



## 2023 Fact Sheet

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) represents more than 100 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.

### AACI CANCER CENTERS ARE:

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

### CLINICAL RESEARCH INNOVATION

AACI's Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) provides a network for cancer center clinical research leaders to share best practices. CRI hosts an annual meeting that brings together clinical trials professionals from AACI cancer centers, industry, and government agencies to address common challenges. Member services include access to topic- and role-based listservs 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.

### CAR T

The AACI CAR T Initiative brings together individuals at AACI member cancer centers to develop and disseminate resources that will guide them in making CAR T therapies more accessible for patients. Through the guidance of the CAR T Steering Committee, the initiative has fostered partnerships with industry and patient advocacy organizations to increase community referrals for CAR T therapy and mitigate the financial burden placed on CAR T therapy patients.



## AACI OFFICERS

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Robert A. Winn, MD  
VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

### Vice President/President-Elect

Joann B. Sweasy, PhD  
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

### Immediate Past President

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Association of American Cancer Institutes

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## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

AACI's public policy activity is guided by the Government Relations (GR) Steering Committee, which coordinates efforts among AACI cancer centers to educate legislators about the positive impact of cancer research on patients and enhances understanding of policy issues pertaining to cancer prevention, treatment, clinical trials, and survivorship.

## INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

**Robert A. Winn, MD** aims to develop and promote "inclusive excellence" with his AACI presidential initiative, by examining methods through which AACI members can foster partnerships with like-minded organizations, government agencies, and other institutions – regionally, nationally, and globally.

## LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the urgent need for diversity in the oncology leadership pipeline, **Caryn Lerman, PhD**, focused her AACI presidential initiative on leadership development for emerging cancer center leaders from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Lerman and her steering committee published best practices for mentoring and onboarding, and the inaugural leadership diversity and development workshop was held in November 2022. A second workshop is slated for March 2024.

## AACI/CCAF ANNUAL MEETING

The AACI/CCAF annual meeting convenes hundreds of AACI cancer center colleagues with leaders of national cancer research and advocacy groups, industry, and government health agencies to discuss important issues and develop best practices with their peers.

### 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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