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. 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 recently launched community outreach and engagement (COE) and catchment area research and data science (CARDS) 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.

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.
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 annual workshop is slated for March 2024.

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.

AAIC/CCAF ANNUAL MEETING

The AAIC/CCAF annual meeting convenes hundreds of AAIC cancer center colleagues 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.

What do AAIC 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 AAIC 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, AAIC 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. AAIC advocates on behalf of these institutions and for public policy initiatives that benefit the cancer center community.

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