

# Association of American Cancer Institutes



## AACI CANCER CENTERS ARE:

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

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) comprises 102 premier academic and freestanding cancer centers in the United States and Canada. AACI is accelerating progress against cancer by empowering North America's leading cancer centers in their shared mission to alleviate suffering.

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

## CLINICAL RESEARCH INNOVATION

AACI's Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) provides a network for cancer center clinical research leaders to share best practices. Much of CRI's activity is organized around an annual meeting attended by clinical trials leaders from AACI cancer centers, industry representatives, and government agencies, who come together to address clinical research challenges. Member services include access to an active listserv with more than 750 members and the opportunity to participate in working groups that focus on topics including working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic and implementing the Shared Investigator Platform (SIP).

## PHYSICIAN CLINICAL LEADERSHIP

AACI's Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) provides a forum for AACI cancer center physician leaders to promote cancer center clinical and quality care programs. PCLI addresses these interests through an annual meeting and by hosting webinars on topics such as hereditary cancer programs and maintaining a clinical research practice at an academic cancer center. The 2020 PCLI meeting focused on equity in cancer care.

## CAR T-CELL THERAPY

Over half of AACI cancer centers are approved to provide chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR T) therapies to patients. To advance its use and establish best practices, AACI established the CAR T Initiative in 2018. AACI centers can engage with the initiative through webinars, listserv discussions, conference calls, and working groups.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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.

## PUBLIC POLICY RESOURCE LIBRARY

The AACI Public Policy Resource Library (PPRL) was the presidential initiative of Roy A. Jensen, MD, immediate past president of AACI. The PPRL enables cancer centers and others in the cancer advocacy community to share resources—including talking points and legislation enacted across the U.S.—to foster collaboration, promote cancer prevention, and spur the development of policies that will improve the lives of Americans through lowered cancer incidence and mortality. The PPRL also highlights federal legislation endorsed by AACI.

## MITIGATING CANCER DISPARITIES

For the 2020-2022 presidential initiative, AACI President Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, will leverage the expertise of North America's 102 leading cancer institutes to address health disparities. Using a two-staged approach, the initiative will convert understanding of cancer disparities across AACI centers into meaningful, measurable actions to improve the lives of patients with cancer.

## AACI OFFICERS

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Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

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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.

Presented in a virtual format, the 2020 annual meeting featured sessions on cancer care in the age of COVID-19, rightsizing cancer screening, addressing health disparities and social injustice, pediatric cancer, palliative and end-of-life care, rural oncology, and an overview of AACI's basic science centers.

Two awards were presented during the virtual meeting. William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD, was the 2020 AACI Distinguished Scientist and Nike co-founder Phil Knight and his wife, Penny, received the 2020 AACI Champion for Cures Award in recognition of their philanthropy.

### What do AACI cancer centers do?

AACI cancer centers are at the forefront of efforts to eradicate cancer. 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 the 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 the 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 partnering with the pharmaceutical and biotech industries to create new opportunities to accelerate progress against cancer.

AACI institutions are largely funded by the NIH and the 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 and through virtual events and letters to Congress.

**Medical Arts Building  
3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 503  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

**412-647-6111**

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[aaci-cancer.org](http://aaci-cancer.org)

