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News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes

April 2017

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MISSION

The Association is dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer by enhancing the impact of the nation's leading academic cancer centers.

ABOUT UPDATE

AACI *Update* is an e-newsletter for the cancer center directors and key contacts at AACI member institutions as well as individuals interested in the cancer center-related activities of AACI. AACI *Update* reports on the progress of AACI initiatives along with other AACI endeavors that benefit the cancer community and highlights important news and events at AACI member institutions.

SUBMISSIONS

AACI encourages member institutions to submit cancer center highlights to AACI *Update*. News briefs are linked to

Headlines

Help Protect NIH Research Funding: Register Today for Hill Day 2017

AACI's annual Hill Day is set for Thursday, May 4, 2017, in Washington, DC. AACI will once again partner with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to bring advocates to Capitol Hill and request stable, predictable investments in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI).

AACI asks that each cancer center send a representative to Washington. Registration and accommodations can be found [here](#). Please contact [Jennifer Pegher](#) with questions. [more...](#)



AACI Thanks House Committee for Support of Cancer Research



Left to right, Drs. Elizabeth Jaffee, Tyler Jacks and Mary Beckerle meet with Rep. Jason Chaffetz.

On March 29, **Mary Beckerle**, PhD, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Huntsman Cancer Institute University of Utah, **Elizabeth Jaffee**, MD, Deputy Director, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University, **Tyler Jacks**, PhD, Director, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Mrs. Tammi Carr, the mother of Chad Carr, a child who suffered from Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, testified before the Full House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to discuss federally funded cancer research.

AACI thanks Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and members of the Committee for welcoming the witnesses and learning about the importance of federally funded cancer research. [more...](#)

Register Today for the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

Register today for the 2017 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be held at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC, October 15-17. Information on the meeting, including the program and electronic registration, is available on the [AACI website](#).

AACI and the Cancer Center Administrators Forum (CCAF) developed the program, in conjunction with the 2017 Annual



complete stories posted on individual cancer center websites. Please e-mail materials to aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org. AACI reserves the right to decide whether or not materials are appropriate for inclusion.

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Meeting program committee, chaired by Dr. Karen Knudsen, Director, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University. [more...](#)

Panelists Highlight Impact of Budget Cuts at AACI Briefing on Capitol Hill



AACI hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill on March 28 for Congressional staff to enhance their understanding of academic cancer centers. The briefing, titled "Implementing the Promise of 21st Century Cures: The Role of Academic Cancer Centers" was moderated by AACI President, **Stanton L. Gerson**, MD, Director, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, Case Western Reserve University, Seidman Cancer Center at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center.

Panelists included Stan Collender and Jacqueline Smith (photo above, at left). Mr. Collender is a Merkel cell carcinoma patient who was treated at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's patient-arm, the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. Ms. Smith is a ten-year Melanoma survivor who was treated at Moffitt Cancer Center. Other panelists were **Laurie H. Glimcher**, MD, President and CEO of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and **Roy A. Jensen**, MD, Director, The University of Kansas Cancer Center and AACI President-Elect. [more...](#)

Early Registration Ends April 30 for 9th Annual CRI Meeting



The 9th Annual AACI Clinical Research Initiative Meeting will be held July 12-13, in Chicago, IL, at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel. The theme of this year's meeting is *Moving Science Forward*. More information on the meeting, including the program and electronic registration, is available at aaci-cancer.org/cri_meeting. Please note early registration rates will end April 30, 2017.

The AACI Clinical Research Initiative (CRI) Steering Committee is currently soliciting abstracts for the meeting which will focus on moving science forward and addressing the challenges cancer center clinical trials office leaders face when working with novel clinical trials. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 5:00 PM PST on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. [more...](#)

AACI Partners with CDC, ACS on Vaccination Campaign

AACI, the American Cancer Society, Inc. (ACS), and the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center For Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, have established a partnership around CDC's HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention campaign. The campaign is designed to reward pediatricians and pediatric practices (as well as family practices and other clinicians who care for patients age 11-12) who adopt effective HPV recommendation practices that incorporate key campaign messages



and recommendations and have a positive impact on HPV vaccination rates among patients. [more...](#)

News from the Centers

[Awards & Honors](#) [Grants & Gifts](#) [Leadership Transitions](#) [Research Highlights](#) [Other News](#)

Awards & Honors

Kastan, Modrich Elected Fellows Of AACR Academy Class Of 2017

Duke Cancer Institute

Michael B. Kastan, MD, PhD, executive director, Duke Cancer Institute, and Paul Modrich, PhD, recipient of the 2015 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, have been elected as Fellows of the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) Academy Class of 2017. The AACR Academy recognizes distinguished scientists whose major scientific contributions have propelled significant innovation and progress against cancer. [more...](#)

Surgical Intensive Care Unit Wins National Award for Patient Care Excellence

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute

The Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute has received national recognition for exceptional patient care and professional nursing practice with a three-year, silver level Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses. The James SICU is a 12-bed unit providing 24-hour comprehensive care to a variety of surgical cancer patients with complex medical needs. [more...](#)



LeBlanc Appointed AAHPM Fellow

Duke Cancer Institute

Thomas LeBlanc, MD, MA, MHS, was recently appointed a fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM). Dr. LeBlanc, a cell therapy and hematologic malignancies specialist as well as a medical oncologist and palliative medicine specialist, was also recognized by AAHPM in 2015 as an Inspirational Leader Under 40. [more...](#)

Grants & Gifts

Eleven Additional Cancer Research Projects Underway With Pelotonia Funding

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute

Eleven breakthrough cancer research ideas have received funding from Pelotonia, the annual cycling movement that has raised more than \$130 million for cancer research efforts at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. The 2017 Pelotonia Idea Grants Program projects range from understanding the protective effects of female hormones against melanoma and helping breast cancer patients navigate treatment choices to identifying new genes linked to aggressive prostate cancer and understanding the role of specific genetic mutations in an aggressive form of leukemia. [more...](#)

Research Teams Awarded More Than \$4.7 Million in Funding

The Wistar Institute

Scientists at The Wistar Institute have secured more than \$4,720,000 in research funds. The

awards include a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts in the amount of \$1 million over three years for the recruitment of three new faculty members at the assistant or associate professor levels. The addition of the new investigators will support the expansion of Wistar's immunotherapy and vaccine programs designed to identify innovative preventive and treatment methods against emerging infectious diseases and cancer. [more...](#)

Nearly \$2.8 Million Garnered for Studies on Origins, Effects and Treatment of Cancer

Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Researchers at Roswell Park Cancer Institute have received \$2.77 million in new funding from federal agencies, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation for projects to advance cancer research and treatment. Two Roswell Park researchers were awarded competitive grants from federal agencies: James Mohler, MD, and Eugene Kandel, PhD. In addition, Christine Ambrosone, PhD, and Chi-Chen Hong, PhD, received a grant from the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. [more...](#)

Effort to Identify New Options for Ovarian Cancer Patients Receives Nearly \$2 million

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Researchers at The University of Kansas Cancer Center recently received an R01 grant to advance their work, Targeting Kinesin Family Member 15 for the Treatment of Cancer. The study is being funded with a three-year, \$1.8 million grant. Principal Investigators Andrew K. Godwin, PhD, Anuradha Roy, PhD, and Frank Schoenen, PhD, will lead the research. [more...](#)



\$1.7 Million NIH Grant Awarded to Study Prevention of Radiation-Induced Cancer

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

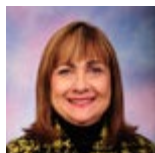
A \$1.7 million grant from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health will allow a University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences researcher to study a potential new therapy to reduce the risk of blood cancer caused by ionizing radiation. Daohong Zhou, MD, was awarded the grant for his research team's work addressing whether the ability to restore the fitness of a person's hematopoietic stem cells after they undergo radiation can prevent blood cancers such as leukemia or bone marrow disorders known as myelodysplastic syndrome, all of which are induced by ionizing radiation. [more...](#)

CVS Health Foundation Awards Smoking Cessation Grants to AACI Centers

Association of American Cancer Institutes

Eight AACI cancer centers have received a total of nearly \$1 million in grants from the CVS Health Foundation to help promote smoking cessation and tobacco use prevention programs at those centers. The centers receiving grants are: Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, Case Western Reserve University; Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina; Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Southern California; Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/Seattle Cancer Care Alliance/University of Washington Cancer Consortium; Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Arizona; The Abramson Cancer Center/University of Pennsylvania; and Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center. [more...](#)

Leadership Transitions



Lawrence Appointed Vice President of Karmanos Cancer Network

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute

Lauren Lawrence, MBA, RHIA, has been promoted to vice president of Karmanos Cancer Network, effective immediately. She will report to Justin Klamerus, M.D., MMM, president of Karmanos Cancer Hospital and Karmanos Cancer Network. Ms. Lawrence most recently served as executive director of Community-Based Programs at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and assumes her new leadership role for Karmanos' network of 14 cancer centers throughout Michigan. [more...](#)



Brain Cancer Expert Appointed Associate Director for Strategic Initiatives
The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center

Swiss neuro-oncologist, Roger Stupp, MD, has been appointed associate director for strategic initiatives at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. An authority on the treatment of primary and metastatic brain cancer, Dr. Stupp will join Northwestern Medicine in April as a professor of Neurological Surgery. He will work collaboratively with other neuro-oncologists in the Division of Neuro-Oncology in the Department of Neurology and the Lurie Cancer Center's Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute to help advance efforts to treat complex brain tumors medically. [more...](#)



As New City of Hope Vice Provost, Hurria Wants to Give Back
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

City of Hope physician Arti Hurria, MD, knows what it is like to be a young faculty member balancing life as a doctor, researcher and parent. As a result of that experience, Dr. Hurria wants to focus her efforts on helping others in her profession achieve their career goals, and she's in a great position to do just that as the new vice provost for clinical faculty for City of Hope. Her new job will focus on City of Hope's approximately 200 medical doctors. [more...](#)



Chalfant Named Program Leader of Cancer Cell Signaling
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Massey researcher Charles Chalfant, PhD, has been appointed as the co-leader of the Cancer Cell Signaling research program at VCU Massey Cancer Center. He will serve in this capacity alongside Andrew C. Larner, MD, PhD, who has also co-led the program with Sarah Spiegel, PhD, since its inception in 2011. [more...](#)

Smith Named Associate Center Director for Clinical Investigations
GW Cancer Center

The George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center announces that Mitchell R. Smith, MD, PhD, has been appointed as the associate center director for clinical investigations. In this role, Dr. Smith will be responsible for overseeing all clinical cancer research and the clinical cancer research infrastructure of the GW Cancer Center. [more...](#)

Research Highlights



A New Approach to Target an 'Undruggable' Prostate Cancer Driver
University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center

When the genes TMPRSS2 and ERG relocate on a chromosome and fuse together, it's an on-switch for prostate cancer development. But ERG has proven to be a challenging target for the type of small-molecule inhibitors that have had recent successes in treating cancer. Now, researchers from the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center have targeted ERG using large molecule peptides. Studies in cell lines and animal models suggest this approach can effectively target and degrade the ERG fusion with little impact on regular cell function. Arul M. Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD, is senior study author. [more...](#)



New Methodology Identifies Neighborhood Variables Associated with Prostate Cancer Aggressiveness
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Researchers from Fox Chase Cancer Center have created a new computational approach to determine whether neighborhood circumstances can influence the aggressiveness of prostate cancer. The neighborhood-wide association study (NWAS) compared more than 14,000 neighborhood variables with prostate cancer aggressiveness, and identified 17 neighborhood variables that were most significantly associated with advanced prostate cancer in white men. Shannon Lynch, PhD, MPH, is lead author. [more...](#)



Collaboration Involves Breast Cancer Project

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Tempus, a technology company focused on helping doctors personalize cancer treatment by collecting, sorting and analyzing clinical and molecular data, has formed a collaboration with cancer experts at the University of Chicago Medicine to accelerate the pace of discovery and improve and personalize treatment for breast cancer patients. Tempus will work directly with Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD, professor of medicine and human genetics and dean for global health at the University of Chicago. [more...](#)

How Randomness Helps Cancer Cells Thrive

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

In a research effort that merged genetics, physics and information theory, a team at the schools of medicine and engineering at The Johns Hopkins University has added significantly to evidence that large regions of the human genome have built-in variability in reversible epigenetic modifications made to their DNA. The team says the findings also suggest that such epigenetic variability is a major factor in the ability of cancer cells to proliferate, adapt and metastasize. [more...](#)



Preventing Cancer in Latinos, One Text Message at a Time

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Latinos experience significant disparities in health care in the U.S., including higher rates of particular cancers, lower cancer screening rates and cancer diagnoses at more advanced stages than non-Latinos. Now, consider this: the growth rate in U.S. Latino cancer cases is projected to hit an astounding 142 percent by 2030. Paula Cupertino, PhD, and her bilingual team, which includes researchers from The University of Kansas Cancer Center and Children's Mercy, are working to reduce this looming health crisis through cancer prevention in a unique way, by connecting Latinos with tobacco cessation treatment (both medication and behavioral support) via text messaging. [more...](#)



New Approach for Treating Glioblastoma Works With Human Cells

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

In a rapid-fire series of breakthroughs in just under a year, researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have made another advance in the development of an effective treatment for glioblastoma. The work describes how human stem cells, made from human skin cells, can hunt down and kill human brain cancer. Last year, the UNC-Chapel Hill team, led by Shawn Hingtgen, PhD, used the technology to convert mouse skin cells to stem cells that could hone in on and kill human brain cancer, increasing time of survival 160 to 220 percent, depending on the tumor type. Now, they not only show that the technique works with human cells but also works quickly enough to help patients, whose median survival is less than 18 months and chance of surviving beyond two years is 30 percent. [more...](#)

A 'Quick-and-Easy' Recipe for Making Brain Cells

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Growing neurons in a dish just got a lot easier. A new study from researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering provides a quick and easy way to speed up development of cortical neurons, the cells making up the thinking parts of the brain. The improved method uses a combination of six molecules to, in effect, reduce the cells' cooking time. [more...](#)

Lung Cancer May Go Undetected in Kidney Cancer Patients

Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Could lung cancer be hiding in kidney cancer patients? Researchers with the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center's Kidney Cancer Program studied patients with metastatic kidney cancer to the lungs and found that 3.5 percent of the group had a primary lung cancer tumor that had gone undiagnosed. This distinction can affect treatment choices and rates of survival. [more...](#)



Minority Colorectal Cancer Patients Report Higher Burden of Poor Quality of Life

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

A study of racial disparities in health-related quality of life of colorectal cancer patients revealed among several findings, that Hispanics and blacks had a higher burden of poor health-related quality-of-life (HR-QoL) than white patients and that poor HR-QoL resulted in shorter median survival. Yet Hispanics had an average survival time of 85.4 months as compared to blacks at 47.8 months and whites at 43.2 months. The study was led by Michelle Hildebrandt, PhD. [more...](#)

Researchers Reverse Prostate Cancer Drug Resistance

Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute

A Cleveland Clinic research team led by Nima Sharifi, MD, has uncovered a biological pathway that renders a common prostate cancer drug useless and, for the first time, restored the drug's cancer-killing power in human prostate cancer tumor cells grown in mice. The team uncovered a complex cascade of events - a "metabolic switch"- that occurs when androgen receptors are blocked with enzalutamide. [more...](#)

Smoking Cessation Counseling Successful When Paired with Lung Cancer Screening

Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

In the first successful randomized trial of its kind, researchers have provided preliminary evidence that telephone-based smoking cessation counseling given to smokers shortly after undergoing lung cancer screening can be effective at helping people stop smoking. The study was led by researchers at Georgetown Lombardi and conducted with 92 participants at three centers - MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC, Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey, and Lahey Hospital and Medical Center in Massachusetts. [more...](#)



Genetic 'Balance' May Influence Response to Cancer Treatment

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Choosing among cancer treatments increasingly involves determining whether tumor cells harbor specific, mutated "oncogenes" that drive abnormal growth and that may also be especially vulnerable or resistant to particular drugs. But according to a new study led by UCSF researchers, in the case of the most commonly mutated cancer-driving oncogene, KRAS, response to treatment can change as tumors evolve, either when a normal copy of the gene from the other member of the matched chromosome pair is lost, or when the cancer cells evolve to produce additional copies of the mutated form of the gene. The study's principal investigator is Kevin Shannon, MD. [more...](#)

Genetic Evidence Links Pancreatic Cancer and Cholesterol

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Researchers at Fox Chase Cancer Center have shown for the first time that pancreatic cancer cells are dependent on cholesterol metabolism to form and grow. The study, led by Igor Astsaturov, MD, PhD, and Linara Gabitova, PhD, also singled out an enzyme that could be targeted to eliminate cholesterol production within the pancreas. [more...](#)



Study Shows Active Surveillance Preserves Quality of Life for Prostate Cancer Patients

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Faced with the negative quality-of-life effects from surgery and radiation treatments for prostate cancer, low risk patients may instead want to consider active surveillance with their physician, according to a new study led by Daniel Barocas, MD, MPH. The study compared the side effects and outcomes of contemporary treatments for localized prostate cancer with active surveillance in order to guide men with prostate cancer in choosing the best treatment for them. [more...](#)



Trial Defines Safe Dosage for Small Molecule Drug for Solid Cancer Tumors Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

A 'first in human' clinical trial examining the small molecule drug ONC201 in cancer patients with advanced solid tumors shows that this investigational drug is well tolerated at the recommended phase II dose. That's according to Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey investigators and colleagues whose research also showed early signs of clinical benefit in patients with advanced prostate and endometrial cancers. Mark Stein, MD, is lead investigator of the work. [more...](#)



Research Supports Paradigm Shift for Early Stage Pancreatic Cancer Treatment VCU Massey Cancer Center

A study led by Emma Fields, MD, retrospectively analyzed the medical history of all pancreatic cancer patients at Massey treated with curative surgery between 2003 and 2015. The published research gathered patient data, reviewed surgical outcomes and identified patterns of success or failure relative to post-operative therapy. Findings suggest that post-operative treatment is not working and support an ongoing paradigm shift at Massey toward the combined use of chemotherapy and radiation therapy in the neoadjuvant (or pre-operative) setting for pancreatic cancers. [more...](#)

Innovative Cellular Immunotherapy Program Launched UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers have achieved a major milestone with the launch of two clinical trials testing an experimental therapy in which patients' own immune cells are genetically engineered to fight their cancer. The early-stage cellular immunotherapy trials are for patients with either Hodgkin lymphoma or non-Hodgkin lymphoma, who lack other treatment options or are at high risk of their disease returning. Researchers are working to open trials for other cancers. [more...](#)

Study: Most Cancer Mutations are Due to Random DNA Copying 'Mistakes' Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center scientists report data from a new study providing evidence that random, unpredictable DNA copying "mistakes" account for nearly two-thirds of the mutations that cause cancer. Their research is grounded on a novel mathematical model based on DNA sequencing and epidemiologic data from around the world. [more...](#)



Boosting Innate Immunity Eradicates Aggressive Prostate Cancer in Mice The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cabozantinib, a drug already used to treat patients with certain types of thyroid or kidney cancer, was able to eradicate invasive prostate cancers in mice by causing tumor cells to secrete factors that entice neutrophils - the first-responders of the immune system - to infiltrate the tumor, where they triggered an immune response that led to tumor clearance. Akash Patnaik, MD, PhD, and colleagues note that this is the first demonstration that a drug of this type (a tyrosine kinase inhibitor) could activate innate anti-tumor immunity, resulting in the eradication of invasive cancer. [more...](#)

Novel Link Between Cell Polarity and Cancer-Associated Inflammation Unveiled UK Markey Cancer Center

A new study led by University of Kentucky Markey Cancer researchers establishes a novel link between cell polarity and cancer-associated inflammation. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are reactive molecules and free radicals derived from molecular oxygen, and they are part of the immune system's "killing response" against microbial invasion. Using a 3-D co-culture model of breast cancer cells and monocytes, researchers found that disruption of cell polarity is accompanied by increased ROS production, leading to increased inflammation in these cells. The increased ROS production controls monocyte/macrophage infiltration by inducing the NF- κ B pathway in mammary epithelial cells. [more...](#)



Some Women Face Workplace Difficulties During Cancer Treatment

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Breast cancer patients who worked for supportive employers were more likely to hang onto their jobs after treatment than women who didn't, according to a new study led by Memorial Sloan Kettering medical oncologist Victoria Blinder, MD. Dr. Blinder sought to learn whether breast cancer patients had difficulty obtaining accommodations and whether or not this impacted their job retention. In a new paper, she and other researchers wrote that while expanding the Americans with Disabilities Act could help, employers and employees can create change on a local level. [more...](#)



Study Provides Path for New Immunotherapy Approaches to Prostate Cancer

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Prostate cancer, notoriously resistant to immunotherapy due to its immunologically cool nature, triggers two pathways to chill an immune attack after one immunotherapy drug fires up the immune system, researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center report. Based on their findings, the researchers launched a clinical trial for stage IV prostate cancer in March combining two drugs that target separate brakes on the immune system. Study leader is Padmanee Sharma, MD, PhD. [more...](#)

Other News



Precision Cancer Medicine Building Design Focuses on Patient Experience

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

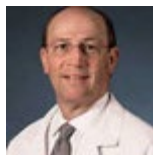
When the Precision Cancer Medicine Building (PCMB) opens in early 2019 in Mission Bay, it will serve as the new heart of outpatient cancer care at UCSF. In 2015, the opening of UCSF Bakar Cancer Hospital at Mission Bay jump-started a new era of collaborations among clinicians, researchers at the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center Research Building, and Mission Bay's burgeoning biotech hub. The PCMB - situated within steps of Bakar Hospital and the Research Building - will significantly accelerate and enhance these collaborations. [more...](#)



Philadelphia Research Consortium to Speed Access to Preclinical Research Capabilities

The Wistar Institute

The Wistar Institute, together with many regional academic institutions driving life sciences discoveries, has launched the Philadelphia Research Consortium - a preclinical research network for facilitating easy access to the region's robust research enterprise. Spearheading the Consortium's launch is Heather A. Steinman, PhD, MBA, whose shared vision for the alliance is two-fold: enable transformative, potentially lifesaving scientific progress, and catalyze productive, long-term collaborations between the Philadelphia academic research community and for-profit research and development partners, specifically targeting life sciences start-ups. [more...](#)



Eberlein Testifies in Support of Medical Research Funding

Siteman Cancer Center

Federal funding is critical to the search for innovative therapies for cancer and other diseases, Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, told members of a U.S. Senate subcommittee March 8 in Washington. Support from the National Institutes of Health also is vitally important to the careers of young scientists whose ideas and work help improve patient outcomes, said Dr. Eberlein, director of Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes Jewish-Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine. [more...](#)

NCI Director Meets with Markey Researchers, Faculty

UK Markey Cancer Center



Douglas R. Lowy, MD, interim director of the National Cancer Institute, recently visited the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center, continuing a dialogue on Kentucky cancer disparities following his visit to Hazard, Ky. last fall. Much of Dr. Lowy's visit focused on research. During the morning session, nine UK faculty members gave presentations on major research initiatives and programs at Markey, ranging from efforts in cancer prevention and control to drug development and discovery. Major topics of discussion centered around the cancer types which affect Kentuckians the most: lung cancer, colon cancer, cervical cancer/HPV and the hepatitis C virus, which is linked to liver cancer. [more...](#)



Roswell Park Icon, Edwin Mirand, Dies

Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Edwin A. Mirand, PhD, DSc, became a permanent employee of Roswell Park Cancer Institute in 1951. At that time, however, he was not new to Roswell Park, having begun working on the weekends there in 1946. After 70 years of dedicated service to the institution and the cancer research community, Dr. Mirand, a former officer of the Association of American Cancer Institutes, died on March 1. [more...](#)



Michigan Medicine Opens First Prostate Cancer Risk Clinic in Nation

University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center

Todd Morgan, MD, is the Michigan Medicine urological surgeon behind a new Prostate Cancer Risk Clinic at the University of Michigan. The clinic is for men who have already been tested and identified as having a hereditary mutation that predisposes them to prostate cancer. This might include mutations more traditionally associated with breast cancer or colorectal cancer. [more...](#)

Siteman Launches Affiliate Network

Siteman Cancer Center

Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis has launched the Siteman Cancer Network, an affiliation with regional medical centers that is aimed at improving the health of individuals and communities through cancer research, treatment and prevention. Boone Hospital Center, one of Missouri's top hospitals and part of BJC HealthCare, is the first affiliate in the network and will work with Siteman Cancer Center to provide access to cancer prevention and control strategies and genomic and genetic testing for mid-Missouri residents. [more...](#)



Congressman Visits Rutgers Cancer Institute

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Highlighting progress and promise in cancer research, including advances made in colorectal cancer, representatives from Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, American Association of Cancer Research, and University Hospital recently met with Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr., at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey at University Hospital in Newark. [more...](#)

Job Opportunities

Regulatory Associate

Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center [more...](#)

Director of Clinical Research Operations and Management

Massey Cancer Center, Virginia Commonwealth University [more...](#)

Meeting Announcements

2017 NACCCDO/PAMN Annual Conference

2017 NACCCDO/PAMN Annual Conference

April 18-21, 2017

Lexington, Kentucky

For more information visit: [NACCCDO/PAMN](#)

Epigenetics in Cancer

The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia is hosting a free, full day scientific symposium entitled "Epigenetics in Cancer" on April 25 from 10am-5pm. In this symposium, Wistar will bring together leaders in epigenetics research to discuss the most recent advances in the field and their potential translational applications. [Learn more.](#) [Registration is required.](#)

2017 Cancer Center Administrators Forum & CCAF-IT

Hosted by Moffitt Cancer Center

April 30 - May 2, 2017

The Vinoy Renaissance

St. Petersburg, Florida

For more information visit: [moffitt.org](#)

AACI/AACR/ASCO Hill Day

AACI will co-host its annual Capitol Hill Day with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

May 4, 2017

Washington, DC

[Register](#) to attend today!

Melanoma: Advances in Therapy and Biology

On June 20, The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia will host a free scientific symposium: "The Noreen O'Neill Melanoma Research Symposium, Melanoma: Advances in Therapy and Biology" from 9am-4pm. Expanding our understanding of melanoma biology will help decode the mechanisms of innate and acquired resistance and drive the development of novel and improved targeted therapies. [Learn more.](#) [Registration is required.](#)

9th Annual AACI Clinical Research Initiative Meeting

Register today: [aaci-cancer.org/cri_meeting](#)

July 12-13, 2017

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy: From Conception to Delivery

This two-day national symposium addresses recent advances in the field and should be an exciting forum for discussion and debate on the current understanding of cancer and immunology and immunotherapy.

October 12-13, 2017

NCI/National Institutes of Health

For more information visit: [ncifrederick.cancer.gov/events/CancerImmunology2017](#)

2017 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

Register now: [aaci-cancer.org/annual_meeting](#)

October 15-17, 2017

Grand Hyatt Washington, DC