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

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

### AACI HEADLINES

#### [Lung Cancer, Health Disparities Expert Named Director of VCU Massey](#)



**Robert Winn, MD**, has been named director of Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center. Dr. Winn, an expert in lung cancer and community-based health care, will start at VCU on December 2. He joins VCU from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he has served as director of the University of Illinois Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

#### [Sleckman to Lead O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



**Barry Paul Sleckman, MD, PhD**, a world-renowned researcher who focuses on understanding how DNA double strand breaks are generated and repaired, has been named director of the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Currently an associate director of the Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine, Dr. Sleckman will begin his new role at UAB on January 6, 2020. [Read More](#)

#### [Patient Advocacy Plays Prominent Role at AACI Annual Meeting](#)

Inspiring patient advocates delivered messages of hope and perseverance at the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC. The event convened more than 450 AACI cancer center directors and executive-level administrators with industry and government health agencies to develop solutions to common challenges and share best practices. The AACI Annual Meeting Program Committee was chaired by Michael B. Kastan, MD, PhD, director of the Duke Cancer Institute. [Read More](#)



## AACI Highlights Scientific Discovery, Public Service, and Philanthropy at Annual Meeting



National Cancer Institute Acting Director **Douglas Lowy, MD**, received the Distinguished Scientist Award on October 21, during the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Dr. Lowy accepted the award after delivering a talk titled "Preventing Cancer by HPV Vaccination." Following Dr. Lowy's talk, an awards luncheon highlighted the Public Service Award recipients, Representatives **Kathy Castor (D-FL)** and **Fred Upton (R-MI)**, and the **Jon M. and Karen Huntsman** family, who received AACI's Champion for Cures Award.

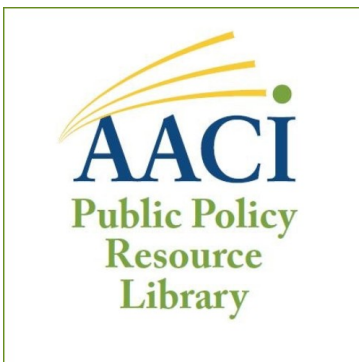
[Read More](#)

## Call for Nominations: Champion for Cures Award



AACI cancer center directors are invited to submit nominations for the 2020 Champion for Cures Award. AACI established the award in 2018 to recognize an individual or individuals who, through direct financial support of an AACI cancer center, demonstrate exceptional leadership in advancing cancer research and care and in inspiring others to do the same. The Champion for Cures Award was presented at the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting to **Brynn and Peter Huntsman** (pictured) of the **Jon M. and Karen Huntsman** family. [Read More](#)

## AACI Launches Public Policy Resource Library



The **AACI Public Policy Resource Library** went live on October 21, during the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The resource library is the presidential initiative of **Roy A. Jensen, MD**, AACI president and director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center. It will enable cancer centers and partners in the cancer advocacy community to share resources in order to foster collaboration, promote cancer prevention, and spur the development of sound public health policy at the state and local level. [Read More](#)

## Save the Dates: 2020 Annual Meetings - Chicago and Kansas City

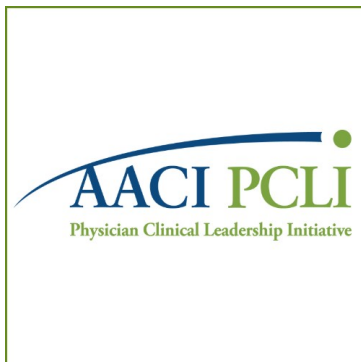
Please join us in 2020 for two signature events: AACI's Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) annual meeting, **July 7 - 9**, in Chicago, and the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, **October 11 - 13**, in Kansas City, home of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, led by AACI President Roy A. Jensen, MD.

Registration details will be available soon.

## PCLI Hereditary Cancer Programs Webinar: Part 2

November 13, 2019

11:00 am ET



The second webinar of PCLI's two-part hereditary cancers series will highlight models of testing for colon and hematologic cancers and informed consent. It will be presented by **Joanne Jeter, MD**, oncologist and associate professor of medicine, and **Heather Hampel, MS, LGC**, associate director of the division of human genetics, from The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute.

[Register Today](#)

## NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

### AWARDS & HONORS

#### Researcher Honored for Work Advancing Immunotherapy

**UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center**



The Cancer Research Institute has awarded **Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD**, director of the tumor immunology program at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, with the 2019 William B. Coley Award. Dr. Ribas was honored for his distinguished research in basic and tumor immunology, including his development of stem cell-based adoptive cell therapies. [Read More](#)

#### Deininger Receives Lifetime Achievement Award for Leukemia Research

**Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah**



The International Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Foundation has awarded the Rowley Prize to **Michael Deininger, MD, PhD**. Dr. Deininger leads the Center of Excellence in hematology and hematologic malignancies at Huntsman Cancer Institute. His work focuses on the role of tyrosine kinases, enzymes that regulate important cell functions such as cell growth and survival. [Read More](#)

#### Gutmann Wins Neuro-Oncology Prize

**Siteman Cancer Center**

Neurologist **David H. Gutmann, MD, PhD**, has received the Abhijit Guha Award from the Society for Neuro-Oncology and the Section on Tumors of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of

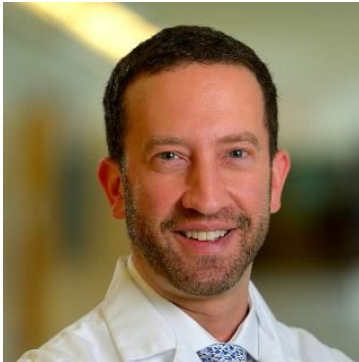


Neurological Surgeons. The award honors an accomplished investigator who has achieved significant results in the laboratory and the clinic while mentoring the next generation of neuro-oncology professionals. [Read More](#)

## Bleicher Receives Breast Cancer Award

**Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health**

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**Richard J. Bleicher, MD, FACS**, has been awarded the 2020 Jamie Brooke Lieberman Remembrance Award from Susan G. Komen® Philadelphia for his work in the breast cancer community. Dr. Bleicher is a breast cancer surgeon and clinical researcher at Fox Chase. He serves as the director of the breast fellowship and leader of the Breast Cancer Program at Fox Chase. [Read More](#)

## Ferrell Elected to National Academy of Medicine

**City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center**

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**Betty Ferrell, PhD, FAAN, FPCN, MA**, director and professor of the Division of Nursing Research and Education at City of Hope, was elected to become a member of the National Academy of Medicine. The academy honored her for her pioneering work in palliative and end-of-life care, which includes developing and leading the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium. The consortium has trainers in 99 countries and all 50 states. [Read More](#)

## Weiss Receives Coley Award

**UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**

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**Arthur "Art" Weiss, MD, PhD**, received a 2019 William B. Coley Award for Distinguished Research in Basic and Tumor Immunology/Basic Immunology from the Cancer Research Institute for his contributions on CAR T-cell therapy. [Read More](#)



**Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center**

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## **\$6.5 Million Grant Funds Hawai'i's First Cutting-Edge Research Clinic**

**University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

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## **\$7.6 Million Grant Funds Center to Fight Cancer Disparities**

**Siteman Cancer Center**

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## **Grant Strengthens Breast Cancer Research Efforts**

**Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center**

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## **\$8.3 Million Grant Advances Breast Cancer Immunotherapy Research**

**Moffitt Cancer Center**

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## **Researchers Selected to Join Immuno-Oncology Translational Network, Awarded \$3.8 Million Grant**

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

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## **Cancer Prevention Therapy Supported With \$3.8 Million Grant**

**University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center**

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## **\$2.5 Million Awarded to Engage Underrepresented Students and Their Teachers in Cancer Research**

**Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah**

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## **NCI U54 Award to Reduce HPV-Associated Cancers in Latin America**

**UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**

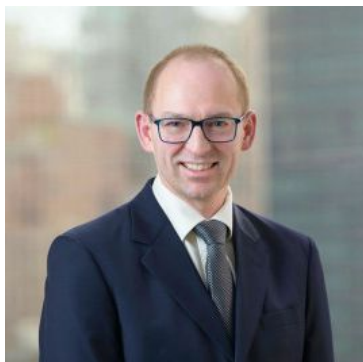
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### **LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS**

## **Jensen Appointed MSK's First Chief Digital Officer and Head of Technology**

**Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**

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**Claus Torp Jensen, PhD**, has joined Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) as its first chief digital officer and head of technology. Dr. Jensen joins MSK from CVS Health and Aetna, where he served as chief technology officer and head of architecture, leading technology innovation, business transformation incubation, architecture planning and design, and digital integration. [Read More](#)

## **Assistant Director for Clinical Research Announced**

**Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University**

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**Jyoti Patel, MD**, has joined Northwestern Medicine as medical director of thoracic oncology and assistant director for clinical research at the Lurie Cancer Center. She will also serve as associate vice chair for clinical research in the Department of Medicine. [Read More](#)

## Menendez Named Director of Clinical Cancer Genetics

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

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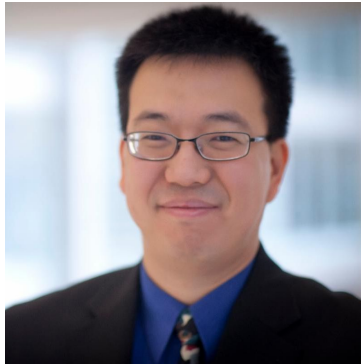


**Carolyn Menendez, MD, FACS**, assistant professor of surgical oncology, has been appointed director of Duke Cancer Institute's Clinical Cancer Genetics Program. In her newly appointed position leading Clinical Cancer Genetics, including the Hereditary Cancer Clinic, Dr. Menendez will provide leadership, strategy, and oversight for the clinic. [Read More](#)

## Radiation Oncology Chair Named

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

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**Ronald Chen, MD, MPH**, has been named the Brandmeyer Chair and professor of radiation oncology at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, clinical service chief at The University of Kansas Health System, and associate director for health equity at The University of Kansas Cancer Center. Dr. Chen joins KU from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, where he served as the radiation oncology program director. [Read More](#)

## Zafar Named Director of Healthcare Innovation

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

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**Yousuf Zafar, MD**, associate professor of medicine and public policy, has been appointed director of healthcare innovation at Duke Cancer Institute. In his new role, Dr. Zafar will be responsible for articulating a vision of value-based innovation in cancer care delivery. He will collaborate with representatives within Duke Cancer Institute, the Duke University Health System, and external stakeholders. [Read More](#)

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Researchers Document Marked Slowdown of Cell Division Rates in Old Age

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

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### Pancreatic Cancer Discovery Reveals How the Aggressive Cancer Fuels Its Growth

University of Virginia Cancer Center

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### CAR T Trial Aims to Extend Lives of People With Most Common Types of Lymphoma, Leukemia

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

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### Machine Learning Helps Predict Which Cancer Patients Are Most Likely to Enter BMT 'Fog'

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

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## Breast Cancer Screening: 2-D or 3-D?

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

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## Algorithm Reduces Need for Therapy in Children With Intermediate-Risk Neuroblastoma

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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## Failed Alzheimer's Drug Boosts CAR T-cell Therapy

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

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## New Organelle Found That Helps Prevent Cancer

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

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## Aggressive Breast Cancers Store Large Amounts of Energy, Enabling Them to Spread

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

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## New Mechanism Fueling Brain Metastasis Discovered at Wistar

[The Wistar Institute](#)

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## Metabolic Vulnerability Found in Cancer Cells With Mutated Spliceosomes

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

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## New Gene Expression Tool Allows for More Accurate Diagnosis of Thyroid Nodules

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

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## Study Suggests New Metabolic Target for Liver Cancer

[Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa](#)

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## Triplet-Targeted Therapy Improves Survival for Patients With Advanced Colorectal Cancer and BRAF Mutations

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

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## Using Artificial Intelligence to Predict Risk of Thyroid Cancer on Ultrasound

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

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## Researchers First to Show That Specific Protein Inhibitor Kills Multiple Myeloma Tumor Cells

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

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## Scientists Discover Why Targeted Immuno-Oncology Drugs Sometimes Fail

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

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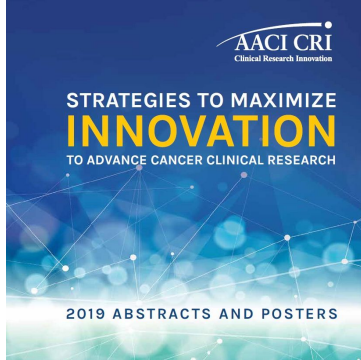
### OTHER NEWS

## 2019 CRI Abstracts and Posters Now Available

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)

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The [2019 AACI Clinical Research Innovation \(CRI\) Abstracts and Posters Book](#) is now available to AACI members. The book features 66 abstracts from 24 cancer centers submitted for presentation at the 11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting this past July. This year's submissions reflected an increase in collaboration between AACI members, vendors, and community partners, and covered topics in several categories. [Read More](#)



## Varian Partnership to Optimize Radiation Oncology Treatment

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

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The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Varian have announced a new strategic collaboration to develop an integrated software platform to streamline review of radiation oncology treatment plans. The goal of the platform is to establish an efficient framework to connect participating sites to a central database, allowing MD Anderson physicians to host collaborative review sessions around treatment plans and to communicate plan changes back to physicians. [Read More](#)

## Moffitt Cancer Center Launches Immunotherapy Contract Research Organization

**Moffitt Cancer Center**

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Moffitt Cancer Center has launched a first-of-its-kind contract research organization focused on accelerating immunotherapy research. The subsidiary will provide a one-stop shop for pharmaceutical and biotech companies to accelerate their immuno-oncology and cell therapy research through collaborative clinical trial support and administration. [Read More](#)

## Vaping With Nicotine Causes Sticky Mucus That May Lead to Chronic Illness

**The University of Kansas Cancer Center**

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In an episode of The University of Kansas Cancer Center's weekly Facebook Live series, Bench to Bedside, **Roy Jensen, MD**, AACI president and director of KU Cancer Center, and **Matthias Salathe, MD**, discuss the latest in vaping research. Dr. Salathe conducted a study that discovered vaping with nicotine causes sticky mucus that may lead to chronic illness. [Watch the Video](#)



## ASTRO Grant and Fellowship Opportunities Now Open

**American Society for Radiation Oncology**

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The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) is now accepting applications for its residents/fellows seed and early career development 2020 grant cycle awards. Also, new ASTRO-Industry Research Training Fellowships will offer research training opportunities for residents to work at either an AstraZeneca site or a Varian site starting on July 1, 2020. One fellowship per site will be offered and provides salary support for up to one year. U.S.-based residents are encouraged to apply through [proposalCENTRAL](#) by November 15, 2019. [Learn More](#)





## Research Excellence Awards Mark Faculty, Staff Achievements

### UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Three members of the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute were honored at the medical center's annual Excellence in Research Awards event. **Shou-Ching Tang, MD, PhD**, **Vani Vijayakumar, MD**, and **Keli Xu, PhD**, were recognized for their achievements in gaining outside funding. The awards are based on the cumulative amount of extramural funding received by the investigator for their original research over their career at UMMC. [Read More](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Clinical Trials Associate Director

Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma

### Coordinator, Clinical Research Contracts

Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma

### Administrative Director, Clinical Research Office

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

### Center Research Program Administrator

VCU Massey Cancer Center

### Clinical Trial Team Manager

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

## 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

### Innovators in AYA Cancer: Driving Science and Policy Toward a Brighter Future for Teens and Young Adults With Cancer

November 14-15, 2019

[Learn More](#)



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