



# AACR GUIDE TO CANCER CAREERS

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**We are leading a revolution  
in oncology to redefine  
cancer care**





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SPECIAL THANKS TO



DIAMOND SUPPORTER

of the AACR's

Cancer and Biomedical

Research Career Fair

SPECIAL THANKS TO



SILVER SUPPORTER

of the AACR's

Cancer and Biomedical

Research Career Fair

# Accelerate your research at MD Anderson

**From the first spark of an idea to its translation into clinical practice in our world-renowned clinics, researchers at MD Anderson Cancer Center are making groundbreaking advances in discovery, prevention, translational and clinical research.**

At MD Anderson, our clinicians and scientists collaborate seamlessly across disciplines to follow hypotheses and test theories that yield breakthroughs.

Supported by our vast resources and informed by one of the world's largest cancer clinical trials programs, we're transforming the lives of patients at unmatched speed.

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Explore opportunities at [MDAnderson.org/Careers](https://MDAnderson.org/Careers).

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**MD Anderson  
Cancer Center**

Making Cancer History®





## CANCER AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CAREER FAIR

Join the AACR at its Cancer and Biomedical Research Career Fair in 2023! This career fair is being held on Saturday, April 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the AACR Annual Meeting 2023, and is designed to appeal to both employers and job seekers.

### As a Career Fair Exhibitor, your organization will enjoy the following benefits:

- Ability to showcase your company/organization with an ad and description in the Career Fair's Cancer Careers Resource Guide, which is given to each attendee at the Career Fair and distributed at the AACR Annual Meeting and at conferences throughout the year.
- Post up to ten open position announcements on CancerCareers.org, with the potential of reaching thousands of scientific job seekers.
- Gain exposure to a host of qualified scientists in basic, translational, clinical, and preventive cancer research and biomedicine.
- Conduct confidential one-on-one interview sessions with candidates at the Career Fair.

### Cancer Careers Resource Guide

Every participant and attendee of the AACR Cancer and Biomedical Research Career Fair receives a *Cancer Careers Resource Guide*. This guide features ads and brief descriptions of each exhibiting company at the Career Fair, giving job seekers an opportunity to learn more about each employer.

The guide also offers information about membership in the AACR, and networking opportunities for Early-career Associate Members, Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR), Women in Cancer Research (WICR), and other Professional Advancement and Development events.

**For more information on the 2024 AACR Annual Cancer and Biomedical Research Career Fair, visit [CancerCareers.org](https://www.cancer-careers.org). If you wish to be added to our mailing list or are interested in purchasing a booth or customized package for the Career Fair, send an email to [CareerFair@aacr.org](mailto:CareerFair@aacr.org).**

► Visit [CancerCareers.org](https://www.cancer-careers.org) for more information.

# SPECIAL THANKS

**A special thanks to all of the organizations listed below for their generous support of the CancerCareers.org Hub**

## AE Strategies

[aestrategies.com](http://aestrategies.com)

AE Strategies ([www.aestrategies.com](http://www.aestrategies.com)), located in Mclean, VA, has been contracted by the FDA's Office of Oncologic Diseases to identify candidates for full-time federal Physician and Director career opportunities.

## American Association for Cancer Research

[AACR.org](http://AACR.org)

The AACR's mission is to prevent and cure cancer. We are the world's first and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing cancer research. The AACR's membership includes more than 54,000 laboratory, translational, and clinical researchers; population scientists; other health care professionals; and cancer advocates residing in more than 130 countries. The AACR publishes high impact factor peer-reviewed scientific journals and a consumer magazine geared to patients, survivors, and caregivers. Please visit the AACR website to learn more about our membership, peer-reviewed scientific journals and *Cancer Today* magazine, conferences and educational workshops, our scientific partnership with Stand Up To Cancer, the AACR Foundation, and more.

## AstraZeneca

[astrazeneca.com](http://astrazeneca.com)

AstraZeneca is a global, science-led biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the discovery, development and commercialisation of prescription medicines, primarily for the treatment of diseases in three therapy areas - Oncology, Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolism, and Respiratory. Based in Cambridge, UK, AstraZeneca operates in over 100 countries and its innovative medicines are used by millions of patients worldwide.

## Bio-Rad Laboratories

[bio-rad.com](http://bio-rad.com)

For 70 years, Bio-Rad has focused on advancing the discovery process and transforming the fields of science and healthcare. As one of the top five life science companies, we are a global leader in developing, manufacturing, and marketing a broad range of high-quality research and clinical diagnostic products. We help people everywhere live longer, healthier lives. Recently voted a Best Place to Work, Bio-Rad offers a unique employee experience with collaborative teams that span the globe. Here, you are supported

by leadership to build your career and are empowered to drive change that makes an impact you can see.

## CancerCareers.org

[CancerCareers.org](http://CancerCareers.org)

Powered by the American Association for Cancer Research, CancerCareers.org is a leading career website focused on opportunities in biomedical science and cancer research.

Since March 2003, CancerCareers.org has been connecting academic institutions, government agencies, major pharmaceutical companies, and biotech firms with top scientists in basic, translational, epidemiological, and behavioral research. We strive to effectively serve the scientific community as a comprehensive career resource.

CancerCareers.org provides employers and job seekers many opportunities to connect. Employers can purchase access to a searchable CV/resume database and immediately begin finding candidates. To publicize their opportunities and increase their organization's visibility, employers can also purchase job postings. Registered job seekers can upload their CVs, search postings, create alerts, and apply directly for job opportunities.

The AACR is proud to offer CancerCareers.org as another tool to promote professional collaborations that will move us even closer to preventing and curing cancer.

## Cancer Research UK

[cancerresearchuk.org](http://cancerresearchuk.org)

Cancer Research UK is the largest independent funder of cancer research in the world. We're committed to developing outstanding scientists and inspiring the cancer research leaders of tomorrow and can support you wherever you are in your career. We're at the forefront of the global fight against cancer, working with commercial and non-commercial research partners across the world to achieve our ambitious vision for a better future.

## Cancer Science Institute of Singapore

[csi.nus.edu.sg/web/careers/](http://csi.nus.edu.sg/web/careers/)

The Cancer Science Institute of Singapore (CSI) is one of only six Research Centres of Excellence established by the Government of Singapore with funding from the National Research Foundation and the Ministry of Education. Its mission is to better understand the causes of human cancer across Asia, and thereby improve its detection, treatment and prevention for the benefit of the patients. The CSI's outstanding researchers and excellent scientific facilities

create an energetic environment for ground-breaking research and world-class training. The CSI is internationally recognized for its innovative research on the biology of cancers prevalent in Asia, and for taking new methods for cancer treatment from the laboratory to the clinic. Through its local and global partnerships, the CSI works with leading minds from multiple scientific and clinical disciplines in Singapore, the USA and Europe, both in academia and in industry.

For more information on CSI Singapore, visit <https://www.csi.nus.edu.sg/web/>

## City of Hope

[cityofhope.org/careers](http://cityofhope.org/careers)

City of Hope's mission is to deliver the cures of tomorrow to the people who need them today. Founded in 1913, City of Hope has grown into one of the largest cancer research and treatment organizations in the U.S. and one of the leading research centers for diabetes and other life-threatening illnesses.

## Crown Bioscience Inc.

[crownbio.org](http://crownbio.org)

Crown Bioscience, a JSR Life Sciences company, is a global contract research organization (CRO) providing discovery, preclinical and translational platforms to advance oncology, immuno-oncology, and immune-mediated inflammatory diseases.

Known for their high quality and expansive *in vivo*, *in vitro* and *ex vivo* preclinical models, they partner with their clients to quantify the efficacy and pharmacological profile of their drug candidate before they move into the clinic.

The company is the only preclinical CRO to provide tumor organoid services utilizing HUB technology and has the world's largest commercially available PDX collection. Additionally, further services available in the areas of high content imaging and a 3D *Ex Vivo* Patient Tissue Platform, provide greater insights into complex disease pathophysiology. A range of biomarker analysis and applied genomics services are also available to optimize therapeutic benefit.

Crown Bioscience helps to deliver superior drug candidates to ensure that patients get the right treatment at the right time. Founded in 2006, Crown Bioscience has twelve facilities in the US, Europe, and Asia. Find out more: [www.crownbio.com](http://www.crownbio.com)

## Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

[frederick.cancer.gov](http://frederick.cancer.gov)

Whether you're an expert in your field or just starting out, we have a career opportunity for you. We're always looking for people to join us in fulfilling the mission of the Frederick National Laboratory: discovery, innovation, and success in the biomedical sciences.

Our team of 2,400+ scientists, technicians, administrators, and support staff work at the forefront of basic, translational, and preclinical science, with a focus on cancer, AIDS, and other infectious diseases.

We collaborate with colleagues across the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and others throughout the National Institutes of Health. We also engage with extramural investigators in academia, government and industry.

Your path to joining our team begins with the desire to work for the only national laboratory dedicated to biomedical research. Our employees share a common desire to help make a difference in cancer research and public health concerns. As you search for a career that fits your education, skills, and abilities, explore the core values that guide us and emphasize work-life balance.

## Georgia Cancer Center

[augusta.edu/cancer](http://augusta.edu/cancer)

The Georgia Cancer Center is on a mission for Georgia providing industry-leading cancer research and care that benefits patients locally and globally. Our ultimate goal is to eradicate cancer and we are proudly making progress every day. When we say patient care is a priority, we mean it. We assemble custom teams of field experts to address each individual's unique needs.

## SPECIAL THANKS *(cont'd)*

### MD Anderson Cancer Center

[mdanderson.org](http://mdanderson.org)

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is one of the world's largest and most respected centers devoted exclusively to cancer patient care, research, education and prevention. The institution's sole mission is to end cancer for patients and their families around the world. We're proud to be recognized as a leader in cancer research and to be ranked No. 1 for cancer care in *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Hospitals" survey.

Through integrated and comprehensive programs, MD Anderson advances impactful discovery, prevention, translational and clinical research. We aim to provide a deeper understanding of all cancer types, including rare cancers not often studied or treated elsewhere, to ultimately lead to meaningful benefits for patients. In the last fiscal year, we invested more than \$1 billion in research efforts and led the nation in the number of funded projects from the National Cancer Institute.

MD Anderson's clinical trials program continues to be one of the largest of its kind in the world. In 2022, we conducted more than 1,600 clinical trials that enrolled more than 10,000 patients to evaluate the next generation of innovative cancer therapies. Our experts work in partnership with patients to make breakthroughs that transform the field and the lives of patients.

The proximity of scientists and physicians within MD Anderson allows for unparalleled seamless collaboration, fueled by our vast resources and informed by an extensive patient population. Discoveries from the lab are rapidly translated into new therapies and advanced into the clinic, and data from the clinic informs studies at the bench in real time. Our culture of collaboration provides early-career researchers accessible mentorship and hands-on training with some of the best minds in the world across the spectrum of cancer research and care.

Our emphasis in team science and our unique cycle of innovation are hallmarks of MD Anderson, making it an ideal environment to achieve progress at an unmatched pace. Learn about joining MD Anderson to accelerate your research at [MDAnderson.org/Careers](http://MDAnderson.org/Careers).

### Moderna

[modernatx.com](http://modernatx.com)

In over 10 years since its inception, Moderna has transformed from a research-stage company advancing programs in the field of messenger RNA (mRNA), to an enterprise with a diverse clinical portfolio of vaccines and therapeutics across seven modalities, a broad intellectual property portfolio and integrated manufacturing facilities that allow for rapid clinical and commercial production at scale. Moderna maintains alliances with a broad range of domestic and overseas government and commercial collaborators, which has allowed for the pursuit of both groundbreaking science and rapid scaling of manufacturing. Most recently, Moderna's capabilities have come together to allow the authorized use and approval of one of the earliest and most effective vaccines against the COVID pandemic.

Moderna's mRNA platform builds on continuous advances in basic and applied mRNA science, delivery technology and manufacturing, and has allowed the development of therapeutics and vaccines for infectious diseases, immuno-oncology, rare diseases, cardiovascular diseases and auto-immune diseases. Moderna has been named a top biopharmaceutical employer by Science for the past eight years. To learn more, visit [www.modernatx.com](http://www.modernatx.com).

### Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute

[moffitt.org](http://moffitt.org)

Moffitt Cancer Center is dedicated to one lifesaving mission: to contribute to the prevention and cure of cancer. As the only National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Florida, our dedicated team include the best and brightest minds, from around the world, are committed to revolutionizing cancer treatment and improving diagnostic, preventative and therapeutic advancements. Moffitt prioritizes work-life balance and embraces diversity and inclusion in the workplace. It is essential to our mission and culture that we value, support, and celebrate what makes each of our team members unique.

### MUSC Hollings Cancer Center

[hollingscancercenter.musc.edu](http://hollingscancercenter.musc.edu)

MUSC Hollings Cancer Center is South Carolina's only NCI-designated cancer center, comprising 130 cancer scientists and 20 academic departments. Hollings is dedicated to preventing and reducing the cancer burden across the state and committed to creating a diverse workforce by recruiting and retaining trainees, faculty and staff who fully represent the communities we serve.

### National Cancer Institute Center for Cancer Research

[ccr.cancer.gov](http://ccr.cancer.gov)

**Who We Are:** The Center for Cancer Research (CCR) comprises nearly 250 teams conducting basic, translational and clinical research in the NCI intramural program. The CCR's clinical program is housed at the NIH Clinical Center – the world's largest hospital dedicated to clinical research. For more information about CCR and its programs, visit [ccr.cancer.gov](http://ccr.cancer.gov).

## OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

[ohsu.edu/knight-cancer-institute](http://ohsu.edu/knight-cancer-institute)

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute is an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center located in Portland, Oregon. Our vision is to remove the burden of cancer from the world, through groundbreaking research, compassionate comprehensive care, and early detection.

## Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

[cinj.org](http://cinj.org)

As New Jersey's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, Rutgers Cancer Institute with RWJBarnabas Health, offers the most advanced cancer treatment options including clinical trials, precision medicine, bone marrow transplantation, proton therapy, and CAR T-cell therapy. Our dedication to excellence is fueled by the cutting-edge research led by our clinicians and researchers who work to move laboratory discoveries into clinical practice.

## St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

[stjude.org/jobs.html](http://stjude.org/jobs.html)

At St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)) in Memphis, Tennessee, we have one common goal: find cures for children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases through research and treatment. As a world-class research institute and a specialized children's hospital, St. Jude provides an unparalleled opportunity to advance your scientific training and launch your career.

## Science Careers

[sciencecareers.org](http://sciencecareers.org)

*Science Careers*, produced by Science/AAAS, offers free resources to advance your career. Thousands of searchable jobs from industry, academia, and government are available online. Our website also offers job alert notifications, career advice articles, myIDP, a resume/CV database and more. Whether you need career advice or access to the latest job opportunities, visit [ScienceCareers.org](http://ScienceCareers.org) today.

## The Jackson Laboratory

[jax.org](http://jax.org)

The Jackson Laboratory is an independent, nonprofit biomedical research institution with a National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center and nearly 3,000 employees in locations across the United States (Maine, Connecticut, California), Japan and China. Its mission is to discover precise genomic solutions for disease and empower the global biomedical community in the shared quest to improve human health.

Founded in 1929, JAX applies over nine decades of expertise in genetics to increase understanding of human disease, advancing treatments and cures for cancer, neurological and immune disorders, diabetes, aging and heart disease. It models and interprets genomic complexity, integrates basic research with clinical application, educates current and future scientists, and provides critical data, tools and services to the global biomedical community. For more information, please visit [www.jax.org](http://www.jax.org).

## UC San Diego - Moores Cancer Center

[moorecancercenter.ucsd.edu](http://moorecancercenter.ucsd.edu)

The Moores Cancer Center (MCC) is one of just 53 NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the United States and the only one in San Diego County. As a consortium cancer center, it is a collaborative partnership between the University of California San Diego (UCSD); encompassing 14 departments (12 clinical, 2 basic sciences), 3 professional schools (School of Medicine, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Public Health), UCSD Health oncology hospitals and clinics; the basic and public health research and outreach of San Diego State University (SDSU), and the basic and translational research of the La Jolla Institute of Immunology (LJI). These various programs and units are all dedicated to fulfilling the Moores Cancer Center's mission of reducing cancer's burden. As such, it ranks among the top centers in the nation conducting the continuum of cancer research, providing advanced patient care, and serving the community through outreach and education programs. As a top-ranking, future-oriented organization, we offer challenging career opportunities in a fast-paced and innovative environment. Moores Cancer Center follows a progressive philosophy of career-path development for its employees including opportunities for cross-training, professional development, and progressive responsibility.

MCC's mission is to transform cancer care in our catchment area and beyond by driving exceptional scientific discoveries and innovations in prevention, detection, care, and training. MCC will make a global impact on improving health by reducing cancer burden through accelerated discovery and translation, compassionate and interdisciplinary care, education, and community engagement, with the foundation of our core values - Excellence, Innovation and Risk-Taking, Collaboration, Diversity, and Service.

## Van Andel Institute

[vai.org](http://vai.org)

Van Andel Institute is a leader in cancer epigenetics. The Institute is home to the Van Andel Institute–Stand Up To Cancer Epigenetics Dream Team and is one of three National Cancer Institute-funded cancer epigenetics training program sites. VAI is seeking talented scientists and offers all employees, including postdocs, top-tier salaries and benefits. Postdoc salaries start at \$70,000.



## Join Our Cutting-Edge Basic and Clinical Research Teams

Want to work with world-renowned cancer researchers at NIH? Consider joining the Center for Cancer Research (CCR) at the National Cancer Institute! At CCR, we focus on high-risk, cutting-edge science, pursuing the most important — and most difficult — problems in the field.

### Our Cornerstones:

- Intellectual freedom
- Long-term funding and sustained support
- Unmatched access to technology
- Innovative training programs
- Diversity in thought and people



Scan to learn more about CCR career opportunities

## Creating the Cancer Medicines of Tomorrow

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | National Institutes of Health | National Cancer Institute



# The Future of Cancer Research Is Here

View available careers at [CityofHopeJobs.org](https://www.cityofhope.org/careers).



*EOE: City of Hope strongly supports and values the uniqueness of all individuals and promotes a work environment where diversity is embraced.*



# BOLD IDEAS. BIG IMPACT.

As world leaders in cancer epigenetics research, Van Andel Institute scientists collaborate with a global network of brilliant minds to better understand cancer and translate breakthroughs into life-changing treatments.

## Join Our Team

VAI's exceptional scientists, trainees and staff are key to our mission. To recognize and support our employees, the Institute offers outstanding benefits, including:

- Competitive salaries with annual cost-of-living adjustments and opportunities for merit increases
- Postdoctoral fellow salaries that start at \$70,000 a year — among the highest starting postdoc salaries in the nation
- Comprehensive and competitive benefits, including paid parental leave and 401(K) match
- Extensive professional development opportunities to foster employee career growth
- A rigorous, supportive and mission-focused environment in Grand Rapids, Michigan — a city named as one of the best places to live by *U.S. News and World Report*

Explore career opportunities by visiting [vai.org/careers](http://vai.org/careers).



# POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

**St. Jude** is a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Over 165 faculty investigators perform basic and translational biomedical research in close association with 110 clinical faculty. Research areas include biochemistry, cancer biology, cell and molecular biology, chemical biology, computational biology, epidemiology, immunology, infectious diseases, neurobiology, pharmaceutical sciences, and structural biology.

Visit us at the AACR Career Fair, and at Booth 2046 in the AACR Exhibit Hall.


[www.stjude.org/postdoc](http://www.stjude.org/postdoc)  
[postdoc@stjude.org](mailto:postdoc@stjude.org)

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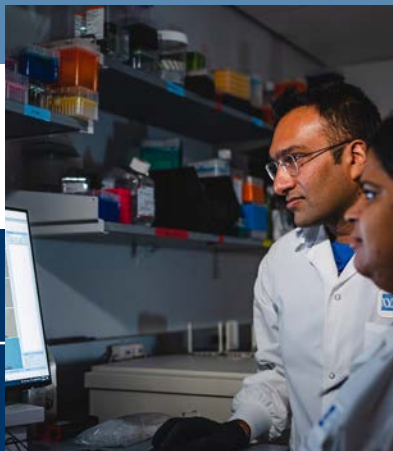
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**You:** The next generation of scientific leadership.

**Us:** A global leader in biomedical research in cancer, immunology, and infectious disease, backed by world-class scientists.

**Together:** Join Wistar's community of investigation and exploration.

**Wistar scientists change the world.  
Be the change.**



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[wistar.org/about-wistar/employment](https://wistar.org/about-wistar/employment)

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# JOIN US IN SAN DIEGO AACR ANNUAL MEETING 2024

APRIL 5-10, 2024

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS



### **Christina Curtis, PhD, MSc**

Professor of Medicine and Genetics  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Director, Breast Cancer Translational Research  
Co-director, Molecular Tumor Board  
Stanford Cancer Institute



### **Keith T. Flaherty, MD**

Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School  
Director, Termeer Center for Targeted Therapy  
Director, Clinical Research and Richard  
Saltonstall Endowed Chair in Oncology  
Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center  
Editor-in-Chief, *Clinical Cancer Research*



For more information as it becomes  
available, visit [AACR.org/AACR2024](https://AACR.org/AACR2024)

**AACR** American Association  
for Cancer Research®



## CANCERCAREERS.ORG

### The Year-Round Virtual Career Fair

AACR's CancerCareers.org offers unparalleled career services and opportunities to cancer and biomedical researchers seeking to advance their scientific careers, and to employers who seek to recruit scientists.

Scientific researchers may access CancerCareers.org's database, create a user profile, create job alerts, and browse through and apply for any of the hundreds of job openings advertised by some of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, cancer research institutions, government agencies, and academia. The site also has the capability to store CVs/resumes, and search for various research categories.

Employers have the ability to post an unlimited number of job announcements on the CancerCareers.org website, with the potential of reaching thousands of highly qualified scientists at all scientific levels who are interested in cancer and biomedical research, as well as in epidemiologic and behavioral research. In addition, the CV/resume database that holds information on these highly qualified scientists is available to employers for their review and consideration.

Find  
Jobs.



Recruit  
Talent.



Advance  
Science.

➤ Visit [CancerCareers.org](https://www.cancercareers.org)  
for more information and  
to upload your CV/Resume.



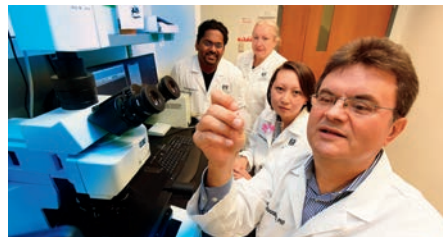
  
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CANCER CENTER**  
AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY  
M. Bert Storey  
Research Building

1410

# WORLD CLASS RESEARCH

and we'd love for you to join us

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CANCER CENTER**  
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**M. Bert Storey  
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Larry Walker Boulevard



**The Georgia Cancer Center is expanding its research programs and actively seeking faculty, postdoctoral, and research staff positions. Some of the highlighted positions include:**

**Associate Director**  
Cancer Prevention, Control & Population Health

**Medical Director**  
Clinical Trials Office

**Molecular Epidemiologists**  
All faculty ranks

**Radiation Oncology**  
Clinical Faculty

Submit your CV and cover letter to Ms. Tamala Bray at [tbray@augusta.edu](mailto:tbray@augusta.edu) today. Learn more at [augusta.edu/cancer](http://augusta.edu/cancer)



**GEORGIA  
CANCER CENTER**  
AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

# A TALE OF TWO PASSIONS

Calley Jones, PhD  
Science Writer,  
Communications and Public Relations



## I vividly remember the moment I decided to become a scientist.

I was on vacation with my aunt, who was undergoing treatment for early-onset colorectal cancer. In an offhand comment not intended to redirect my life path, she told me that I was smart enough to do anything I wanted with my life—even discover the cure for cancer if I so chose. My eight-year-old self told her I'd do it.

I also vividly remember the moment, a few years prior, when I looked at one of my picture books in a whole new light after realizing that someone made the books I loved to read. I, too, wanted to make books and write stories, I decided.

While I entertained a few other career ideas growing up, by the time I reached college, these were the two that remained with me. Warned against the perils of being a “starving artist” struggling to build a writing career, I majored in biology, set on running my own cancer research lab one day. As the stressors of life as a freshman science major closed in, I almost gave up on writing entirely.

Until I realized that I had time in my schedule to pick up a minor in creative writing.

The minor was a hot topic of conversation in my interviews for graduate school. Some speculated that having a passion so far removed from my intended career made me well-rounded. Others feared that it would distract me from my lab duties. I countered by asserting that both creativity and strong writing skills were valuable assets to a scientific career, and the argument was convincing enough to get me an acceptance letter from Mayo Clinic, my top choice of schools.

During graduate school, my advisor recognized my writing abilities early and provided me opportunities to nurture them by asking me to help write and review manuscripts and grant applications. Although I had decided before my qualifying exams that I did not want to pursue a career in academia, I knew that other opportunities would allow me to use my scientific knowledge in a context that better matched my personality and skill set. Around the end of my third year, I analyzed the career options I was considering—scientific writing, teaching science at a college level, advocacy, and community engagement—and I realized they all had a common denominator.

They all involved explaining important concepts to others in an engaging way. In short, they all involved storytelling.

While I was terrified of the world of public relations and journalism, I recognized that it encompassed the most direct way to weave together science and storytelling. My graduate school had a connection with the communications department at Mayo and set me up with a part-time internship while I completed my thesis work. I learned that there is a bustling market for scientifically trained writers who can speak critically with researchers about their work, understand cutting-edge science in a broader context, and help disseminate scientific concepts to the public in an accessible manner.

I joined the National Association of Science Writers and attended their annual meeting. The connections I made there introduced me to other opportunities that eventually led to a remote science writing internship at the Broad Institute. At that point, I had defended my thesis and acquired my PhD, but my advisor allowed me to remain in the lab as a postdoctoral fellow during the internship and the job search that followed.

The job search led me to the AACR, where I have worked as a science writer for almost two years.

The position has been an ideal match for my interests and skill set. Despite being removed from the lab bench, I continue to use my experience with understanding, evaluating, and interpreting research findings every day. The broader cancer biology coursework I took during graduate school provided me with the necessary background for important advances in the field, including in cancer types and cellular pathways with which I was relatively unfamiliar. I now have the privilege of reading about exciting science happening in all areas of cancer research and synthesizing that information into blog posts and press releases that help keep the public and the media informed about cancer.

While my journey may not resonate with everyone, I believe it contains a strong piece of advice for anyone exploring careers outside of academia: lean into your hobbies and other interests. They may not seem relatable at a first glance, but if you boil them down to skill sets you've picked up along the way, you may find a common denominator that leads you to an exciting new career.

Do you have a passion for volunteer work? You may enjoy a position in a community outreach program that teaches the public about the scientific process. Did you enjoy the debate team in high school? Consider using those skills to advocate for research funding on Capitol Hill. If you enjoy art, graphic design, photography, or videography, your unique set of talents may help you land a job doing informational multimedia work for a nonprofit, university, or company.

Don't be afraid to ask your inner child what they want to be when they grow up. You may find that their ideas are fresher than you think. ■

# MY JOURNEY TO THE AACR

Rajarshi Sengupta, PhD

Director, Scientific Research Analysis and Dissemination

Executive Office, American Association for Cancer Research® (AACR)



## I received my PhD in neuroscience studying the role of opioids in CNS neurodegeneration.

After graduation, I did a postdoctoral fellowship studying the molecular underpinnings of medulloblastoma, one of the most common malignant brain tumors in children. Following my post-doctoral training, I worked as a research manager at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) where I studied the genetics of enteric nervous system disorders. While working at CHOP, I was selected for a six-month long research administration fellowship. I chose a project with the Institutional Review Board that involved the development of a curriculum aimed to improve the quality of the Informed Consent process in clinical research. During those six months I had several opportunities to interact directly with patients and their families which was an incredibly enriching experience and put me in the career path that I am in today.

My role at the AACR has grown enormously since I started about seven years ago. Currently, our team oversees the development of two annual scientific reports and assists with various other scientific initiatives throughout the organization as needed. Some of my primary responsibilities include assembling external steering committees of key opinion leaders, overseeing the writing and editing of text and graphical content for the AACR Cancer Progress Reports, communicating with researchers and cancer survivors to be featured in the reports and managing video interviews including coordinating photography and videography, coordinating and managing numerous project meetings, working with various departments within the organization to coordinate the release of the reports. That said, the most important aspect of my job and in fact every member of our team is to stay abreast of the latest research in cancer science and medicine.

As one of the fastest growing departments within the AACR I am always looking for potential new members to add to our dynamic group. Qualities that are critical for success in our team include outstanding writing and editing skills, attention to details, ability to manage large multifaceted projects and coordinate multiple, simultaneous, and diverse workflows. We love working as a team, exchanging ideas, brainstorming on how to present complex scientific concepts to a lay audience. Therefore, being a team player is key. And again, as stated before, the most important quality that I look for in a potential teammate is their ability to learn and stay up to date on the latest developments in cancer research. We want our scientific staff to serve as subject knowledge experts across the continuum of cancer research and patient care so we can meet the demands of AACR's rapidly expanding scientific agenda.

It is absolutely thrilling to be a part of the first and largest cancer research organization in the world. I do not exaggerate one bit when I say that the last seven years have been amazing. I have and continue to learn each day. Collaborating with fellow AACR colleagues, AACR members and leadership, and cancer patients as we work toward a shared goal of preventing and curing all cancers for everyone has been the most fulfilling experience of my life. ■

# UNLOCKING THE SECRET TO MY CAREER

Robert Kruger, PhD

Senior Executive Editor, *Cancer Discovery*

Editorial Director, Publications, American Association for Cancer Research® (AACR)



**A passion for science communication has shaped the course of my career, but at first this driving force was a current that flowed beneath the surface.**

Like many others in the poster halls and sessions of this year's annual meeting, I began my scientific career at the bench as a PhD student studying protein interactions and cell signaling pathways in effort to understand how these molecular events shape biological outcomes. During my training I was largely focused on the day-to-day concerns of a graduate student, all the while envisioning a future academic career. However, as I gained experience with more aspects of the traditional career path, I became increasingly aware that I was a generalist by nature. What I have always enjoyed most about science are the interactions I have with other researchers and the opportunity to learn from them about the vast range of interesting questions that the community is exploring. My first inkling that science communication could be a viable career direction came with the recognition I received from an international newspaper's young science writers' competition. On graduating, I tested the waters of an editorial career by applying for open professional editor positions, as these roles struck me as an exciting way to explore my desire for broader engagement with the scientific community while honing my skills in science communication. My 18 years in science publishing have fully lived up to this expectation, first at *Cell* where I rose to Deputy Editor, and now with AACR as the Senior Executive Editor for *Cancer Discovery* and as Editorial Director for AACR's family of research journals.

At AACR I help shape the scientific content of our ten journals while managing an outstanding and collaborative team of professional staff PhD editors. I directly engage with our authors and academic editors to help disseminate key advances and highlight open questions. I also enjoy collaborating with colleagues within and beyond the Publications Division of AACR on a multitude of interesting projects. Most of all, I am exposed to a lot of new science, and have the privilege of using this knowledge to help place discoveries within a larger context for our readers.

I am always eager to speak with students, post-docs, and other researchers about editorial careers. Indeed, I was inspired to apply for editorial positions after seeking out professional editors at scientific conferences to learn about what they do. What I am looking for in candidates for staff editorial roles is a combination of qualities and skills. First and foremost, one needs to be broadly curious about cancer science to thrive in a staff editorial role at AACR. This attribute is key in learning to make sound decisions on incoming submissions, and this mindset ensures that one is energized by the pace of the work. At the same time, I am looking for individuals who are collaborative, welcome feedback, and are scientifically open-minded. These traits are essential for an editor to learn and grow in the role and to gain skill in spotting the most interesting and impactful discoveries. ■

# 11 THINGS JOB SEEKERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NETWORKING

Now, more than ever, we need to get in the mindset of helping one another. We are in a situation where more and more people are looking for new opportunities. Many of them have no choice but to do so. It is for them, and the rest of us who may someday be in that spot that I share these guidelines on how to effectively network to find a job. Hopefully this information reaches you in time.

## 1. Be clear on what sort of position you want.

In an ideal world, people are going to ask you: “What sort of job are you seeking”? DO NOT blow this incredible opportunity by not having a well thought out, concise and specific answer. The answer “I am not sure” or “this is a great time to reinvent myself” will not help you find your dream job. If you have always wanted to work at a specific industry, type of position or even a specific company, let us know. It’s amazing how connected many of us are. Unless you tell us specifically how we can help you, we can’t.

## 2. Networking is as much about the other person as it is about you.

I’m a big proponent of the idea that “Networking has to start with an expressed need” and you needing a job is definitely a need. But, you need to consider that you are asking others for help. And while there will be many people who are ready, willing and hopefully able to help, you are better served to see how you may be able to help them. The big challenge in networking for a job is you are in “take” mode. Networking really is about giving. While you are giving people the opportunity to help, that is not a gift that you want to give too often.

## 3. Regardless of your employment situation you have value to offer.

Just because you no longer have a job doesn’t mean you no longer have access to a lot of resources. Don’t make the mistake of forgetting to stay in touch with the people in your lives. You never know when these folks may be able to serve as a reference or a connector for you. Think of all of the people in your life: Family, friends, work colleagues, schoolmates, the people you know from your religious group, the folks at the stores you frequent, the PTA, teammates, and the list goes on. All of these people can be a resource to others in your network.

## 4. Start with what you can do for them and let others ask what they can do for you.

When you ask how you may be able to help someone make their day great, they will likely ask how they can help you. Let them know that you are seeking a new opportunity and could use their help meeting people who may be able to help you in your future endeavors. If you are genuine, helpful, and competent, they should be happy to make the introduction for you.

## 5. Use the online tools that are there to help you.

The web has made the job search way easier, but also more accessible to the masses. We used to live in a world that was based on “Who you know”. Now we have to be on the lookout for “Who we can find”. Sure there are tons of job boards out there, but those aren’t the tools of which I speak (a special shout out to [www.jibberjobber.com](http://www.jibberjobber.com), you should use this to manage your search). The tools I suggest you use are of the social networking variety. Are you using LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter for your search? You should be. These tools can help you find the people with whom you need to connect and which of your connections are connected to them.

## **6. You need to leverage the relationships you have to create the relationships you need.**

You know what you want and who you need to connect with to make it happen, right? Great. Now use those relationships you have to do so. Whether you use an online site, an email or the telephone, ask these people to make an introduction for you. The most powerful type is when the three of you can get together for food, drink, or chit chat. A second place strategy would be if they can set a meeting for you. Last, and certainly better than nothing, is if they will get permission from their contact for you to communicate with them. Any of these three are more powerful than “yeah, go ahead and use my name”.

## **7. Now is the time when you really need to be okay asking for help.**

This isn't the time to be shy. You can't afford it. Don't worry about seeming “weak” or less of a person because you need help. The reality is it's a really big world and you are but one person. You need all the help you can get and the best way to get it is to ask for it.

## **8. Have an electronic copy of your resume at the ready.**

This is an entry from my friend Dean La Douceur. It's important to not only have your resume done, but done in a fashion that is easy to share. Sure it's great to be able to hand someone a copy, but it's even better to have it in a format that they can easily forward along.

## **9. Build your network before you need your network.**

“I need a job” isn't the first thing your network should be hearing from you. Ideally you will have been nurturing (read: giving to) you network long before you start asking for things from it. You already have a network in place whether you think it's formal or not (see point number 3). It is never too late to organize your network into a usable fashion.

## **10. Have a support group with whom you can share.**

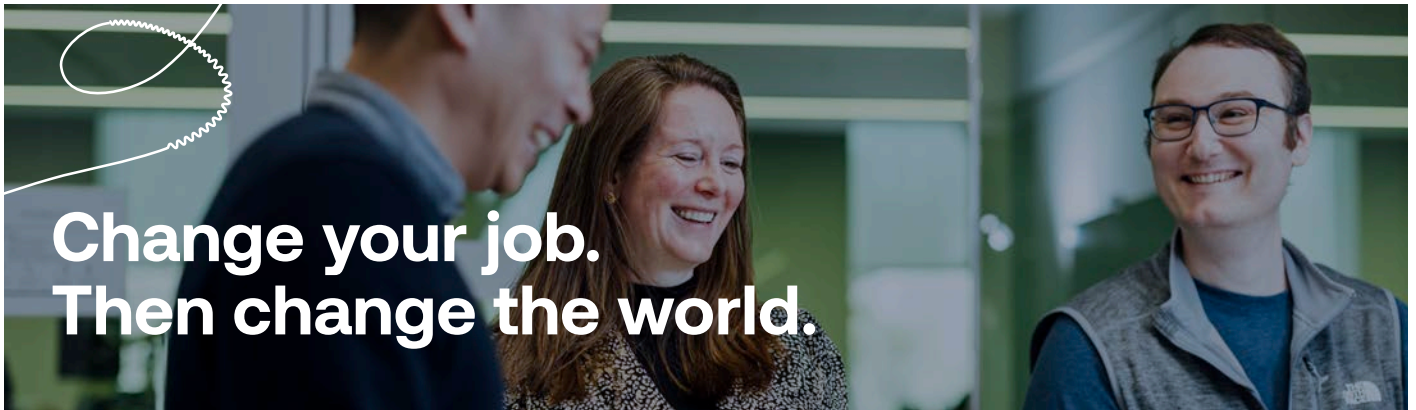
Find others who are in a similar boat and be there for each other. There are lots of great people who are also looking for work. Find those who are seeking similar types of opportunities and share the ones you come across. It may seem like you are creating competition, but you are also multiplying your efforts. These are the folk who know exactly what you're going through and can be there to support you as you support them.

## **11. Remember to say thank you.**

This last piece should go without saying, but my friend Mike Ingberg said this is very important, and I agree. If someone takes the time to speak with you, you should take the time to thank them. Write (notice I didn't say type) a thank you note. Send it to them. This small act will go a long way as to showing what type of person you are.

### **Reprinted from:**

Bean, Terry. LinkedIn.com, Mar 21, 2016.



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## EARLY-CAREER HILL DAY

The AACR Early-career Hill Day is an annual event that brings a group of AACR Associate members to Washington, D.C., to advocate for robust, sustained and predictable funding for cancer research and biomedical science through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), on behalf of early-career cancer researchers. In 2023, AACR Early-career Hill Day was held on March 1-2, 2023. Over the course of more than 50 total congressional visits during a single day, 20 participants were able to stress how important it is to invest in the future of cancer research and provide their own personal perspectives as the investigators whose careers may be most impacted by the support of this essential funding. Participants received support from AACR staff and were accompanied by one or more established investigators with significant advocacy experience. Annually, this event is an important opportunity for the AACR's Associate members to engage in advocacy at the federal level and educate lawmakers on the progress and promise in cancer research.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

PROGRAM STARTED IN

2016

NIH FUNDING INCREASED

48%

OVER THE LAST SIX FISCAL YEARS

PARTICIPANTS MAKE OVER

50

CONGRESSIONAL VISITS DURING A SINGLE DAY,  
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## Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR)

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## Women in Cancer Research (WICR)

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## Professional Advancement Series of Sessions

The AACR is committed to the professional development of cancer research investigators and Professional Advancement Sessions are an integral part of the AACR Annual Meeting experience. In support of the AACR's mission to promote the education, training, and professional development of cancer scientists and clinicians, and to cultivate a highly skilled and diverse cancer research workforce, the AACR provides members with opportunities and resources to enhance and advance their careers. Organized as a collaborative effort by the AACR Science Education and Career Advancement Committee, Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR) Council, Women in Cancer Research (WICR) Council, and Associate Member Council (AMC), these exciting sessions are available to Annual Meeting registrants who are AACR members free of charge and provide important skills to investigators at all stages in their careers. Learn more and register for sessions taking place during the AACR Annual Meeting 2023. Learn more at [AACR.org/PAS](http://AACR.org/PAS).

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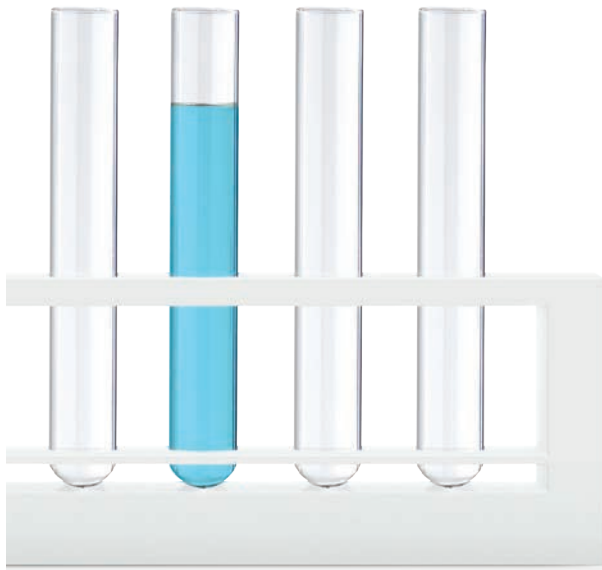
The Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research is a government-owned, contractor-operated scientific enterprise currently operated by Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc., for the National Cancer Institute.

**Frederick National Laboratory  
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April 6, 2024 | AACR Annual Meeting 2024 | San Diego, CA

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