

**Dr Nicole Spardy Burr**

Director of Research - Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation



Nicole Spardy Burr, PhD joined Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation (ACCRF) as Scientific Program Officer in 2016 and was promoted to Director of Research in 2019. She completed her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh (2009) and conducted her post-doctoral studies in the laboratory of Dr. William Hahn at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (2010-2016). As ACCRF's Director of Research, Dr. Spardy Burr is responsible for managing the foundation's preclinical platforms and grant portfolio; engaging with ACCRF's academic and biopharma colleagues; and creating educational content and other patient-focused materials. She is incredibly grateful to ACCRF's inspiring and dedicated patient community, and is hopeful that recent breakthroughs in ACC biomechanics will lead to more effective treatments in the near future.

Throughout my scientific training, I have explored molecular mechanisms of cancer to better understand how genomic dependencies may be therapeutically exploited to advance patient care. As a post-doctoral student, I was fortunate to interact with several cancer foundations, which ignited a passion for rare cancer research and patient advocacy.

ACCRF's mission is to fund research that leads to better therapies for ACC patients. As Director of Research, my responsibilities include: managing ACCRF's preclinical drug screening platforms and active grant portfolio (\$1M yearly budget), encouraging collaborations across our academic network, engaging with biopharma to screen novel drugs and develop clinical trial protocols and generating educational content for patients. I am grateful to the ACC patient community for their support and active participation in research, and am hopeful that better therapies are on the horizon.