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News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes

July 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

HEADLINES

Abstract Winners Selected for AACI CRI Meeting

Richard and Susan Rogel to Receive AACI's First Champion for Cures Award

Schulick Named Director at University of Colorado

AACI Forms CAR T Working Group

AACI Joins Top Cancer Centers to Endorse Increased HPV Vaccination

HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion Award Nominations Open

Upcoming PCLC Webinar - Treatment Pathways

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

Awards & Honors

Grants & Gifts

Leadership Transitions

Research Highlights

Other News

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Headlines

Abstract Winners Selected for AACI CRI Meeting



The AACI Clinical Research Initiative Steering Committee has selected three abstracts from a record 68 submissions for formal presentation at the **10th Annual AACI CRI Meeting**, July 11-12, in Chicago. The winning abstract authors represent University of Cincinnati Cancer Institute; Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey; and Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System. [more...](#)

Richard and Susan Rogel to Receive AACI's First Champion for Cures Award

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) has established the Champion for Cures Award to recognize individuals who demonstrate significant leadership in supporting efforts to cure cancer and in inspiring others to do the same.

The inaugural award will be presented to Richard and Susan Rogel in recognition of their \$150 million gift to the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, which was renamed Rogel Cancer Center in their honor. [more...](#)



Schulick Named Director at University of Colorado

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA, has been named director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center to lead a \$100 million investment in the program over the next five years. The NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center is a consortium of three universities and three academic teaching hospitals. Dr. Schulick joined the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 2012. He has pioneered one of the most advanced minimally invasive techniques in surgery of the pancreas and is the principal investigator on multiple studies and clinical trials, including a study targeting CD112, a protein involved in the body's ability to fight cancer. [more...](#)



AACI Forms CAR T Working Group

Cancer therapies have improved dramatically over the last several years, due to the development and discovery of novel therapies resulting from the science and research conducted at the AACI cancer centers. Among these therapies is the chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR T) therapy. CAR T therapies represent a critical advancement in treating malignancies, and evidence shows these therapies provide important clinical benefits to patients. [more...](#)

SUBMISSIONS

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

To subscribe to AACI *Update*, please send an e-mail to aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org with your name, title, and telephone number asking to be added to the AACI's distribution list. To unsubscribe, please send an email with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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AACI Joins Top Cancer Centers to Endorse Increased HPV Vaccination

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) supports a call to action by the nation's 70 National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer centers to increase HPV vaccination and screening for human papillomavirus (HPV), with a goal of 80 percent of American young adults completing the full vaccine series by 2020.

After releasing a joint statement encouraging vaccination for the disease, HPV experts met June 7-8 at Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City to discuss strategies for reducing barriers to vaccination and, ultimately, eliminating cancers caused by HPV.

"We have the opportunity to eliminate multiple HPV-related cancers, beginning with cervical cancer," said Anna R. Giuliano, PhD, director of the Center for Infection Research in Cancer at Moffitt Cancer Center, who participated in the Huntsman meeting. [more...](#)

HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Champion Award Nominations Open

AACI has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) to recognize leaders in health care who are going above and beyond to promote or foster HPV vaccination among adolescents in their communities.



NCIRD's *HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention* campaign works to improve clinician quality of HPV vaccination recommendations for 11- and 12-year-olds and to increase parent acceptance of the HPV vaccine for their children.

To nominate a physician for the Champion Award, please submit a completed form by **August 10, 2018**. Self-nominations are welcome. The form is available at cdc.gov. [more...](#)

Upcoming PCLI Webinar - Treatment Pathways

AACI's Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) will present its next webinar, "Treatment Pathways," on Thursday, July 19, at 12:00 pm EST. The webinar will be hosted by AACI, with Craig A. Bunnell, MD, MPH, MBA, chief medical officer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School and PCLI steering committee member introducing guest presenter, David Jackman, MD, senior physician in the thoracic oncology program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

This webinar will focus on multidisciplinary cancer care with emphasis on:

- The role of a clinical oncology pathways program within academic medicine
- Stakeholders and support - managing a pathways effort
- Data collection and analysis - lessons to be learned [more...](#)



Awards & Honors



Weichselbaum Receives ASCO's Karnofsky Memorial Award

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) named Ralph R. Weichselbaum, MD, the 2018 recipient of the David A. Karnofsky Memorial Award. Each year, this honor is granted to a cancer specialist to recognize their contributions to research, diagnosis, or treatment. Award winners also give the Karnofsky Lecture at the ASCO annual meeting in Chicago. Weichselbaum's talk, "Oligometastasis from Conception to Treatment," will be published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology this fall. [more...](#)



Forman Inducted into Association of American Physicians

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Stephen J. Forman, MD, has been inducted as a member of the Association of American Physicians. Membership is awarded to those physicians who indicate a "pre-eminence and the highest caliber of physician-led science accomplishments and scientific leadership." Dr. Forman has been a leader in the field of hematopoietic cell transplantation research since the early 1980s. His specialties include relapse prevention, eliminating post-transplant cytomegalovirus infection, and working with patients with HIV lymphoma. Currently, Forman's laboratory is pioneering chimeric antigen receptor (CAR T) cell therapy for hematological malignancies and solid tumors. [more...](#)



Farma Appointed to Society of Surgical Oncology Committee Leadership Role

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Jeffrey M. Farma, MD, FACS, has been appointed vice chair of the Complex General Surgical Oncology Program Directors Committee of the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO). Dr. Farma has been a member of the committee for the past five years in his capacity as director of the Surgical Oncology Fellowship Training Program at Fox Chase. [more...](#)

Roswell Park Recognized as Blue Distinction® Center for Cancer Care

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center was selected as one of the inaugural Blue Distinction® Centers for Cancer Care by BlueCross BlueShield of WNY. The center is one of four hospitals in New York state, and 42 nationwide, that received this designation, which recognizes high standards of quality, safety, and patient experience. [more...](#)

Grants & Gifts

Case Earns 'Exceptional' Rating, \$31.9 Million Grant Renewal from NCI

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

A coordinated effort to combat cancer by Case Comprehensive Cancer Center has earned the highest-possible endorsement from the National Cancer Institute and \$31.9 million to continue its lifesaving work. The rating of "exceptional" comes as the cancer center, a collaboration among Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals, celebrates its 30th anniversary of improving cancer outcomes through scientific discovery. [more...](#)

Huntsman Awarded \$9.7 Million to Improve Health Among Underserved Populations

Huntsman Cancer Institute

Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah (U of U) announced the opening of the Cancer Population Sciences and Huntsman Center for Health Outcomes and Population Equity (HOPE), a new research and clinical space dedicated to preventing cancer

and improving health among underserved populations and improving outcomes in cancer patients. The center recently received \$9.7 million from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to fund a clinical trial researching new and effective approaches to reduce tobacco use. The state-of-the-art space features 11 patient exam and consultation rooms, faculty offices, capabilities for collection and storage of biological samples from patients, such as blood and saliva, and equipment. [more...](#)

Grant Funds Collaborative Project to Find New Treatments for Liver Cancer

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers with the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine received a \$3 million grant to use computational modeling and software to understand biological data, in combination with unique in vitro and animal studies, to better treat liver cancer. [more...](#)

NCI Awards Multimillion-dollar Contract to Kentucky Cancer Registry

UK Markey Cancer Center

The Kentucky Cancer Registry (KCR) has received a \$2.6 million contract from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to continue its participation in the NCI's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) program, which collects and publishes cancer incidence and survival data from population-based cancer registries covering approximately 34 percent of the US population. Housed within the University of Kentucky's Markey Cancer Control Program, KCR has been part of the SEER program since 2000 and is one of only 16 SEER registries in the country. [more...](#)

Research Center Focused on New Treatments for Breast Cancer to Launch

Indiana University Melvin & Bren Simon Cancer Center

Indiana University School of Medicine is establishing a new research center focused on dramatically improving therapies for some of the most difficult-to-treat types of breast cancer. To attract an innovative and world-class leader, the Vera Bradley Foundation is committing \$2.5 million to establish a new endowed fund. The center will be named the Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research in recognition of two decades of philanthropic support from the Indiana-based handbag maker and its charitable foundation. [more...](#)

Leadership Transitions



Hutchins Appointed Interim Director

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Laura Hutchins, MD, a hematologist oncologist at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) who has devoted her medical practice and research to fight breast cancer, melanoma and brain cancer, has been appointed interim director for the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute effective immediately. She succeeds Peter Emanuel, MD, who recently resigned after leading the institute since 2007. A committee will be formed to conduct a national search for a permanent director.

[more...](#)



Matsui Named LIVESTRONG's Inaugural Deputy Director

LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes

The LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes at The University of Texas at Austin's Dell Medical School has named Bill Matsui, MD, as its inaugural deputy director. Dr. Matsui, a professor of oncology at Dell, was previously a professor of oncology and director of hematological malignancies at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is a hematologic oncologist whose research integrates cancer with developmental and stem cell biology, focusing primarily on acute lymphoblastic leukemia and multiple myeloma. [more...](#)

Bollard Appointed Associate Center Director for Translational Research and Innovation



GW Cancer Center

The George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center is pleased to announce that Catherine Bollard, MD, has been appointed as the associate center director for translational research and innovation. In this role, Bollard will work to establish clinical and research programs focused on bringing the latest cell therapies from bench to bedside. [more...](#)



Breast Oncologist/Researcher Returns to Lombardi

Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center announces the return of physician-scientist Marc E. Lippman, MD, MACP, FRCP, to the cancer center. He begins July 15 as a professor in the departments of oncology and medicine at Georgetown University Medical Center. From 1988 to 2001, Dr. Lippman served as director of Georgetown Lombardi. [more...](#)

Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapies Expand at GW

GW Cancer Center

The George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center is pleased to welcome a team of internationally-recognized experts who together will lead the expanded Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapies Program. John Barrett, MD, will lead this expansion, including the translation of clinical research efforts into novel immune cell-based therapies. He will also be appointed as professor of medicine at the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Barrett was previously the chief of the Stem Cell Transplantation Section of the Hematology Branch of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, where he began the stem cell transplant program. [more...](#)

Research Highlights



Siteman Cancer Center Among Leading Institutions Encouraging HPV Vaccination

Siteman Cancer Center

Most cancers caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) are preventable with a vaccine. Yet the infection is responsible for 41,000 cancer diagnoses each year in the U.S. To reduce that number, Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis is joining with the 69 other National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers to promote HPV vaccination. The campaign is the result of continuing national concern about low rates of HPV vaccination, an intervention proven to prevent the potentially deadly disease in adults. [more...](#)



Researchers Evaluate Tobacco-Cessation Methods Among African Americans

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Researchers at The University of Kansas Cancer Center have received a five-year National Institutes of Health R0-1 grant to compare and evaluate the efficacy of optimized versus non-optimized tobacco cessation approaches for African American smokers. Principal Investigator Nikki Nollen, PhD, is a member of KU Cancer Center's Cancer Control & Population Health research program, which was developed to improve cancer control efforts in high-risk and underserved communities, including African Americans, who suffer from lung cancer at a higher rate than any other population in the US. [more...](#)

Faith-based Messaging Encourages Mammograms Among Muslim Women

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center



Ongoing studies at UChicago Medicine show that faith-based beliefs around modesty and other cultural values can significantly impact health care decisions. Aasim Padela, MD, and his team developed and tested faith-based classes to improve breast cancer screening rates among Muslim women. The classes were held at Orland Park Prayer Center and at the Muslim Educational Center in Morton Grove, IL. The project's design and results appear in Dr. Padela's latest paper, "Reducing Muslim Mammography Disparities: Outcomes From a Religiously Tailored Mosque-Based Intervention," published in the *Journal of Health Education & Behavior* in April. [more...](#)



Massey Researchers Develop Potential Therapy for High-Risk Neuroblastoma

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Researchers at VCU Massey Cancer Center have identified a promising target to reverse the development of high-risk neuroblastoma and potentially inform the creation of novel combination therapies for the disease. Neuroblastoma, a cancer that begins in nerve tissue, is one of the most common pediatric solid tumors, accounting for about 700 new cases per year in the United States. [more...](#)



Analysis: Survival Benefit for African Americans with Advanced Prostate Cancer

Duke Cancer Institute

In a study presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting, lead author Susan Halabi, PhD, said the racial disparities long associated with prostate cancer are complex and persistent. But for men with advanced disease who are treated with a common chemotherapy drug along with steroids, the risk of death is actually lower for African Americans. [more...](#)



Machine Learning Provides New Insights into Tumor Suppression

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

A team of researchers from the Pacific Northwest used a machine learning algorithm to solve a challenging problem in cancer biology: identifying how an important but mysterious gene mutation contributes to cancer's growth. The surprising answer has revealed potential new targets for cancer drug development, the team said. Bruce Clurman, MD, PhD, Executive Vice President and Deputy Director, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, is one of the lead researchers on the work. [more...](#)



Clues Revealed on the Cause of Muscle Fatigue in Breast Cancer Patients

WVU Cancer Institute

A recent study led by Emidio Pistilli, PhD, suggests that molecular alterations in the cell tissue of breast cancer patients may be the cause of fatigue in patients. Dr. Pistilli worked with Elena Pugacheva, PhD, to obtain skeletal muscles from animal models that were implanted with human breast tumors. Their research found that muscle fatigue increased with the progression of tumor growth. In the next stage of the study, Dr. Pistilli partnered with Hannah Hazard-Jenkins, MD, to obtain muscle biopsies of breast cancer patients at the time of their mastectomy surgery and isolate the genetic material in order to study the fatigue properties of the muscles. [more...](#)

Lung Cancer Risk Drops Substantially Within Five Years of Quitting



Smoking

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Just because you stopped smoking years ago doesn't mean you're out of the woods when it comes to developing lung cancer. That's the "bad" news. The good news is your risk of lung cancer drops substantially within five years of quitting. These are the main findings of a new analysis of the landmark Framingham Heart Study by researchers at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Hilary Tindle, MD, MPH, is first author on the study. [more...](#)



Zebrafish Expose Tumor Pathway in Childhood Muscle Cancer

Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Cancer researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center developed a zebrafish model for the childhood cancer rhabdomyosarcoma. To do this, James Amatruda MD, PhD's lab inserted the human PAX3-FOXO1 gene into the DNA of zebrafish. Using this new transgenic zebrafish, the researchers showed that the fused-gene DNA causes rhabdomyosarcoma that is similar to the human disease. They discovered this by turning on another gene, HES3, which leads to overproduction of the skeletal muscle precursor cells and allows for PAX3-FOXO1+ cells to survive during development instead of dying. Genevieve Kendall, PhD, is first author on the study. [more...](#)



New CAR T Case Study Shows Promise in Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Moffitt Cancer Center

A new phase 1 trial called the THINK (THERapeutic Immunotherapy with NKG2D) study is investigating a new CAR T therapy--CYAD-01--which genetically modifies immune cells to express a natural killer receptor that targets leukemia tumors. David Sallman, MD, was case study author. [more...](#)



Siteman Cancer Center Adds Affiliate Network Member

Siteman Cancer Center

Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis has added a new member to 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. Phelps County Regional Medical Center and the hospital's Delbert Day Cancer Institute, both in Rolla, Mo., will work with Siteman Cancer Center to provide access to cancer prevention, treatment and control strategies, and genomic and genetic testing for south central Missouri residents. [more...](#)

PARP Inhibitor Improves Overall Response Rates in Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

In a randomized, Phase II trial led by researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center adding the PARP inhibitor veliparib to a standard chemotherapy agent improved overall response rates (ORR) in patients with small cell lung cancer (SCLC). Researchers also identified a select group of patients, those whose tumors expressed SLFN11, who also saw a progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) benefit, suggesting a promising biomarker for the PARP-inhibitor sensitivity in SCLC. [more...](#)



Cervical Cancer May Be Driven by Imbalance in Vaginal Bacteria

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

A team led by the University of Arizona Cancer Center's Melissa M. Herbst-Kralovetz, PhD, studied 100 premenopausal women to find links between vaginal bacteria and cervical cancer. The researchers found that women without cervical bacterial abnormalities are hosts to different communities of vaginal bacteria than women with cervical cancer and precancer, a discrepancy that reveals a direct relationship between "good" bacteria

and cervical health, and "bad" bacteria and increased cancer risk. [more...](#)



Reviving the Protector: New Tactic Against Medulloblastoma

Winship Cancer Institute

Scientists at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University have a new tactic with potential for fighting medulloblastoma, the most common and most aggressive form of brain tumor in children. Several emerging anticancer treatments, called "epigenetic therapies," target the ways cancer cells shut off genes that could restrain their growth. The new tactic revives a protective gene called BAI1 by interfering with a protein that medulloblastoma cells use to silence BAI1. Senior author of the study is Erwin Van Meir, PhD. [more...](#)

Differences in Immune Cell Environment Help Explain Breast Cancer Racial Disparities

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers have identified significant differences in the immune microenvironment of breast cancer tumors between African-American and white women, shedding light on the ways in which race can influence cancer development and outcomes. The findings are based on a comprehensive review of data from The Cancer Genome Atlas, the world's largest public database containing genetic information about various different types of tumors. [more...](#)

Low-Fat Diet Significantly Reduced Risk of Death After Breast Cancer, but Same Effect Not Seen for Other Cancers

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Women who consumed a low-fat diet had a significantly reduced risk of death after breast cancer. However, women with other cancers who were also on a low-fat diet did not experience the same effect, according to new results from the Women's Health Initiative Dietary Modification trial. [more...](#)

A Cascade of Immune Processes Offers Insights to Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

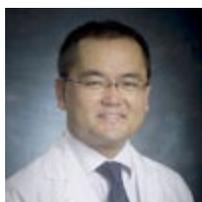
Cancer is crafty. To survive and thrive, tumors find a way of thwarting our body's natural systems. By looking at these systems, researchers at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center have discovered that tumor cells reprogram metabolic pathways to gain control over a type of immune cell that allows cancer growth. [more...](#)



Dozens of New Gene Changes Identified That Point to Elevated Risk of Prostate Cancer

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

As the result of a six-year long research process, Fredrick R. Schumacher, PhD, MPH, and an international team of more than 100 colleagues have identified 63 new genetic variations that could indicate higher risk of prostate cancer in men of European descent. The findings represent the largest increase in genetic markers for prostate cancer since they were first identified in 2006. [more...](#)



Dying Cancer Cells Make Remaining Glioblastoma Cells More Active, Therapy-Resistant

UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center

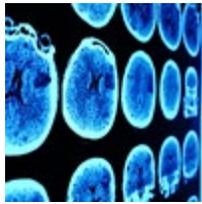
A surprising form of cell-to-cell communication in glioblastoma promotes global changes in recipient cells, including aggressiveness, motility, and resistance to radiation or chemotherapy. Paradoxically, the sending cells in this signaling are glioblastoma cells that are undergoing programmed cell death, or apoptosis, according to research by a team at institutes in the United States, Russia and South Korea, led by Ichiro Nakano, MD, PhD. [more...](#)

Researcher Developing Genetic Test For Lung Cancer Treatment



WVU Cancer Institute

A project led by Lan Guo, PhD, seeks to develop a genetic test to help physicians determine which lung cancer patients, who were initially treated with surgery, will benefit from chemotherapy or immunotherapy. Dr. Guo and her lab began their project in 2006 by analyzing human genome data that is publicly available on lung cancer patients. [more...](#)



Study Shows Experimental Drug Combined With Radiation Selectively Kills Brain Tumors

VCU Massey Cancer Center

A new study led by scientists at VCU Massey Cancer Center has shown that an experimental drug known as AZ32 selectively sensitizes brain tumors to radiation and significantly extends the survival of mouse models with human glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), the most common and deadly form of brain cancer. Published in the journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*, the study builds on the research of principal investigator Kristoffer Valerie, PhD. [more...](#)

Wearable Device to Catch Early Symptoms of Radiation-Induced Lung Inflammation

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University

Among the side effects of radiation therapy, lung cancer patients are at risk for one that may not show up for weeks or months after treatment ends: radiation pneumonitis, or inflammation of the lungs. While diagnosis and treatment are primarily dependent on patients reporting symptoms, researchers at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health have begun a clinical trial on a wearable device that collects symptom-related data for early detection and treatment of the condition. [more...](#)



Early Intervention Keeps Lymphedema at Bay in KU Study

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

A study conducted by researchers at The University of Kansas Cancer Center has found that early, ongoing screening of lymphatic function and immediate patient-administered therapies are highly effective in improving outcomes for women at high risk for breast cancer-related lymphedema. Using bioimpedance spectroscopy (BIS) to measure extracellular fluid, the study, led by Lyndsey Kilgore, MD, found that 82 percent of women identified at an early stage of lymphatic impairment returned to their normal pre-treatment measurements following therapy. [more...](#)



Multigene Testing Replacing BRCA Tests for Breast Cancer Risk

Stanford Cancer Institute

The use of genetic tests aimed at detecting the presence of mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes in women with breast cancer is rapidly declining in favor of tests that can detect multiple cancer-associated mutations, according to researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine and five other US medical centers. Allison Kurian, MD, is lead author of the study. [more...](#)



Discovery Could Lead to Improved Treatment and Survivability of Patients with Brain Tumors

Huntsman Cancer Institute

A discovery more than seven years in the making that researchers believe will vastly illuminate our understanding of deadly brain tumors. Gliomas are the most common type of central nervous system cancer but how these tumors develop is not fully understood. Sheri Holmen, PhD a researcher at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) and professor of surgery at the University of Utah just published the results of her research on gliomas in *Cell Reports*. The work is focused on a mutated gene that is a critical piece of the puzzle for glioma development, according to Holmen's work. [more...](#)



Text Messaging Intervention Lowers Distress Related to Chemotherapy in Early-Stage Breast Cancer

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Early stage breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy may find that a text messaging-based intervention helps alleviate some of the dreaded side effects of treatment. In a randomized study, researchers at Fox Chase Cancer Center studied how text messaging could potentially help women cope with the side effects of chemotherapy. Women in the study received two text messages every day, one at 9 am and another at 3 pm, for four months. [more...](#)

Anti-CD47 Antibody Plus Rituximab Shows Efficacy in Half of Patients With Relapsed/Refractory NHL

Stanford Cancer Institute

Half of a small group of patients with relapsed or refractory non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) had major responses to treatment with an anti-CD47 antibody plus rituximab (Rituxan), according to a new report. Eight of 22 patients had complete responses and 3 others had partial responses. Three other patients had stable disease, resulting in a disease control rate of 64 percent. [more...](#)



Black Patients Show Stronger Response to Hormone Therapy for Prostate Cancer

Duke Cancer Institute

African-American men with advanced prostate cancer might be more responsive than white men to an anti-androgen drug and steroids, according to a study by Duke Cancer Institute researchers led by Daniel George, MD. While median survival was similar for both black and white participants in the study, the findings suggests that racial determinants may factor into the degree of response in patients. This difference could help drive strategies to improve outcomes in those who respond better to the drugs. [more...](#)

Other News

Workshop Opportunities with the Office for Human Research Protections

Association of American Cancer Institutes

AACI cancer centers have a vested interest in the protection of human subjects. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) co-sponsors several educational workshops each year across the country. The events aim to promote the protection of human subjects by directly engaging with Institutional Review Board professionals and investigators from a range of institutions.

The one-day workshops focus on understanding, interpreting, and applying HHS regulations. OHRP staff also works with hosting institutions to ensure that topics relevant to their specific needs are integrated into the program. OHRP is currently planning activities for Fiscal Year 2019 and is offering institutions the opportunity to co-host workshops. If your cancer center is interested in hosting an educational workshop, please contact ohrp-edu@hhs.gov. [more...](#)

First-Class Cancer Care for Man's Best Friend

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

A trial for a U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved drug that is typically used in humans to treat breast cancer that has spread, is one of several clinical trials conducted this year by the Johns Hopkins Center for Image-Guided Animal Therapy, an imaging and treatment facility geared specifically for pets. [more...](#)

Cancer Drug Development Collaboration Announced

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center - Jefferson Health (SKCC) and Sarah Cannon Research Institute (Sarah Cannon) recently announced a unique collaboration to advance clinical

research through an expanded early phase drug development program and investigator-initiated trials, leveraging the strengths of each. The organizations will combine expertise in drug development and research support services and Sarah Cannon will provide SKCC-designed clinical trials in sites within their national network. [more...](#)

Job Opportunities

Manager Clinical Trials Operations
University of New Mexico Cancer Center

[more...](#)

Scientific Writer
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

[more...](#)

Research Nurse/Coordinator
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

[more...](#)

Clinical Research Auditor
Mays Cancer Center, UT Health San Antonio

[more...](#)

Cancer Clinical Research Manager- Hematology
Stanford Cancer Institute

[more...](#)

Clinical Research Director
The University of Cincinnati Cancer Institute

[more...](#)

Director, Finance and Research Operations (Job ID #98725)
University of Illinois Cancer Center

[more...](#)

Associate Director of Research Operations (Job ID #98728)
University of Illinois Cancer Center

[more...](#)

Research Associate I - Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office (Job ID #96729)
University of Illinois Cancer Center

[more...](#)

Senior Research Specialist - Cancer Center (Job ID #97926)
University of Illinois Cancer Center

[more...](#)

Associate Professor or Professor
Stony Brook University Cancer Center

[more...](#)

Clinical Investigator
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

[more...](#)

Clinical Research Educator, Hem-Onc Clinical Trials
Penn State Cancer Institute

[more...](#)

**Manager of Clinical Research Operations, Hem-Onc Clinical Trials
Penn State Cancer Institute**

[more...](#)

**Clinical Research Coordinator
Moffitt Cancer Center**

[more...](#)

Meeting Announcements

10th Annual AACI Clinical Research Initiative Meeting

Register today: aaci-cancer.org/cri_meeting

July 11-12, 2018

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Rosemont, IL

Cancer Stem Cell Conference 2018

Cancer Stem Cell Conference (CSC 2018), hosted by the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center and National Center for Regenerative Medicine, is designed to bring together individuals working in the field of cancer stem cell research. CSC 2018 will feature renowned keynote speakers and leaders in the field. This conference is guaranteed to have cutting-edge research from a variety of niches within the field.

[Register today](#) to join us August 6-8, 2018 in Cleveland!

Multidisciplinary Approaches to Cancer Symposium

September 20-23, 2018

Loews Coronado Bay Resort

4000 Coronado Bay Road

Coronado, CA 92118

cme.cityofhope.org/eventinfo_9171

2018 ASCO RCF Annual Meeting

Discussion Challenges, Solutions, and Best Practices at 2018 ASCO RCF Annual Meeting

Exciting plans for this year's ASCO Research Community Forum (RCF) Annual Meeting are highlighted in a new ASCO Connection blog post by ASCO RCF Council Chair Edward Kim, MD.

Taking place September 23-24 at ASCO Headquarters in the Washington, DC metro area, this year's meeting features presentations and dynamic discussions about innovative solutions, best practices, and excellence in cancer research. Check out the [blog](#).

Frontiers in Basic Immunology: 2018

September 27-28, 2018

Masur and Lipsett Auditorium, Bldg. 10, NIH

Bethesda, MD

The Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute is hosting a two-day national symposium entitled "Frontiers in Basic Immunology: 2018." The program includes recent advances in the field and should be an exciting forum for discussion and debate on the current understanding of basic immunological mechanisms.

ncifrederick.cancer.gov

2018 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

Register today: aaci-cancer.org/annual_meeting

September 30-October 2, 2018

Loews Chicago Downtown Hotel

Chicago, IL

Neoplastic Hematopathology Update

November 8-10, 2018

The Waterfront Beach Resort, A Hilton Hotel
cme.cityofhope.org/eventinfo_9520