Some email communications may be filtered to your Spam or Junk folder, even if you have subscribed to them. Please mark aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.ccsend.com as a Safe Sender to ensure that AACI emails are delivered to your inbox.

News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | May 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

Knudsen to Step Down as AACI President

AACI President Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, is resigning from Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) at Jefferson Health in Philadelphia. She will step down as AACI president and begin her new role as chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society (ACS) on Tuesday, June 1. Dr. Knudsen will be the first woman CEO to lead the 107-year-old organization and the American Cancer Society Cancer Advocacy Network (ACS CAN). Read More

Holcombe Named Director of UVMCC

Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA, has been appointed director of The University of Vermont Cancer Center (UVMCC) and chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology in the Department of Medicine. He joins UVMCC from the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center, where he has served as director since 2016. Dr. Holcombe will begin his tenure on August 1. He succeeds Richard Galbraith, MD, PhD, and Chris Holmes, MD, PhD, who became interim co-directors of UVMCC in 2020. Read More

Reps. Higgins, Bilirakis to Receive Cancer Research Ally Award

Representatives Brian Higgins (D-NY) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) will be honored with the Cancer Research Ally Award at the 2021 AACI/AACR Hill Day, which will be held virtually on Wednesday, June 9. Both congressmen will deliver remarks as part of the event’s lunchtime programming. Read More
CRI Keynote Spotlight: Mary 'Dicey' Jackson Scroggins

Mary "Dicey" Jackson Scroggins, MA, will deliver the keynote presentation on Wednesday, July 14 during the 13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting. Scroggins, a 24-year ovarian cancer survivor and recent acute myeloid leukemia (AML) survivor, research advocate, and health activist, is driven by a commitment to global health equity. Read More

Call for Nominations: AACI Cancer Health Equity Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2021 AACI Cancer Health Equity Award. The award was created to recognize an individual or group who demonstrates exceptional leadership in promoting health equity, mitigating cancer disparities, and advocating for diversity and inclusion at their cancer center. The nomination period will close on Friday, May 28. Read More

Reminder: 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. The digital program book offers an excellent opportunity to showcase your center while supporting the CRI meeting. Your cancer center’s program ad may highlight a conference or a new initiative, or celebrate the success of the center’s clinical trials office. Cancer centers may also include links to their website and any upcoming events. Read More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Beckerle Elected to National Academy of Sciences

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

The National Academy of Sciences has elected Mary Beckerle, PhD, Huntsman Cancer Institute CEO and distinguished professor of biology and oncological sciences at the University of Utah, as a member. Dr. Beckerle is among 120 newly elected members of the academy. Read More
Maquat Awarded 2021 Wolf Prize in Medicine
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Lynne E. Maquat, PhD, the founding director of the Center for RNA Biology at the University of Rochester, has been honored with the 2021 Wolf Prize in Medicine. She shares the award with Joan Steitz, PhD, at Yale School of Medicine, and Adrian Krainer, PhD, at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Read More

Gordon Receives Kober Medal
Siteman Cancer Center

Jeffrey I. Gordon, MD, has been awarded the George M. Kober Medal from the Association of American Physicians in recognition of his contributions to the field of gut microbiome research. Dr. Gordon, a research member of Siteman Cancer Center, is considered to be the father of the field. Read More

Sharifi Honored With AACR Achievement Award
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Case Comprehensive Cancer Center congratulates the Cleveland Clinic’s Nima Sharifi, MD, on his selection as the 2021 recipient of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Waun Ki Hong Award for Outstanding Achievement in Translational and Clinical Cancer Research. Read More

Balderson Leads National Physician Assistants Organization
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Institute

Duke Cancer Institute physician assistant Scott Balderson, PA-C, has begun his term as president of the national Association of Physician Assistants in Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery. The association has
Chi Receives Kastan Award
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

The American Association for Cancer Research has named Jen-Tsan Ashley Chi, MD, PhD, as co-winner of the Molecular Cancer Research Michael B. Kastan Award for Research Excellence on behalf of his all-Duke research team for their paper, "A TAZ-ANGPTL4-NOX2 Axis Regulates Ferroptotic Cell Death and Chemoresistance in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer." Read More

White Elected as a Fellow to the AACR Academy
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey deputy director, Eileen White, PhD, has been elected to the 2021 class of Fellows of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Academy. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

$10 Million Gift to Support Research Initiatives, New Director
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

$6 Million Awarded to Decrease Disparities in Cancer Clinical Trials
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

$3 Million Grant Awarded to Apply AI to Lung Cancer Immunotherapy
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Advances in Brain Cancer Research Lead to $3 Million Award
Cancer Center at Illinois

Maihle Wins DOD Award
UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Seed Grant Leads to $1.25 Million NIH Grant for Breast Cancer Research
Roswell Park, Wilmot Partner on First Large Study of Immunotherapy in Black Cancer Patients

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Award to Jump-Start Young Scientists Seeking to Cure Cancer

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Associate Director for Cancer Equity Announced

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Chanita Hughes-Halbert, PhD, will join USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center as associate director for cancer equity, a newly created position. Her appointment begins July 1 and she joins USC from the Medical University of South Carolina. Read More

Juckett Named CTO-CGI Medical Director

Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota

Mark Juckett, MD, was appointed medical director of the Masonic Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office for the Cellular, Gene and Immunotherapy Initiative (CTO-CGI), succeeding Sherman Holtan, MD, who initiated the role. Dr. Juckett was recruited from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Read More

Zheng Named Associate Director for Population Sciences Research

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Wei Zheng, MD, PhD, MPH, has been named associate director for Population Sciences Research at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. He replaces William Blot, PhD, who retired from the leadership position on April 1. Read More

Kelly Named Associate Director for Cancer Research Training and Education

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Thomas J. Kelly Jr., PhD, has been named associate director for cancer research training and education.
research training and education at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Dr. Kelly is an associate professor of pathology in the UAMS College of Medicine Department of Pathology and will become a full professor in July. Read More

New Chief of Hematology/Oncology Named
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Taofeek K. Owonikoko, MD, PhD, will join the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and Department of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh as chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology. He also will serve as associate director for translational research and co-leader of the Cancer Therapeutics Program at Hillman. Read More

Lu Named EDT Co-Program Leader
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Xiongbin Lu, PhD, has been named co-program leader of the Experimental and Developmental Therapeutics (EDT) research program. He has made important discoveries promoting translational development of human cancer research, including breast cancer targeted therapy and immunotherapy. Read More

Mohan Joins Moffitt as New Vice President of Digital
Moffitt Cancer Center

Santosh Mohan, MMCi, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, has joined Moffitt Cancer Center as the new vice president of digital. This newly created position will be instrumental in Moffitt's success as the cancer center accelerates its digital capabilities to advance cancer care, treatment, and research. Read More

Physician-Researcher Tapped to Lead Cancer Genetics and Genomics Department
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has appointed Agnes Witkiewicz, MD, as director of cancer genetics and genomics. She will also hold the John & Santa Palisano Endowed Chair of Cancer Genetics.
Sacks Named Division Director in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center

Justin M. Sacks, MD, has been named director of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Dr. Sacks will treat patients at Siteman Cancer Center. Read More

Faculty Leader Named for Cancer Therapy Discovery and Development
University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center

Nataliya Uboha, MD, PhD, has been selected to lead the Cancer Therapy Discovery and Development program at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center. Read More

Markham Appointed as Chief of Hematology and Oncology
University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center

Merry Jennifer Markham, MD, FACP, FASCO, has been appointed as chief of the division of hematology and oncology in the UF College of Medicine. Dr. Markham has served as the associate director for medical affairs for the UF Health Cancer Center since 2017. Read More

Senior Director of Clinical Research Innovation Appointed
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Neeraj Agarwal, MD, a physician-scientist at Huntsman Cancer Institute, has been appointed senior director of clinical research innovation, overseeing critical components of Huntsman's clinical research infrastructure. Read More
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Title</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Analyzes Clinical, Economic Impact of Hemorrhagic Cystitis in Stem Cell Transplant Patients</td>
<td>The University of Kansas Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study: Jump in Cancer Diagnoses at 65 Implies Patients Wait for Medicare</td>
<td>Stanford Cancer Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a Single Personal Doctor May Sometimes Lead to Unnecessary Tests</td>
<td>University of Florida Health Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Derived From Kentucky-Grown Plant Shows Promise for Ovarian Cancer Treatment</td>
<td>UK Markey Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New CRISPR Technology Offers Unrivaled Control of Epigenetic Inheritance</td>
<td>UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients With Metastatic Breast Cancer and High Mutational Burden Benefit From Pembrolizumab</td>
<td>University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein Identified That Could Serve as Therapeutic Target in Lung Cancer</td>
<td>VCU Massey Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone Microenvironment Fosters Breast Cancer Metastatic Behavior</td>
<td>Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Research Suggests Breast Cancer Treatment in Patients Over Age 70 Can Be Safely Reduced</td>
<td>UPMC Hillman Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Revises Understanding of Cancer Metabolism</td>
<td>Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Could Revive Failed Treatments for Solid Tumors</td>
<td>University of Virginia Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Theory Recruited to Help Scientists Find Cancer Genes</td>
<td>Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New CAR T Approach Minimizes Resistance, Helps Avoid Relapse in Non-Hodgkin’s B-Cell Lymphoma</td>
<td>UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic Diversity Within Tumors Suggests Continuous Evolution</td>
<td>The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid Biopsy Test Developed for Lymph Node Metastasis in Early-Stage T1 Colorectal Cancer</td>
<td>City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Explores Text Messages for Smoking Cessation</td>
<td>Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Prostate Cancer Patients Face Higher Risk of Cardiovascular...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disease-Related Mortality Than White Patients
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

New Method Developed for Identifying Mutational Signatures in Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

End-of-Life Care Remains Aggressive for People With Ovarian Cancer
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Investigators Identify STING Gene Methylation Allows Melanoma to Evade the Immune System
Moffitt Cancer Center

Pancreatic Cancer Cells Hijack Muscle Protein to Beef Up Their Metabolism
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Stem Cell Transplants Prevent Relapses of Most Common Childhood Cancer
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Genomic Data Commons Provides Unprecedented Cancer Data Resource
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Strategy Found for Fighting Brain Cancer
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Study Reveals a Unique Mode of Cell Migration on Soft Viscoelastic Surfaces
Stanford Cancer Institute

Study Suggests Common Drug Could Be Used to Prevent Certain Skin Cancers
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

New Initiative to Increase Patient Engagement
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center has begun utilizing a new program called MyCareCompass that is designed to support patients with necessary information about their care by sending that information directly to them. Read More

Arizona Clinical Trials Network Launched
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Arizona residents, including underserved and underrepresented populations, will have better access to cutting-edge cancer therapies as the University of Arizona Cancer Center offers its clinical trials at locations across the state. The network is a collaboration among communities, hospitals, and physicians that will enable the university’s clinical research to reach more patients. Read More

Sameer Patel Co-Authors New Textbook on Cosmetic Breast Surgery
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Sameer Patel, MD, FACS, chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the Department of Surgical Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center and the Temple University Health System, has co-authored a new textbook, Cosmetic Breast Surgery. Read More
Study Seeks to Understand Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccination in Cancer Patients, Survivors

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

A study at OSUCCC - James will evaluate how COVID-19 impacts the immune system of cancer patients. The study will look at whether the COVID-19 vaccine is less effective in cancer patients receiving certain therapies, and how long immunity lasts. Read More

UAMS Surpasses 100,000 Digital Health Visits in Pandemic

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences conducted more than 100,000 digital health visits following the COVID-19 outbreak, seeing its highest numbers of virtual consultations at the height of the pandemic and during a February winter storm, performing more than 4,500 digital health visits per week. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Project Coordinator, Site Operations**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**Research Administrator**
Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

**Chair, Taussig Cancer Institute**
Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

**Clinical Trials Amendment Manager**
Moffitt Cancer Center

**CAR T Research Nurse**
Stony Brook Cancer Center

**Director, Oncology and Pediatric Clinical Research Operations**
Moffitt Cancer Center

**FDA Regulatory Specialist**
OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

**Regulatory Affairs Associate**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**Regulatory Coordinator, Cancer Clinical Trials**
Stony Brook Cancer Center

**Research Phlebotomist Cancer Clinical Trials**
Stony Brook Cancer Center
Study Coordinator Cancer Clinical Trials
Stony Brook Cancer Center

Assistant Director of Regulatory Operations
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Data Quality Manager
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School

Director of Oncology and Pediatric Clinical Research
Moffitt Cancer Center

Program Administrator
Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute

Senior Program Analyst
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

AMPATH Hematology-Oncology Team Leader
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Clinical Trial Activation Project Manager (2 Positions)
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Vice President, Cancer Services
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2021 AACI/AACR Hill Day
VIRTUAL EVENT | REGISTER TODAY
June 9, 2021

13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
VIRTUAL EVENT | REGISTER TODAY
July 13-15, 2021

2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
VIRTUAL EVENT | NEW DATES
June 9, 2021