

**Gilbert H. Friedell, M.D.**  
**Emeritus Member**  
**AACR Member Since 1960**

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My tenure in cancer research began in July, 1952 at the end of my second year in the Boston City Hospital pathology residency program. My entry into the field was a matter of necessity and not of choice. Among other things I had a wife and small child to support. But after that fortuitous beginning, cancer research has been a lifetime choice.

The Korean "police action" had started in July, 1950, and at the end of 1951 I was encouraged by my draft board to become a physician in the: US Naval Reserve, The uncertainty of when I would be called to active duty precluded me being offered a two year position in another Boston residency program. Fortunately, in May I was offered a one year American Cancer Society fellowship starting July 1, 1952 at the Harvard affiliated Free Hospital for Women. During the year I reviewed the pathology and clinical records of all possible cases of cervical carcinoma in situ seen at the hospital since 1926. My first paper, published in Cancer in 1953, was the first description of *adenocarcinomain situ of the cervix*, an auspicious way to enter the field of cancer research! I obtained two separate years training, passed the Pathology Board examination in 1955, and began two plus years of active duty in the Navy.

Since- 1958 I have been a member of medical faculties at Boston University, Harvard, the University of Massachusetts and the University of Kentucky. From 1969 to 1983 I served as Chief of Pathology and then Medical Director at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts, a 600 bed community teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Medical School. During that period I had active experimental and clinical research programs in breast and urinary bladder cancer at St. Vincent, and was for ten years the Director of the NCI National Bladder Cancer Project with our project headquarters at St. Vincent.

In 1983 I became the first Director of the new Markey Cancer Center at the University of Kentucky, I emphasized cancer control efforts, founded the statewide Kentucky Cancer Registry, now a SEER registry, and-with the University of Louisville-expanded a community cancer control program across the state. We were awarded an NCI Core Grant in 1987. I stepped down as Director of the Markey Center in 1990 to become the Director for Cancer Control until I retired in 1998.

From the outset of my time In Kentucky I have focused on cancer control in eastern Kentucky, an area which exemplifies the significant social and health problems of the rural, poor, mainly white population of Appalachia. Since retirement I have continued to take an active interest in these Appalachian issues.

I was encouraged to join AACR in 1960 by Dr. Henry Lemon, medical oncologist, cancer researcher and Professor of Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine. At the time I was a member of the Pathology Department at the Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals engaged in service pathology, teaching and cancer research. Membership in AACR greatly expanded the horizon of cancer research for

me, offered me an opportunity at meetings to exchange ideas with others who had similar-and different-interests, and led over the years to collaboration and friendship with many of my peers.

Although I have not been a regular participant in AACR activities in the last few years, my long association with AACR has provided a great deal of professional and personal satisfaction since 1960. I am very pleased to participate with others in this celebration of fifty year membership.