

Dear Associate Members,

On behalf of the Associate Member Council (AMC) of AACR, I am pleased to share a message with all of our Associate Members.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our newest Associate Members who have recently joined AACR. You are joining a global community that has over 65,000 members and spans 143 countries, and we are excited to have so many brilliant minds join our growing community. We are genuinely thrilled to have you here. For those of you who have been members for several years, I want to thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to understanding and conquering cancer.

The AMC's mission has always been to advocate for early-career scientists, including medical and graduate students, and residents and postdoctoral fellows. We support trainees throughout their entire professional development journey and provide them with resources and workshops that can help advance their careers. In collaboration with other AACR groups, including Women in Cancer Research (WICR), Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR), and the Science Education and Career Advancement Committee, we develop special programs for Associate Members, including Educational Sessions, Professional Development Sessions, special symposia for early-career research, and training workshops to help carry you forward.

Ever since joining AACR as an Associate Member in 2021, I have found a strong community that feels like home. Over the past five years, I have developed a network of friends and mentors who continue to shape me both professionally and personally. Through AACR events such as Annual Meetings, Early-Career Hill Days, the Translational Cancer Research for Basic Scientists workshop, and several AACR Special Conferences and webinars, I have gained invaluable experience, developed meaningful connections, and found a deeper sense of purpose in my work. That sense of belonging is exactly what the AMC works to cultivate for all of you, and it underlies everything I hope to accomplish this year as the AMC Chair for the 2026-2027 term.

As we reflect upon the 2026 AACR Annual Meeting in San Diego, that sense of shared purpose was palpable throughout. This year's event was packed with groundbreaking science, energizing conversations, and connections that will last well beyond the meeting itself. This year was especially meaningful as the AMC celebrated its 30th anniversary, a milestone that generated excitement throughout the meeting. That excitement was most prevalent at the Runners for Research 5K Run/Walk, where many Associate Members ran alongside the AMC and earned the Team Spirit award for their passion.

I want to extend a personal invitation: take full advantage of what AACR has built for you in the coming year. Whether it is participating in science policy events such as the AACR Early-Career Hill Day, attending workshops, or applying for one of the many funding opportunities available to AACR members, these programs are designed to provide you with the best opportunity to advance your career. I especially want to highlight the Articles and Messages from the AMC that are updated throughout the year, and the Associate Member emails, which are specifically tailored to support your success.

Finally, I want to extend my sincerest thanks to all previous and current AMC members who have worked tirelessly to support Associate Members and the AACR as a whole. Thirty years of service does not happen by accident. It happens because people showed up, year after year, for early-career scientists like us. I hope to honor that legacy in the year ahead.

Thank you for being an essential part of the AACR community

Sincerely,

Cody L. Wolf, Ph.D.
AACR AMC Chair 2026-2027