

**Paul A. Marks, M.D.**  
**Emeritus Member**  
**AACR Member Since 1957**

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Marks has pioneered the development of histone deacetylase inhibitors (HDACi) a new type of targeted anti-cancer drug which induce cancer cell differentiation or deal with little toxicity. Marks began his studies that lead to the development of HDACi as anticancer agents in the early 1970's in collaboration with Ronald Breslow and Richard Rifkind. His interest in Cancer and his membership in The American Association for Cancer Research antedate initiation of these studies some fifteen years. Members of his laboratory and he have presented research reports at a number of Annual Meetings. Marks has participated in several symposiums and for several years participated in the "Early Morning Expert" sessions at the Annual AACR Meetings. His research was stimulated by the quest to answer why dimethyl sulfoxide caused growth arrest and differentiation of transformed cells (original observation of Charlotte Friend) and was driven by a vision of a new approach to cancer treatment. He and his colleagues pursued a path that led to the discovery of suberuylanilide hydroxamic acid (SAHA; vorinostat), the first HDACi to be approved for clinical use (October 2006) for the treatment of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. Over the years, his research has provided extensive structure activity studies demonstrating SAHA is a moderately potent inhibitor of HDAC's, solved the x-ray crystal graphic structure of SAHA in the catalytic site in an HDAC and elucidated the biological activities of several HDACs and the consequences of HDACi. This pioneering work has stimulated a field which now engages a multitude of academic laboratories and many pharmaceutical and biotech companies in efforts to develop HDAC inhibitors for cancers and many other diseases.

Marks has also made contributions as an academic leader – initially at Columbia University as Dean and Vice President of Health Sciences and Director of Comprehensive Cancer Centers (1970-1980) and, subsequently, at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center as President and Chief Executive Officer (1980-1999). He was a member of the President's Cancer Panel (1976-1978) and on the advisory panels to the director of NIH and Director of NCI. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, IOM, and the American Philosophical Society. Among his many honors is the National Medal of Science (1991) and several honorary degrees.