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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | April 2021

Click here to read the full newsletter on our website.

Awards & Honors | Grants & Gifts | Leadership Highlights | Research Highlights | Other News & COVID-19

AACI HEADLINES

AACI Launches Cancer Health Disparities Podcast

A new podcast from AACI aims to expand the dialogue about cancer health disparities and to identify strategies to mitigate them. Accelerating Equity: Cancer Care for All is hosted by AACI President Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD. Her first guest was Norman E. Sharpless, MD, director of the National Cancer Institute. Read More

AACI Issues Statement Condemning Racism, Violence

Prompted by a recent mass shooting targeting Asian-American women, AACI issued a formal statement urging the cancer community, policymakers, and other stakeholders to address racism, discrimination, and gun violence as public health crises. In the statement, the association highlighted the responsibility of its Board of Directors, staff, and cancer center leaders to improve health outcomes for all people — not just as they relate to cancer, but in all facets of public health. Read More

2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Shifts to Virtual Format

To prioritize the health and well-being of AACI meeting attendees, supporters, and cancer center patients, AACI’s Board of Directors and the 2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Program Committee have decided not to move forward with an in-person meeting in Kansas City. Instead, the annual meeting will take place October 19-21 in a virtual format. The meeting was previously scheduled for October 17-19. Read More

Register Today for the 2021 AACI/AACR Virtual Hill Day

Registration is now open for the 2021 AACI/AACR Hill Day, scheduled for Wednesday, June 9. The virtual advocacy day will consist of video and conference call meetings organized by Soapbox, a firm that specializes in coordinating advocacy days. Hill Day is open to all AACI and AACR members who wish to participate. Read More
Cancer Care at Network Sites Survey Results Published

In a survey of the status of care across cancer center networks, AACI has found that many opportunities exist for such networks to increase patient satisfaction and outcomes and decrease treatment delays and risks. A report based on the survey's findings has been published by the Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. AACI Past President Stanton L. Gerson, MD, is the lead author. Read More

Promote Your Cancer Center With a CRI Meeting Program Ad

AACI invites you to promote your cancer center by purchasing an ad in the 13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting program. Slated to be held virtually July 13-15, the 2021 CRI meeting is expected to draw more than 700 clinical research office leaders, medical directors, cancer center administrators, and representatives from the National Cancer Institute and industry to discuss issues related to the conduct of cancer clinical trials at academic cancer centers. Read More

Write Your Representatives to Support the TREAT Act

The Temporary Reciprocity to Ensure Access to Treatment (TREAT) Act (S. 168/H.R. 708) is a critical, bipartisan piece of legislation that will allow any licensed health care provider in good standing to render services—including telehealth visits—in all states for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. AACI is asking cancer centers to reach out to their congressional delegations to urge them to co-sponsor and support the TREAT Act with a customizable advocacy letter. Read More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

American Psychosocial Oncology Society Recognizes Work With Cancer Survivors

The University of Arizona Cancer Center
Outstanding professional dedication to the needs of cancer survivors and their caregivers has earned a lifetime achievement award for Terry Badger, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAPOS, FAAN, from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society. Read More

National Organization for Rare Disorders Honors Sicklick
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Jason Sicklick, MD, FACS, a surgical oncologist at Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health, was recently announced as an award honoree by the National Organization for Rare Disorders. Read More

Yoshida Honored for Increasing Colorectal Cancer Screenings
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Cynthia M. Yoshida, MD, is one of six winners of a national award recognizing health care providers and institutions for their work to increase colorectal cancer screening rates. Dr. Yoshida is medical lead of UVA Cancer Center’s Colorectal Cancer Screening Program. Read More

Carpten Elected Fellow of AACR Academy
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

John D. Carpten, PhD, founding chair for the Department of Translational Genomics in the Keck School of Medicine of USC, has been named to the 2021 class of fellows of the American Association for Cancer Research’s AACR Academy. Read More

Miaskowski Honored as Champion of Supportive Care Science
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Cancer Act, the National Cancer Institute’s Division of Cancer Prevention honors Christine Miaskowski, RN, PhD, FAAN, as a champion and changemaker of cancer prevention, early detection, and symptom science. Read More
Greco Named New Councilor for Association for Academic Surgery
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Stephanie Greco, MD, assistant professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, was recently named a new councilor for the Association for Academic Surgery. Read More

Hampel Named to Leadership Position for National Society of Genetic Counselors
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Heather Hampel, MS, LGC, has been elected secretary/treasurer-elect for the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC). Her two-year term began in January 2021. Founded in 1971, the NSGC is the only professional organization that promotes the professional interests of genetic counselors. Read More

System of Excellence Recognition for Hidden Scar Breast Cancer Surgery
UK Markey Cancer Center

UK HealthCare, home to the UK Markey Cancer Center, has officially been recognized as a System of Excellence for Hidden Scar breast cancer surgery, the highest level of Hidden Scar designation. Read More

Researcher Gets Early Career Award
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Ichiko Kinjyo, MD, PhD, was recently named a 2021 recipient of the Liz Tilberis Early Career Award. She was recognized for her work with Sarah Adams, MD, in exploring how a combination of a PARP-inhibitor and immunomodulation via immune checkpoint blockade can improve ovarian cancer treatment. Read More
Nursing Team Honored With Achievement Award
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

A nursing team at Fox Chase Cancer Center has been honored as a recipient of the 2021 I AM Patient Safety award from the Patient Safety Authority. The third floor surgical nursing team was recognized for reaching the significant milestone of one year with no patient falls on their three south unit. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

Researchers Receive $6 Million to Explore New Pancreatic Cancer Therapies
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

$4.2 Million Awarded for Breast Cancer Chemoprevention Study
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

$1.47 Million Awarded to Study DNA Damage Regulation
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Researchers Receive PCF Challenge Award
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Tackett Named Deputy Director
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Center

Cancer researcher Alan Tackett, PhD, has been named deputy director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). He previously served as associate director of basic research for the UAMS Cancer Institute. Read More

New Director of Neuro-Oncology Named
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey has named Michael E. Salacz, MD, as director of its neuro-oncology program. He joins Rutgers from the University of Kansas Medical Center, where he directed the brain and spine tumor program. Read More
Community Outreach and Engagement Team Expands
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Tomi Akinyemiju, PhD, MS, has been named Duke Cancer Institute’s new associate director of community outreach and engagement. Before joining Duke in 2019 she was assistant dean for inclusive excellence at Markey Cancer Center at the University of Kentucky. Read More

Hawley to Oversee Education, Training Programs
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center has named Sarah Hawley, PhD, MPH, associate director for training, education and career development. She will lead the center’s efforts to coordinate and enhance robust resources that support faculty, trainees, and students interested in cancer research. Read More

Associate Director for Mentoring and Career Development Announced
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

In January, breast oncologist Ruth O’Regan, MD, officially joined the University of Rochester Medical Center from the University of Wisconsin. Now she will have significant involvement with Wilmot Cancer Institute, serving as associate director for mentoring and career development. Read More

New Leadership Appointments
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

The Lurie Cancer Center announces several new leadership appointments, effective April 1, 2021: Marcelo Bonini, PhD, associate director for education and training; Devalingam Mahalingam, MBCh BAO, director of the clinical trials office; and Priya Kumthekar, MD, co-chair of the scientific review committee. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Cracking the Case of a Deadly Type of Kidney Cancer
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Study Finds Lower Costs, Better Outcomes in Prostate Cancer Therapy
The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Novel Drug Combo Shows Promise Against Triple-Negative Breast Cancer
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cancer Tricks Immune Cells, Immunotherapy Can Take Advantage
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Researchers Illuminate Potential Precursors of Blood Cancers
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Response to Cancer Immunotherapy May Be Affected by Genes We Carry From Birth
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Studies Support Updated USPSTF Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines
The Ohio State University Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Cancer Immunotherapy Approach Targets Common Genetic Alteration
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Collagen Plays Protective Role During Pancreatic Cancer Development
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Earlier Colonoscopies Reduce Subsequent Cancer Risk by Half
Stanford Cancer Institute

A Measure of Cleanliness
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Marine Natural Product Discovered Off Florida Coast Could Help Fight Cancer
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Abundance of Iron Drives Cell Death, Could Be Key to Novel Neuroblastoma Treatments
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Cancer Patients Most Worried About Finances Have Worse Outcomes
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Current Liver Cancer Screenings May Leave African Americans at Greater Risk
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

New Barrett's Esophagus Monitoring Method Could Aid in Easier, More Precise Prognoses
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Proteomics Analysis Identifies Potential Drug Targets for Aggressive Human Cancers
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Researchers Study Role of Zinc in Cancer
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Study Incorporates Genetics, Smoking History to Identify High-Risk Smokers for Lung Cancer Screening
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Fecal Transplant Boosts Cancer Immunotherapy
Fundamental Proteins That Guide Embryo Development Are Co-Opted by Cancer
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

High Tumor Mutation Burden Predicts Immunotherapy Response in Some Cancers
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Multisystem Failure Regarding Frailty Necessitates Multisystem Intervention
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Promising Role for Whole Genome Sequencing in Guiding Blood Cancer Treatment
Siteman Cancer Center

Stopping Mutant KRAS Could Enhance Therapies for Pancreatic Cancer
Stony Brook Cancer Center

New Biomarker of Response to Checkpoint Inhibitors Identified
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Therapy Sneaks Into Hard Layer of Pancreatic Cancer Tumor, Destroys From Within
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Vital Player Identified in Graft-Versus-Host Disease and Organ Transplant Rejection
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Forty-Three Percent of Melanoma Patients Have Chronic Complications From Immunotherapies
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

First Lady Jill Biden Visits Massey to Discuss Cancer Disparities, Community Engaged Research
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Jill Biden, EdD, the First Lady of the United States, met with scientists, doctors, and community leaders at Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center to learn how they are working together to address cancer disparities. She toured several Massey labs and learned about the cutting-edge cancer research being conducted. Read More

Virtual Human Intervention Allows for Colorectal Cancer Screening at Home
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

A new University of Florida Health intervention gives patients who qualify access to colorectal cancer screening information and tests from the comfort of their own homes. Two recent UF studies examine new ways to effectively reach patients with a new communication tool using a virtual health assistant. Read More
Cancer Research Pioneer Jose Baselga Dies at 61
American Association for Cancer Research

José Baselga, MD, PhD, who was a major force in the development of molecularly targeted therapies, died March 21 at age 61 from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. He was a past president of the American Association for Cancer Research, former chief medical officer of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and executive vice president for R&D oncology at AstraZeneca. Read More

Program Develops Cancer Education Curriculum for Appalachian Schools
UK Markey Cancer Center

After conducting a study to assess the need for cancer education materials in Appalachian Kentucky, members of UK Markey Cancer Center's Appalachian Career Training in Oncology program worked with faculty from the UK College of Education to create a three-part cancer education curriculum for middle and high school teachers in the region. Read More

Brain Tumor Center Established
Siteman Cancer Center

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and Barnes-Jewish Hospital have established the Brain Tumor Center. The multidisciplinary practice of physicians and scientists will provide leading-edge, patient-centric care for brain tumor patients while developing transformative basic, translational, and clinical research on new therapies. Albert H. Kim, MD, PhD, is inaugural director. Read More

Reimagining Palliative Care Learning During a Pandemic
Stanford Cancer Institute

Kavitha Ramchandran, MD, and her team have drawn on their knowledge of both online and in-person environments to develop a virtual palliative medicine clerkship to provide Stanford medical students the training they need during the pandemic. Read More

Community Engagement in HIV Trials Guides Equity for COVID-19 Vaccine Studies
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Last spring, as COVID-19 began to tear through American cities and was disproportionately affecting communities of color, a Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center scientist pivoted to the vital work of engaging these same communities in trials of coronavirus vaccines. Read More
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical Research Coordinator
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Program Director, Hematology and Therapeutics
The University of Cancer Center

Quality Assurance Specialist
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Research Nurse
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Senior Director, Clinical Trials Office
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Director, Ambulatory Planning
Siteman Cancer Center

Principal Research Administrator - Program Manager
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Medical Director, Cancer Clinical Trials Office
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Program Co-Leader, Cancer Biology
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Program Co-Leader, Cancer Prevention & Control
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Program Co-Leader, Developmental Therapeutics
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Research Scientists, Cancer Prevention and Control, Health Equity and Lifestyle Programs
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Clinical Research Nurse
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Clinical Research Coordinator II
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Director, Clinical Research
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director, Ginny L. Clements Breast Cancer Research Institute</td>
<td>The University of Arizona Cancer Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer Center Bioinformatics Faculty</td>
<td>Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer Clinical Research Coordinator 2</td>
<td>Stanford Cancer Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer Center Research Operations Administrator</td>
<td>Mayo Clinic Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Clinical Research Coordinator I</td>
<td>Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center</td>
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<td>Research Technician</td>
<td>The University of Arizona Cancer Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Specialist, Research to Cancer Center Director</td>
<td>Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Director Administration, Cancer Center</td>
<td>Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Director, Clinical Research Operations</td>
<td>Stanford Cancer Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Cancer Immune Monitoring Core/Assistant Professor (Research Track)</td>
<td>Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center</td>
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<td>Regulatory Startup Project Coordinator</td>
<td>Moffitt Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Associate Director for Administration</td>
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<td>Post Doctoral Position in Hematological Malignancies</td>
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<td>Senior Scientist Position in Hematological Immunotherapeutics</td>
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<tr>
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<th>AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS</th>
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<td>2021 AACI/AACR Hill Day</td>
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<td>VIRTUAL EVENT</td>
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13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
VIRTUAL EVENT | REGISTER TODAY
July 13-15, 2021

2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
VIRTUAL EVENT | NEW DATES
October 19-21, 2021

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Timing for Transplantation Consultation Guidelines: Implications to Your Practice
National Marrow Donor Program/Be the Match
April 15, 2021
WEBINAR

Cancer Center Survivorship Research Forum
VIRTUAL EVENT
Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota
April 15-16, 2021

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