

Association of American Cancer Institutes



AACI CANCER CENTERS ARE:

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

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) represents 103 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 common challenges. Member services include access to an active listserv and the opportunity to participate in working groups that focus on the role of clinical trials office medical directors 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 telehealth and the roles of advanced practice providers and pharmacists in oncology. The 2021 PCLI meeting will address cancer care across the lifespan.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

AACI's public issues activity is guided in large part by the Government Relations (GR) Forum, which coordinates efforts among AACI cancer centers to educate 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 her presidential initiative, Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, aimed to leverage the expertise of AACI cancer centers to convert understanding of cancer disparities into meaningful, measurable actions to improve the lives of patients with cancer.

DIVERSIFYING THE LEADERSHIP PIPELINE

Recognizing the urgent need for diversity in the oncology leadership pipeline, Caryn Lerman, PhD, is focusing her presidential initiative on creating a leadership development toolkit for cancer centers. Personalized mentoring and onboarding programs will be provided for new and emerging cancer center leaders.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting convenes hundreds of AACI cancer center members 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 2021 annual meeting features sessions on telehealth and cancer care at home; the impact of COVID-19 on cancer centers; data science and artificial intelligence; changes to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Center Support Grant; reducing disparities in cancer research and care; and an overview of AACI's basic science centers.

Judy E. Garber, MD, PhD, is the 2021 AACI Distinguished Scientist and **Sidney and Caroline Kimmel** will receive the 2021 AACI Champion for Cures Award in recognition of their philanthropy. **Robert A. Winn, MD**, is the inaugural recipient of the AACI Cancer Health Equity Award.

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 and families through research, treatment, and prevention.

AACI cancer centers translate promising research findings into new interventions to prevent and treat cancer.

How do AACI cancer centers serve their communities?

AACI cancer centers offer their communities ready access to cancer experts, clinical trials, and novel therapies. They mitigate cancer health disparities through targeted community outreach and educational programming.

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 biotechnology 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 and for public policy initiatives that benefit the cancer center community.



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