

AACR Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research

AWARD PROGRAM GUIDELINES

AWARD SUMMARY

- The AACR Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research was established to honor an individual who has made significant fundamental contributions to cancer research, either through a single scientific discovery or a body of work. These contributions, whether in research, leadership, or mentorship, must have had a lasting impact on the cancer field and must have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to progress against cancer.
- Award recipients must be present to receive the award unless otherwise unable to do so due to health restrictions and/or other serious conflicts.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Cancer researchers currently or previously affiliated with any institution involved in cancer research, cancer medicine, or cancer-related biomedical science anywhere in the world may be nominated. Such institutions include those in academia, industry, or government.
- The award may only be presented to an individual investigator.
- Institutions and/or organizations are not eligible to receive the award.

NOMINATION PROCESS

- Nominations may be submitted by any individual, whether an AACR member or nonmember, who is currently or has previously been affiliated with any institution involved in cancer research, cancer medicine, or cancer-related biomedical science.
- Self-nominations are prohibited.
- Nominators must maintain strict confidentiality of their nominations. All nominations must be submitted using [AACR's electronic award nomination platform](#). If you do not have a myAACR account, you can create one at no cost. Paper nominations will not be accepted.
- Eligible nominations must include the following:
 - A nomination letter written in English (Max: 1,000 words), which comprehensively describes the candidate's outstanding recent accomplishments in cancer research. Letter must specifically outline the candidate's current research activity and indicate how their research holds promise for continued substantive contributions to the cancer field. All publications that directly support the mentioned research accomplishments must be referenced within the provided letter, and these references will not count toward the total word count.
 - A brief scientific citation (Max: 50 words) highlighting the major scientific contribution(s) justifying the award candidate's nomination.

AWARD SELECTION

- Eligible nominees will be considered by an award selection committee composed of an international cohort of cancer research experts appointed by the AACR President. After committee deliberations, primary and alternate award recipient recommendations will be relayed to the AACR Executive Committee for formal ratification.
- Selection of the award recipient shall be made on the basis of the candidate's scientific accomplishments without regard to race, gender, nationality, geographic location, or religious or political views.

INQUIRIES

- Please direct all inquiries pertaining to this award or any other AACR scientific achievement award to Rachel Mumma, Program Manager, Scientific Programs and Initiatives, at rachel.mumma@aacr.org or by phone at (215) 446-7180.

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

2025 Rakesh K. Jain

2024 Steven A. Rosenberg

2023 Carl H. June

2022 Tony Hunter

2021 Frederick W. Alt

2020 Phillip A. Sharp

2019 Emil J. Freireich

2018 Joseph R. Bertino

2017 Mina J. Bissell

2016 Robert A. Weinberg

2015 Mario R. Capecchi

2014 Douglas Hanahan

2013 Harold L. Moses

2012 Beatrice Mintz

2011 Susan Band Horwitz

2010 Janet D. Rowley

2009 Joseph F. Fraumeni Jr.

2008 Harald zur Hausen

2007 Donald Metcalf

2006 Bernard Fisher

2005 Alfred G. Knudson Jr.

2004 Emil Frei III