STRONGER TOGETHER:

AACR’S COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO GRANTMAKING

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HRA Members’ Meeting
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DRIVEN BY THE MISSION…

Founded in 1907, AACR is America’s oldest cancer research organization focused on accelerating progress toward the prevention and cure of cancer by promoting research, education, communication, and collaboration.

- Scientific Meetings
- Educational Workshops
- Publications
- Task Forces/Working Groups
- Think Tanks
- Policy and Advocacy
- Project GENIE

AACR Foundation & GRANTS*

*AACR Foundation Grants are independent of AACR’s partnership with SU2C
The AACR has awarded more than 600 grants in 11 countries over 4 continents since 1993.
GRANTMAKING AT AACR

- Since the inception of our program, it has been a collaborative affair…

- First grant awarded in 1993 was supported by GlaxoSmithKline
  - AACR Gertrude B. Elion Cancer Research Award

- In 2018, we awarded 54 grants through 22 partnerships with non-profit organizations and the pharmaceutical industry
A FEW OF OUR VALUED PARTNERS…

BCRF
BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

NET
NEUROENDOCRINE TUMOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION
DEDICATED TO CURING NEUROENDOCRINE CANCER

OMF
OCULAR MELANOMA FOUNDATION

Debbie’s Dream Foundation
CURING STOMACH CANCER

The John and Elizabeth Leonard Family Foundation

What Would Willie Want

Kure it
cancer research

www.QuadW.org

CONQUER CANCER
THE ASCO FOUNDATION

The Breast Cancer Breakthrough Foundation
How Does a Partnership Begin?

- Often beginning at the AACR Annual Meeting, but also via email or teleconference
  - Timeline very similar to what will be presented by MRA-ACS in the next talk!

- AACR works with funding partners to develop a grant program that suits their interests and meets their mission
  - Scope of research
  - Grant mechanism
  - Recommendation of committee members*

- AACR also keeps our funding partners up to date on the progress of their funded research, including impact assessment (still work in progress…)

With a conversation!
OUR SUPPORT FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

**Fellowships** to encourage training of postdoctoral and clinical research fellows who are within 5 years of degree or residency

**Grants for Independent Investigators, Team Science, and Innovation and Discovery** of novel biomarkers and drug targets

**Postdoc**

Junior Faculty (Assistant Professors, Instructors, etc)

Mid-career Scientists (Associate Professors)

Established Scientists (Full Professors)

**Career Development Awards** and **NextGen Grants** to support early-career scientists as they establish independent research programs
AACR’S PRE-AWARD PROCESS

2018 Statistics at a Glance

559 Applications Submitted
59 Grants Awarded

The AACR has awarded more than $88 million to date with a steady increase in grant opportunities

Our Process
- Launch
  - Grants managed in proposalCENTRAL platform, Funder updates provided, Internal eligibility review by expert scientific and administrative staff
- Marketing
  - Social media, Website, AACR Journals
  - Targeted and general email blasts reach up to 40,000 AACR members
- Scientific Review
  - Over 250 Scientific Review Committee Members were convened in 2018
- Visibility and enhanced exposure
  - Partners receive special recognition throughout the Annual Meeting, including during the annual Grants Reception and Dinner
- Execution
  - Expertise to execute comprehensive grant agreements to ensure timely reports, ethics, and proper use of grant funds
2018 APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Gender: 267 Female, 292 Male
- Minority: 50
- International: 70

Program Specialties:
- Immunology: 17%
- Cell/Molecular Biology: 39%
- Tumor Biology: 20%
- Biomarker: 7%
- Drug Discovery/Design: 5%
- Other: 6%
- Clinical: 6%
- Clinical: 6%
We provide:

- **Annual/Biannual Comprehensive Scientific Review**
  - Proactive grantee management
  - Expenditure monitoring to insure compliance with grant terms
  - Timely distribution of grant funds according to a previously outlined schedule
  - Maintaining a positive relationship with grantees throughout the process that continues after the completion of the grant

- **Longitudinal Evaluation of Success & Progress:**
  - Publications resulting from the Project
  - Presentations given that include Project Data
  - Press Related to Project
  - Grantee Career Advancement
  - Honor and Awards during the Grant Period
2018 RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Female: 21
- Male: 21
- Minority*: 4
- International: 3

Circle Diagram:
- Cell/Molecular Biology: 45%
- Tumor Biology: 14%
- Biomarker: 5%
- Drug Discovery/Design: 5%
- Immunology: 9%
- Clinical: 12%
- Other: 10%
PIECES TO THE PARTNERSHIP PUZZLE

There is a **business** side and **personal** side to every partnership…

- Mission alignment
- Board approval
- Contracting and Timelines
- Impact Assessment & Reporting
- Good rapport between organizations
- Compromise (!)
- Flexibility
- Open Communication

…and each has challenges and benefits. Pros and cons can often be more **gray** than black and white.
KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

- There are many forms of collaboration (it’s not just co-funding!)
  - The contributions from each organization should bring value to the collaboration, whether it is monetary or otherwise

- Recognizing the collaboration as a true partnership, where both organizations benefit from the relationship (and together move the field forward!)

- Understand that challenges are opportunities for change and can drive collaborations forward as organizations work toward a common goal

- Remember that the ultimate beneficiaries of these collaborations are the research community and the public, as we advance science in our respective fields
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