

Testimonials



“I have many fond memories through participating various conferences and committee meetings but maybe the most memorable one is attending my first AACR Board meeting virtually from the hospital a few hours after my daughter was born - which was her very first of the many AACR meetings that she has attended alongside of me.”

Dr. Kornelia Polyak | AACR Member Since 1998



“My tenure in cancer research is marked by profound moments of breakthroughs and collaborations that have significantly contributed to the field. From engaging in discussions at AACR conferences to the thrill of uncovering novel insights in the lab, my journey has been defined by a passion for understanding and combating cancer.”

Dr. Chi Cho | AACR Member Since 1999



“I became an AACR member as a young PhD student at the end of 1994, attending my first AACR conference in Toronto in 1995. Having my research accepted for a presentation was unbelievable and it spurred me on for what's become a lifelong career in cancer research and drug discovery. My proudest achievement has been my role in the preclinical discovery and translational work for olaparib, a first-in-class PARP inhibitor and the establishment of a new therapeutic paradigm around synthetic lethality. Knowing that thousands of people (mostly women) have benefited from this drug has been the highest honour for a boy with quite humble beginnings.”

Dr. Aaron Cranston | AACR member Since 1994



“Most enjoyable and of value are meeting organization and presentations of updated, often awesome, findings from colleagues from all over the world and the opportunities to collaborate at developing novel collaborations for greater insights.”

Prof. Saverio Alberti | AACR member Since 1999



“For 16 years, I was involved in the scientific and strategic management of drug discovery programs in oncology. Today, I lead external innovation activities in oncology, with the aim of identifying and critically analyzing external opportunities for integration into the project portfolio (drug discovery and clinical drug development).”

Dr. Anna Kruczynski | AACR Member Since 1994

CONGRATULATIONS TO 25+ YEAR AACR MEMBERS *(cont'd)*



“The excitement of finding something new and applying it to care of patients. My memory of AACR is giving presentations as a young faculty, networking with colleagues and setting up collaborations.”

Prof. Trivadi S. Ganesan | AACR Member Since 1993



“Joining AACR as a member was one of the most exciting things in my life, especially to fulfill my hobby of doing at least two things in one shot. AACR provided me with the opportunity to meet the greatest mind in cancer research, to grow together, make friendships with very nice people, and to visit places I never thought of before. As a young member my fun was seeing Nobel Laureates at a very close distance!”

Dr. Jagadananda Ghosh | AACR Member Since 1995



“The AACR conferences enabled me to add a new direction to my research program by providing me opportunities to network with experts in both my established and new areas of research. As an AACR member I enjoyed brainstorming sessions to map out the Annual Meeting sessions and in working with the fantastic AACR staff as Senior Editor of the journal *Cancer Research*.”

Dr. Linda Penn | AACR Member Since 1995



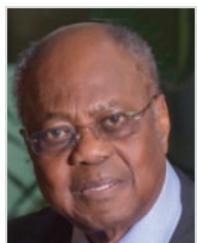
“Impacting cancer survival has always been a dream and I was excited to attend AACR for the first time and completely overwhelmed at the scope. It was incredible to meet Nobel laureates like Hitchings and Elion and leaders in the field like Bertino and Pommier providing constructive criticism at posters. More recently it has been a thrill to bring my own students to AACR for the first time and see them amazed at the breadth, and depth, and scope of ongoing cancer research at AACR.”

Dr. William Gmeiner | AACR Member Since 1993



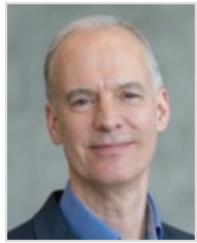
“As a researcher in tumor immunology, it has been a truly amazing journey to see the impact immune manipulation has had for cancer patients. I clearly remember when becoming president of SITC having joint discussions with AACR and partnering to rethink the global research agenda on cancer immunology and expanding the scientific expertise and impact for patients.”

Dr. Howard L. Kaufman | AACR Member Since 1998



"I attended my first AACR meeting in 1976 as a Medical Oncology Fellow, with the encouragement of my mentor, who later served as AACR President. The meetings in those days were quite small, and personal and professional connections used to be easy to make. Those were the days of great clinical discoveries, foundation building of the clinical discipline of cancer care, and learning from teachers that we now remember as legends of the evolving discipline of medical oncology."

Dr. Christopher Williams | AACR Member Since 1988



"I have been conducting cancer research for four decades, starting as a young undergraduate student establishing cell cultures of primary human tumors in 1984. My fondest memory is visiting the White House with Marge Foti and Anna Barker, along with other scientists in 2012 to lobby for more cancer research funding."

Dr. Peter W. Laird | AACR Member Since 1997



"I find the atmosphere of the AACR meeting invigorating with all the brilliant scientists and students interacting and sharing research ideas. My favorite part is to get to the Sunday morning plenary session early so I can sit up front with the huge digital display and inspiring videos for cancer researchers to remember why we do what we do."

Dr. Julia T. Arnold | AACR Member Since 1991



"I became an AACR member as an assistant professor in 2000 working on the role of Rac and Cdc42 GTPases in metastatic cancer. In 25 years, we finally have a Rac/Cdc42 targeted therapeutic in clinical trials for advanced breast cancer. My students, postdocs, and I have been attending the AACR since 2000 and have received numerous travel awards from the AACR/MICR as minority cancer researchers. We also publish our research in AACR journals. Thank you AACR for your support!"

Dr. Suranganie Dharmawardhane Flanagan | AACR Member Since 2000



"My fondest memory of the annual AACR meetings is the networking. It's like a family reunion where you get to rekindle both friendships and collaborations."

Dr. Matthew B. Schabath | AACR Member Since 2000

CONGRATULATIONS TO 25+ YEAR AACR MEMBERS *(cont'd)*



“The many friends I’ve made through my years involved with AACR. Several very successful scientific collaborations resulted from those friendships.”

Dr. W. Robert Bishop | AACR Member since 1989



“In early 90’s I was able to isolate and characterize normal human breast liminal epithelial cells with stem cell properties, for the first time. And my colleagues and I reported it in the AACR Annual meeting. My presentation gave a great interest in cancer society, at that time, for the breast cancer study. Currently, I am working on ipsc-derived universal CAR-NK to overcome incurable Glioblastoma. In the 2024 AACR meeting, my colleagues and I presented it at the poster session. Many scientists also came to my poster and had discussion during the 3-hour presentation. I was very happy to talk and discuss last year. I do expect lots of discussion during the 2025 AACR Annual Meeting.”

Prof Kyung-Sun Kang | AACR Member since 1997



“After my postdoc in Molecular Biology, I joined a small group of people to establish a charity funded pediatric cancer research institute within the environment of St. Anna Children’s hospital in Vienna in 1988, the Children’s Cancer Research Institute (CCRI). We had little ideas about where the field was moving and worked isolated in an ivory tower. This changed dramatically after I attended my first AACR meeting in San Diego, at a time when it was still back-to-back with the ASCO meeting. This exciting experience not only broadened my horizon but built the foundation of my and the CCRI’s international network which I have been amply making use of during my scientific career and my time as the Scientific Director of the CCRI. Since that time I have been regularly attending the AACR annual and some specialized meetings, and I keep many fond memories about getting incredibly excited when listening to outstanding presentations, new findings, and getting in contact with many leaders in cancer research, some of them becoming very good friends.”

Prof. Heinrich Kovar | AACR Member Since 1994



“Proud to be a member - I see AACR as the home of translational science.”

Dr. Harish Dave | AACR Member Since 1991



"I started as a cancer researcher when I was 20 years old and an undergraduate, and I joined the AACR as a graduate student. Lots of memories."

Dr. Cheryl Jorcyk | AACR Member Since 1995



"As a young graduate of Jagiellonian University in Cracow 1989 I fall in love with amazing TGF-beta molecule. In my MD Thesis at the University of Wuerzburg (Neurology) I have investigated complex network of TGF-beta in brain tumors which leads to discovery of TGF-beta2-antisense oligonucleotides for malignant gliomas (AP12009 (Trabedersen/OT 101). In my translational research after 1998 at the Antisense Pharma GmbH I moved from bench to bedside in clinical trials – Sapphire. Smart antagonization of TGF-beta in cancer is still in the focus of my research in a new Project named Real-Time Tumor Vaccination Concept (RealTVac)."

Dr. Piotr Jachimczak | AACR Member Since 1994



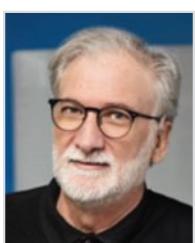
"When I first became an AACR member I attended the Pathobiology of Cancer Course in Keystone Colorado. I learned so much and met so many people through that first interaction with AACR."

Katerina Politi | AACR Member Since 1994



"Best translational science Meeting in the world."

Dr. Miguel Villalona Calero | AACR Member Since 1995



"I joined AACR as a young attending pathologist, just barely starting to practice, hoping that the membership will help me in developing my own career. It certainly did, as I learned from many others in the field of biomarkers about their relevance to clinical cancer research and treatments. I was very pleased to see that one of my publications (on PD-L1 distribution in cancer published in Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev) was one of the highly cited papers a year after the publication, and the other one on NTRK distribution in pan-cancer cohorts led to a wonderful introduction to (late) Dr. Josep Baselga, a pioneer in targeted therapies, at one of the joint AACR-NCI-EORTC meetings."

Dr. Zoran Gatalica | AACR Member Since 1998

CONGRATULATIONS TO 25+ YEAR AACR MEMBERS *(cont'd)*



“Working with patient advocates and seeing people donating their time and/or money for a cause that may not benefit them but benefit future generations.”

Prof. Harikrishna Nakshatri | AACR Member since 1997



“A long and productive association with an exceptional group of colleagues and individuals.”

Dr. Renzo Canetta | AACR Member Since 1990



“I joined the AACR when I was a Fulbright postdoctoral fellow that just arrived to the USA from Spain. When I attended my first AACR meeting, I was blown away by the number of cancer researchers, the depth of the presentations, and the community that welcomed me. I was excited to work along with my fellow researchers to find treatments for patients. I had found the community that I belong to!”

Dr. Ester Fernandez-Salas | AACR Member since 1996



“When I was a sophomore in high school, my biology teacher made a massive impact on my life. At that young age, I decided I wanted to become a researcher with the hopes of curing cancer. Honestly, I have been on that mission ever since. While complex, I see the many ways science, education and advocacy can help tackle the disease and move to better care. Being part of the AACR has been very rewarding because it allows me to pursue this goal. I find joy in the process of discovery as well as being part of building an institute targeting the mechanisms of this disease. As an AACR member, I can use this paradigm of science, education and advocacy to help beat cancer. The advocacy and education events we are able to do are really highlights of my career as I enjoy helping people and fostering relationships.”

Dr. Johnathan Whetstine | AACR Member Since 1999



“I am a Professor of Pharmaceutics, Paula & John J. Lovoi Endowed Professor in Drug Discovery and Development, and Director of the Institute for Education and Research (IDER) at the University of Houston, College of Pharmacy. As a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, my 44-year research has focused on formulation development, translational research, and clinical trials, leveraging expertise in pharmaceutical formulation and IND-enabling research to optimize therapies for cancer, infections, neuroprotection, and other conditions. Our work has led to the FDA-approved product Busulfex®, along with multiple patented formulations in development for liver, lung, pancreatic, and prostate cancers. Fond AACR memories include early morning sessions with seasoned scientists, mentoring students inspired by AACR meetings, and serving on the 2025 organizing committee to review ~90 abstracts.”

Dr. Diana S-L Chow | AACR Member Since 1995



“I greatly value the opportunities provided to me in serving the AACR and the cancer community via the publications (editorial boards), committee service, and mentoring opportunities. But the major highlight of my career via the AACR has been the Vail Course and MCCR in Europe! Being a student at Vail was a tremendous opportunity and, in turn, allowed me to learn about clinical trials. In turn, I then became a mentor at the courses, and course co-director. The relationships built at these workshops are golden and I hope as a faculty member, I have been able to pay it forward.”

Dr. Lee M. Ellis | AACR Member since 1991



“It has been a long journey, and I am thankful to AACR for bringing all the top and bright minds together on a common front to fight against cancer.”

Dr. Sanjay K. Srivastava | AACR Member Since 1993



“As a long-time member of the AACR, I have had the privilege of belonging to an organization committed to serving its members, that supports cancer research at all levels, is a strong advocate for cancer research funding and a fertile ground for training the researchers of tomorrow.”

Dr. Emmanuel T. Akporiaye | AACR Member since 1990

CONGRATULATIONS TO 25+ YEAR AACR MEMBERS *(cont'd)*



“The AACR annual meeting is an amazing learning opportunity across all areas, and you come away knowing what the biggest breakthroughs are in cancer research, spanning basic, population, and clinical sciences, as well as what the biggest gaps in knowledge are. Anecdotally, I have had two R01s funded that I conceptualized after attending AACR meetings and capitalized on addressing the gaps in knowledge that I learned about there.”

Dr. Jennifer Doherty | AACR Member Since 1999



“Over the years I have always been impressed by how Marge and AACR accept and involve the members working in biotech. Thank you.”

Dr. Debasish Roychowdhury | AACR Member Since 2000



“AACR meetings are always my high priority ever since I started my career as a physician-scientist.”

Dr. Naoko Takebe | AACR Member since 1996



“AACR has been an ongoing educational and community serving organization.”

Dr. Rashida Karmali | AACR Member Since 1986



“Great way to keep abreast of basic and translational research in oncology.”

Dr. Richard L. Schilsky | AACR Member since 1981



“One of my fondest memories was having dinner with Dr. Michael Colvin and his wife. Now I invite young scientists to dinner while at AACR and interact socially, so they feel a sense of connection.”

Dr. M. Eileen Dolan | AACR Member since 1988



"I enjoyed walking to AACR headquarters during the 12 years I lived in Philly, meeting the AACR team in person. Great group of people."

Dr. Edward R. Sauter | AACR Member since 1992



"As an AACR member and a person who has worked in cancer research for more than 2 decades, I likely have a treasure trove of memories that have shaped my journey and contributed to the fight against cancer. These memories evoke a sense of pride, gratitude, and renewed determination to continue making a difference in my journey."

Prof. Sanjay Gupta | AACR Member since 1998



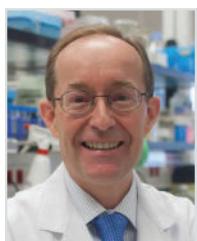
"I have been a member of AACR throughout my career in academia and later in industry. AACR sees all aspects of research, basic, translational, and clinical, as having value no matter whether the PI is an academic, an industry scientist, or one of the many people who support the work in their respective institutions. The patient is pre-eminent in all that we do."

Dr. Lawrence S. Lamb | AACR Member since 1993



"It has been a privilege to be a member of an organization that balances both basic, translational, and clinical research. By working together as a multidisciplinary team, I believe we will continue to make major progress in the future."

Dr. Marcus O. Butler | AACR Member since 1998



"I joined AACR while I was a young visiting scientist at the Biomarkers and Prevention Research Branch of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda. Since then, I have attended most of the meetings and participated in activities related to cancer research. AACR has accompanied my research career over the years. And I have kept directly up-to date of many of the great breakthroughs of cancer research in the last 20 years thanks to the AACR."

Prof. Luis M. Montuenga | AACR Member Since 1998

Long-Term Members are encouraged to share their reflections by emailing memdev@aacr.org.