

## **AACR Awards 23 Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Awards**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Association for Cancer Research is awarding 23 Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Awards at the Fourth AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities, held Sept. 18-21, 2011, in Washington, D.C.

The award, now in its 26th year, is intended to enhance the education and training of minority researchers, and increase the visibility and recognition of minorities involved in cancer research. It provides funds for the participation of early-career, meritorious minority scientists at AACR conferences including its Annual Meeting. Scholars are chosen from minority institutions and the larger bodies of universities, colleges and research institutions based on their qualifications, references from mentors and an estimation of the professional benefit to the awardees.

The award is sponsored by a grant from the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. Additionally, Merck Oncology has agreed to provide support to fund the participation of young minority investigators. The recipients of the 2011 Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Awards include:

- Atalie A. Ashley, B.A., University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.  
*Developing a Network of Community Research Councils to Promote and Facilitate Clinical Prevention Trial Participation in Medically Underserved Populations*
- Arelis Baerga Martinez, B.A., University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Charvann K. Bailey, B.A., Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn.  
*Slug Induced Plakoglobin Gene Repression in Triple-negative Breast Cancer Cells*
- Matthew P. Banegas, M.S., M.P.H., University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.  
*Breast Cancer Outcomes Among Hispanic Women by Race*
- Christina H. Chapman, B.A., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.  
*An Analysis of Diversity Based on Race and Ethnicity in the Radiation Oncology Workforce*
- Kisha I. Coa, M.P.H., Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Md.
- Lizbeth M. Del Toro-Mejias, B.S., University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, Puerto Rico  
*What Do High Risk Men Attending STD Clinics in Puerto Rico Know About Human Papillomavirus*
- Curtiland Deville Jr., M.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Norma P. Fernandez, Ph.D., Texas Tech University Health Science Center, El

Paso, Texas

*Comparison of Colorectal Cancer Perceptions Among Two Different Predominantly Hispanic Community Populations*

- Precious Ann V. Fortes, M.H.S., University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico  
*STI Clinics as Venues for Cancer Prevention and Control Among Women in Puerto Rico*
- Tabitha M. Hardy, Ph.D., University of Alabama, Birmingham, Ala.  
*Differential Responses of Caucasian and African-American Breast Cancer Cell Lines After EGCG and Sulforaphane Treatment*
- Christina N. Johnson, M.S., Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- Shari M.B. Johnson, B.S., Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn.  
*Development of Calcitrol Resistance in Triple-negative Breast Cancer Cells Through SLUG-mediated Coordinate Repression of CYP2R1, CYP27B1 and VDR Gene Promoters*
- Giselle Y. Lopez, B.A., B.S., Duke University, Durham, N.C.
- Tasha A. Morrison, B.S., Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.  
*The Development of Novel Cell Culture Models and Pre-clinical Models of Lymphangiomyomatosis*
- Jesse N. Nodora, Dr.P.H., University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.  
*Assessment of Westernization in Mexican Women with Breast Cancer*
- Yomayra Otero, M.S., University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, Puerto Rico  
*Cervical Cancer Survival in Puerto Rico: Disparities by Health Care Coverage*
- Samuel T. Pellom Jr., B.S., Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn.  
*Combination Therapy of Kidney Cancer Using Bortezomib and Natural Killer (NK) Cell Transfer*
- Ambar Y. Rivera Camacho, M.P.H., University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Jamilya R. Sly, Ph.D., Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y.  
*Challenges to Disseminating Evidence-based Research in Real World Settings: Training African-American Peers as Patient Navigators for Colon Cancer Screening*
- Maisha N. Standifer, M.P.H., University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.
- Ariel J. Thomas, M.S., North Carolina Central University, Durham, N.C.  
 *$\beta$ arrestin2 Contributes to Aggressive Tumor Growth in African-American Prostate Cancer Cells*
- Christina D. Williams, Ph.D., Duke University, Durham, N.C.  
*Race and Impact of Co-morbidities and Time-to-care on Receipt of Surgery for Early Stage Non-small Cell Lung Cancer*

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organization dedicated to advancing cancer research. The membership includes 33,000 basic, translational and clinical researchers; health care professionals; and cancer survivors and advocates in the United States and more than 90 other countries. The AACR marshals the full spectrum of expertise from the cancer community to accelerate progress in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer through high-quality scientific and educational programs. It funds innovative, meritorious research grants, research fellowships and career development awards. The AACR Annual Meeting attracts more than 18,000 participants who share the latest discoveries and developments in the field. Special conferences throughout the year present novel data across a wide variety of topics in cancer research, treatment and patient care. The AACR publishes seven major peer-reviewed journals: *Cancer Discovery*; *Cancer Research*; *Clinical Cancer Research*; *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*; *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*; *Molecular Cancer Research*; and *Cancer Prevention Research*. AACR journals received 20 percent of the total number of citations given to oncology journals in 2010.

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**In Washington, D.C.**

**Sept. 18-21:** (202) 239-4036

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