



Association of American Cancer Institutes Fact Sheet 2018



AACI CANCER CENTERS ARE:

- Patient focused
- Research intensive
- Clinically superb
- Job creators

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) comprises 98 of the leading academic and freestanding cancer research centers in North America. The Association is dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer by enhancing the impact of academic cancer centers.

AACI advances the objectives of cancer centers by promoting widespread recognition of the cancer center network, facilitating interaction among the centers, educating policy makers, and fostering the development of partnerships between cancer centers and other cancer organizations to improve the overall quality of cancer care.

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Approaching its 10th year, the AACI Clinical Research Initiative (CRI) provides a network for cancer center clinical research leaders to share best practices that promote the efficient operation of cancer center clinical research facilities. Much of CRI's activity is organized around an annual meeting attended by more than 300 clinical trials leaders from AACI cancer centers, industry representatives and government agencies. Member services include access to an active Listserv with almost 600 members and document library.

PHYSICIAN CLINICAL LEADERSHIP

AACI's Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) is a forum for AACI cancer center physician leaders to promote the effective operation of cancer center clinical and quality care programs. PCLI establishes best practices to address cancer center interests through an annual meeting and by hosting webinars on topics such as oncology care models and integrating clinical research with clinical care.

NETWORK CARE

Many cancer center hospital systems are expanding their services across large geographic regions, while cancer care is consolidating around ever enlarging groups. Through its Network Care Initiative, headed by AACI President Dr. Stan Gerson, AACI aims to describe these networks and to develop

solutions available to our centers to improve the quality of cancer care administered across individual cancer center networks, with better integration of treatment services, especially those now unique to our centers, into the community.

ACADEMIC DIFFERENCE

Academic cancer centers leverage their three mutually supportive missions of research, clinical care, and education to create knowledge, provide complex cancer care, serve as a resource for community oncologists and educate the next generation of investigators and clinicians, all while having a positive effect on the economy. The AACI "Academic Difference" initiative is designed to provide evidence of the immense value of academic cancer centers that will be useful at the local and national level, as we advocate for support for academic cancer centers.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

AACI's wide-ranging public issues activity is guided in large part by the AACI Government Relations (GR) Forum, created to coordinate efforts among all cancer centers in educating legislators about the cancer research community and its positive impact on patients. The GR Forum also enhances understanding of policy issues pertaining to cancer prevention, treatment, clinical trials, and survivorship.

To learn more about these and other AACI activities, please visit our website, www.aaci-cancer.org

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ANNUAL MEETING

The AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting convenes hundreds of AACI cancer center directors and administrators with leaders of national cancer research and advocacy groups, industry, and government health agencies. No other meeting presents information on cancer research and patient care as it directly pertains to academic cancer centers. It is also unique in providing cancer center leaders with a forum to discuss these issues and develop best practices with their peers.

The 2017 annual meeting featured talks by National Cancer Institute Acting Director Dr. Douglas R. Lowy, and Stan Collender, a federal budget issues expert and Merkel cell carcinoma survivor. Dr. Carl H. June, director of translational research at the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania, received the 2017 AACI Distinguished Scientist Award.

Panel discussion topics included managing cancer center networks, immunotherapy, clinical trial deployment in the community, precision medicine, cancer disparities, and the impact of Washington's new political landscape on financing cancer care.

What do AACI cancer centers do?

AACI cancer centers are at the forefront of efforts to eradicate cancer. They form our cancer research infrastructure, which is recognized as the best in the world. These centers of excellence work to ease the burden of cancer on patients, families and communities through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary program of research, treatment, patient care, prevention, education, and community outreach.

AACI cancer centers are acclaimed worldwide for their excellence in translating promising research findings into new interventions to prevent and treat cancer. Almost every new cancer treatment, key cancer research discovery, or new cancer-related technology available today had its origin as a clinical trial at an AACI cancer center, where it was developed in close partnership with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

How do AACI cancer centers serve their communities?

AACI cancer centers offer their communities ready access to cancer experts from a wide array of disciplines, including diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and patient care. AACI cancer centers also offer access to novel cancer therapies.

What are the benefits of NIH/NCI funding?

With funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and NCI, AACI cancer centers not only save lives but generate biomedical jobs which boost the economy. AACI cancer centers contribute to regional economic development by joining with partners in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries to create new opportunities to accelerate progress against cancer.

AACI institutions are bulwarks of discovery and are largely funded by NIH and NCI, which rely on stable and predictable federal funding to invest in groundbreaking cancer research. AACI advocates on behalf of these institutions in Washington, DC, requesting robust biomedical research funding.



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