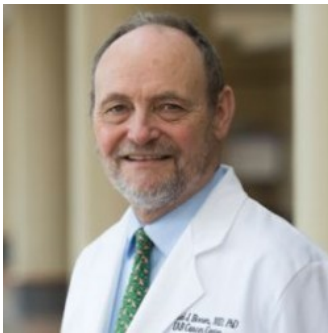




[Awards & Honors](#) | [Grants & Gifts](#) | [Leadership Transitions](#) | [Research Highlights](#) | [Other News](#)

AACI HEADLINES

[\\$30 Million Gift Will Transform University of Alabama Cancer Center](#)



O'Neal Industries, Inc., a family-owned global business based in Birmingham, and its shareholders have given the largest single gift in the University of Alabama at Birmingham's history—a \$30 million donation to the comprehensive cancer center—which will allow the center to change the lives of more patients and families through transformational cancer research, patient care, education, and prevention. **Michael J. Birrer, MD, PhD**, is director of the cancer center, now known as the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. [Read More](#)

[Join Us for the 2019 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)



AACI and the [American Association for Cancer Research](#) (AACR) will co-host the 2019 [Hill Day](#) in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, April 30. AACI is encouraging its U.S. members to send at least one representative to Washington to advocate on your center's behalf—and this year, for the first time, AACI will offer [scholarships](#) to support the participation of patient advocates at Hill Day, giving them an opportunity to share their impactful stories with legislators. [Read More](#)

[CAR T Listserv Now Open to AACI Members](#)

AACI has launched a CAR T listserv to allow for greater engagement among members who want to share best practices, challenges, and solutions related to CAR T-cell therapy implementation. The listserv was created as part of the larger [CAR T Initiative](#), which aims to help guide AACI members in implementing CAR T-cell therapy programs at cancer centers across North America. The CAR T listserv is open only to AACI members. [Read More](#)

[AACI Welcomes ASTRO as New Sustaining Member](#)

AACI kicked off 2019 by welcoming a new sustaining member. The [American Society for Radiation Oncology](#) (ASTRO) is the premier radiation oncology society in the world. ASTRO's



membership is comprised of physicians, nurses, biologists, physicists, radiation therapists, and other health care professionals who specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies—a critical tool in the fight against cancer. The society's mission is to advance and elevate the field of radiation oncology. [Read More](#)

Call for Abstracts for the 11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

The AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Steering Committee is currently soliciting abstracts for the 11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting that will be held July 9-11 in Chicago. This year's meeting theme will focus on strategies to maximize innovation to advance cancer clinical research. The purpose of the abstracts is to inform meeting attendees about clinical trials office challenges and solutions implemented at AACI cancer centers. [Read More](#)

AACI Changes, Member Benefits Featured in Report



2018 was a year of transitions for AACI—a new president and executive director, fresh initiatives, a redesigned website and newsletter, and an expanded staff to better serve AACI's 98 cancer center members. These are just a few of the highlights covered in the [2018 AACI Report](#).

In 2019, AACI will continue to develop programming that supports the interests of its members and provide peer-to-peer networking opportunities for cancer center leadership. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Gerson Tapped for Biden Cancer Working Group

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

AACI Immediate Past President **Stanton L. Gerson, MD**, director, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, has been named to the Biden Cancer Initiative Data Sharing Working Group. The group's goal is to gather evidence to show that standardized collection of a new minimum set of cancer-specific data elements can inform better clinical decision making and alignment within the cancer community.

[Read More](#)



Weiner Named a National Academy of Inventors Fellow

Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

The National Academy of Inventors (NAI) has named **Louis M. Weiner, MD**, director of Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, to its 2018 class of fellows. An internationally recognized medical oncologist specializing in the treatment of gastrointestinal cancers, Dr. Weiner is also an accomplished immunotherapy researcher. [Read More](#)



Neurosurgeon-scientist Honored for Work in Lab, Clinic

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Linda Liau, MD, PhD, MBA, has been awarded the Abhijit Guha Award for her pioneering work on treating brain tumors. Established in memory of the late Dr. Abhijit Guha, the award is jointly sponsored by the Society for Neuro-Oncology and the Joint Section on Tumors of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. [Read More](#)



Soper Inducted into AIMBE College of Fellows

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Steven Soper, PhD, was elected to the American Institute for Medical and Biomedical Engineering (AIMBE) College of Fellows. The AIMBE College of Fellows represents the top 2 percent of the medical and biological engineering community. Dr. Soper is a leading researcher in the generation of novel biomedical devices, concentrating on in vitro cancer diagnostics based on lab-on-a-chip technologies. [Read More](#)



Puzanov Honored for Melanoma Research

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Igor Puzanov, MD, MSci, FACP, was honored for his “outstanding and lifelong contributions to melanoma research” during the just-concluded Melanoma and Immunotherapy Bridge research meeting in Naples, Italy. Dr. Puzanov, who is chief of melanoma and director of the Early Phase Clinical Trials Program at Roswell Park, received the award from Italy’s Fondazione Melanoma, or Melanoma Foundation. [Read More](#)



Khabele Elected as ASCI Member

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Dineo Khabele, MD, director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s gynecologic oncology division, has been elected a new member to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) for 2019. Dr. Khabele is one of five physician-scientists in the history of KU Medical Center to be elected to ASCI, and she is one of only three gynecologic oncologists to ever receive it. [Read More](#)



Ruckdeschel Named to Lung Roundtable

University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Institute

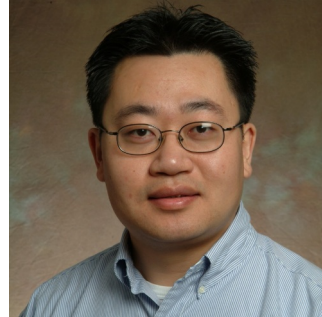
John Ruckdeschel, MD, University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Institute director, has been named to the National Lung Cancer Roundtable. Established by the American Cancer Society in 2017, the roundtable gathers experts dedicated to reducing the incidence of and deaths from lung cancer through appropriate screening, treatment, and prevention services. [Read More](#)



Chen Honored with Chair in Oncology

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

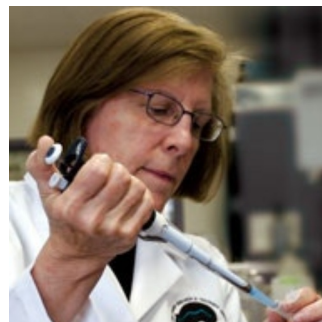
Jing Chen, PhD, professor and director of the Division of Basic & Translational Science in the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology in the Emory University School of Medicine, has been named the R. Randall Rollins Chair in Oncology. [Read More](#)



Osley Appointed to NCI Basic Sciences Board

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Mary Ann Osley, PhD, has been appointed to a four-year term on the NCI Board of Scientific Counselors for Basic Sciences, which advises on scientific program policy and the direction of basic science research programs. Dr. Osley leads the Cancer Genetics, Epigenetics and Genomics Research Group at the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)



Immunologist Named AAAS Fellow

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

John F. Kearney, PhD, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Kearney was elected in the Medical Sciences section of AAAS "for his distinguished contributions to immunology, particularly in understanding B cell development and the role of B cells in autoimmune diseases."

[Read More](#)



Waller Awarded Professorship

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

The inaugural Rein Saral, MD Professorship in Cancer Medicine was awarded to **Edmund K. Waller, MD, PhD**, a distinguished Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University investigator and physician. The professorship recognizes Dr. Waller's outstanding contributions and expertise in the area of hematological malignancies and bone marrow/stem cell transplantation. [Read More](#)



GRANTS & GIFTS

Pelotonia 2018 Generates More Than \$27 Million for Cancer Research

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

\$26 Million 'Grand Challenge' Project Eyes Inflammation's Role in Cancer

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Grant to Support Study of E-Cigs, Oral Health

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

NCI-Funded Study Aims to Enhance Glioblastoma Treatment

Researchers Investigate Nanoimmunotherapies for Cancer

GW Cancer Center

Grant Helps Unravel Role of Glucose, Fats in Bone Cancer

Indiana University Melvin & Bren Simon Cancer Center

DOD Awards Nearly \$1 Million to Study Prostate Cancer Drug Resistance

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

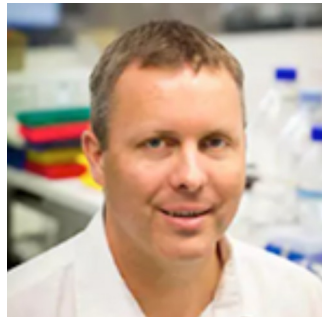
LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS



Brawley to Direct Outreach, Disparities Research

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at
Johns Hopkins University

Otis W. Brawley, MD, former chief medical and scientific officer for the American Cancer Society, has been named a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University. He will lead interdisciplinary research on cancer health disparities and outreach programs as Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center's associate director for community outreach and engagement. [Read More](#)



Geneticist Joins UMMC Cancer Institute

University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Institute

Yann Gibert, PhD, has joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Institute as an associate professor in the CI Cancer Molecular Biology Program and as an associate professor in the UMMC Department of Cell and Molecular Biology. [Read More](#)



Patel to Lead Multidisciplinary Cutaneous Oncology Program

GW Cancer Center

The George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center has announced that **Vishal A. Patel, MD, FAAD, FADMC**, has joined the cancer center. He will serve as the director of the recently established Cutaneous Oncology Program. Dr. Patel most recently led the Division of Dermatologic Surgery and directed the High Risk Skin Cancer Clinic at Columbia University in New York City. [Read More](#)

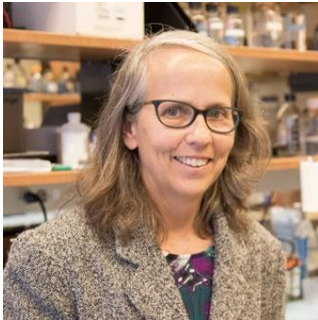
Artificial Intelligence Officer Hired

Moffitt Cancer Center

J. Ross Mitchell, PhD, has joined Moffitt Cancer Center as the artificial intelligence officer. The new role will lead the development of digital tools that utilize computer science to improve cancer care. A senior member of Moffitt's Department



of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Mitchell will collaborate with fellow research faculty to optimize projects with artificial intelligence (AI) applications. [Read More](#)



Hazlehurst Named Associate Director

WVU Cancer Institute

Lori Hazlehurst, PhD, has been named as the associate director for basic research at the WVU Cancer Institute. In this role, she will work closely with the leadership team of the institute to implement strategic goals to increase the impact of basic and translational cancer research at WVU. The primary strategy is to increase the number of NIH-funded investigators focused on cancer research at WVU. [Read More](#)



Medical Director Named for Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Medical oncologist **Carey Anders, MD**, has been appointed medical director for the DCI Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis and has joined the Breast Medical Oncology group. Previously, Dr. Anders was leader of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Breast Section. [Read More](#)



Meyerson Named Chief of Thoracic Surgery

UK Markey Cancer Center

Thoracic surgeon and educator **Shari Meyerson, MD, MEd**, has joined UK HealthCare as the new chief of thoracic surgery. Meyerson will direct the section of thoracic surgery as well as provide surgical leadership to the thoracic oncology team at the UK Markey Cancer Center. She comes to UK after nearly a decade at Northwestern University. [Read More](#)



New Vice Chair of Genitourinary Oncology Announced

Moffitt Cancer Center

Manish Kohli, MD, has joined Moffitt Cancer Center as the vice chair of the Department of Genitourinary Oncology. He has an extensive research background, focusing on bringing individualized care to patients. Dr. Kohli joins Moffitt from the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, where he conducted clinical trials in advanced stages of prostate, kidney, bladder, and testicular cancers. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Improved Understanding of Renal Cell Cancer Mutations, Identification of Biomarkers May Inform Future Treatment

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Drug Delivery System with Highest Tumor-Targeting Ability Developed

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

Researchers Aim to Develop Radiation Therapy with Short Exposure Times

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

HPV Discovery Raises Hope for New Cervical Cancer Treatments

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

Improved Survival Shown in Pediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma Patients When Receiving Combined Modality Treatment

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

Personalized Medicine Tool Developed for Inherited Colorectal Cancer Syndrome Risk

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

Tumor Microenvironment Targeted to Shut Down Liver Cancer

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

Engineered Immune Cells Target Pediatric Solid Tumors in Mice

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

Cancer Drugs Speed Repair in Lungs Damaged by Bacterial Infections

[Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center](#)

Exciting Early Results in Trial of Immunotherapy for Myeloma

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

Christmas Berry Plant Could Fight Uveal Melanoma

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

Complication Rates, Costs of Invasive Lung Cancer Diagnostic Tests May Be Higher Than Expected

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

Sprayable Gel Could Help Body Combat Cancer After Surgery

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

New Algorithm Improves Online Survey Data Reliability

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

Study Unveils 40 New Mutations Linked to Colorectal Cancer

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

Opioid Prescriptions Can Be Drastically Reduced After Surgery with No Increase in Pain

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

New Insights Regarding Genetic Contribution to Inherited Prostate Cancer

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

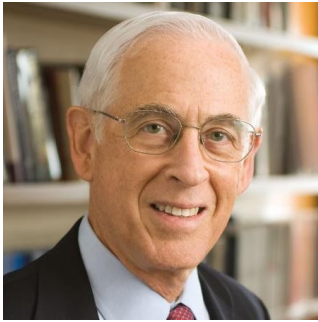
Targeting an 'Energy Crisis' in the Treatment of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

Team Finds Promise in Precision Medicine Approach to Osteosarcoma

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

OTHER NEWS



MD Anderson President Emeritus John Mendelsohn Passes Away

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

John Mendelsohn, MD, president emeritus of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and an internationally acclaimed scientist whose research helped pioneer a new type of cancer therapy, died January 7 at his home in Houston. He was 82. The cause of death was glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer with which he was diagnosed 15 months ago.

[Read More](#)

First Breast Cancer Patients Treated with GammaPod Radiotherapy

University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

Radiation oncologists at the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCCC) are now treating patients with the GammaPod™, a new FDA-cleared radiation therapy for early-stage breast cancer. The UMGCCC is the first to treat patients with this system, which was invented by University of Maryland School of Medicine scientists and physicians. [Read More](#)



Home-Based Cancer Care Service Launched

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

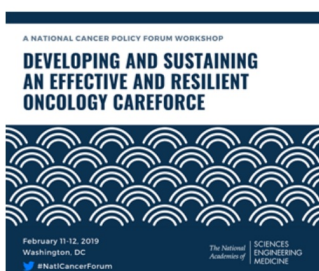
Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah has launched a unique new service called Huntsman at Home. This service brings HCI-quality care into the homes of HCI patients, whose medical needs range from symptom management to end-of-life care. Huntsman at Home may also allow patients to be discharged sooner by enabling them to receive follow-up care in their own homes. [Read More](#)

Jefferson to Pursue Purchase of Fox Chase

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Thomas Jefferson University and Temple University have signed an agreement that creates an exclusive 90-day window within which to consider and negotiate the acquisition and conduct due diligence by Jefferson of the Fox Chase Cancer Center. The move opens the door to bring together complementary expertise in cancer treatment and research across the greater Philadelphia region and beyond. [Read More](#)



Developing and Sustaining an Effective and Resilient Oncology Careforce

National Cancer Policy Forum

Registration is open for a National Cancer Policy Forum workshop, February 11-12, in Washington, DC, that will examine the impact of evolving trends in cancer incidence and care on the oncology careforce. A primary goal of the workshop is to consider opportunities to enhance the delivery of high quality patient care by improving the development and support of the oncology careforce. [Read More](#)

ASTRO Announces Research Funding Opportunities

American Society for Radiation Oncology

Each year, the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) funds radiation-specific pilot/seed grants for residents and postdocs and early career development awards for junior faculty. The application period for the following grant programs closes on February 15, 2019:

- Resident Seed Grants (\$25,000/one year)
- Physics Seed Grants (\$25,000/one year)
- ASTRO-Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) Early-Career Development Awards (\$200,000 over two years)
- ASTRO-Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) Early-Career Development Awards (\$225,000 over three years)

Please email questions to research@astro.org. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Regulatory Specialist I

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

Trials and Navigation Educator

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

Associate Operating Officer

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

A NATIONAL CANCER POLICY FORUM WORKSHOP

DEVELOPING AND SUSTAINING AN EFFECTIVE AND RESILIENT ONCOLOGY CAREFORCE



Developing and Sustaining an Effective and Resilient Oncology Careforce

February 11-12, 2019

[Washington, DC](#)

[Learn More](#)



AACI/AACR Hill Day

April 30, 2019

[Washington, DC](#)

[Register Today](#)



11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

July 9-11, 2019

[Chicago, IL](#)

[Save the Date](#)



2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

October 20-22, 2019

[Washington, DC](#)

[Save the Date](#)



Medical Arts Building
3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 503
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-647-6111

FOLLOW US



Copyright 2019 | Association of American Cancer Institutes