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 | October 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

Annual Meeting Spotlight: The National Cancer Act at 50

The 2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting will virtually convene AACI cancer center members with national cancer research and advocacy groups, industry, and government health agencies on October 19-21. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Cancer Act (NCA), one meeting session will examine the last 50 years of progress and potential for the future. Read More

AACI Committees Welcome New Members, Invite Nominations

This fall, AACI will welcome new members to its Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Steering Committee. The new members will formally assume their duties during the 2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, held virtually October 19-21. AACI is also seeking nominations for new members to join the Physician Clinical Research (PCLI) Steering Committee. Read More

Community Outreach and Engagement Listserv Launched

AACI recently launched a listserv for community outreach and engagement professionals at AACI cancer centers. The purpose of the listserv is to provide a platform for members to ask questions or reach out to others about COE-related topics. Read More

Patient Resource Navigator: A System Solution to Guiding Each Patient’s Journey

“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
Transforming Cancer Care

Last month, AACI partnered with Mediaplanet on its Transforming Cancer Care campaign, highlighting the ways in which the health care community is advancing equitable cancer care through innovation and global collaboration. AACI cancer centers and sustaining members are among those featured in this special supplement to the September 23 issue of USA TODAY, which also includes a full-page ad from AACI. Read More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Winkfield Named to National Cancer Advisory Board
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

President Joseph Biden has appointed Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD, to the 18-member National Cancer Advisory Board, where she will serve a six-year term helping to guide federal initiatives that focus on cancer. Read More

Rutgers Leader Selected as American Academy of Nursing Fellow
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Carolyn Hayes, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, chief nursing officer for Oncology Services at RWJBarnabas Health and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, has been selected by the American Academy of Nursing as a 2021 Fellow. Read More

Friese Appointed to National Cancer Advisory Board
President Joseph Biden named Christopher Friese, PhD, RN, among seven new members of the National Cancer Advisory Board. Dr. Friese is associate director for cancer control and population sciences at the University of Michigan Health Rogel Cancer Center. He is a national expert in the analyses of claims data to study care quality and has executed large surveys of ambulatory oncology nurses. Read More

Researcher Makes List of Game Changers
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Popular Science magazine has named Michael Giacomelli, PhD, a member of the Wilmot Cancer Institute, to its "Brilliant 10" list for 2021. The early-career biomedical engineer, who invented a novel imaging device, joins the magazine's lineup of the most innovative and creative minds of the year. Read More

Heitman Elected to German Academy
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina has elected Joseph Heitman, MD, PhD, chair of the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at Duke University School of Medicine, and member of Duke Cancer Institute, as one of its members. Read More

Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence Designations Announced
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center and the Marvin and Concetta Greenberg Pancreatic Cancer Institute were recently renewed as a Clinical Center of Excellence and named for the first time as an Academic Center of Excellence for Pancreatic Cancer by the National Pancreas Foundation. Read More

UAMS Wins AAMC Award for Outstanding Community Engagement
UAMS Winthrop T. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) recently bestowed the Spencer Foreman Award for Outstanding Community Engagement on the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). The award is presented annually to an AAMC-member medical school or teaching hospital with a long-standing, major institutional commitment to partnering with the community it serves. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

UVA Earns Comprehensive Cancer Center Designation

UVA....
LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Epidemiologist Joins Massey
VCU Massey Cancer Center

For the last 17 years, Emmanuel A. Taylor, MSc, DrPH, served as health scientist administrator and program director in the Office of the Director of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities at the National Cancer Institute. He now joins Virginia Commonwealth University as a researcher at Massey Cancer Center. Read More

Schilz Named Interim Executive Director
Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota
Aaron Schilz, MPA, has been appointed as the interim executive director for the Masonic Cancer Center. He assumes the position previously held by Seanne Falconer, MBA, FACHE, who has accepted the role of executive director, administration at the Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health. Read More

Precision Medicine Pioneer Named Chair of Pathology
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Carl Morrison, MD, DVM, has been promoted to chair of pathology and laboratory medicine. Dr. Morrison, who joined Roswell Park in 2007, remains senior vice president for scientific development and integrative medicine. Read More

Colorectal Surgeon Joins Cancer Team
UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Kelly Brister, MD, a colorectal surgeon, has joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center Interdisciplinary Gastrointestinal Cancer Team. She will provide care to a population with one of the lowest colorectal cancer screening rates in the nation. Read More

Tempera Appointed Associate Director for Cancer Research Career Enhancement
The Wistar Institute

The Wistar Institute announces the appointment of Italo Tempera, PhD, as associate director for cancer research career enhancement at the institute’s cancer center. In this role, Dr. Tempera will lead the educational mission of the institute and its cancer center to train scientists and create workforce development programs in the life sciences. Read More

Brown Center for Immunotherapy Names Inaugural Executive Director
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Indiana University School of Medicine has named its first executive director of the Brown Center for Immunotherapy. Huda Salman, MD, PhD, will become the center’s new leader, effective November 1. She joins IU School of Medicine from Stony Brook Cancer Center, where she directs the CAR T-cell program. Read More

Neurosurgical Oncologist Joins Lurie
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

Neurosurgical oncologist, Amy Heimberger, MD, has joined the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University as the Jean Malnati Miller Professor of Brain Tumor Research and
Molina Named AD for Community Outreach and Engagement
University of Illinois Cancer Center

Yamilé Molina, PhD, MPH, MS, has been named associate director for community outreach and engagement for the University of Illinois Cancer Center. She takes the helm from Karriem Watson, DHSc, MS, MPH, as he transitions to a new leadership role as chief engagement officer for the All of Us research initiative at the National Institutes of Health.

New Chief of Thoracic and Head and Neck Medical Oncology Named
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and RWJBarnabas Health welcome Missak Haigentz, Jr., MD, as chief of Thoracic and Head and Neck Medical Oncology and clinical director for Oncology Integration.

Vaccine Researcher, Immunologist Recruited as Assistant Professors
The Wistar Institute

The Wistar Institute welcomes Amelia Escolano, PhD, and Nan Zhang, PhD, as assistant professors. Dr. Escolano’s research focuses on the development of novel vaccine approaches against highly mutating viruses. Dr. Zhang studies the role of a group of white blood cells known as macrophages during ovarian cancer metastasis in the abdominal cavity.

Associate Director for Translational Research Named
Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota

Emmanuel S. Antonarakis, MD, has joined the University of Minnesota Medical School faculty as associate director for translational research at Masonic Cancer Center. He succeeds Jill Siegfried, PhD. Dr. Antonarakis will also serve as director of genitourinary oncology in the Department of Medicine’s Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Transplantation of the U of M Medical School.

Risley Returns to UMMC
UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Carolann Risley, PhD, MSN, recently returned to the University of Mississippi Medical Center as an associate professor of nursing and member of the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute. She has focused on research into the basis for racial disparities in cervical cancer since she was a UMMC graduate student.
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<tr>
<th><strong>RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Investigators Uncover Cellular Pathway Involved in Cancer Growth</strong></td>
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<td>Cedars-Sinai Cancer</td>
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<td><strong>Lab Finding May Broaden Understanding of How Some Cancers Begin</strong></td>
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<td>Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah</td>
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<td><strong>Link Between Inflammation and Pancreatic Cancer Development Uncovered</strong></td>
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<td>The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center</td>
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<td><strong>National Pilot Project to Increase Diversity in Cancer Treatment Trials</strong></td>
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<td>The University of Kansas Cancer Center</td>
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<td><strong>New Drug Target Found for Pancreatic Cancer</strong></td>
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<td>University of Illinois Cancer Center</td>
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<td><strong>Liquid Biopsies May Aid Diagnosis, Treatment of Bladder, Nerve Tumors</strong></td>
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<td>Siteman Cancer Center</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phase III Trial Shows First Systemic Therapy for Metastatic Uveal Melanoma to Significantly Improve Overall Survival</strong></td>
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<td>Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health</td>
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<td><strong>New Computational Method Opens Window Into Immune Cell Behavior</strong></td>
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<td>Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center</td>
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<td><strong>Patients Agree in Life to Donate Biological Samples in Death for Cancer Research</strong></td>
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<td>The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute</td>
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<td><strong>Unique Aspects of Pancreatic Cancer Proteins Could Lead to Early Detection, New Treatments</strong></td>
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<td>Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University</td>
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<td><strong>An Estrogen Receptor That Promotes Cancer Also Causes Drug Resistance</strong></td>
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<td>UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center</td>
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<td><strong>New Melanoma Staging System Developed</strong></td>
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<td>Cedars-Sinai Cancer</td>
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<td><strong>Novel Nanotechnology Found to Enhance Fight Against Colorectal Cancer, Melanoma</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Arizona Cancer Center</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Study Identifies New Risk Factor for Most Common Childhood Cancer</strong></td>
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USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Shows Combination Therapy May Potentially Improve Ovarian Cancer Patient Outcomes

UK Markey Cancer Center

Wilmot Makes Progress on Vexing Liver Cancer

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

For Cancer Care, Patient Relationship With Primary Care Provider is Crucial

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Ribociclib Added to Endocrine Therapy Extends Survival in Postmenopausal Patients With Metastatic Breast Cancer

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Protein-Coding Gene Linked to Tumor Development, Activation of Natural Immune Defense Against Cancer

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Scientists Find a Pair of Proteins Controls Supply Lines That Feed Cancer Cells

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

How to Beat Cancer? Find the Genes That Help It Hide

Stanford Cancer Institute

Video-Based Education: An Alternative to Traditional Genetic Counseling for Men Prior to Prostate Cancer Genetic Testing

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

UCSF Selected for ASCO Mentor Program

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Under the leadership of Ana Velázquez Mañana, MD, fellow in medical oncology, UCSF, was chosen as one of only five institutions nationwide to participate in the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) inaugural Oncology Summer Internship program to increase diversity in the oncology workforce. Read More

Sharpless, Ciolino Featured in Facebook Live Series

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

National Cancer Institute Director Ned Sharpless, MD, and Office of Cancer Centers Director Henry Ciolino, PhD, joined Roy Jensen, MD, director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, for a special episode of the center’s Facebook Live series "Bench to Bedside" on September 29 to discuss the 50th anniversary commemoration of the National Cancer Act, as well as the latest in cancer research, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer research, and the NCI’s health equity efforts. Read More

Cancer Clinical Trials Exclude Too Many Patients: That is Changing

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

A new study by Joseph Unger, PhD, MS, of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, showed there was little evidence of enrollment reductions to treatment trials during the entire first year of the pandemic. Rather, it’s the eligibility criteria that keeps most cancer patients out of trials. Read More
Researchers Identify Mechanism Driving COVID-19 Mortality
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

An enzyme with an elusive role in severe inflammation may be a key mechanism driving COVID-19 severity and could provide a new therapeutic target to reduce COVID-19 mortality, according to a study by researchers from the University of Arizona, in collaboration with Stony Brook University and Wake Forest School of Medicine. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Cancer Prevention and Control Faculty
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Budget Analyst
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Clinical Research Operations Specialist
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Director of Regulatory Affairs
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Assistant Manager, Clinical Trials
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Clinical Research Supervisor
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Clinical Trials Manager
Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University

Cancer Center Director
University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Study Coordinator - Cancer Clinical Trials
Stony Brook Cancer Center

Cancer Clinical Research Coordinator 2 - Radiation Oncology CCSB
Stanford Cancer Institute

Cancer Clinical Research Educator
Stanford Cancer Institute

Medical Director, Clinical Trials Office
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone

Director, Breast Medical Oncology
Cedars-Sinai Cancer
MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

CURE Distinguished Scholars Seminar: Structure, Trust and Science
WEBEX SEMINAR
NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities
Presented by Robert A. Winn, MD
October 14, 2021

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

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