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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | August 2021

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

AACI HEADLINES

Winn Chosen as AACI President-Elect; Four New Members Join Board

Robert Winn, MD, director of VCU Massey Cancer Center, has been elected to serve as vice president/president-elect of AACI’s board of directors. Marcia Cruz-Correa, MD, PhD; Ruben Mesa, MD, FACP, and Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil, have been elected as new board members, and Joann Sweasy, PhD, has been appointed to fill the remainder of Dr. Winn’s term as a regular board member. Read More

New Cancer Center and Corporate Members Join AACI

Last month AACI welcomed the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine to its roster, bringing its membership number to 103. Directed by Lewis C. Cantley, PhD, the Meyer Cancer Center is a matrix cancer center organized by four research focus areas: Cancer Biology; Cancer Genetics & Epigenetics; Experimental Therapeutics; and Cancer Prevention & Control. The association also welcomed Fulgent Genetics to the AACI Corporate Roundtable. Read More

Judy E. Garber, MD, PhD, FAACR, chief of the Division of Cancer Genetics and Prevention at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, will receive the AACI Distinguished Scientist Award on Wednesday, October 20, during the 2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting. Read More
AACI Supporter Message: Patient Resource Navigator

Patient Resource Navigator uniquely provides your patients with the education they need – immediately when they need it. The information reinforces each patient’s decision to choose you for their care, while also extending your brand. The comment from Michele Myers, Director of Development for Cancer Programs in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, demonstrates the importance these guides represent, even to your potential donors. Find out how your center can utilize the program to benefit patients and assist with your accreditation requirements. Learn More

AACI Executive Director Provides Remarks on ARPA-H

Since President Biden first proposed the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), the health care advocacy community has been eager to learn more. Last month, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) hosted the first of many listening sessions on the proposed creation of ARPA-H. The first session included individuals representing cancer, heart, lung, and blood disorders and environmental health. AACI Executive Director Jennifer W. Pegher was one of three participants from the cancer community. Learn More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Libutti Recognized as Healthcare Hero
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Director Steven K. Libutti, MD, FACS, has been named by the business journal NJBIZ as a 2021 Healthcare Hero in the healthcare professional category. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, is editor-in-chief emeritus of the Nature Journal Cancer Gene Therapy, and holds 11 U.S. patents. Read More

Michalski Chosen as President-Elect of American Society for Radiation Oncology
Siteman Cancer Center

Jeff M. Michalski, MD, MBA vice chair and director of clinical programs in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, has been elected president-elect of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) board of directors. Read More

Bhowmick Honored by the Society of Asian American Scientists in Cancer Research
Cedars-Sinai Cancer
Neil Bhowmick, PhD, co-leader of the Cancer Biology Program at Cedars-Sinai Cancer, was one of 10 Indian American scientists honored by the Society of Asian American Scientists in Cancer Research for his contributions to cancer research. Read More

Maquat Wins Warren Alpert Foundation Prize
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Lynne E. Maquat, PhD, founding director of the University of Rochester's Center for RNA Biology, received the Warren Alpert Foundation Prize in recognition of pivotal discoveries in RNA biology. She shares the award with fellow RNA biologist Joan Seitz, PhD, of the Yale School of Medicine. Read More

Plimack Appointed Medical Oncology Editor for European Urology Journal
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Elizabeth Plimack, MD, MS, chief of the Division of Genitourinary Medical Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, was recently appointed medical oncology editor for the journal European Urology. Read More

Researchers Receive Social and Behavioral Sciences Community Partner Award
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Three researchers from the Fox Chase Cancer Prevention and Control Program were recognized by Temple University with the Social & Behavioral Sciences Community Partner Outstanding Supervisor Award. This year’s honorees were Jennifer Barsky Reese, PhD; Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH; and Suzanne M. Miller, PhD. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

Roswell Park Teams Draw More Than $34 Million in Grants Supporting New Research
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Greenebaum Earns NCI Designation Renewal
University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

Moffitt Receives $10 Million to Establish Research Center for Rare Blood Cancer
Moffitt Cancer Center

Endowed Professorship Named to Honor Carol Fabian
The University of Kansas Cancer Center
$2.3 Million Awarded to Investigate Treatment Options for Advanced Prostate Cancer
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Researcher Gets $2.26 Million to Uncover Barriers to Offering Targeted Cancer Therapies
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Komen Funds VICC Breast Cancer Initiatives
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Birrer Invested in Westbrook Director's Chair
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Brain Cancer: Hunting What's Left
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Sarabdeep “Sabi” Singh has been named executive vice president and chief operating officer of Moffitt Cancer Center. Prior to joining Moffitt, Singh served as the chief operating officer of the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics since 2013. Read More

Davis Promoted to Vice President for VUMC Cancer Care Network and Strategy
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Nancy Davis, MD, has been promoted to vice president for cancer care network and strategy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, a new position responsible for developing provider relationships with other health care systems and expanding access to oncology care throughout Tennessee and other states. Read More

Cookson Named Urology Division Chief
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Cancer Center

Urologic surgical oncologist Michael Cookson, MD, MHA, FACS, has been appointed chief of the Duke Division of Urology. He will join Duke from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Read More
Colman Appointed Co-Leader of Experimental Therapeutics
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah has announced the appointment of Howard Colman, MD, PhD, as the new co-leader of the Experimental Therapeutics Program. Dr. Colman also directs HCI’s Computational Oncology Research Initiative. Read More

Leader Tapped for New Liver and Bile Duct Center
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Myron Schwartz, MD, is director of the new Center of Excellence for Liver and Bile Duct Cancer at Mount Sinai’s Tisch Cancer Institute. Read More

A Fermented-Food Diet Increases Microbiome Diversity and Lowers Inflammation, Study Finds
Stanford Cancer Institute

Cancer Death Rates Declined More Steeply in States That Expanded Medicaid
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Financial Barriers Fell for Some Cancer Survivors After Affordable Care Act
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Study Uncovers Geographic-Related HPV Vaccination Disparities in Virginia
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Factors Needed for Breast Cancer Metastasis Identified
UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Beyond CAR T: New Frontiers in Living Cell Therapies
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Therapeutic Eradicates Breast Cancer in Mice
Cancer Center at Illinois

Leukemia Treatment Can Bait and Capture Cells in Hiding
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine
Study Demonstrates the Benefit of Radiosensitizers in Cancer Treatment
UK Markey Cancer Center

Cancer Discovery Highlights National Role of UAMS Research Team
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Study Identifies Gut Microbes Associated With Toxicity to Combined Checkpoint Inhibitors in Melanoma
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Assured Resolution
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dendritic-Cell Vaccines Can Be Paired With Standard Therapy for Breast Cancer
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Gene Expression Control Mechanism Found That May Create Proteins at Distinct Locations
The Wistar Institute

Immune System Clock Predicts Illness and Mortality
Stanford Cancer Institute

Study: Ibrutinib Effective for Difficult to Treat Forms of Hairy Cell Leukemia
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Cancer Misinformation Common on Social Media
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

Reminder: August 24 PCLI Webinar
Association of American Cancer Institutes

AACI's Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) will host The Role of the Clinical Pharmacist in an Academic Hematology/Oncology Practice at 2:00 pm eastern time on Tuesday, August 24. This webinar will cover the clinical pharmacist (CP) training and supervision requirements along with roles and responsibilities. Read More

New Main Facility for Outpatient Care Planned
Siteman Cancer Center

Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis is planning a nine-story, 659,000-square-foot facility that will provide a central home for nearly all aspects of advanced cancer care for outpatients. Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, is director of the Siteman Cancer Center. Read More
Fred Hutchinson, Seattle Children's, and UW Medicine Lay Groundwork for Historic Partnership

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, UW Medicine, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, and Seattle Children's have announced plans to explore restructuring their longtime relationship to accelerate a shared mission of advancing diagnosis, treatment, and pioneering of cures for cancer and other diseases. If finalized and approved, the proposed restructure would establish an adult-focused oncology program and, separately, a pediatric oncology program. Read More

Response to COVID-19 Vaccines Varies Widely in Blood Cancer Patients

Mount Sinai researchers found that multiple myeloma patients mount variable and sometimes suboptimal responses after receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. The study points to the need for antibody testing and precautions for these patients after vaccination. Read More

Uniting the Black Community to Defeat COVID

Kim Rhoads, MD, MPH, director of the Office of Community Engagement at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, founded Umoja Health Partners to unite about 30 organizations combating COVID-19 in Black communities in the Bay Area. She shares why the Umoja approach (the name comes from the Swahili word for "unity" or "oneness") is working. Read More

Phage Display-Based Gene Delivery: A Viable Platform Technology for COVID-19 Vaccine Design and Development

Researchers at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and the Center for Theoretical Biological Physics at Rice University, have demonstrated that a technology with favorable biological attributes known as phage display could be a viable platform for the development of new vaccines to protect against COVID-19. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Disease Site Group Project Manager
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Postdoctoral Research Associate II
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Director of Research Marketing and Communications
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artificial Intelligence in Oncology Symposium: Precision Medicine and Cancer Disparities
VIRTUAL EVENT
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center
November 8-9, 2021

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
VIRTUAL EVENT | REGISTER TODAY
October 19-21, 2021

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