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

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

### AACI HEADLINES

#### Sharpless Returns as NCI Director



The Association of American Cancer Institutes welcomes back **Norman E. Sharpless, MD**, as director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Sharpless served for seven months as acting commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, following his initial appointment as NCI director a little over two years ago. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced Dr. Sharpless's return to the NCI on November 1. [Read More](#)

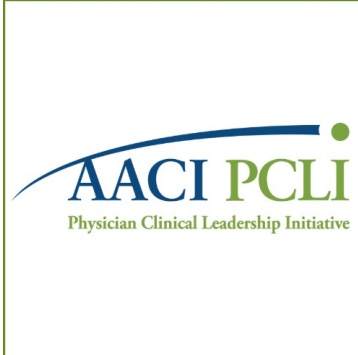
#### Register Today for CRI's eRegulatory Webinar



In October 2018, AACI's **Clinical Research Innovation** (CRI) formed the Regulatory File Management Working Group. The working group has established recommendations for implementing and working with eRegulatory systems, which will be discussed in an upcoming webinar. AACI will present "**Perspectives on Implementing an eRegulatory System**" at 3:00 pm ET on **Tuesday, December 10**. The webinar will provide two case studies from cancer centers that have successfully implemented a hybrid, home-grown application and an out-of-the-box solution. [Read More](#)

#### AACI Now Accepting PCLI Steering Committee Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the AACI **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative** (PCLI) Steering Committee. The PCLI Steering Committee helps guide the activities of the initiative and identify opportunities for AACI cancer center clinical leaders to share solutions and best practices. Committee members also identify ways AACI can collaborate with like-minded organizations. All AACI cancer center members are welcome to submit nominations until 5:00 pm PT on



## [AACI, American Cancer Society, CDC Recognize HPV Vaccine Champions](#)



Last month, AACI, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Cancer Society announced the winners of this year's *HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion Award*. This award was established in 2017 to recognize clinicians, clinics, practices, groups, and health systems who are going above and beyond to foster HPV vaccination in their communities. This year, champions from 25 states were honored for their efforts to achieve high HPV vaccination rates. [Read More](#)

## [Congressional Budget Remains Uncertain Going Into 2020](#)



The United States House of Representatives and Senate came together to pass another continuing resolution for government funding on November 21. With President Trump's signature, a government shutdown was avoided as we headed into the Thanksgiving holiday. This four-week continuing resolution will fund government at 2019 budget-year levels and allow Congress until December 20 to come up with a Fiscal Year 2020 budget deal. [Read More](#)

## [Please Submit Your News for Our January 2020 Issue](#)

Your cancer center's news doesn't take a break—and now, neither does *AACI Update*. **The submission deadline for our January 2020 issue is Wednesday, December 18.** Many thanks for your cancer center's contributions throughout the year. Please keep the good news coming about the inspiring work and dedicated faculty and staff at your AACI cancer center in 2020. [Read More](#)

## NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

### AWARDS & HONORS

## [Theodorescu Named AAAS Fellow](#)

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

**Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD**, director of Cedars-Sinai Cancer, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Theodorescu, an internationally recognized translational cancer researcher and leading expert in bladder cancer, was selected by his peers for his efforts in advancing science breakthroughs and innovation. [Read More](#)



## Holmen Receives Melanoma Research Award

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

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The Society for Melanoma Research recently presented **Sheri Holmen, PhD**, with the Estela Medrano Memorial Award. Dr. Holmen is a melanoma researcher at Huntsman Cancer Institute. The award honors the late Estela Medrano, a leader in melanoma research. It is given annually to a woman who has made major contributions in the fight against melanoma. [Read More](#)

## ACS, NCI Honor Ruggero

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

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**Davide Ruggero, PhD**, has accomplished the rare feat of receiving two of the most competitive awards available to cancer scientists. In September, the American Cancer Society awarded Dr. Ruggero a prestigious ACS Professorship Award; and in October, he received an Outstanding Investigator Award (R35) from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). [Read More](#)

## Ubel Named to National Academy of Medicine

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

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**Peter Ubel, MD**, has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Ubel, a member of the Duke Cancer Institute, is a behavioral scientist recognized for his exploration of controversial issues about the role of values and preference in health care and decision making. [Read More](#)

## Kleer Honored for Impact on Breast Cancer

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

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**Celina Kleer, MD**, has been honored by the American Association for Cancer Research for her work in generating key insights into the development of aggressive forms of breast cancer and for advancing



the characterization of clinical biomarkers and potential therapeutic targets for them. [Read More](#)

## GRANTS & GIFTS

### New Research Funding Totals Nearly \$22 Million

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### Stephenson Cancer Center Announces Multi-Million Dollar Gift

[Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma](#)

### MD Anderson and University of Puerto Rico Receive \$13 Million Grant Renewal

[The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)

### Trial Aims to Curb HPV-related Cancers in HIV+ Women and Children

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

### Prostate Cancer Program Awarded \$8.7 Million

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### New \$5.7 Million Grant Aims to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening, Follow-Up Care in Appalachia

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

### \$3.7 Million Supports Crowdsourced Database of Cancer Genomics

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

### Study Tests Medically Tailored Meals for Patients With Lung Cancer to Combat Malnutrition

[The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute](#)

### NCI Moonshot Grant to Boost Hereditary Cancer Identification

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

### Prostate Cancer Foundation Awards Recognize SKCC Researchers

[Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health](#)

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

### WVU Names Interim Director

[WVU Cancer Institute](#)

**Hannah Hazard-Jenkins, MD**, has been named interim director of the WVU Cancer Institute, effective January 2020. As the director of clinical services for the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, Dr. Hazard-Jenkins manages clinical affairs and outpatient services as well as the cancer institute's statewide network of cancer care. [Read More](#)





## New Chief Nursing Officer Named

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

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Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and RWJBarnabas Health welcome **Carolyn Hayes, PhD, RN, NEA-BC**, as the new chief nursing officer. She will oversee nursing at Rutgers Cancer Institute and oncology service line-related nursing across RWJBarnabas, ensuring nursing excellence throughout an integrated cancer care model. [Read More](#)

## Urologic Cancer Expert Joins VICC as Chief of Clinical Trials

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

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**Brian Rini, MD**, a leader in genitourinary oncology, kidney cancer, and clinical drug development, will join Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center in January 2020 as the inaugural chief of clinical trials. Dr. Rini was recruited from the Cleveland Clinic, where he currently serves as director of the Genitourinary Cancer Program and professor of medicine at the Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. [Read More](#)

## Director of Patient Access Named

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

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**Jennifer Kennedy-Stovall** has been named director of patient access at Duke Cancer Institute. She previously served as director of patient access support services at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she provided strategic direction for the institution's main centralized contact centers. [Read More](#)

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## Genetic 'Fingerprint' May ID Breast Cancer Patients Likely to Benefit From Potentially Toxic Chemo

Stanford Cancer Institute

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## **Secondary Surgery Does Not Improve Overall Survival for Recurrent Ovarian Cancer Patients**

**[The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)**

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## **Kidney Cancer Study Uncovers New Subtypes and Clues to Better Diagnosis, Treatment**

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

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## **Study IDs Effects of Bazedoxifene and Conjugated Estrogen on Breast Cancer Risk Biomarkers**

**[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)**

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## **Catchy Headlines for Health Awareness Campaigns Not Enough to Inspire Action**

**[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)**

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## **Clues to Improve Cancer Immunotherapy Revealed**

**[Siteman Cancer Center](#)**

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## **Nearly One-Quarter of Completed Lung Cancer Clinical Trial Results Are Not Published**

**[Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)**

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## **Cancer Research Stars Align to Develop Ovarian Cancer Detection Test**

**[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)**

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## **Oxygen-Starved Tumor Cells Have Survival Advantage That Promotes Cancer Spread**

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

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## **Protein Decoy Stymies Lung Cancer Growth in Mice**

**[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)**

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## **Spread of Breast Cancer Halted by Blocking Metastasis-Promoting Enzyme**

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

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## **RNA Helps Virus Create 'Zombie' Cells, Cause Cancer**

**[WVU Cancer Institute](#)**

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## **Lasting Tumor Regression of Leukemia and Lymphoma in Mouse Models Achieved**

**[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)**

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## **Complex Cellular Machine Visualized to Yield New Cancer Insights**

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

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## **Non-Coding DNA Located Outside Chromosomes May Help Drive Glioblastoma**

**[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)**

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## **Study Helps Hepatitis C Patients, Shows Potential for Drug Approvals**

**[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)**

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### **OTHER NEWS**

## **International Collaboration for Scientific Training Launched**

**[The Wistar Cancer Institute](#)**

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The Wistar Institute and Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) in the Netherlands formalized a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions to explore a postdoctoral training exchange program in immunology, cancer research, and vaccine biology. The Wistar-Schoemaker International Postdoctoral Fellowship would bring recent PhD graduates trained at LUMC to Wistar to advance their research education under the mentorship of cutting-edge biomedical research leaders. [Read More](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Administrative Director, Clinical Research Office

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

### Incyte Research Scholars

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

### Postdoctoral Fellow

[LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes, The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School](#)

### Senior Biostatistician, Department of Oncology

[LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes, The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School](#)

### Assistant Director, Community Outreach

[Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center](#)

### Associate Director for Clinical Research

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)

### Cancer Center Research Administrator

[Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System](#)

## 2020 AACI MEETINGS



### 12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

July 7-9, 2020

[Chicago](#)



### AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

October 11-13, 2020

[Kansas City](#)

## MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS



### 4th Annual Cancer Disparities Symposium: Cultivating Science and Community Engagement to Address Cancer Health Disparities

March 6, 2020

[Cleveland, OH](#)

[Learn More](#)



## Immunotherapy of Cancer: CAR T Cell to Checkpoint Inhibitors

March 18-21, 2020

Las Vegas, NV

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[Learn More](#)

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