AACR PATIENT ADVOCATE FORUM
WHAT’S NEXT FOR DRUG DEVELOPMENT AND DISCOVERY

Speakers

-in order of appearance

HOWARD BROWN
Advocate Mentor, AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program®
Board Chair, Paltown Foundation
Host, Shining Brightly Podcast
Birmingham, Michigan

Howard Brown is an Internet/software entrepreneur, and a two time Stage IV cancer patient, a patient advocate, podcaster, and author of Shining Brightly, A Memoir of Resilience and Hope. Howard’s areas of expertise include new game strategic consulting, digital platforms (mobile, audio, video, broadcast / cable, cloud computing, social media, online communities and smart enterprises (data collection, analysis, intelligence, insights and reporting. He is the founder of Advocasee, and was the CEO and Cofounder of CircleBuilder Software LLC, a provider of private online community software. He has twice served as the president of the Babson College Alumni Association Board of Directors, and currently serves as chairman of the Paltown Foundation Board of Directors. Howard has served on a number of nonprofit and private sector boards and committees and served as advocate mentor for the AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program® at the AACR Annual Meeting 2023.

PAUL WORKMAN, FMEDSCI, FRS
Professor
The Institute of Cancer Research, London
London, United Kingdom

Paul Workman is a multidisciplinary cancer research scientist who has been responsible for the laboratory discovery and progression into the clinic of many innovative cancer drugs. His speciality is designing personalised medicines that are targeted to precise molecular abnormalities and vulnerabilities – an approach he refers to as 'drugging the cancer genome'. Furthermore, he conceptualized and exemplified in practice a systematic approach known as the 'Pharmacological Audit Trail' that uses various measurable biomarkers to aid rational decision-making in drug development.

Paul is probably best known as a molecular pharmacologist and chemical biologist who with colleagues has discovered numerous inhibitors (drugs and chemical probes) of protein and lipid kinases (eg PI3 kinases) as well as molecular chaperones (eg Hsp90). Between 1997 and 2016 he was Director of the Cancer Research UK Cancer Therapeutics Unit at The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London, where
he oversaw the discovery of twenty drug candidates, twelve of which have progressed into clinical trials, and saw abiraterone approved as a treatment for prostate cancer. From 2014-2021 he served as Chief Executive and President of ICR where he directed strategic developments in the field of basic, translational and clinical cancer research. In addition, he served as Founding Director of the Cancer Research Centre of Excellence at ICR and Imperial College and also of the Cancer Research UK Convergence Science Centre at ICR/Imperial.

FRANK MCCORMICK, PHD, FRS, FAACR
Professor
Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Frank McCormick, PhD, FRS, is a Professor in the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Prior to joining the UCSF faculty, Frank pursued cancer-related work with several Bay Area biotechnology firms and held positions with Cetus Corporation (Director of Molecular Biology, 1981-1990; Vice President of Research, 1990-1991) and Chiron Corporation, where he was Vice President of Research from 1991 to 1992. In 1992 he founded Onyx Pharmaceuticals, a company dedicated to developing new cancer therapies, and served as its Chief Scientific Officer until 1996. At Onyx Pharmaceuticals, he initiated and led drug discovery efforts that led to the approval of Sorafenib in 2005 for treatment of renal cell cancer, and for liver cancer in 2007, and the approval of ONYX-015 in 2006 in China for treatment of nasopharyngeal cancer. Sorafenib is being tested in multiple indications worldwide. In addition, Frank’s group led to the identification of a CDK4 kinase inhibitor. Dr. McCormick's current research interests center on the fundamental differences between normal and cancer cells that can allow the discovery of novel therapeutic strategies.

Dr. McCormick holds the David A. Wood Chair of Tumor Biology and Cancer Research at UCSF. Dr. McCormick is the author of over 285 scientific publications and holds 20 issued patents. He also served as President, 2012-2013 for the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). More recently, he has taken a leadership role at the Frederick National Lab for Cancer Research, overseeing an NCI supported national effort to develop therapies against Ras-driven cancers. These cancers include most pancreatic cancers, and many colorectal and lung cancers, and are amongst the most difficult cancers to treat.

Moderator

ANNA D. BARKER, PHD, FAACR
Founder and Chair, AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program®
Chief Strategy Officer, Lawrence J. Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine
Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Complex Adaptive Systems, Arizona State University
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.