

If you are unable to see this message, [click here to view](#).

AACI UPDATE

News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes

September 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

HEADLINES

Trial Management, Networks, Staff Retention Spark Interest at CRI Meeting

Three Cancer Center Leaders To Serve on AACI Board

Call for Nominations: HPV Vaccination Champion Award

Senators Blunt and Casey to Be Honored at AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

New Directors are Named at Five AACI Cancer Centers

USA Today, Forbes Feature AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

Awards & Honors

Grants & Gifts

Leadership Transitions

Research Highlights

Other News

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Headlines

Trial Management, Networks, Staff Retention Spark Interest at CRI Meeting



Clockwise from top left, left to right: Panelists Drs. Carrie Lee, Jennie Crews, and Dennis Slamon; Abstract winners Rosemarie Gagliardi and Dr. Richa Upadhyay; Keynote speaker Dr. Anna Beck; Dr. Roy Jensen; Simmy Thompson and Susie Flores. *Photos by Randy Lee Belice*

The Association of American Cancer Institutes' (AACI) Clinical Research Initiative (CRI) convened its ninth annual meeting in July in Chicago. The 2017 meeting covered two full days and was attended by more than 325 clinical research office leaders, medical directors, cancer center administrators, representatives from the NCI and industry.

The AACI CRI annual meeting is designed to improve the clinical research process, understand the global impact of conducting clinical research in the United States and abroad, discuss trends in clinical trials safety and compliance, and recommend policies to promote staff retention at the cancer centers. To help achieve these goals the meeting offers many opportunities to share ideas including panel discussions, breakout sessions led by peers and poster presentations. [more...](#)

Three Cancer Center Leaders To Serve on AACI Board

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 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.

FIND US ON:



AACI congratulates **Gerold Bepler, MD, PhD**, **C. Kent Osborne, MD**, and **Timothy L. Ratliff, PhD**, on their selection to serve on AACI's Board of Directors. Their terms will start on October 15, during the AACI/CCAF annual meeting, in Washington, DC.

Dr. Bepler, President and Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, in Detroit, and Dr. Ratliff, director of the Purdue University Center for Cancer Research, in West Lafayette, Indiana, were elected to three-year terms. Dr. Osborne, director of the Dan L Duncan Cancer Comprehensive Center, Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, was appointed to a one-year term. [more...](#)

Call for Nominations: HPV Vaccination Champion Award

AACI, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Cancer Society-leaders in HPV cancer prevention-have partnered to establish an HPV Vaccination Champion Award to reinforce that HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention and to recognize HPV vaccination champions. Nominate clinicians, clinics, practices, groups, or health systems effectively working to protect their adolescent patients against HPV cancers by achieving high HPV vaccination rates among their young adolescent patients. [Submit](#) a nominee today.



The nomination deadline is **September 15, 2017**. Entrants may self-nominate or be nominated by others. Champions will be announced in October 2017. [more...](#)

Senators Blunt and Casey to Be Honored at AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

U.S. Senators **Roy Blunt** (R-MO) and **Bob Casey** (D-PA) will receive the 2017 AACI Public Service Award on October 16, in Washington, DC, during the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting. Both senators have been outspoken supporters of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the cancer centers in their respective states. AACI's Board of Directors, the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Program Committee and the AACI Government Relations Forum Steering Committee selected the senators for recognition.



Sen. Blunt is chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. He has displayed bipartisanship as chair of the subcommittee, working with his partner across the aisle, 2015 AACI Public Service Awardee Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), to ensure increases for the NIH over the last two budget cycles. Sen. Casey is a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP). For the last several years, he has partnered with Republican colleague, 2015 AACI Public Service Awardee Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), in writing appropriators, requesting a strong funding commitment for the NIH in the appropriations bill. [more...](#)



New Directors are Named at Five AACI Cancer Centers

AACI congratulates the following five new cancer center directors: **Carlos L. Arteaga, MD**, Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern; **Jason Chesney, MD, PhD**, UofL Brown Cancer Center; **Ramon Parsons, MD, PhD**, The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Mount Sinai Health System; **Peter Pisters, MD**, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; and, **Michael Teitell, MD, PhD**, UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive

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

USA Today, Forbes Feature AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

Cancer survivor and federal budget expert **Stan Collender** recently appeared in *USA Today* touting the life-saving value of clinical trials, and in *Forbes* magazine, arguing against a proposed massive funding cut for the National Cancer Institute. He will be the keynote speaker at the 2017 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, October 15-17, in Washington, DC. [more...](#)



News from the Centers

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

Awards & Honors



NCI Designation Renewal, Consortium Partnership for University of Kansas

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

The University of Kansas Cancer Center has announced that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) renewed its national cancer center designation for five years and that Children's Mercy has been formally approved as a cancer center consortium partner. The designation renewal will result in an 11 percent funding increase to the KU Cancer Center, which improved its overall score from "excellent" to "outstanding." Roy A. Jensen, MD, is the center's director and vice president/president-elect of AACI. [more...](#)

Grants & Gifts



Outstanding Investigator Grant Awarded to Altieri

The Wistar Institute

Dario C. Altieri, MD, Wistar president and CEO and director of the Institute's Cancer Center, has been awarded an Outstanding Investigator Grant (R35) by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for high-caliber research exploring "tumor plasticity." This highly coveted NCI program grant totals nearly \$8 million over seven years.

The grant will support Dr. Altieri's ongoing research into how tumor plasticity - the ability of tumor cells to adapt to stressful conditions found in the surrounding microenvironment - catalyzes the acquisition of new traits, including drug resistance and the ability to metastasize, a process of tumor cell dissemination to distant organs that heralds an incurable and potentially life-threatening phase of the disease. [more...](#)

\$4 Million in Multi-Source Support Aids DNA Repair Research

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Cancer researchers have learned that by sharing their knowledge and forming strategic partnerships, they can more rapidly advance their discoveries leading to drug development, clinical trials and ultimately new therapies for cancer patients. Thanks to \$4 million in combined support, including \$2 million in funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, physician-scientists at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey are embarking on a new collaboration with the National Cancer Institute's intramural Center for Cancer Research. [more...](#)

CPRIT Awards \$3.7 Million to UT Health San Antonio

UT Health San Antonio Cancer Center

The Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) has awarded \$3.5 million for cancer prevention and research programs and faculty recruitment at The University of Texas

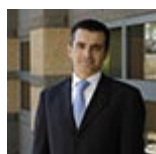
Health Science Center, now called UT Health San Antonio. A \$2 million CPRIT award will bring Siyuan Zheng, PhD, to UT Health's Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute. Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, received a \$1.3 million CPRIT grant to expand Quitxt, a bilingual service that sends texts with culturally and regionally tailored support to help South Texas young adults quit smoking. [more...](#)

CWRU Awarded Funding to Understand How A Virus-Like Particle from Plants Stimulates Potent Anti-Tumor Response

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, Case Western Reserve University

Nicole Steinmetz, PhD, has received a major grant from the National Institutes of Health to help understand how a virus-like particle from plants stimulates potent anti-tumor responses. The new U01 award, totaling nearly \$3 million, is provided by the National Cancer Institute. For the funded study, Dr. Steinmetz is teamed up with Steve Fiering, PhD, professor of microbiology and immunology at Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth. They will also collaborate with Julian Kim, MD, and Sourabh Shukla, PhD, members of the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, as well as P. Jack Hoopes DVM, PhD, a veterinarian and cancer researcher at Geisel. [more...](#)

Leadership Transitions



Sekulic Named Deputy Director for Mayo in Arizona

Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Arizona

Aleksandar Sekulic, MD, PhD, has been named deputy director for the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center in Arizona. In this new role, Dr. Sekulic will oversee National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center activities at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. He will be responsible for Mayo Clinic Cancer Center strategic planning and management in Arizona, and coordinate and integrate those activities with Mayo Clinic Cancer Center leadership at Mayo Clinic's Florida and Rochester campuses. [more...](#)



Kibbe Named DCI's Chief Data Officer

Duke Cancer Institute

Warren Kibbe, PhD, has been named chief data officer for Duke Cancer Institute. Kibbe, who has served since 2013 as director of the Center for Biomedical Informatics and Information Technology at the National Cancer Institute, will take up the position in mid-August. He has also accepted an appointment as chief of the Division of Translational Biomedical Informatics in the Duke University School of Medicine Department of Biostatistics & Bioinformatics. [more...](#)



Markham Named Associate Director for Medical Affairs

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

The University of Florida Health Cancer Center has announced that Merry-Jennifer Markham, MD, FACP, has been appointed the center's associate director for medical affairs. Dr. Markham will be responsible for advancing the mission of the UFHCC to provide excellence in cancer care as well as facilitating the incorporation of clinical research into clinical oncology practice. She will oversee operational quality to maximize efficiency, patient access and patient satisfaction at all UFHCC ambulatory and inpatient cancer care sites. She will serve as chair of the UF Health cancer committee. [more...](#)



Elkins to Head UMMC Hematology/Oncology Division

University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Institute

Stephanie Elkins, MD, has been named director of the Department of Medicine's Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. At UMMC, she has worked primarily with patients who have blood-related cancers or diseases. She also has served as medical director of the Apheresis Unit, Anticoagulation Clinic and as director of the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program, among other activities. She is on the American College of Physicians' Internal Medicine in Training Exam Question Writing Committee. [more...](#)



Savior Promoted to Head of Medical Oncology

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Deric Savior, MD, has been promoted to the position of Head of Medical Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center at Temple University Hospital (TUH). In his new role, Dr. Savior will take the lead in expanding medical oncology services at TUH. The promotion comes amid a reorganization of the Department of Hematology/Oncology at Fox Chase under new chair Martin J. Edelman, MD, who arrived in January. Dr. Edelman has structured the department into four sections: Hematologic Malignancies, Solid Tumor Oncology, General Hematology/Oncology, and Fox Chase at TUH. [more...](#)



Longnecker Named Vice President of Oncology Services

Siteman Cancer Center

Christina Longnecker, a medical administrator with degrees in law, business administration and nursing, has been named vice president of oncology services for Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine. She had been serving in that role on an interim basis for the past nine months. [more...](#)



Nathanson Named Deputy Director

Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania

Katherine L. Nathanson, MD, an internationally recognized expert in the field of cancer genetics, has been named deputy director of the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania. Nathanson is a professor of Translational Medicine and Human Genetics in the Perelman School of Medicine, and the associate director for Population Sciences in the Abramson Cancer Center, co-leader of the Cancer Control Program, and Chief Oncogenomics Physician. She also serves as director of Genetics for the Basser Center for BRCA. She will begin her new role as deputy director immediately. [more...](#)



Leader Announced for Division of Health Equities

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Rick Kittles, PhD, has joined City of Hope as professor and founding director of the Division of Health Equities within the Department of Population Sciences. Dr. Kittles' research focuses on understanding the complex issues surrounding race, genetic ancestry and disease, particularly health disparities among different ethnicities. [more...](#)

Research Highlights



Checkpoint Inhibitors Fire Up Different Types of T Cells to Attack Tumors

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Cancer immunotherapies that block two different checkpoints on T cells launch immune attacks on cancer by expanding distinct types of T cell that infiltrate tumors, researchers from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center report. "The mechanisms these two therapies use mostly do not overlap, which provides a reason why combining them works better than either alone," said Jim Allison, PhD, chair and professor of Immunology at MD Anderson. [more...](#)

Study Finds Breast Cancer Driver, HER2, in Three Percent of Lung Cancers

University of Colorado Cancer Center

The Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium at the University of Colorado Cancer Center reports that 24 of 920 patients (3 percent) with advanced-stage lung cancer had mutations in the gene HER2. Seventy-one percent of these patients were never-smokers, with a median age of 62. The gene HER2 has been known as a breast cancer driver, with therapies approved to target HER2 mutations in this setting. Now ongoing clinical trials are evaluating the use of HER2-directed therapy against lung cancer testing positive for the mutation. By identifying a

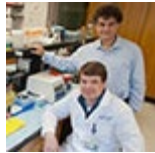
significant population of HER2+ lung cancer patients, the current study demonstrates the need for these therapies. [more...](#)



Researchers Developing Strategy to Optimize Personalized Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University

New research from investigators at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, led by senior author Jonathan Brody, PhD, provides insight into a cellular mechanism underlying the ability of pancreatic cancer cells to resist a promising, personalized therapy. The research team studied the role of an RNA-binding protein termed HuR in influencing the sensitivity of cancer cells to treatment with a class of drugs known as PARP inhibitors. PARP inhibitors block activity of the polyADP-ribose polymerase (PARP) enzymes, which orchestrate multiple pathways dedicated to repairing damaged DNA during cell division and other cellular processes. [more...](#)



Raucher, Bidwell Patented Process May Halt Metastasis

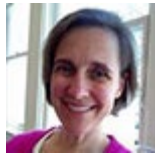
University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Institute

Drazen Raucher, PhD, and Gene Bidwell, PhD, have received a patent on a process that potentially can halt cancer metastasis. The lab, in work begun six to seven years ago, developed a cell penetrating peptide, or CPP, attached to an elastin-like polypeptide, or ELP. In tests conducted in the lab and in mice, the CPP and ELP did not work when used alone. But when used together, they halted metastasis. [more...](#)

Prostate Cancer Cells Become 'Shapeshifters' to Spread to Distant Organs

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center scientists report they have discovered a biochemical process that gives prostate cancer cells the almost unnatural ability to change their shape, squeeze into other organs and take root in other parts of the body. The scientists say their cell culture and mouse studies of the process, which involves a cancer-related protein called AIM1, suggest potential ways to intercept or reverse the ability of cancers to metastasize, or spread. [more...](#)



Study Shows Cigarette Makers Shifted Stance on Nicotine Patches, Gum

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

The use of nicotine patches, gum, lozenges, inhalers or nasal sprays - together called "nicotine replacement therapy," or NRT - came into play in 1984 as prescription medicine, which when combined with counseling, helped smokers quit. But in 1996, at the urging of pharmaceutical companies, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allowed those products to be sold over-the-counter. Now a new study conducted by scientists at UC San Francisco reports that tobacco companies have known for decades that, without counseling, NRT hardly ever works, and that consumers often use it to complement smoking. This insight from the formerly secret industry documents known as the "Tobacco Papers" reveals why companies that once viewed nicotine patches and gum as a threat to their cigarette sales now embrace them as a business opportunity, the researchers said. Dorie Apollonio, PhD, is lead author of the study. [more...](#)



New Nanoparticles Make Targeted, Temporary Gene Therapy Possible

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Scientists seeking a simple and gentle way to provide short-term gene therapy have a new tool: nanoparticles. In a new paper, Matthias Stephan, MD, PHD, at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center describes nanoparticles he has developed that can streamline the delivery of bundled genetic material to specific cells. [more...](#)

Research Looks to Improve Detection of Skin Cancer Lacking Pigment Melanin



UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

UNC Lineberger researchers led by Nancy Thomas, MD, PhD, reported in JAMA Dermatology that they have identified key features linked to amelanotic melanoma, a form of skin cancer that lacks the brown or black color that stems from the pigment melanin. The researchers believe their findings could improve detection of this type of melanoma, which is more likely to be diagnosed at advanced stages. [more...](#)

Researchers Discover Cancer Stem Cell Pathway in Endometrial Cancer

Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute

A team of Cleveland Clinic researchers have discovered a key pathway that leads to recurrence and treatment resistance in endometrial cancer, providing the potential for much needed new therapies for women with limited options. The team studied the unique role of an immune regulatory protein, called CD55, which is abundant on the surface of endometrioid ovarian cancer and uterine cancer cells. Using human cells and patient-derived tissue models, they found CD55 to be the most prevalent on cancer stem cells, a subgroup of aggressive cancer cells that are thought to be responsible for recurrence and spread of many types of cancer. [more...](#)



International Lenalidomide Trials Show Benefit of Maintenance Therapy After Transplant

Roswell Park Cancer Institute

The first study to report that overall survival was extended for patients receiving lenalidomide as maintenance treatment for multiple myeloma has been completed. Philip L. McCarthy, MD, was principal investigator for one of the three clinical studies that are reported in this updated analysis, and is first author of the publication that compiles the international team's findings and analysis. [more...](#)

First-In-Class Drug Holds Promise for Therapy-Resistant Breast Cancer

Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Researchers have shown that a first-in-class molecule can prevent breast cancer growth when traditional therapies stop working. All breast cancers are tested to determine if they require estrogen to grow and about 80 percent are found to be estrogen-sensitive. These cancers can often be effectively treated with hormone therapy, such as tamoxifen, but as many as a third of these cancers eventually become resistant. The new compound is a potential highly effective, next-line treatment for these patients [more...](#)



Scientists Develop Novel Immunotherapy Technology for Prostate Cancer

The Wistar Institute

A study led by scientists at The Wistar Institute describes a novel immunotherapeutic strategy for the treatment of cancer based on the use of synthetic DNA to directly encode protective antibodies against a cancer specific protein. This is the first application of the new technology, called DNA-encoded monoclonal antibody (DMAb), for cancer immunotherapy. David B. Weiner, PhD, is senior author of the study. [more...](#)

Fred Hutch Aims to Eliminate Cancers Caused by Infections

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is launching a new integrated research center to prevent and find cures for cancers caused by infectious agents. It will be led by Denise Galloway, PhD, a Fred Hutch microbiologist whose research paved the way for the HPV vaccine, which prevents cervical, throat and other cancers. As part of its quest to develop curative therapies for all cancers by 2025, Fred Hutch has established the new center to leverage its work in cancer immunotherapy and global oncology and apply that expertise to developing preventive measures and treatments for cancers caused directly and indirectly by such infectious pathogens as viruses and bacteria. [more...](#)

Getting a Clear Picture of Patient Smoking Quit Rates

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

According to a recent study led by The University of Kansas Cancer Center researchers, a high proportion of smokers enrolled in bedside tobacco cessation programs who said they had quit were misreporting their smoking status. The purpose of the study was to determine the necessity of biochemical validation to verify smokers have truly quit smoking. The study included participants from five large smoking cessation clinical trials in the United States that enrolled smokers during hospitalization. One of the five trials was conducted at the University of Kansas Medical Center. [more...](#)

Study Discovers "Killer Peptide" That Helps Eliminate Resistant Cancer Cells

UK Markey Cancer Center

A new study by University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center researchers shows that when therapy-sensitive cancer cells die, they release a "killer peptide" that can eliminate therapy-resistant cells. In the study, Markey scientists identified a Par-4 amino-terminal fragment (PAF) that is released by diverse therapy-sensitive cancer cells following therapy-induced cleavage of the tumor suppressor Par-4 protein. PAF caused death in cancer cells resistant to therapy and inhibited metastatic tumor growth in mice. Additionally, the PAF entered only cancer cells, not normal cells, keeping healthy tissue intact. [more...](#)



Fat Rats Show Why Breast Cancer May Be More Aggressive in Patients with Obesity

University of Colorado Cancer Center

A University of Colorado Cancer Center study shows that in an animal model of obesity and breast cancer (affectionately referred to as the "fat rat"), tumor cells in obese animals, but not lean animals, had especially sensitive androgen receptors, allowing these cells to magnify growth signals from the hormone testosterone. Similar to the way in which many breast cancers drive their growth with estrogen receptors, these tumors in obese rats drove their growth with androgen receptors. Elizabeth Wellberg, PhD, is the paper's first author. [more...](#)

Colorectal Cancer Metastasis: A Game of Clones

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University

Colorectal cancer is highly prevalent worldwide, and metastasis of colorectal cancer to distant sites accounts for ~90% of the mortality associated with this disease. Researchers at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, along with collaborators at several other institutions, tracked genomic changes that occur as colorectal tumors progress and metastasize to distant sites - providing important insights into how these tumors evolve as they metastasize within a patient. [more...](#)



Study Sheds Light on Why Some Breast Cancers Have Limited Response to Immunotherapy

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jonathan Serody, MD, and a team of UNC Lineberger investigators published findings in the Journal of Clinical Investigation that may explain why drugs designed to unleash the immune system against cancer were ineffective in treating "claudin-low" triple negative breast cancer. They determined these tumor types were releasing a chemical signal to attract regulatory T-cells, which prevented the immune system from rejecting the cancer. [more...](#)

Blood Test Spots Tumor-Derived DNA in People With Early-Stage Cancers

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

In a bid to detect cancers early and in a noninvasive way, scientists at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center report they have developed a test that spots tiny amounts of cancer-specific DNA in blood and have used it to accurately identify more than half of 138 people with relatively early-stage colorectal, breast, lung and ovarian cancers. The test, the scientists say, is novel in that it can distinguish between DNA shed from tumors and other altered DNA that can be mistaken for cancer biomarkers. [more...](#)

Long-Term, High-Dose Vitamin B6/B12 Use Linked With Increased Lung Cancer Risk

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute

New research suggests long-term, high-dose supplementation with vitamins B6 and B12 - long touted by the vitamin industry for increasing energy and improving metabolism - is associated with a two- to four-fold increased lung cancer risk in men relative to non-users. The study was conducted by epidemiologists from The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC - James), Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and National Taiwan University. [more...](#)



Shorter Radiation Course May Be Good Option for Patients after Mastectomy

Huntsman Cancer Institute

New research demonstrates that a shorter course of radiation may be a good option for breast cancer patients who need radiation following mastectomy. The Phase II clinical trial examined the safety of treating women with a three-week course of radiation instead of the traditional six weeks. The study was run by Matthew Poppe, MD. [more...](#)

FDA Awards Orphan Status to Brain Cancer Vaccine

Roswell Park Cancer Institute

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has awarded orphan drug status to a promising immunotherapy vaccine developed at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. The FDA notified MimiVax LLC, a Roswell Park spinoff company, on Aug. 3 that its application for orphan status for SurVaxM as treatment for glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer, had been approved. [more...](#)

Risk-Reducing Surgery Questioned For Some BRCA Mutation Carriers

Duke Cancer Institute

For the subset of women with BRCA mutations who have already had ovarian cancer, risk-reducing mastectomy might not be worth the price tag. New research from the Duke Cancer Institute finds that for many women in this unique group, prophylactic mastectomy does not produce a substantial survival gain and is not cost-effective. The finding is especially noteworthy because of updated National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines recommending that many women with ovarian cancer be considered for genetic testing regardless of family history. [more...](#)

Researchers Hope Clinical Trial Will Lead to New Sepsis Treatment

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

University of Florida researchers are part of a nationwide clinical trial to evaluate whether an anti-cancer medication can be effective against sepsis and septic shock. Nivolumab, an immunotherapy drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat patients with certain types of non-small cell lung cancer and other types of the disease, blocks PD-1 in cancer patients and helps the immune system recognize and destroy diseased tissue. The clinical trial seeks to determine whether blocking PD-1 can also boost the immune system in patients with severe sepsis or septic shock. [more...](#)

Other News



Stem Cell Transplant Program Celebrates First Year

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center began its Bone Marrow Transplant program a little more than one year ago. It has helped more than 30 patients since. The program team includes a nurse manager, nurse coordinator, a social worker, a pharmacist, infusion nurses, and an inpatient team and offers autologous transplants for people with lymphoma and myeloma. Program Director Matthew Fero, MD, FACP, who started the program after moving to New Mexico from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, Wash., said the program is in the process of hiring two more doctors and an advanced practice provider and will expand to offer treatments for other blood

disorders. [more...](#)

Analysis Shows UCSF Cancer Research Ranks Among the World's Most Impactful

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

From patent filings for new cancer therapies, to articles and book chapters on the latest advances in understanding, diagnosing and treating cancer, University of California San Francisco's Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center is consistently among the world's top five institutions producing the most impactful and utilized research. [more...](#)



Report Identifies IT Upgrades Needed to Enhance Cancer Care

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

A group of nationally recognized medical information and data management experts has recommended the development of new knowledge software applications that work alongside electronic health record systems to help practicing oncologists access and use the latest genomic information to assist in the treatment of cancer patients. The lead author of the report is Jeremy Warner, MD, MS. [more...](#)

Job Opportunities

Associate Director for Research Administration

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center [more...](#)

Assistant Director of Administrative Operations

Hollings Cancer Center

Medical University of South Carolina [more...](#)

Chief of Hematology and Oncology

The University of Vermont Cancer Center [more...](#)

Director of Communications

University of Illinois Cancer Center [more...](#)

Clinical Research Coordinator

University of Illinois Cancer Center [more...](#)

CTMS Program Office Director

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center [more...](#)

Senior Director, Clinical Research Unit

City of Hope [more...](#)

Senior Manager, Research Support

The University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center [more...](#)

Director, Strategic Operations

The University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center [more...](#)

Deputy Chief of Clinical Affairs, Division of Hematology/Oncology

MUSC Hollings Cancer Center [more...](#)

Manager, Division of Clinical Research (Regulatory)

Washington University School of Medicine [more...](#)

Clinical Research Quality Assurance & Education Specialist

University of Illinois Cancer Center [more...](#)

Director of Development

UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center [more...](#)

Clinical Research Program Manager

University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center [more...](#)

Business Operations Manager

University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center [more...](#)

Meeting Announcements

Together-Equitable-Accessible-Meaningful (TEAM)

Don't miss your chance to apply for the George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center's **Together-Equitable-Accessible-Meaningful (TEAM) training!** This no-cost training for health care organizations that provide cancer-related services aims to improve the productivity of patient-provider interactions to promote equitable, accessible and patient-centered cancer care. Applications must be submitted to gwci@gwu.edu by Tuesday, September 12.

Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy - Pittsburgh, PA

Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy - Pittsburgh, PA

September 14, 2017, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Omni William Penn Hotel 530 William Penn Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer's (SITC) Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy program will help you appropriately incorporate immunotherapy into your practice, as an introductory CME-, CNE- and CPE-certified program presented by local leading authorities

www.sitcancer.org

Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy - New Haven, CT

Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy - New Haven, CT

September 16, 2017, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale

155 Temple St., New Haven, CT 06510

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer's (SITC) Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy program will help you appropriately incorporate immunotherapy into your practice, as an introductory CME-, CNE- and CPE-certified program presented by local leading authorities

www.sitcancer.org

ASCO Research Community Forum 2017 Annual Meeting

Not too late to register - This year's meeting will feature a keynote address by ASCO President-elect Monica Bertagnolli, MD on the value of research partnerships; presentations by leaders in cancer research on cancer care delivery research and big data, the impact of state and federal policies on cancer research, and reducing administrative burden; breakout sessions to develop solutions to today's key research challenges; and a networking event. New this year: two workshops on insurance coverage of clinical trials and precision medicine in cancer research. Registration closes September 13, 11:59PM, EDT so [register today!](#)

Cancer Immunology & 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

5th Annual AACI Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative Meeting

View the [Agenda](#)

Space is limited, please RSVP to: cj@aaci-cancer.org

October 15, 2017, 4:00-6:00pm

Grand Hyatt Washington, DC

SITC 2017

November 8-12, 2017

Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center

201 Waterfront Street, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Programs (SITC 2017) is the largest annual conference solely dedicated to cancer immunotherapy and brings together stakeholders across the field to advance the science, discover breakthroughs and educate the world on cancer immunotherapy. Known as the premier destination for scientific exchange, education and networking in the cancer immunotherapy field, SITC 2017 is the conference you don't want to miss!

www.sitcancer.org/2017

Inaugural National Latino Cancer Conference in San Antonio

Advancing the Science of Cancer in Latinos

February 21-23, 2018

Marriott Plaza San Antonio

[Register today and submit an abstract](#) for the inaugural Advancing the Science of Cancer in Latinos conference on Feb. 21-23, 2018, in historic and culturally dynamic San Antonio, led by Dr. Amelie Ramirez, a cancer researcher at UT Health San Antonio.