

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 108 premier academic and freestanding cancer centers in the United States and Canada. AACI is accelerating progress against cancer by enhancing the impact of academic cancer centers and promoting cancer health equity.

AACI advances the objectives of cancer centers by promoting widespread recognition of the cancer center network, educating policymakers, and fostering partnerships between and among cancer centers and like-minded 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 active listservs, including a newly-launched community outreach and engagement (COE) listserv; and the opportunity to participate in working groups and task forces that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion; staff retention; and the role of clinical trials office medical directors.

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 a range of topics.

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.

LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the urgent need for diversity in the oncology leadership pipeline, **Caryn Lerman, PhD**, is focusing her presidential initiative on leadership development for emerging cancer center leaders from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Lerman and her steering committee are developing best practices for mentoring and onboarding, and the inaugural leadership diversity and development workshop was held in November 2022.

MITIGATING CANCER DISPARITIES

AACI aims to mitigate cancer disparities by leveraging cancer center expertise to convert understanding of those disparities into meaningful, measurable actions to improve patients' lives. Results of an AACI survey on cancer center catchment areas were published in a 2022 paper about reducing the burden of cancer through community outreach and engagement.

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.

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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. The meeting is unique in providing leaders from academic cancer centers with a forum to discuss important issues and develop best practices with their peers.

The 2022 annual meeting featured sessions on patient engagement in clinical trials; the evolution of the Cancer Moonshot; drug discovery and development; precision oncology; emerging from COVID-19; changes to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Center Support Grant; and an overview of AACI's basic science centers.

Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, is the 2022 AACI Distinguished Scientist. **Pelotonia** received the 2022 AACI Champion for Cures Award in recognition of their philanthropy, and **Electra D. Paskett, PhD, MPH**, received the AACI Cancer Health Equity Award.

What do AACI cancer centers do?

AACI cancer centers are at the forefront of efforts to 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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