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Emeritus Member
AACR Member Since 1959

Attending annual AACR meetings became a ritual for me from 1957-1996, and occasionally thereafter. It was a tremendous boon to be able to hear the latest advances in cancer research and to make so many friends and acquaintances at these meetings. To mingle with and exchange views at AACR meetings with great leaders like Weinhouse, Van Potter, Burchenal, Karnovsky, Shimkin, Weber, Weinstein and many others, supplemented the range of scientific colleagues who related more directly to my own work on hematologic malignancies at NCI and Duke.

I was privileged to serve on the Board of Directors for numerous years and to especially work on involving our organization with public policy issues. Up to that point ASCO was speaking for cancer research and using its resources mainly to promote clinical research. AACR took up the mantra for basic research and did a good job in encouraging the flow of funds for basic research, as well as informing the legislature and the public about progress in understanding the facets of the cancer problem. In this regard it was most enjoyable to work in harmony with Marge Foti and the able members of our Public Affairs Committee.

There were many opportunities to present original research papers at the scientific sessions and to serve on program and other committees. Preparing to present at AACR was always a rewarding challenge, especially if there was something “hot” to report. The meetings in the 1950’s were small and the discussion vigorous and occasionally contentious. It would have been unthinkable then to imagine the numbers of scientists from the US and abroad who attend our meetings currently. And it is almost unthinkable now to recall the dense haze of tobacco smoke in the meeting rooms-it was difficult to see the lantern slides from the back of the rooms of that time.

The AACR has achieved an international stature and I am proud to be a member of this splendid organization.