1999 AACR-Pezcoller International Award for Cancer Research

AACR-Pezcoller International Award Committee
Peter K. Vogt, Ph.D., Chairperson, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA
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Marco A. Pierotti, Ph.D., Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan, Italy
Masaaki Terada, M.D., D.M.Sc., National Cancer Center Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan
Bengt Westermark, Ph.D., University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden

Ex officio
David M. Livingston, M.D., Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA
Enrico Mihich, M.D., Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, USA

The AACR-Pezcoller International Award for Cancer Research is given annually to a scientist who has made a major scientific discovery in the field of cancer, who continues to be active in the field, and whose ongoing work holds promise for future contributions to cancer research. The Pezcoller Foundation was established in 1982 by Professor Alessio Pezcoller, a dedicated Italian surgeon who has made important contributions to medicine during his career and who, through his foresight, vision, and generous gift in support of the formation of the Foundation, stimulated others to make significant advances in cancer research. Over the past decade the Pezcoller Foundation has given a major award for outstanding contributions to cancer and cancer-related biomedical science.

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) was founded in 1907 by eleven physicians and scientists dedicated to the conquest of cancer and now has nearly 14,000 members in more than 60 countries who are experts in basic, clinical, and translational cancer research. The mission of the AACR is to foster cancer research; this is accomplished in part through outstanding scientific publications, meetings, and training and educational programs. Because of the commitment of the Foundation and the AACR to scientific excellence in cancer research, these two organizations are collaborating annually on the presentation of the AACR-Pezcoller Award. This jointly sponsored award will strengthen international collaborations and will be a catalyst for advancements in cancer research internationally. The awardee will be selected by an international committee of AACR members appointed by the AACR President along with the agreement of the Council of the Pezcoller Foundation. While normally the Award will be presented to a single investigator, in exceptional cases two individuals may be selected to share the award when their investigations have resulted in related prizeworthy work. The committee will make its selection solely on the basis of the awardee's scientific accomplishments without regard to race, gender, nationality, or religious or political views. The candidate will give an award lecture during the AACR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, USA (April 10-14, 1999) and will receive the award in an official ceremony at the Foundation's headquarters in Trento, Italy, after the annual meeting. The award consists of an honorarium of US$75,000 and a commemorative plaque.

The Pezcoller Foundation and the AACR are now soliciting nominations for the 1999 Award. Nominations can be made by any scientist who is now or has been affiliated with an institution engaged in cancer research. Institutions or organizations are not eligible for this award, and candidates may not nominate themselves.

There is no official application form for this award. The nomination package should consist of the following:

- the candidate's curriculum vitae and full list of published works
- an indication of the candidates' most important publications
- a letter of recommendation in English (500 words, maximum) explaining why the candidate is deserving of this prestigious Award. This letter should summarize the candidate's major scientific achievements, indicate which of the candidate's publications best describe these achievements, and explain the impact of these achievements on progress in cancer research.

Nominators are asked to maintain the confidentiality of the nomination process and to refrain from informing the candidate about the nomination.

The deadline for receipt of nominations for the 1999 Award is October 1, 1998. Questions about the nomination process should be directed to the AACR via FAX at (215) 440-9322 or E-mail at aacr@aacr.org. Nominations should be submitted to the AACR. Please forward the original nomination letter plus 15 copies of the letter and any accompanying materials to:

Peter K. Vogt, Ph.D., Chairperson, Selection Committee
AACR-Pezcoller International Award for Cancer Research
c/o American Association for Cancer Research
Public Ledger Building, Suite 826
150 S. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
USA
The NCI Cooperative Human Tissue Network (CHTN) provides normal, benign, pre-cancerous and cancerous human tissue to the scientific community for basic and developmental studies in many areas of cancer research. Contact the CHTN website at: http://www-chtn.ims.nci.nih.gov, or Ms. Marianna Bledsoe, NCI, (301) 496-7147; e-mail: mb80s@nih.gov.

The NCI AIDS Malignancy Bank (AMB) is a collection of tissue and biological fluids with associated clinical and follow-up data from patients with HIV-related malignancies. The specimens and clinical data are available for research studies, particularly those that translate basic research findings to clinical application. Contact the AMB website at: http://cancernet.nci.nih.gov/amb/amb.html, or Dr. Ellen Feigal, NCI, (301) 496-6711; e-mail: ef30d@nih.gov.

The Cooperative Family Registry for Breast Cancer Studies (CFRBCS) provides biological specimens with associated family history, clinical, demographic and epidemiologic data from participants with a family history of breast cancer, breast/ovarian cancer, or Li-Fraumeni syndrome, and their relatives. The CFRBCS's repository is particularly suited to support interdisciplinary and translational breast cancer research. Contact the CFRBCS website at: http://www-dceg.nci.nih.gov/cfrbcs, or Dr. Daniela Seminara, NCI, (301) 496-9600; e-mail: seminard@epndce.nci.nih.gov.

The NCI Cooperative Breast Cancer Tissue Resource (CBCTR) can provide researchers with access to approximately 8,000 cases of formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded primary breast cancer specimens, with associated pathology and clinical data. The collection is particularly well-suited for validation studies of diagnostic and prognostic markers. Contact CBCTR's website at: http://www-cbctr.ims.nci.nih.gov, or Ms. Sherrill Long, Information Management Services, Inc., (301) 680-9770; e-mail: sherrill@ims.nci.nih.gov.

The Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) Tissue Bank can provide malignant, benign, and normal ovarian, and cervical tissue with associated clinical information. The bank was established to provide carefully preserved specimens needed for molecular biology studies of gynecologic tumors. Contact the GOG Tissue Bank, Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH, (614) 722-2890.

The NCI-NAPBC Breast Cancer Specimen and Data Information System can provide additional information on breast cancer tissue resources (http://www-napbc.ims.nci.nih.gov).

Other human specimen resources for cancer research may be available through collaborative arrangements. For further information, please contact Ms. Marianna Bledsoe, NCI, (301) 496-7147, e-mail: mb80s@nih.gov.
Immediate openings exist at the Assistant/Associate Professor level in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at The Ohio State University Medical Center. Responsibilities include providing consultative and attending services in Hematology, Hematologic Oncology, Medical Oncology, and Bone Marrow Transplantation, undergraduate teaching and supervision of residents and fellows. It is expected that individuals will develop or continue with already developed outstanding programs in clinical, epidemiologic, preventative, or basic laboratory cancer research.

The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Research Institute at The Ohio State University is one of the nation’s twenty-six (26) NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers. The Cancer Center and the Division of Hematology and Oncology have recently come under the leadership of Clara Bloomfield, M.D. (Director) and Michael Caligiuri, M.D. (Co-Director of the Division). Additionally, the Cancer Center and Medical School have instituted a new Division of Human Cancer Genetics, headed by Albert de la Chapelle, M.D., Ph.D. A number of positions are now available for physicians to join or lead innovative programs in cancer research and cancer therapy.

The James Cancer Hospital has an international reputation for its active programs in phase I-III assessment of new agents, and has initiated disease-specific treatment strategies and programs with structured evaluations utilizing combined modality management for solid tumors. The Division has numerous institutional and cooperative group clinical protocols, and extensive facilities for clinical pharmacology studies, with an emphasis on evaluation of new chemotherapeutic and biologic agents. There are active programs in cancer prevention, AIDS malignancies, hematologic malignancies, and bone marrow transplantation. On average, 150 autologous or allogeneic transplants are done annually. There is substantial funding from the National Cancer Institute and pharmaceutical industry.

Assistant Professor candidates must show evidence of experience in clinical care and demonstrate potential to develop an outstanding clinical or laboratory research program. Associate Professor candidates must provide evidence of development of a strong research program as well as demonstrate skill in clinical care and teaching. Highly competitive salary and benefits are offered for successful applicants. Candidates must be Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Board Eligible or Certified in Medical Oncology and/or Hematology, as well as be able to meet Medical Licensure requirements in Ohio. The Ohio State University is an EOE/AA/M/F/D/V employer.

Send Curriculum Vitae to:
Clara Bloomfield, M.D., Director
Division of Hematology and Oncology, The Ohio State University
Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine
300 West Tenth Avenue, Room 519
Columbus, OH 43210

American Cancer Society
Targeted Research Project Grants

The American Cancer Society is pleased to announce its Targeted Research Project Grant Program in Prostate Cancer. Three areas of research have been identified:

- Behavioral, Psychosocial, and Quality of Life Issues
- Health Policy and Outcomes Research
- Novel Ideas in Prostate Cancer Cell Biology

$1.5 million has been earmarked per grant cycle for each of the first two areas of research. Each grant can be for three years, up to $250,000 per year including 25% indirect costs, and will be renewable as long as prostate cancer remains a targeted priority area. At least two grants will be awarded in each research area during each grant cycle, contingent on the quality of the applications.

$750,000 has been designated per grant cycle for the area of novel ideas in prostate cancer cell biology. Each grant can be for three years, up to $65,000 per year, including 25% indirect costs, and will not be renewable. Approximately four grants will be awarded each grant cycle.

Application for each research area is open to independent investigators at any stage of their careers. The next deadline for applications is October 15, 1998. Subsequent deadlines will be on April 1, 1999, and October 15, 1999. Please contact the grants administration or development office at your institution for a special application form, or download it from http://www.cancer.org/grants.

Questions about applications in the area of novel ideas in prostate cancer cell biology should be directed to Peter Ove, Ph.D. (404-329-7552 or pove@cancer). Questions concerning the other two areas should be directed to Ralph Vogler, M.D. (404-329-7542 or rvogler@cancer.org) or to Frank Baker, Ph.D. (404-329-7795 or fbaker@cancer.org).
The National Cancer Institute seeks a Chief for its Cancer Training Branch (CTB). This position oversees the planning, development and implementation of all NCI grant programs in research training and career development as they relate to the basic, clinical and population sciences. Responsibilities also include all cancer education activities intended for medical and public health professionals and the lay public. The CTB also oversees a comprehensive program for recruiting and sustaining underserved populations in cancer research. Through its interactions with extramural scientists in workshops and at national meetings and with NCI advisory groups, the CTB plans, develops and implements the strategies and award mechanisms for training the next generation of cancer researchers. The CTB works closely with the applicants who are competing for extramural National Research Service Awards, Career Development Awards and Education Grants and sets priorities for allocation of available resources to meet the NCI's mission and objectives. This is a position that must interact and communicate effectively with the entire cancer research community, as well as work closely with all organizational units of the NCI.

**Salary Range and Benefits:** Salary ranges from $77,798 to $101,142 per annum. Benefits include health and life insurance, retirement, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave. Salary includes locality pay.

**Basic Qualifications:** U.S. citizenship is required. Applicants must meet the basic experience and educational qualification requirements for U.S. government Medical Officer, Biologist, Microbiologist, Geneticist, Health Science Administrator or Chemist positions. In order for the qualifications to be validated and considered, it is mandatory that you submit the following with your application: A. An undergraduate and graduate transcript or course list which includes grades, and semester hours received per course for all courses; B. A current curriculum vitae; and C. A description of your proficiency in the following Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSAs):

1. General knowledge or familiarity with the basic, clinical and population sciences relating to cancer.
2. Knowledge and familiarity with the fundamental issues and problems related to the training and career development of individuals in multiple scientific disciplines.
3. Ability to plan, develop, and implement new or expanded activities in area of biomedical research or training to achieve specific goals and objectives.
4. Ability to work effectively with scientist, science administrators, or groups of scientists representing multiple scientific disciplines and perspectives to achieve consensus on broad issues.
5. Ability to lead and manage a research grant program or equivalent as it relates to broad scientific objectives.

**Application Procedures:** The NCI recruitment bulletin for this position contains complete application procedures and lists all mandatory information which you must submit in your application. To obtain the recruiting bulletin, call 1-800-728-JOBS (for local calls, 301-594-2953). When prompted, enter the "Fax ID Number" 1878 for CA-98-1935. You will be prompted for your fax machine number. If you have any questions on qualification requirements or application procedures, or if you wish to obtain a position description or other information, please call (301) 402-2812.

Please submit your resume, SF-171 Application for Federal Employment or OF-612 Optional Application Form by the closing date to:

National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Human Resource and Consulting Branch
6120 Executive Boulevard, MSC 7211
Executive Plaza South, Suite 550
Rockville, MD 20852-7211

NIH is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Assistant Professor in Pharmacology and Toxicology
Dartmouth Medical School

The Department seeks candidates for a tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level. Candidates should have a Ph.D. and/or M.D. degree(s) and a productive academic record. Preference will be given to an individual with an exciting research program in mechanisms of retinoid-mediated human tumor cell differentiation, especially using solid tumor models for study. An interest in analysis of retinoid resistance and/or identification of retinoid target genes is desired. The Department consists of faculty with research interests in cellular and molecular pharmacology and toxicology (web site: http://www.dartmouth.edu/dms/pharmtox) with strong ties to the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, an NCI-funded comprehensive cancer center. The candidate should submit a curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests and accomplishments, a record of grant support, and names of at least three references to the Search Committee, c/o Ruth W. Craig, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Dartmouth Medical School, 7650 Remsen, Hanover, NH 03755-3835. Dartmouth Medical School is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. Applications from women and minority candidates are strongly encouraged.

THE CLEVELAND CLINIC
THE LERNER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Faculty Position in Prostate Cancer Biology

We are seeking an individual at the level of Associate or Full Professor to establish a basic laboratory research program in prostate cancer biology. The position is jointly sponsored by The Lerner Research Institute and the Department of Urology—a partnership that has previously established research programs in renal cell carcinoma and transplantation. The successful candidate (Ph.D. or M.D.) will possess an outstanding national reputation as a Basic Scientist using state-of-the-art cellular, molecular and genetic approaches to study prostate cancer biology. Applicants should have a major interest in cancer genetics, molecular genetics or molecular pathology and would interact with an existing epidemiological team studying prostate cancer. Generous support and a highly competitive salary and fringe benefits will be provided. The Lerner Research Institute of The Cleveland Clinic, under the leadership of Dr. George Stark and comprising over 90 independent investigators and over 600 employees, has a long-standing commitment to excellence in basic biomedical research with an annual budget in excess of $50 million. The Department of Urology is a nationally recognized center of excellence in urologic disease.

Applications (including curriculum vitae and names and addresses of three references) should be sent to: Bryan R.G. Williams, Ph.D., Chairman, Department of Cancer Biology—NH10, Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic Research Institute, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44195. The search committee will receive applications through September 1, 1998. The Cleveland Clinic is an equal opportunity employer.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING GRANT FOR JUNIOR FACULTY

The American Cancer Society is pleased to announce the Clinical Research Training Grant for Junior Faculty (CRTG). This award is intended to provide the resources for junior faculty members to achieve the mentored research training and experience required for successful careers as independent clinical researchers. The purpose of this grant is to support clinical research by individuals with doctoral or equivalent degrees who are not yet fully independent investigators. Through the CRTG, the Society hopes that this program will develop clinical researchers who should then be eligible to apply for the Society's Research Project Grants as independent beginning investigators.

Candidates for first year Clinical Research Training Grants must be within the first four years of a faculty appointment in their discipline. These awards are intended to support the early development of academic careers which place emphasis on clinical research; individuals with well established careers and substantial research funding should not apply. In addition, candidates for these awards must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States, or its possessions or territories, or must have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence at the time of the application.

This grant provides up to $150,000 per year including indirect costs for a period of one to three years. During the third year, recipients of this grant may apply for a one or two-year competitive renewal provided the total time of clinical research training support, irrespective of the source, does not exceed five years. The next application deadlines are October 1, 1998, and March 1, 1999, for awards to begin July 1, 1999, and January 1, 2000, respectively.

To obtain further information or application materials, please contact your local grants administration office. If you are unsure whether your institution received these materials, please contact us at 404-329-7558 (voice), 404-321-4669 (fax), or grants@cancer.org (E-mail): we will be happy to provide you with the name of your institutional contact. You may also download an IBM or Macintosh version of these materials from the Society's home page on the World Wide Web at http://www.cancer.org/grants.
American Cancer Society Professorships

The American Cancer Society invites interested candidates to submit proposals for both the ACS Clinical Research Professorships and Research Professorships. These prestigious awards are intended to provide flexible research support for outstanding, mid-career clinical investigators and scientists who are making watershed contributions in cancer research and are considered exceptional leaders in their areas of research.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents with at least ten years of experience beyond receipt of the doctoral degree. At the time of application, candidates should have attained the rank of associate professor, full professor, or equivalent, but may not have held the rank of full professor for more than 15 years. Awardees may not be department heads or have administrative duties comparable to those of a department head. Individuals employed by for-profit organizations, federal agencies, or agencies supported entirely by the federal government are not eligible.

The Professorships provide an annual award of up to $60,000 that can be apportioned to salary and/or research project support at the discretion of the awardee. Professorships will be awarded for a period of five years and may be renewed once, contingent upon continued outstanding research productivity and leadership. American Cancer Society Professors are required to be spokespersons for the American Cancer Society.

The deadline for receipt of applications is October 1, 1998 for the Clinical Research Professorship and March 1, 1999 for the Research Professorship. Applications are furnished by the American Cancer Society after consultation with a Scientific Program Director. Please contact us at 404-329-7558 (voice), 404-321-4669 (fax), or grants@cancer.org (E-mail) and you will be directed to the appropriate person.

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Patients Sought for Immunotoxin Studies

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) seeks patients for a new clinical study involving immunotoxin erb-38 — a novel agent in which the variable regions of a monoclonal antibody against HER-2/neu have been linked to a truncated bacterial toxin. The reagent has been bioengineered to recognize the gene product of HER-2/neu.

Patients with breast, stomach, lung, ovarian, or colon cancer whose tumors express HER-2/neu are potential candidates. NCI will provide eligible patients with treatment and travel to the Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Please call the NCI Clinical Studies Support Center at 1-888-NCI-1937.

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RADIATION ONCOLOGY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR WANTED,
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan is seeking an academic leader to chair the Department of Radiation Oncology. Qualifications include an M.D. degree and Board Certification in Radiation Oncology. Candidates should be recognized leaders in radiation oncology and have a record of scholarly achievement, including research in fundamental areas of radiation biology; clinical and management experience; and a commitment to excellence in medical and graduate medical education. Experience in conducting complex clinical and research programs in the setting of a large academic medical center with multi-institutional satellite facilities is highly desirable. Interested candidates should send a curriculum vitae by August 1, 1998 to:

Radiation Oncology Search Committee
c/o Linda Diebold
M7310 Med Sci I
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0624

The University of Michigan is a non-discriminatory, Affirmative Action employer. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.
Paul A. Marks (cover), President of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York, has made outstanding contributions to the medical sciences that have impacted on hematology, oncology, and human genetics. Early on, he recognized the importance of biochemistry and molecular biology in attacking clinical problems. His early studies described the decrease in activity of enzymes critical to the life span of human red blood cells. He demonstrated that genetically determined deficiency in the enzyme G-6-PD predisposed individuals to hemolytic anemia, and he was among the first to provide evidence for the genetic heterogeneity of this defect.

Working in the laboratory of Jacques Monod at the Pasteur Institute in 1961–62, Dr. Marks identified globin mRNA, demonstrated its relative stability compared to mRNAs of prokaryotic cells, and showed that the mRNA was translated on polyribosomes, providing important evidence for the function of ribosomes in protein synthesis. Building on these observations, he showed that the genetic defect in the thalassemia syndromes was one that led to a selective decrease in the level of one or another globin mRNA, resulting in hemoglobin deficiency and anemia.

Dr. Marks’ current research has provided new understanding of the cellular and molecular aspects of cell differentiation. Employing a murine erythroleukemia model, he and his colleagues discovered a group of hybrid polar compounds (HPCs), of which hexamethylene bisacetamide (HMBA) is a prototype, that are potent inducers of terminal differentiation of transformed cells, causing expression of differentiated characteristics and loss of proliferative capacity. These studies characterized the multistep process involved in induced terminal differentiation, including arrest of cells in G1, and in the cessation of DNA synthesis associated with sequential modulation in the expression of several proto-oncogenes, including c-myb, c-myc, and p53, followed by suppression of cyclin-related kinase activity (cdk4) and accumulation of underphosphorylated RB protein.

These in vitro studies provided a basis for the first Phase I/II clinical trials which established proof of principle that HMBA can induce both partial and complete remissions in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome and acute myelogenous leukemia by inducing differentiation of transformed precursor cells. HMBA administration was limited by toxicity (thrombocytopenia) and in vivo half life (<1 hour).

In recent studies, Dr. Marks and his colleagues have synthesized a series of compounds which are up to 2000-fold more active on a molar basis than HMBA. These new “second generation” HPCs induce differentiation by a pathway involving inhibition of histone deacetylase and, downstream, modulate expression of factors effecting cell cycle progression (e.g., E2F and bcl−2), leading to terminal differentiation or apoptosis, depending on the typical of transformed cell. These important studies have opened new and promising approaches to cancer therapy and prevention.

Dr. Marks has successfully combined a laboratory research career with a leadership role in academic medicine, serving in various teaching posts at Columbia University and Cornell University Medical College. In 1970, he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Columbia—a position he held through 1973—and he was Frode Jensen Professor of Medicine 1974–80. While at Columbia, Dr. Marks also served as Vice President for Health Sciences (1973–80), Chairman of the Department of Human Genetics and Development (1969–70), and Director of Columbia’s Comprehensive Cancer Center (1973–80).

Since 1980, he has been President and Chief Executive Officer of MSKCC (pictured bottom right). His appointment marked the beginning of a new era in the institution’s history, in which Memorial Hospital, the Sloan-Kettering Institute, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center were consolidated under a single chief executive. The result has been a close collaboration among clinical investigators and basic-science researchers, an atmosphere that has promoted the development of programs of laboratory and clinical research, patient care, and teaching.

Dr. Marks has served as Co-Chairman of the External Advisory Committee of the National Institutes of Health Intramural Research Programs, as an advisor to the National Science Foundation and other government bodies, and as Chairman of the Search Committee for the current Director of the National Cancer Institute, Richard D. Klausner. He was a member of the President’s Cancer Panel (1976–79), the President’s Biomedical Research Panel (1976–77), and the President’s Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island (1979). He is a Past President of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the American Society of Hematology, and the Harvey Society. Dr. Marks is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a member of many other professional scientific societies as well, including the American Association for Cancer Research, of which he has been a member since 1957. Dr. Marks has received numerous awards including several honorary degrees and the U.S. National Medal of Science in 1991, the nation’s highest honor for scientific achievement.

We thank the staff at MSKCC for their assistance in coordinating the material for this cover feature.

Sidney Weinhouse