

ANNA D. BARKER, Ph.D.

Consultant

(Former Deputy Director and Deputy Director for Strategic Scientific Initiatives, National Cancer Institute)



Dr. Barker served as the Deputy Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and as the Deputy Director for Strategic Scientific Initiatives for the past eight years – retiring at the end of August, 2010. In this role she developed and implemented multi/trans-disciplinary programs in strategic areas of cancer research and advanced technologies including: the Nanotechnology Alliance for Cancer; The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) – in collaboration with the National Human Genome Research Institute; and the Clinical Proteomics Technologies Initiative for Cancer. Recently she led the development of a new initiative to develop a network of trans-disciplinary centers focused on the elucidation of the “physics” of cancer at all scales through the establishment of Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OCs). All of these programs emphasize innovation, trans-disciplinary teams and convergence of scientific disciplines to enable progress against cancer. They also stress the synergy of large scale and individual initiated research, precompetitive research and public databases and translation of discoveries into new targeted interventions to detect prevent and treat cancer more effectively

Dr. Barker has also led and collaborated on NCI’s effort to develop contemporary resources for cancer research in the areas of biospecimens and bioinformatics (the Cancer Human Biobank (caHUB) and the Cancer Bioinformatics Grid (caBIG, respectively) to support molecularly based personalized medicine. She served as the founding co-chair of the NCI-FDA Interagency Task Force; founding co-chair of the Cancer Steering Committee of the FNHI Biomarker Consortium; and oversaw the NCI’s international cancer research programs, including pilot programs in Latin America and China. Dr. Barker has a long history in research and the leadership and management of research and development in the academic, non-profit and private sectors. She served as a senior scientist and subsequently as a senior executive at Battelle Memorial Institute for 18 years; and co-founded and served as the CEO of a public biotechnology drug development company. She has received a number of awards for her work in support of cancer research, cancer patients, professional and advocacy organizations and the ongoing national effort to prevent and cure cancer. Most recently she received the 2009 AACR Margaret Foti Award for Leadership and Extraordinary Achievements in Cancer Research, AACR 100th Anniversary Meeting; and In 2009 Dr. Barker was named to the list of “The 100 People Changing America” by Rolling Stone Magazine.

Her research interests include experimental therapeutics, tumor immunology, and free-radical biochemistry in cancer etiology and treatment. Dr. Barker completed her M.A. and Ph.D. at the Ohio State University, where she trained in immunology and microbiology.