis, St. Louis, MO

"No Mercy Chapter 5: With Rural Hospital Gone, Cancer Care Means a Daylong Trek"

Sarah Jane Tribble, BS (right)

Senior Correspondent, Rural Health, Kaiser Health News,
Kaiser Family Foundation, Washington, DC

"No Mercy Chapter 5: With Rural Hospital Gone, Cancer Care Means a Daylong Trek"



AACR JUNE L. BIEDLER PRIZE FOR CANCER JOURNALISM MAGAZINE CATEGORY

Sarah E. Richards, MS, MA

Opinion Writer and Editor,
American Immigration Council
Washington, DC;
Thought Leadership Consultant,
Bristol Myers Squibb
New York, New York;
Independent Science Journalist,
San Diego, California

*"One Man's Search for the DNA Data
That Could Save His Life"*

Emily Sohn, BA

Freelance Journalist
Minneapolis, Minnesota

*"Detecting Cancer Using
Limited Resources"*

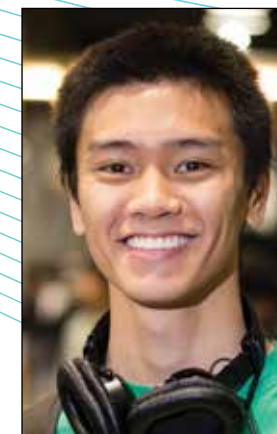


AACR JUNE L. BIEDLER PRIZE FOR CANCER JOURNALISM NEWSPAPER CATEGORY

David Oliver, MA

Entertainment, Lifestyle, and Wellness Reporter, USA Today
Washington, DC

"They found a lump. Doctors said not to worry. These are the stories of men with breast cancer"



AACR JUNE L. BIEDLER PRIZE FOR CANCER JOURNALISM ONLINE/MULTIMEDIA CATEGORY

Ali Al Ibrahim (left)

Investigative Journalist; Documentary Filmmaker; The Guardian;
Co- founder and Manager, Syrian Investigative Reporting for Accountability
Journalism (SIRAJ), Damascus, Syria; Lecturer, University of Oxford
London, England, United Kingdom

"With Bab Al Hawa Border Closed, Syrians Are Deprived of Cancer Treatment"

Angus Chen, BA (middle)

Cancer Reporter, STAT News, Boston, Massachusetts

*"The Trust-Builder: A Cancer Center Director's Try-It-All Strategy for Breaking the
Barriers between Research and Black Patients"*

Nicholas St. Fleur, BS (right)

General Assignment Reporter; Associate Editorial Director of Events,
STAT News, Boston, Massachusetts

*"Chadwick Boseman's Tragedy is America's Tragedy: In Colorectal Cancer Hot Spots,
Young Men are Dying at Higher Rates"*



American Association
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