



**Margaret Foti, Ph.D., M.D.**  
**SU2C Health Equity Committee**



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**Margaret Foti, Ph.D., M.D. (hc)** is the chief executive officer of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the first and largest cancer research organization in the world. Under her visionary leadership, membership has grown from about 3,000 members to over 58,000 in 142 countries and territories, and the AACR's portfolio of peer-reviewed scientific journals has increased from one to ten.

After beginning her AACR career in an editorial position with the journal *Cancer Research*, Foti progressed through several key editorial and management roles in scientific publishing to become chief executive officer. She launched nine additional major peer-reviewed scientific journals: *Blood Cancer Discovery*; *Cancer Discovery*; *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*; *Cancer Immunology Research*; *Cancer Prevention Research*; *Cancer Research Communications*; *Clinical Cancer Research*; *Molecular Cancer Research*; and *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*. She also helped launch *Cancer Today*, a magazine for cancer patients, survivors, and their families and caregivers, as well as *Leading Discoveries*, a publication that highlights AACR members, programs, and philanthropic initiatives.

Under Foti's leadership, the AACR has served with distinction as the Scientific Partner of Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C). In this capacity, Foti and the AACR staff have brought significant expertise to the work with SU2C, especially in the scientific peer review of projects, scientific project management, grants administration, communications, and science policy.

Through Foti's guidance, the AACR has been a longtime leader in advancing the science of cancer disparities to achieve the bold vision of health equity for all.

The AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities was launched in 2007. The 17th edition of this first-of-its-kind multidisciplinary conference will be held in Los Angeles in September 2024.

In 2020, Foti spearheaded the launch of the *AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report*, which outlines the complex socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental factors that perpetuate

cancer health disparities and proposes strategies to eliminate them. The third edition of this trailblazing report was released May 15, 2024 at a Congressional Briefing in Washington, D.C.

The AACR has also worked to diversify the cancer workforce. In 2000, the AACR established the Minorities in Cancer Research membership group, which supports the professional needs of minority scientists. And since 2019, the AACR Grants Program has awarded 36 grants totaling more than \$7 million to support meritorious scientists from diverse backgrounds that are underrepresented in cancer research. As a result of these and other efforts, the number of underrepresented minorities in the AACR membership has dramatically increased, from two percent of AACR members in 1999 to over 10 percent today.

Foti's contributions to cancer research have been widely recognized by numerous awards from organizations around the world, including honorary degrees in medicine and surgery from the University of Rome La Sapienza and the University of Catania in Sicily. In recognition of her work in the important area of cancer health equity, just this month she was elected Honorary Fellow of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons.