AACI HEADLINES

AACI Debuts New Website

AACI recently launched a redesigned website, which will serve as a powerful tool to support communication between AACI and our 98 cancer center members.

The responsive, mobile-friendly interface offers enhanced viewing across devices, and real-time updates allow AACI to showcase its full range of events, programs, and initiatives. The website will also provide a platform for Dr. Roy Jensen’s presidential initiative: a library of sample legislation for AACI members.

Read More and Explore the New Site

CRI: From 'Initiative' to 'Innovation'

Entering its eleventh year, AACI's Clinical Research Initiative (CRI) has been renamed Clinical Research Innovation, to mark its popularity and success. Earlier this year, AACI sought recommendations from its members and board of directors for renaming CRI. The decision was rooted in a desire to reflect the program’s longevity: with over a decade of consistent growth, CRI has expanded beyond its status as an “initiative.”

Read More

eRegulatory Working Group Established

While most AACI cancer centers have in place a regulatory file system—either paper or an electronic system for the filing and version control of a trial’s required regulatory information—many utilize non-standard file-naming conventions. AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) has established an eRegulatory working group to address the challenges that non-standard file names create.

Read More

New Congress Brings New Opportunities

The 116th Congress will convene on January 3, 2019 with nine new members of the United States Senate
and 92 new members of the House of Representatives. The incoming Congress is the most demographically diverse in history and trends historically younger with an average age of 49 years old.

With new faces in Washington, AACI cancer centers have a great opportunity to set the stage for a positive relationship with these leaders. Now is the time for your cancer center to invite newly-elected officials in your state or region to your institution, introduce them to faculty and staff, educate them on novel technologies, and offer a tour.

Read More and Download Our Congressional Welcome Letter

Nominations Sought for Champion for Cures Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 Champion for Cures Award.

AACI created the Champion for Cures Award to recognize an individual or individuals who, through direct financial support of an AACI cancer center, demonstrate exceptional leadership in advancing cancer research and care and in inspiring others to do the same.

Learn More and Nominate a Champion

PCLI Welcomes New Steering Committee Members

Four new members have been selected to join AACI's Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) steering committee: Andrew Chapman, DO, FACP, chief of medical services, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health; David Gaffney, MD, senior director of clinical research, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah; Richard Goldberg, MD, FACP, FASCO, director, WVU Cancer Institute; and Charles Ryan, MD, director, Division of Hematology, Oncology & Transplantation, Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota.

Read More

Webinar: Minority Recruitment to Clinical Trials

The AACI Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) will present a webinar on minority recruitment to clinical trials on Thursday, December 13 at 12:00 pm eastern. Facilitated by Ruben A. Mesa, MD, FACP, director of UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center, the webinar will address topics including barriers to trial enrollment that may disproportionately impact Latino patients and strategies to facilitate clinical trial participation among diverse populations.

Read More

Winter Break for AACI Update

Please let us know what you think about the new format of the December 2018 AACI Update!

AACI Update will take a holiday break in January, but we will be working to improve the February 1, 2019 issue based on your feedback.

Read More
NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Johnson Named Among Women Power 100
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park's president and CEO, Candace S. Johnson, PhD, has been named to a new list of the most powerful female leaders in New York.  
Read More

Pediatrician Named Pagano Scholar
Indiana University Melvin & Bren Simon Cancer Center

Rachel Katzenellenbogen, MD, will be the inaugural Chuck and Tina Pagano Scholar at Indiana University School of Medicine, where she will hold that title as well as associate professor of pediatrics.  
Read More

Lisenbee Elected To APSHO Board
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Kelly Lisenbee, DNP, ANP-C, AOCN, adult nurse practitioner, Department of Urologic Surgery, was recently elected to the board of directors for the Advanced Practitioner Society for Hematology and Oncology (APSHO).  
Read More

Lu-Yao Awarded by Geriatric Oncology Society
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Grace Lu-Yao, PhD, associate director of population science at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health, has been honored with the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) 2018 Nursing and Allied Health (NAH) Investigator Award at the SIOG 2018 Annual Conference.  
Read More

St. Clair Receives Lifetime Achievement Award
UK Markey Cancer Center

University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center researcher Daret St. Clair, PhD, has been named the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient from the Society for Redox Biology and Medicine (SfRBM).  
Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

$20 Million Gift Boosts Multiple Myeloma Research
Siteman Cancer Center
$11.5 Million SPORE Grant Supports Innovation in Leukemia Research  
Siteman Cancer Center

Duke Team Receives $10.8 Million From NCI  
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Grant Awarded to Discover Best Way to Deliver Genetic Services to Primary Care Patients  
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Grant to Establish Center for Early Detection of Liver Cancer  
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

$2.3 Million Supports Studies on Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy  
Indiana University Melvin & Bren Simon Cancer Center

$2.1 Million Grant to Study Cognitive Decline During Chemotherapy  
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Husband and Wife Doctors Receive $1.8 Million to Test New Breast Cancer Approach  
University of Virginia Cancer Center

McMahon Receives Pancreatic Cancer Collective Grant  
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Omuro Named New Neuro-Oncology Chief  
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Antonio Omuro, MD, has been appointed the new chief of neuro-oncology and a leader for the Brain Tumor Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Omuro started his new position December 1, 2018.  
Read More

Whetstine Joins Cancer Epigenetics Program  
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Epigenetics researcher Johnathan Whetstine, PhD, joined Fox Chase as a program leader of the Cancer Epigenetics Program. Previously, Dr. Whetstine served as vice chair of the Epigenetics Program at Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and Harvard Medical School in Boston.  
Read More

Dlugosz to Oversee Basic Science Research  
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center has
named Andrzej Dlugosz, MD, associate director for basic science research. Dr. Dlugosz currently co-leads the Rogel Cancer Center's cancer biology program.

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**CAR T Clinical Trial Opens for Patients with HER2-Positive Breast Cancer That Has Spread to Brain**
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Decrease in Specific Gene 'Silencing' Molecules Linked with Pediatric Brain Tumors**
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

**Standard Myeloma Treatment Shows Itself as an Immunotherapy**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**When Melanoma Spreads to Brain, Patients with BRAF, MEK Mutations Can Find Novel Treatment**
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

**Targeting Rhabdomyosarcoma, a Rare Cancer with Few Treatment Options**
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

**Spread of Deadly Eye Cancer Halted in Cells, Animals**
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

**Unique Research Models Immune Responses in Cellular Immunotherapies**
VCU Massey Cancer Center

**Fecal Transplant Effective Against Immunotherapy-Induced Colitis**
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Anti-CD47 Cancer Therapy Safe, Shows Promise in Small Clinical Trial**
Stanford Cancer Institute

**New Way That Skin Stops Tumor Growth Identified**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**Minimally-Invasive Surgery Linked with Worse Survival for Women with Cervical Cancer Versus Open Hysterectomy**
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Cold Therapy Offers Promising Prevention Against Taxane-Induced Dermatologic Events**
GW Cancer Center

**Link Identified Between DNA-Protein Binding, Cancer Onset**
Stanford Cancer Institute

**As Vaping Increased in Popularity, Use of Cigarettes Declined**
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

**A Genetic Driver of Deadly Prostate Cancer Identified**
Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
How Melanoma Evades Targeted Therapies
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Targeting MC1R in Metastatic Melanoma
University of Colorado Cancer Center

Researchers ID 'Achilles Heel' of Drug-Resistant Tumors
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Checkpoint Inhibitor Shows Promise in Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Trial
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Genomic Study Discovers 40 New Genetic Variants Associated with Colorectal Cancer
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

New 'SLICE' Tool Can Massively Expand Immune System's Cancer-Fighting Repertoire
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Ultrasound Ovarian Cancer Screening Improves Survival
UK Markey Cancer Center

Will Tarloxotinib Finally Break the HER2 Barrier in Lung Cancer?
University of Colorado Cancer Center

Stephenson Cancer Center Leads Ovarian Cancer Study
Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma

Genomic Study Discovers 40 New Genetic Variants Associated with Colorectal Cancer
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

OTHER NEWS

Developing Patient-Centered Palliative Care From Diagnosis to End of Life
LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes, University of Texas Austin/Dell Medical School

This month, The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School will launch an innovative cancer care model called the CaLM (cancer life re-imagined) Clinic as part of its new cancer center, the Livestrong Cancer Institutes. The goal of the Livestrong Cancer Institutes and the CaLM Clinic is to provide a holistic approach to caring for patients with cancer from their initial cancer diagnosis and treatment throughout survivorship, including palliative and supportive care.
Read More

Polish University Partnership
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park has formed an academic cooperation agreement with the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. The collaboration will see the two centers exchanging staff, students, and scientific resources to jointly undertake basic, translational, and clinical research to develop cancer therapies.
Read More

Human Images From the World's First Total-Body Medical Scanner Unveiled
UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center
EXPLORER, the world’s first medical imaging scanner that can capture a 3-D picture of the whole human body at once, has produced its first scans. The brainchild of UC Davis scientists Simon Cherry, PhD, and Ramsey Badawi, PhD, EXPLORER is a combined positron emission tomography and x-ray computed tomography scanner that can image the entire body at the same time. Because the machine captures radiation far more efficiently than other scanners, EXPLORER can produce an image in as little as one second and, over time, produce movies that can track specially tagged drugs as they move around the entire body.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

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**AACI MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>AACI/AACR Hill Day</td>
<td>April 30, 2019</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting</td>
<td>July 9-11, 2019</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting</td>
<td>October 20-22, 2019</td>
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