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## News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes | August 2019

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

### AACI HEADLINES

#### [Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center Earns NCI Designation](#)



Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, has received designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Sylvester joins a highly select group as one of only two NCI-Designated Cancer Centers in the state of Florida, and one of just 71 across the United States. "This is a testament to the incredible focus and teamwork of every single member of our center," said **Stephen D. Nimer, MD**, who was named director of Sylvester in 2012. [Read More](#)

#### [BC Cancer Names New Leader](#)



The Provincial Health Services Authority of British Columbia has selected **Kim Nguyen Chi, MD**, as vice president and chief medical officer of BC Cancer. An internationally recognized expert in prostate cancer, Dr. Chi began his career at BC Cancer 20 years ago with a fellowship in medical oncology. He has a special interest in developing biomarkers and new treatments for advanced prostate cancer, and recently led a four-year international trial testing a new treatment involving more than 1,000 men and 23 countries. [Read More](#)

#### [Three-Day CRI Meeting Focuses on Innovation, Collaboration](#)

From July 9-11, AACI's [Clinical Research Innovation](#) (CRI) convened its 11th annual meeting in Chicago. The 2019 meeting introduced a new three-day format, including poster discussions. A record-breaking 431 clinical research office leaders, medical directors, cancer center administrators, patient advocates, and representatives from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and industry attended the meeting, titled "[Strategies to Maximize Innovation to Advance Cancer Clinical](#)



Research." [Read More](#)

## Former NFL Player Devon Still to Keynote AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting



**Devon Still**, an advocate for childhood cancer awareness and a former professional athlete, will deliver the keynote address during the [2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#) in Washington, DC. Still will speak about his and his daughter's experiences overcoming cancer. Their fight has inspired many cancer patients, along with their families and friends; now, through the Still Strong Foundation, Still has raised more than \$2 million and is influencing the global cancer conversation. [Read More](#)

## Register Today for the 2019 CAR T Symposium

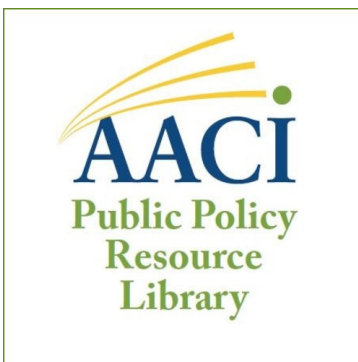
### 2019 CAR T Symposium

October 21 • Washington, DC



AACI, in collaboration with the [Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer \(SITC\)](#), will host a CAR T symposium on Monday, October 21, during the [2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#). Participants will identify the key challenges to patient access and delivery of CAR T, and discuss potential solutions to address barriers to care. The [2019 CAR T Symposium](#) is free to all attendees, but space is limited. Priority will be given to AACI and SITC members. Those who wish to attend the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in addition to the CAR T symposium must register for the annual meeting. [Read More](#)

## Help AACI Build a Library of Public Policy Resources



In October 2018, AACI President **Roy A. Jensen, MD**, introduced his [presidential initiative](#), a library of public policy resources, to positively advance policy that will ultimately impact public health. Now AACI is calling on members to submit materials for the AACI Public Policy Resource Library. AACI encourages members to share resources pertaining to the priority issues of state funding for cancer research, elimination of HPV-related cancers, and tobacco control. [Read More](#)

## Ask Your Representative to Cosponsor the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act

Representatives Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) are seeking cosponsors for H.R. 913, the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act, a bill to guarantee coverage of routine care costs associated with clinical trial participation for Medicaid enrollees. Today, as many as 42.2 million Medicaid patients risk missing out on lifesaving treatment due to financial burden. AACI supports the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act. We encourage you to demonstrate your support by [writing your representatives](#). [Read More](#)



## HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention: Nominate a Champion



AACI is partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) to recognize leaders in health care who have demonstrated a strong commitment to preventing cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) through timely vaccination of 11- and 12-year-olds. Now in its third year, the [HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion Award](#) recognizes clinicians, practices, and health systems that go above and beyond to foster HPV vaccination among adolescents in their communities. [Read More](#)

## NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

### AWARDS & HONORS

## Odunsi Receives Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance Award

**Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**



One of Roswell Park's most distinguished researchers has been recognized again for his contributions to advance the fight against ovarian cancer. Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance will award its Rosalind Franklin Prize for Excellence in Ovarian Cancer Research to Roswell Park Deputy Director **Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, FRCOG, FACOG**, during the 2019 Ovarian Cancer National Conference in Seattle. [Read More](#)

## Lung Cancer Researcher Honored for Work

**UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center**



**Steven Dubinett, MD**, a researcher in the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, has been honored by the American Lung Association for his work on the treatment of lung cancer. Dr. Dubinett was honored at the association's Lung Force Gala for advancing partnerships designed to accelerate scientific and clinical breakthroughs to improve the health of people worldwide. [Read More](#)

## Wilson Wins 2019 Clinical Scientist Development Award

**Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine**



Yale Cancer Center's **Frederick Wilson, MD, PhD**, has won a 2019 Clinical Scientist Development Award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Dr. Wilson's research focuses on targeted therapies for the treatment of advanced non-small cell lung carcinoma and melanoma. [Read More](#)

## Demark-Wahnefried Selected for Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Award

**O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham**

University of Alabama professor **Wendy Demark-Wahnefried, PhD, RD**, has been selected to receive the 2018 Mary P. Huddleson Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is being honored for her article, "Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of a Home Vegetable Gardening Intervention Among Older Cancer Survivors Shows Feasibility, Satisfaction, and Promise in Improving Vegetable and Fruit Consumption, Reassurance of Worth, and the Trajectory of Central Adipos." [Read More](#)

## Hogan Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

**Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center**

**Brigid L. M. Hogan, PhD**, chair emeritus of Duke's Department of Cell Biology, has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. Dr. Hogan was one of the first scientists to isolate members of the Hox gene complex in mammals and highlight their role in controlling anterior-posterior patterning in embryos across evolution. [Read More](#)

### GRANTS & GIFTS

## Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology Launched With \$102 Million Investment

**The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute**

## \$19.2 Million Trial Will Test Red Cell Exchange to Treat Advanced Sickle Cell Disease

**UPMC Hillman Cancer Center**

## Winship Awarded Lung Cancer SPORE Grant

**Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University**

## Researchers Test Novel Gene Therapy for Glioblastoma

**Case Comprehensive Cancer Center**

## \$2 Million in Grants Drives Exploration of Rare Blood Cancer

**Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey**

## DOD Awards \$1.6 Million to Study Health Disparity in Prostate Cancer

**Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center**

### LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

## Associate Director Named for Education and Training

**Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina**

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University has named **Lawrence Boise, PhD**, as its new associate director for education and training. Dr. Boise is professor and vice chair for basic research in the Department



of Hematology and Medical Oncology. A multiple myeloma researcher, Dr. Boise serves as interim leader of Winship's Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics Research Program. [Read More](#)

## Shinde Appointed Inaugural Wistar Fellow

[The Wistar Institute](#)

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The Wistar Institute announces the appointment of **Rahul Shinde, DVM, PhD**, as the first Caspar Wistar Fellow. Dr. Shinde's research focuses on the role of microphages, specialized cells that act as a front-line defense system for our immune systems. He investigates how these cells alter the tumor microenvironment, which is a key determinant of whether cancer is able to develop, progress, and resist therapies.

[Read More](#)

## Sebti Named Associate Director for Basic Research

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

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Drug discovery, design, and development expert **Saïd M. Sebti, PhD**, has been named associate director for basic research and the Lacy Family Chair in Cancer Research at Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center. Dr. Sebti joins VCU from H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute. [Read More](#)

## Breast Cancer Researcher Takes Leadership Role at University of Pittsburgh

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

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**Norman Wolmark, MD, FACS**, has been recruited to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine where he will serve as director of National Cancer Institute cooperative group clinical trials. Dr. Wolmark has spent decades conducting groundbreaking research and early clinical trials in the treatment of breast and bowel cancers. [Read More](#)

## Darr Named Associate Director of Administration

[UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#)

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**David B. Darr** has been appointed associate director of administration of the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. He previously served as assistant director of research operations at UNC Lineberger since 2014, and he was the director of the cancer center's Mouse Phase One Unit from 2009 to 2014. [Read More](#)



## Hematologists Appointed to New Positions

**City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center**

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**Larry Kwak, MD, PhD**, has been appointed the deputy director of City of Hope's Hematologic Malignancies and Stem Cell Transplantation Institute, and **Tanya Siddiqi, MD**, has been appointed director of the Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Program within the Toni Stephenson Lymphoma Center, one of the seven disease and modality centers within the Hematologic Malignancies and Stem Cell Transplantation Institute. [Read More](#)

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## New Biomarker-Guided Strategy Has Potential for Liver Cancer Treatment

**The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**

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## Scientists Discover Autoimmune Disease Associated With Testicular Cancer

**UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**

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## Immunotherapy Prevents Relapse in Small Leukemia Trial

**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

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## Research Finds That a New Culprit Can Cause Breast Cancer to Spread

**Stanford Cancer Institute**

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## Discovery Shows How Difficult-to-Treat Prostate Cancer Evades Immune System

**The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**

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## Experimental Compound Unveiled to Block Therapeutic Target in Blood Cancer

**UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

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## Using Artificial Intelligence to Deliver Personalized Radiation Therapy

**The Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center**

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## Determining Risk of Recurrence in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

**Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah**

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## Increased Understanding of Inflammation's Role in Cancer Should Shape Basic Discoveries, Clinical Trials, and Drug Development

**Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health**

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## New Process for P53 Gene Regulation Sheds Light on How to Make Cancer Therapies More Effective

**VCU Massey Cancer Center**

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## Researcher Investigates Role of BRCA1 in DNA Repair

**GW Cancer Center**

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## Researchers Characterize Mechanism of Action of CAR T Cells

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

## Biliary Microbiome Altered After Neoadjuvant Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer

[Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health](#)

## Technique Using Urine Suggests Individualized Bladder Cancer Treatment Possible

[Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## Worrisome Increase in Some Medical Scans During Pregnancy

[UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## Discovery Leads to New Clinical Trial for Myelofibrosis Patients

[Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah](#)

## Many Thyroid Cancer Patients Say They Had No Choice About Radioactive Iodine

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Institute](#)

## Noninvasive Test Improves Detection of Aggressive Prostate Cancer

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## Sports Playbook Helps Doctors Predict Cancer Patient Outcomes

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

## Researchers Identify Health Conditions Most Likely to Cause Serious Harm When Misdiagnosed

[Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University](#)

## Study Examines Disparities in Prostate Cancer Survival in Appalachian Kentucky

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

## Study Highlights Need for Tailored Skin Cancer Prevention Programs

[GW Cancer Center](#)

## New Study Probes How to Tell Elderly Patients Not to Bother With Cancer Screening

[Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University](#)

### OTHER NEWS

## AACI COI Task Force Invites Comments

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)

In the July [AACI Commentary](#), Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, and Leonidas C. Platanias, MD, PhD, shared the [recommendations](#) of AACI's Conflict of Interest (COI) Task Force, which convened in response to mounting concerns about the complex relationships between academic medicine, private industry, and foreign entities. The COI Task Force reviewed policies at AACI cancer centers and established basic guidelines to ensure that all conflicts are fully disclosed, maintaining patients' trust and allowing groundbreaking research to flourish at academic cancer centers. [Read More](#)

## Female Physicians Report Skipping Scientific Conferences Because of Child Care

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

For oncologists in the beginning of their career, scientific conferences present an opportunity for them to network, share their research, gain new knowledge, and advance in their field. But many women find

themselves skipping these conferences due to family obligations, a new study finds. [Read More](#)

## New \$750 Million State-of-the-Art, Freestanding Cancer Pavilion in New Jersey

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

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RWJBarnabas Health and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, in partnership with New Brunswick Development Corporation, have announced the development of a new, state-of-the-art, freestanding cancer pavilion in New Brunswick. The initial estimated project cost is \$750 million. [Read More](#)

## Three Siblings Share Cancer Diagnosis Due to Rare Genetic Mutation

[O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama Birmingham](#)

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At first glance, Kevin, Kiala, and Keaira Perkins may seem like typical 17-, 14-, and 11-year-old children. But all three have suffered from thyroid cancer. The siblings, from Madison, Alabama, all have a rare genetic condition called multiple endocrine neoplasia (MEN2A), which occurs in roughly one in 35,000 people in the United States. It is caused by a mutation in the RET gene, which provides instruction for producing a protein that is involved in cell signaling and is needed for the normal development of several kinds of nerve cells. [Read More](#)

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

#### Administrative Director, Clinical Research Office

[University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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#### Associate Director, Research Projects

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

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#### Cancer Center Director

[WVU Cancer Institute](#)

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#### Cancer Disparity or Health Equity Researchers or Research Teams

[Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center](#)

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#### Executive Director, Clinical Research Services

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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#### Executive Director, Clinical Trials Office

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

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### AACI MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

October 20-22, 2019

Washington, DC

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[Learn More](#)

[Register Today](#)

#### 2019 CAR T Symposium

October 21, 2019

Washington, DC

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[Learn More](#)

# 2019 CAR T Symposium

October 21 • Washington, DC



Register Today

## MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SITC Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Network Leadership Institute

August 19-20, 2019

Seattle, WA

[Learn More](#)

### Wendy & Emery Reves International Breast Cancer Symposium

September 20-21, 2019

Dallas, TX

[Learn More](#)

### Multidisciplinary Approaches to Cancer Symposium

October 10-13, 2019

Las Vegas, NV

[Learn More](#)

### Cancer and Inflammation: From Micro to Macro

October 17-18, 2019

Bethesda, MD

[Learn More](#)

### Artificial Intelligence in Oncology: Advancements and Policy

October 24, 2019

Cleveland, OH

[Learn More](#)



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