

AACR-Mark Foundation Award for Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry in Cancer Research

AWARD PROGRAM GUIDELINES

AWARD SUMMARY

- The AACR and The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research established this award in 2026 to recognize the importance of chemistry to advancements in cancer research.
- The award is intended to recognize outstanding, novel, and significant chemistry research, which has led to important contributions in basic cancer research; translational cancer research; cancer diagnosis; the prevention of cancer; or the treatment of patients with cancer. Such research may include, but is not limited to, chemical aspects of carcinogenesis; chemical biology; drug discovery and design; imaging agents and radiotherapeutics; metabolomics and mass spectrometry; proteomics; and structural biology.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Cancer researchers 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 don't 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 chemistry 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

2026 Cheryl Arrowsmith
2025 Shiva Malek
2024 Nathanael S. Gray
2023 Carolyn R. Bertozzi
2022 Kevan Shokat
2021 Cynthia Wolberger
2020 Benjamin F. Cravatt
2019 Michael E. Jung
2018 John A. Katzenellenbogen
2017 Craig M. Crews

2016 James Bradner
2015 Philip S. Low
2014 Dale L. Boger
2013 Alexander Levitzki
2012 Stephen W. Fesik
2011 Gregory L. Verdine
2010 Stuart L. Schreiber
2009 F. Peter Guengerich
2008 Steven R. Tannenbaum
2007 Samuel J. Danishefsky