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News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes | October 2019

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Birrer Named Director at UAMS Cancer Institute](#)



Michael Birrer, MD, PhD, has been named vice chancellor and director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Dr. Birrer specializes in gynecologic cancers and will join the university by the end of the year. He formerly served as director of the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Birrer succeeds **Laura Hutchins, MD**, who served as interim director of the UAMS Cancer Institute since June 2018. [Read More](#)

[AACI to Honor Representatives Castor, Upton With Public Service Awards at Annual Meeting](#)



AACI will present 2019 Public Service Awards to U.S. Representatives **Kathy Castor (D-FL)** and **Fred Upton (R-MI)** on Monday, October 21, during the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting at The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. In addition to supporting cancer centers in Florida and Michigan, respectively, Reps. Castor and Upton have championed increases in cancer research funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). They were nominated by AACI members and selected by the AACI Board of Directors. [Read More](#)

[AACI Welcomes New Steering Committee Members](#)

This fall, AACI will welcome six new members to its Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) and Government Relations (GR) Forum steering committees. The new members will formally assume their duties during the [2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#), October 20-22, in Washington, DC, alongside new steering committee leadership. [Read More](#)

PCLI Hereditary Cancer Programs Webinar: Part 1

October 2, 2019

11:00 am ET

AACI's Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) will present a two-part webinar series on hereditary cancer programs and cancer risk assessment.

Part 1 of the series will be presented by **Marie Wood, MD**, medical oncologist and founder of the High Risk Breast Program (HRBP), and **Wendy McKinnon, MS**, cancer genetics counselor, from the University of Vermont Cancer Center.

[Register for Part 1](#)

PCLI Hereditary Cancer Programs Webinar: Part 2

November 13, 2019

11:00 am ET

The second webinar of the 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.

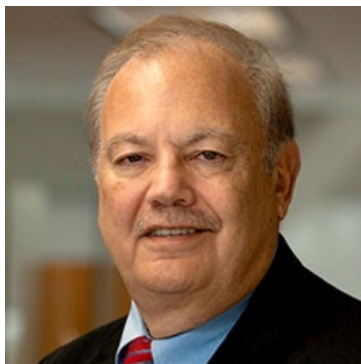
[Register for Part 2](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Slamon Wins Lasker Award

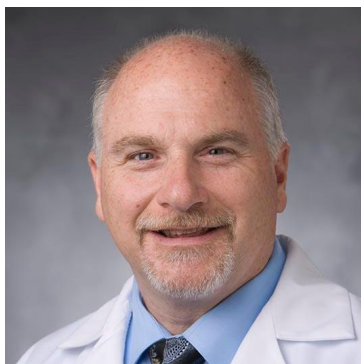
[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Physician-scientist **Dennis Slamon, MD, PhD**, has received the 2019 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award for the development of Herceptin (trastuzumab), a life-saving therapy for women with HER2-positive breast cancer. He shares the award with American cancer researcher H. Michael Shepard, PhD, and German cancer researcher Axel Ullrich, PhD. [Read More](#)

Patierno Receives Cancer Health Disparities Award

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



Steven R. Patierno, PhD, deputy director of Duke Cancer Institute, is the recipient of the 2019 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Distinguished Lectureship on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities. Dr. Patierno presented his lecture at the 12th AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved. [Read More](#)

Connolly Wins Rollman Award for Ovarian Cancer Research

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Fox Chase Cancer Center has announced that **Denise Connolly, PhD**, has won the Sandy Rollman Ovarian Cancer Foundation's Teal Trailblazer Award. Dr. Connolly is currently researching a subtype of ovarian cancer, high-grade serous carcinoma, in mouse models to understand why not all ovarian cancer arises in the ovary. [Read More](#)

Researcher Honored for Contributions to Preventing Lung Cancer

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center



Denise Aberle, MD, was honored with the Joseph W. Cullen Prevention/Early Detection Award by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer for her contributions in the prevention of lung and other thoracic cancers. The award is given annually to scientists in honor of their lifetime achievement in the prevention of thoracic malignancies. [Read More](#)

Weissman, Vogelstein to Share Albany Medical Center Prize

Stanford Cancer Institute



Irving Weissman, MD, director of Stanford's Ludwig Center for Cancer Stem Cell Research, will receive the 2019 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research for his pioneering work, including the discovery of a "don't eat me" signal on the surface of many cancer cells. He will share the prize with **Bert Vogelstein, MD**, of Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University. [Read More](#)

ASHG Awards City of Hope Genetics Leaders

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) has named **Jeffrey N. Weitzel, MD**, and **Kathleen Blazer, EDD, MS, LCGC**, as the 2019 recipients of the Arno Motulsky-Barton Childs Award for Excellence in Human Genetics Education. Dr. Weitzel is chief of the Division of Clinical Cancer Genomics and the Cancer Screening and Prevention Program at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Blazer directs City of Hope's Cancer Genomics Education Program. [Read More](#)

Chwistek Appointed Editor-in-Chief of AAHPM Quarterly

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Marcin Chwistek, MD, FAAHPM, has been appointed editor-in-chief of *AAHPM Quarterly*, which is published by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Chwistek is an associate professor in the Department of Hematology/Oncology at Fox Chase, where he is also director of the Pain and Palliative Care Program. [Read More](#)



UNM Bone Marrow Transplant Program Receives FACT Accreditation

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

The Bone Marrow Transplant program at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center recently received accreditation by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT). The accreditation covers the clinical, collection, and laboratory components of the Bone Marrow Transplant program and enables the program to offer more treatment options and transplant clinical trials. Matthew Fero, MD, FACP, and his team are planning for accreditation of additional components to cover bone marrow transplants in children, CAR-T cell therapy, and, eventually, donor transplants. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

Benioff Initiative for Prostate Cancer Research Launched

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

New Program to Fast-Track Lung Cancer Research

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

New Initiative Aims to Reduce Cervical Cancer in Appalachia

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

U-M, Karmanos Receive \$9.2 Million Grant for Prostate Cancer Research

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

Cedars-Sinai Awarded \$10 Million to Study Pancreatic Diseases

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

Unique Immunotherapy Platform Moving Forward With \$6.42 Million Grant

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

\$5 Million Grant Endows Blood Disorder Research

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

Gray Receives NIH 'Genomic Innovator Award'

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Team Aims to Close Rural-Urban Cancer Survival Gap

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

Grant Received to Expand Clinical Trials in Rural Kansas

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Gilliland Announces Plan to Step Down

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

D. Gary Gilliland, MD, PhD, president and director of Fred Hutchinson



Cancer Research Center, will step down in 2020. His accomplishments at Fred Hutch are numerous, say board leaders, and he leaves the Hutch in a strong position for the future. Since 2015, the center has grown and diversified its faculty, increased its already-strong federal grant funding, quadrupled its endowment, and forged new internal and external research collaborations. [Read More](#)

Bondy Appointed Chair of Epidemiology and Population Health

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



Melissa Bondy, PhD, has been appointed chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, effective October 1. Dr. Bondy, who joins Stanford from Baylor College of Medicine, also will serve in the newly created role of associate director for population sciences at the Stanford Cancer Institute. [Read More](#)

Decker Named Associate Director for Clinical Services

[Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine](#)



Roy H. Decker, MD, PhD, a professor of therapeutic radiology, has been named associate director for clinical services at Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Decker's leadership as vice chair for clinical research, director of the Residency Training Program, director of the Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Program, and director of the Therapeutic Radiology Disease Aligned Research Team, has significantly advanced the cancer center's mission. [Read More](#)

Hilal Joins CCRI Hematology Team

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)



Talal Hilal, MB, BCh, has joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Cancer Center and Research Institute to work with patients with blood and lymphatic cancers. He is especially interested in lymphoproliferative disorders and the latest treatments for them and will focus on clinical trials in hematologic malignancies. [Read More](#)

Keller to Oversee Shared Resources

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center has named **Evan T. Keller, DVM, PhD**, associate director for shared resources. In his new role, Dr. Keller will provide strategic oversight and direction for the



center's 11 shared resources, which provide access to scientific consultation, services, and technologies that enhance scientific interaction and productivity. [Read More](#)

Billingsley Named Chief Medical Officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine



Kevin G. Billingsley, MD, has been appointed chief medical officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center and professor of surgery at Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Billingsley starts in his new position in January 2020. He joins Yale from Oregon Health and Sciences University. [Read More](#)

Thoracic Surgeon Joins Karmanos Staff

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University



The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute announces that **David I. Sternberg, MD**, thoracic surgeon, has joined its medical team as of August 1. Board-certified in general and cardiothoracic surgery, and specialized in minimally invasive chest surgery, Dr. Sternberg will serve on the Thoracic Oncology Multidisciplinary Team. [Read More](#)

Yang Appointed Hematology Division Director

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



Yiping Yang, MD, PhD, has been named director of the Division of Hematology at the OSUCCC – James and The Ohio State University College of Medicine. He was previously co-director of the hematologic malignancies and cell therapies program and professor of medicine/immunology at Duke Cancer Institute and Duke University School of Medicine. [Read More](#)

Surgeons Take on New Roles

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Shannon Orr, MD, has been named chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology, a new division in the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Department of Surgery. Other changes involving surgical

members were also announced. [Read More](#)

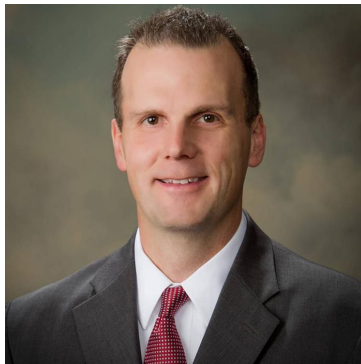
Abraham Appointed Chair of Hematology/Medical Oncology

[The Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center](#)

Jame Abraham, MD, FACP, has been appointed the new chair of the Hematology/Medical Oncology Department at Cleveland Clinic. In this capacity, he will recruit and develop staff, and guide the department's focus on patient access and a multidisciplinary approach to care. Dr. Abraham currently serves as the director of the Breast Oncology Program at Taussig Cancer Institute and co-director of the Cleveland Clinic Comprehensive Breast Cancer Program. [Read More](#)

Pingree Named Chief Strategy Officer

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



Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah has announced the appointment of **Scott Pingree, MBA, MPA**, to serve as the organization's chief strategy officer. Mr. Pingree has held a variety of prior executive roles in major health care and business consultancy organizations. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Novel Regulator of Mitochondrial Cell Death Promising Target for Cancer Therapy

[The Wistar Institute](#)

Software Tools Help Researchers Find Genetic Mutations That Can Cause Cancer

[The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Study Provides Insight on Targeted Therapies for Colorectal Cancer Metastasis

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

Drug Being Tested for Prostate Cancer Patients on Active Surveillance

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

Mammography Unlikely to Benefit Older Women With Chronic Illnesses

[Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Racial Disparities in Survival Outcomes Shown in Pediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma Patients

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

Understanding Risks for Childhood Cancer Survivors

[The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Researcher Creating Novel Device for Early Detection of Oral Cancer

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

Potential Therapeutic Target for Prostate Cancers With PTEN Mutation Found

[GW Cancer Center](#)

Infant With Deadly Leukemia Saved by Drug for Adult Liver Cancer

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

Standardized Residency Exam May Reduce Diversity of Radiation Oncology Applicant Pool

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

Baby Aspirin Improves Overall Survival for Patients With Head/Neck, Lung Cancer

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Compound Could Play Novel Role in Halting Pancreatic Cancer Progression

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

Enzalutamide Improves Progression-Free Survival in Men With Metastatic Prostate Cancer

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

Breast Cancer Cells 'Stick Together' to Spread During Metastasis

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

Researchers Discover Role of Nuclear Glycogen in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancers

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

Study Shows Benefit of Facebook Patient Support Groups in Rare Cancer Research

[UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute](#)

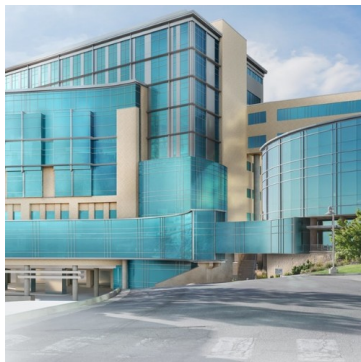
How Cigarette Smoke Makes Head and Neck Cancer More Aggressive

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

OTHER NEWS

Huntsman Breaks Ground on Cancer Hospital Expansion

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



Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) recently broke ground on the Kathryn F. Kirk Center for Comprehensive Cancer Care and Women's Cancers at HCI. The eight-story building will feature a new endoscopy center; increased services for blood and marrow transplant patients; an expansion of the HCI Wellness and Integrative Health Center; and 48 new inpatient rooms. [Read More](#)

Statewide Survey Aims to Improve Cancer Prevention, Curb Health Disparities

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

Researchers at VCU Massey Cancer Center have designed a comprehensive health assessment survey to better understand how patterns in social, behavioral, and environmental factors can inform improved health care practices and services for all Virginians. The project, titled "Together for Health – Virginia," is led by **Bernard Fuemmeler, PhD, MPH**, and **Gordon D. Ginder, MD**. [Read More](#)



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Director, Clinical Protocol Office

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

Chief, Division of Hematologic Malignancies & Cellular Therapy

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Clinical Operations Leader, Solid Tumor Office

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Clinical Research Unit Clinic Manager

Moffitt Cancer Center

Clinical Trials Office Manager

Moffitt Cancer Center

External Research Quality Manager

Moffitt Cancer Center

Program Leader, Cancer Prevention and Control

University of Colorado Cancer Center

Senior Research Scientist, Melanoma

Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

AACI MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS



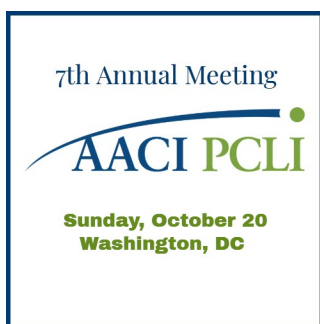
2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

October 20-22, 2019

Washington, DC

[Learn More](#)

[Register Today](#)



7th Annual AACI PCLi Meeting

October 20, 2019

Washington, DC

[Learn More](#)

[Register Today](#)

2019 CAR T Symposium

October 21 • Washington, DC



2019 CAR T Symposium

October 21, 2019

Washington, DC

[Learn More](#)

[Register Today](#)

Government Relations Forum

Monday, October 21
Washington, DC

AACi Government Relations Forum

October 21, 2019

Washington, DC

[Learn More](#)

[Register Today](#)

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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](#)

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

November 14-15, 2019

Cleveland, OH

[Learn More](#)

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