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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | June 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

**Lerman Takes the Reins as AACI President**

Caryn Lerman, PhD, is the new president of AACI. Dr. Lerman is the director of University of Southern California (USC) Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles and the associate dean for cancer programs and the H. Leslie and Elaine S. Hoffman Professor in Cancer Research at Keck School of Medicine of USC. Dr. Lerman will begin her two-year term four months early due to Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, stepping down to become the new chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society. Read More

**Willman Named Director of Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Cheryl L. Willman, MD, has been named executive director of Mayo Clinic Cancer Programs and director of Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center. In her new role, Dr. Willman will lead the expansion and strategic development of Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center sites in the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Willman will join Mayo Clinic from University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she has served as director and CEO for 20 years. Read More

**CRI Meeting Abstract Winners Announced**

The AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Steering Committee, with the assistance of peer reviewers from CRI committees, have selected three abstracts from 62 submissions for formal presentation at the 13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting, July 13-15. Winning abstract authors represent University of Cincinnati Cancer Center; University of Florida Health Cancer Center; and Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. Read More
Register Today for the 2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for the 2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, which will take place October 19-21 in a virtual format. This three-day event convenes AACI cancer center members with national cancer research and advocacy groups, industry, and government health agencies to develop solutions to common challenges. Continuing Medical Education (CME) is jointly provided by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and AACI. Read More

Write Your Representatives to Support the PREVENT HPV Cancers Act

On March 4—International HPV Awareness Day—Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL) introduced the PREVENT HPV Cancers Act (H.R. 1550), which AACI has endorsed. We encourage cancer centers to reach out to their congressional delegations with our customizable advocacy letter to request that they co-sponsor and support the bill. Read More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

DCI Nurse Receives National Recognition

Jessica Jin, RN, BSN, BMTCN, a clinical nurse III, is the 2021 Blood and Marrow Transplant Certified Nurse of the Year. The annual award by the Oncology Nursing Society recognizes a nurse who has made significant contributions to blood and marrow transplant nursing. Read More

Chief Pharmacy Officer Earns Career Honor From Professional Society

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center congratulates its chief pharmacy officer, Lijian “Leo” Cai, PharmD, who will receive the 2021 Donald E. Francke Medal from the American Society of Health System Pharmacists in recognition of his long record of significant professional achievements. Read More

Rutgers Leader Elected to the National Academy of Sciences
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Deputy Director Eileen White, PhD, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. She is among 120 members elected this year in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Read More

Team Science Award Recognizes Pediatric Cancer Researchers
Stanford Cancer Institute

Eight Stanford Medicine scientists are among a group of pediatric cancer researchers being honored with the 2021 Team Science Award from the American Association for Cancer Research. Read More

Daly Receives NCCN Award
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Mary B. Daly, MD, PhD, FACP, professor in the Department of Clinical Genetics and director of the Risk Assessment Program at Fox Chase Cancer Center, recently received the National Comprehensive Cancer Network’s (NCCN) Rodger Winn Award. Read More

Mitchell Honored With Minorities in Cancer Research Lectureship
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

The American Association for Cancer Research has recognized Edith P. Mitchell, MD, with the 2021 Minorities in Cancer Research-Jane Cooke Wright Lectureship. Dr. Mitchell is the associate director for diversity affairs and director of the Center to Eliminate Disparities at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health. Read More
**GRANTS & GIFTS**

$17.5 Million in CPRIT Grants Awarded for Cancer Research  
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

$9 Million Contract Awarded for New Jersey State Cancer Registry  
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

CPRIT Renews Funding for Training Program Focused on Education and Research  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Study to Examine Exosomes in Ovarian Cancer  
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Stony Brook Receives Funding Boost to Fight Cancer  
Stony Brook Cancer Center

Foundation Gives $1.8 Million to Myeloma Center  
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

$1.6 Million Awarded for IBC Research Project  
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Seeking to Expand Targeted Therapy for Lung Cancer  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

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**LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS**

McElfish Named Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement  
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

*Pearl McElfish, PhD, MBA* has been named associate director of community outreach and engagement at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. [Read More]

Site Director For Radiology Appointed  
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center announces the appointment of *Jordan Anaokar, MD*, as the new site director for radiology. She specializes in over a dozen different kinds of cancer with a treatment focus on gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and thoracic imaging, and has been director of the Fox Chase Diagnostic Imaging Protocol Lab since 2020. [Read More]
Rodriguez is First Chief Diversity and Equity Officer for Faculty
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announces the promotion of Elisa M. Rodriguez, PhD, MS, to chief diversity and equity officer for faculty. The new role provides expanded opportunities for Dr. Rodriguez to apply her deep-rooted commitment to improving the lives of people from underserved communities. Read More

Head of Cardio-Oncology Clinic Named
UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Brandon Lennep, MD, a University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) assistant professor of cardiology, has been named to head the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute’s (CCRI) Cardio-Oncology Clinic. The clinic provides on-site services to CCRI’s largest outpatient site. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Increased Risk of Mortality Found for Arizona Hispanic, Native American Kidney Cancer Patients
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

New AI-Based Tool Can Find Rare Cell Populations in Large Single-Cell Datasets
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

New Insights Into Androgens’ Action Could Boost Battle Against Prostate Cancer
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Breast Microbiome-Immune Interactions May Influence Breast Cancer
Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

Sugary Drinks Linked to Increased Risk of Colorectal Cancer in Women Under 50
Siteman Cancer Center

Frailty in Cancer Patients, Young and Old, is Linked to Inflammation
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Studies Connect Mammary Hormone to Breast Cancer Progression, Uncover Potential for Novel Targeted Therapies
VCU Massey Cancer Center
Personalized Cancer Vaccine Shows Potential Benefit Against Multiple Tumor Types  
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Research Team Takes Gene Mutation Detection in Blood to the Next Level  
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Study Suggests Path to Blocking Common Genetic Driver of Lung Cancer  
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Targeting Abnormal Cell Metabolism Shows Promise Against Pediatric Brain Tumors  
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Changes in Approach to Cervical Cancer Examined Following Publication of Trial Results  
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

A Calculator That Predicts Risk of Lung Cancer Underperforms in Diverse Populations  
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Triple-Negative Breast Cancer More Deadly for African American Women  
Siteman Cancer Center

Bisphosphonates in Breast Cancer  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Researchers Discover an Entirely New Kind of Biomolecule  
Stanford Cancer Institute

Researchers Discover First Immune Stimulating Long Noncoding RNA Involved in Body's Response to Cancer  
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Fluorescent Dye Helps Guide Pediatric Liver Tumor Resection  
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

No Level of Smoke Exposure is Safe  
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Distinguished Scientist, Mentor, and Uro-Oncology Research Pioneer Dies at 80  
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Leland W. Chung, PhD, who served as director of the Urologic Oncology Research Program at Cedars-Sinai Cancer for 12 years, died May 10 of kidney cancer. He was 80. Read More
Internship Program Aims to Boost Diversity in Cancer Care Workforce
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

The University of Rochester has been selected by the American Society of Clinical Oncology as one of five host schools to participate in the inaugural Oncology Summer Internship (OSI) program for medical students from populations underrepresented in medicine. Read More

Researchers Develop Direct-Acting Antiviral to Treat COVID-19
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

An international team of scientists from City of Hope and the Menzies Health Institute Queensland at Griffith University have developed an experimental direct-acting antiviral therapy to treat COVID-19. Read More

Massive Negative Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Screenings Quantified
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Nearly 10 million cancer screenings in the U.S. failed to happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new study. Researchers, including the first author on the study, Ronald Chen, MD, MPH, are calling for public attention to this problem to prevent cancer deaths. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Education Outreach & Communications Manager
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Clinical Research Coordinator
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Clinical Research Support Laboratory Project Manager
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Regulatory Project Manager
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Senior Regulatory Project Manager
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Conflict of Interest Specialist
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Pre-IND and IND Project Manager
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Associate Director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Research Administrator IV - Grants and Contracts
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS