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#### News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | December 2021

*Click here* to read the full newsletter on our website.



Awards & Honors | Grants & Gifts | Leadership Highlights | Research Highlights | Other News & COVID-19 Job Opportunities | Meeting Announcements

## **AACI HEADLINES**

### Nominations Open for 2022 Champion for Cures Award



AACI cancer center directors are invited to **submit nominations** for the 2022 **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 2021 Champion for Cures Award was presented virtually at the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting to Sidney and Caroline Kimmel (pictured). *Read More* 

## House Passes HPV Cancer Legislation

On Wednesday, November 30, the United States House of Representatives **passed** the **PREVENT HPV Cancers Act** by voice vote. The bill, lead sponsored by Representatives **Kathy Castor (D-FL)** and **Kim Schrier (D-WA)**, was introduced in early March in coordination with International HPV Awareness Day. AACI was an early supporter of the bill. *Read More* 

### Patient Resource Navigator: A Market Differentiator



"These guides build bi-directional communication between our providers and their patients. We've seen an increase in patient retention and overall patient satisfaction." - Terry T. Tsue, MD, FACS, Vice President and Physician-in-Chief, The University of Kansas Cancer Center; Vice President of Physician Services, The University of Kansas Health System

For more information, contact Amy Galey. Learn More

#### Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center Now Hiring for Multiple Positions



The Clinical Research Services (CRS) department in the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center is expanding and is currently hiring for multiple Clinical Research, Regulatory, and Research Nurse positions at all levels. To be considered for the openings, submit your application to job no. R100044788. *Learn More* 

## **NEWS FROM THE CENTERS**

#### **AWARDS & HONORS**

#### Pasquinelli Recognized for Lung Screening Program University of Illinois Cancer Center



Nurse Practitioner **Mary Pasquinelli, MS, APRN**, of the UI Health Lung Screening Program, received a national leadership award from the Prevent Cancer Foundation for her work building and growing the highly effective program that benefits medically underserved communities and her research on lung cancer health disparities. *Read More* 

#### Reid Receives Early-Stage Investigator Award Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center



**Sonya Reid, MD, MPH**, is a recipient of an NRG Oncology Underserved Minority Scholars Award. She is one of three inaugural recipients of the award, which was established by NRG Oncology this year to address cancer equity by intensively training early-stage investigators about clinical trials through the National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP). *Read More* 

#### Fox Chase Receives Two Press Ganey Patient Experience Awards Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center has been recognized for excellence in patient care with two Press Ganey Awards, the Pinnacle of Excellence Award and the Guardian of Excellence Award. Press Ganey works to support health care organizations by providing important assistance with health care challenges. *Read More* 

## Roswell Park Named a Joy in Medicine Organization

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

In acknowledgment of strong advocacy for its staff members and the launch of a program to enhance their mental health and well-being, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been named a 2021 Joy in Medicine Recognized Organization by the American Medical Association. *Read More* 

#### **GRANTS & GIFTS**

\$17 Million Grant to Fund Disparities Research Siteman Cancer Center

## With \$13 Million Grant Researchers Will Track Cancer Risk From Environmental Exposures

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Clapp Leads Grant Renewal for Childhood Cancers Indiana University Melvin and Bren Cancer Center

#### Holland Receives NCI Outstanding Investigator Award Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**\$2 Million Gift Supports Lung, Pancreatic Cancer Research** Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cancer Center, HBCU Receive \$1.7 Million to Increase Health Equity, Research Pipeline Diversity VCU Massey Cancer Center

In Vino Vita Raises Over \$1.5 Million for Research, Treatment, and Prevention Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

#### Rodriguez Selected for Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Program UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

#### LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

#### Ginsburg Named Chief Medical and Scientific Officer for NIH Research Program

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center



Duke Cancer Institute member and director of the Duke Center for Applied Genomics and Precision Medicine **Geoffrey Ginsburg, MD**, **PhD**, will leave Duke to assume the role of Chief Medical and Scientific Officer for the National Institutes of Health "All of Us" Research Program, effective January 2022. *Read More* 

Zsiros to Lead Gynecologic Oncology Program Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

> Following a national search, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has promoted **Emese Zsiros, MD, PhD, FACOG**, to lead its Department of Gynecologic Oncology. On staff at Roswell Park since 2014, Dr. Zsiros will also hold the Shashikant B. Lele, MD, Endowed Chair in Gynecologic Oncology. *Read More*



## Bhayani Named Director of Urologic Surgery

Siteman Cancer Center



**Sam Bhayani, MD**, a Washington University urologic oncologist and researcher at Siteman Cancer Center, has been named head of the Division of Urologic Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. A leader in robotic surgery, Dr. Bhayani helped to develop innovative surgical techniques for removing prostate and kidney cancers. *Read More* 

## Childhood Brain Tumor Expert Named Chief of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai



Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital has appointed**Oren J. Becher**, **MD**, as the chief of the Jack Martin Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology. A physician-scientist, Dr. Becher is an expert in brain tumors in children, particularly diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma. *Read More* 

#### Brewster Named Associate Director of DEI University of Virginia Cancer Center



UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center has appointed **Wendy Brewster, MD, PhD**, as associate director of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The newly created position underscores the cancer center's commitment to developing a more inclusive workplace. *Read More* 

Moss Named Director of VA Breast and GynOnc Cancers Program Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Duke Cancer Institute member **Hayley Moss, MD, MBA**, has joined the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' National Oncology Program Office



as director of the Breast and Gynecologic Cancer System of Excellence, a new initiative that aims to advance and expand women veterans' access to tele-oncology and potentially lifesaving clinical trials and treatments. *Read More* 

#### Oppong Tapped as Deputy Director of Center for Cancer Health Equity The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute



**Bridget Oppong, MD**, has been appointed deputy director of the Center for Cancer Health Equity at OSUCCC – James. Dr. Oppong's research focuses on health disparities that lead to poorer outcomes and higher mortality rates among patients with breast cancer. *Read More* 

Huynh Joins Dermatology Team UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute



**Thy Huynh, MD**, has joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center as an assistant professor of dermatology and pediatrics. She will be a member of the Cancer Center and Research Institute Interdisciplinary Skin Cancer Team and will conduct research in this field. *Read More* 

#### **RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

Rural-Urban Differences in Cancer Screening Among Women The University of Kansas Cancer Center

UVA Reveals How Gene Mutation Boosts Cancer Risk University of Virginia Cancer Center

Computer Modeling Used to Predict Patient Tumor Responses to Radiation Therapy Moffitt Cancer Center

'Junk DNA' is a Double-Edged Sword: The Good Side Has Anti-Cancer Potential Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Tool Can Reveal Cancer Subtypes by Cell Communities Where They Are Found

Stanford Cancer Institute

#### For Mesothelioma, Immunotherapy-Chemo With Genomic Analysis Leads to Improved Survival

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Multi-Omics Reveals Treatment Option for Breast Cancer Subtype Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

New Drug Triggers Disseminated Cancer Cell Dormancy Albert Einstein Cancer Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

FDA Approves Clinical Trial of Drug to Treat Eye Cancer WVU Cancer Institute

Molecular Tumor Board Improves Patient Outcomes UK Markey Cancer Center

Risk Of Age-Related Diseases May Be Higher in Younger B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Survivors Than in Older Counterparts Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Genomic Alterations in Advanced Cancers Reveal Interactions With Therapy Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Oncolytic Virus Clinical Trial Opened for Patients With Advanced Breast Cancer City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Fat-Secreted Molecule Lowers Response to Common Cancer Treatment Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Synthetic Immunotherapy Seeks, Destroys Tumors in Mice With Aggressive Cancers

Stanford Cancer Institute

Genetic Mutation Could Play Role in Improving Leukemia Treatment University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Giving Immunotherapy Before Targeted Therapy Improves Survival in Advanced Melanoma

Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

#### How Alike Are Cancer Cells From a Single Patient? USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Receptor Structure Reveals New Targets for Cancer Treatments Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Researchers Uncover Insights Into How Moles Change Into Melanoma Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Treatment Enhances Anti-Leukemia Effect of Bone Marrow Transplant, Reduces Recurrence University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Arm, Shoulder Disability and Pain After Breast Cancer Surgery Reduced By

#### **Exercise** Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

# Less Chemotherapy, Personalized Care: Study Reinforces Advances in Geriatric Oncology

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

## Research Shows Why Immune Checkpoint Blockade Impedes But Does Not Stop Glioblastoma Progression

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

#### OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

#### Founding Director Leaves Inspirational Legacy VCU Massey Cancer Center



**Walter Lawrence, Jr., MD**, who died in November at age 96, was respected and beloved for his expertise as a surgical oncologist. He ran a surgical hospital during the Korean War, oversaw the first Division of Surgical Oncology at VCU, and served as the inaugural director of VCU Massey Cancer Center for more than a decade. *Read More* 

# World Health Organization Taps Sylvester in Global Fight Against Cervical Cancer

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System



Recognizing Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center's enduring commitment to addressing the inequities that perpetuate cervical cancer in South Florida and beyond, the World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the University of Miami institution as the first WHO Collaborating Centre for Cervical Cancer Elimination. *Read More* 

#### New Program Will Address Rural Cancer Health Disparities UK Markey Cancer Center

A new training program at the University of Kentucky will help develop the next generation of scientists. Funded by a grant from the National Cancer Institute, Addressing Rural cancer Inequities through Scientific Excellence (ARISE) is focused on preparing postdoctoral researchers to address cancer-related health disparities. *Read More* 

### Cancer Center Without Walls Launching Youth Tobacco Prevention Program

University of Virginia Cancer Center

The University of Virginia Cancer Center and Cancer Center Without Walls Southwest Virginia Community Advisory Board has launched a program to cut tobacco use among both teens and adults in partnership with UVA Wise students and Virginia Cooperative Extension. *Read More* 

## **Rutgers Launches State's First Home Infusion Program**

#### Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and RWJBarnabas Health have partnered with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey to launch a collaborative pilot program which provides home infusion cancer treatments for eligible patients. *Read More* 

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Assistant Protocol Review and Monitoring Coordinator UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
Financial Analyst Association of American Cancer Institutes
Program Coodinator Association of American Cancer Institutes
Breast Cancer, Familial Cancer Genetics Faculty The University of Vermont Cancer Center
Director, Clinical Research Operations Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center
Multiple Positions Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson
Manager - Research Regulatory Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone
Multiple Openings Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System
Inaugural Director, BRCA Center Cedars-Sinai Cancer
Co-Leader in Cancer Biology Program University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Media Relations Manager UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center
Quality Assurance Officer UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer
Senior Clinical Research Coordinator - Sacramento Campus UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center
Clinical Research Monitor OHSU Knight Cancer Institute
Program Director, Clinical Research & Community Engagement OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

Senior Director Oncology Services Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center

Senior Technical Writer, Research Development Office Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

#### MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Equity by Design in Clinical Research: Cancer Trials SAVE THE DATE | WEEKLY WEBINAR SERIES Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School March 8 - April 14, 2022

#### AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## 14th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

SAVE THE DATE July 12 - 14, 2022 Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel Rosemont, IL

# 2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting SAVE THE DATE

October 2 - 4, 2022 InterContinental at the Plaza Kansas City, MO

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