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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | May 2022
Click here to read the full newsletter on our website.

AACI HEADLINES

**AACI Welcomes Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT**

This month AACI welcomes the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT to its membership. Directed by Matthew Vander Heiden, MD, PhD, the Koch Institute focuses on five strategic areas: nanotechnology-based drugs, detection and monitoring, metastasis, precision medicine, and immunology and immunotherapy. With the addition of the Koch Institute, AACI counts all 71 NCI-Designated Cancer Centers among its 104 members. [Read More]

**CRI Keynote Spotlight: Monique Phillips**

Monique Phillips, PMP, will deliver the keynote presentation at the 14th Annual AACI CRI Meeting. Phillips is the People & Business Resource Groups lead of the Black Organization for Leadership and Development at Bristol Myers Squibb. She will be joined by Kimberly Richardson, a patient advocate and ovarian cancer survivor. Phillips and Richardson will discuss implicit bias, straightforward patient communication, and other topics related to optimizing diversity in clinical trials. [Read More]

**Senator Roy Blunt and Representative Donald Payne, Jr., to Receive Cancer Research Ally Award**

Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Representative Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ) will be honored with the Cancer Research Ally Award at the 2022 AACI/AACR Hill Day, which will be held virtually on Wednesday, June
Both will deliver remarks at 12:00 pm eastern time as part of the event’s lunchtime programming. Read More

Riedell to Lead AACI CAR T Steering Committee

Peter Riedell, MD, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center, is the new chair of AACI’s CAR T Initiative Steering Committee. He succeeds Joseph McGuirk, DO, FACP, whose term expired earlier this year. Read More

Patient Resource: an Integral Physician Outreach Tool

Influence of Patient Resource on referrals

- Over a 3-year period, one cancer center shares a 12% increase of patient referrals year-over-year
- With more than 48,000 patients surveyed, 83% state that the personalized guides influence their positive recommendation of cancer center to friends & family

For more information, contact Amy Galey. Learn More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Jensen Receives Kansas Masonic Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award

Roy A. Jensen, MD, vice chancellor and director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, was awarded the Kansas Masonic Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award. The award has been given to only three other individuals throughout the Kansas Masonic Foundation’s 50-year history. Dr. Jensen is AACI’s immediate past president. Read More
Huntsman Recognized for LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality by Human Rights Campaign

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has recognized Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah as an LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader, awarding it the highest score possible in the 15th anniversary edition of the Healthcare Equality Index. Read More

Kyprianou to Receive American Urological Association Award

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Mount Sinai researcher Natasha Kyprianou, MBBS, PhD, a leading expert on prostate, bladder, and kidney cancer, has been awarded the Richard D. Williams, MD, Prostate Cancer Research Excellence Award by the Urology Care Foundation, a nonprofit urological health foundation and official foundation of the American Urological Association. Dr. Kyprianou is the first woman to receive this award. Read More

Fertig Named to the AIMBE College of Fellows

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Elana Fertig, PhD, has been elected by her peers as a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), which represents the most accomplished individuals in the fields of medical and biological engineering. The College of Fellows comprises the top two percent of medical and biological engineers in the United States. Read More

Johns Named First Walther Scholar in Psycho-Oncology

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Indiana University School of Medicine has named Shelley Johns, PsyD, ABPP, the Walther Scholar in Psycho-Oncology. Dr. Johns is the first person to hold this position, which was established by a $14 million gift to IU School of Medicine from the Walther Cancer Foundation to create five endowed positions to develop a supportive oncology program encompassing research and patient care. Read More

Beasley Receives ASCI Young Physician-Scientist Award
Co-leader of the Duke Cancer Institute Melanoma Disease Group Georgia Beasley, MD, MHSc, is among 40 recipients nationally of a Young Physician-Scientist Award from the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). Read More

SKCC, ACS Partnership Honored With Philanthropy Award

The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health (SKCC), along with the American Cancer Society (ACS), has been selected as a Faces of Philanthropy honoree by the Philadelphia Business Journal. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

Winn Honored With $100 Million Fellowship in His Name

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Grant Renewal to Support Clinical and Translational Research

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Break Through Cancer Announces $50 Million in Grants to Support Interdisciplinary Research

Break Through Cancer

American Cancer Society Funds Research to Benefit Hispanic Cancer Survivors, Caregivers

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Lung Cancer Screening Innovation Receives $3.5 Million Grant

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

$3 Million Grant Supports Expansion of Digital Intervention for Skin Self-Examination

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Ferrell Lands Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Award

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Foundation Funds First Distinguished Professorship in Neuroendocrine Tumor Research

UK Markey Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Vonderheide Appointed to Second Term as Director

Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania
Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil, has been appointed to a second five-year term as director of the Abramson Cancer Center. Highlights of his first term include 17 FDA-approved oncology therapies, high-impact basic and translational research discoveries, expansion of radiation oncology services, and development of new methods for live tumor imaging during surgeries. Read More

Plimack Appointed Deputy Director at Fox Chase
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Elizabeth Plimack, MD, MS, chief of the Division of Genitourinary Medical Oncology and professor in the Department of Hematology/Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been appointed deputy director. She will oversee the Clinical and Translational Research Plan as she takes on this newly created role. Read More

Cummings Named JEDI Director
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

The UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center has named Amy L. Cummings, MD, its new director for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI). Dr. Cummings is a faculty member in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology at UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. Read More

Rivera Named Associate Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

M. Patricia Rivera, MD, has joined the faculty of the University of Rochester Medical Center with several prominent positions, including associate director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Wilmot Cancer Institute. This is the first AD for DEI at Wilmot. She most recently served as professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Read More

Breast Surgical Oncologist Joins Cedars-Sinai Cancer in Tarzana
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Breast surgical oncologist Lauren DeStefano, MD, was recently added the growing roster of cancer specialists at Cedars-Sinai Cancer in Tarzana. She joins Cedars-Sinai Cancer from the University of Washington’s Department of Surgery and the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. Read More
Zaslow is New Vice President of Payer Strategies

Evan Zaslow has joined Moffitt Cancer Center as the new vice president of payer strategies, overseeing all aspects of Moffitt’s managed care strategy. Before joining Moffitt, Zaslow served as the chief of the Managed Care Support Branch and contracting officer for the Defense Health Agency. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Vitamin E Can Boost Immunotherapy Responses by Reinvigorating Dendritic Cells
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Simple Changes in Care Reduced Heart Exposure During Lung Cancer Radiation Treatment
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Immunotherapy Plus Chemotherapy Before Surgery Improves Lung Cancer Outcomes
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Global Cancer Consortium Studies New Option for Diagnosing Lung Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Long-Term Safety of Genetically Modified Immune Effector Cells Shown
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of the Medicine

Study Reveals Male Sex Hormones Are New Targets for Cancer Immunotherapy
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Quest for Better Treatments for Rare Blood Cancer Leads to New Therapies
Stanford Cancer Institute
Study to Gauge Effectiveness of Menthol E-Cigarettes as a Quit-Smoking Tool
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Cancer Repair Mechanism Could Be Potential Drug Target
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Artificial Intelligence Helps Physicians Better Assess Bladder Cancer Treatment Effectiveness
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Stress Receptors Explored as Possible Immune Checkpoint, Suggesting Role for Beta-Blockers in Cancer Treatment
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Targeting Cell Clustering by Gene Deletion Reduces Drug Resistance
Stony Brook Cancer Center

Black Patients More Likely to Be Excluded From Pancreatic Cancer Clinical Trials
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Living Donation Opens New Doors for Colorectal Cancer Patients in Need of Liver Transplants
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Study Reports Racial Disparities for Gastrointestinal Surgery
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Data-Driven Approach to Help Reduce Drug Costs and Treat Diseases
WVU Cancer Institute

NCI-COG Pediatric MATCH Study Shows Benefit of Genetic Screening in Refractory Tumors
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Research Reveals Biologically Older Tissue in Patients With Breast Cancer
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Prostate Cancer Patients Want Detailed Life Expectancy Information
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Understanding the Mechanics of Breast Cancer Metastasis
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Blasting Bladder Cancer
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19
More Than 25 Percent of Virginians Unaware of Lifesaving HPV Vaccine
University of Virginia Cancer Center

A study has identified the Virginians least likely to know that there is a potentially lifesaving vaccine available for human papillomavirus (HPV). More than a quarter of respondents to a survey of state residents had not heard of the HPV vaccine. Those least likely to be aware include males, urban residents, and people who reported lower incomes. Those most likely to know of the vaccine include part-time workers, younger people, and those with higher education. Read More

Pancreatic Cancer Research Institute Established
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine recently established the Sylvester Pancreatic Cancer Research Institute. Nipun Merchant, MD, is the institute’s founding director. Read More

Samuel Strober, Pioneering Transplantation Immunologist, Dies at 81
Stanford Cancer Institute

Samuel Strober, MD, professor of immunology and rheumatology, died in February of multiple myeloma. Focusing on improving transplant recipients’ lives, Dr. Strober developed a way to wean some of these patients from a lifelong regimen of drugs that prevent the immune system from attacking and destroying the donated organ. Read More

SpaceX Takes Experiment to International Space Station
Moffitt Cancer Center

Patsy McDonald, PhD, and Derek Duckett, PhD, Moffitt Cancer Center faculty members and founders of CADW Therapeutics, sent a scientific experiment to space in April as a part of Axiom Space’s Axiom Mission 1, the first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station. Read More

$4.7 Million Awarded to Encourage COVID-19 Testing in Underserved Communities and Schools
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

University of Utah Health scientists are launching SCALE-UP II and SCALE-UP Counts, a pair of initiatives designed to increase COVID-19 testing and vaccination among rural and underserved populations. Combined, the two initiatives are supported by $4.7 million from the National Institutes of Health. Read More
Vaccine Protects Most Cancer Patients From COVID, But Risk Remains Higher for Those With Blood Cancers
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Using the nation’s largest COVID-19 data resource, Jing Su, PhD, a researcher at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center found the COVID-19 vaccine protected most cancer patients from getting COVID. However, patients with certain types of cancer have a higher and widely varied risk of breakthrough COVID infections after receiving the vaccine. Read More

Study Finds Marshallese in U.S. Mobilized to Address Pandemic Hardships
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Faced with hardships intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, Marshallese communities in the United States mobilized to help one another. According to a study by University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) researchers, socially vulnerable groups in the U.S. have experienced food insecurity, housing insecurity, inadequate health care, and difficulty paying bills during the pandemic. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Basic Sciences Faculty
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Clinical Research RN
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Communications Officer - Cancer Center
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Manager - Clinical Trials Office Regulatory
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Protocol Review & Monitoring Administrator
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Clinical Research Coordinator I
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Contracts & Grants Analyst 3
UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

Multiple Positions
VCU Massey Cancer Center
Research Quality Assurance Analyst
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Senior Clinical Research Coordinator - Sacramento Campus
UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

Associate Director - Cancer Center Administration
Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute

Associate/Full Professor - Tenure Track Associate Director of Clinical Research
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Clinical Research Database Coordinator
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Human Subject Compliance Director
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Director of Clinical Research Operations
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Endowed Professorship in Oncology Nursing
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Faculty Positions - Population Studies and Disparities Research
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Fellows Program - Independent Investigator
Ellen and Ronald Caplan Cancer Center of The Wistar Institute

Research Nurse I - Experimental Therapeutics
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Study Coordinator II - Clinical Research
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Midwest Tumor Microenvironment Meeting
University of Kansas Medical Center
May 23-25, 2022

LGBTQ+ Cancer Symposium
Sofitel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills
June 2-3, 2022

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2022 AACI/AACR Hill Day
REGISTER TODAY
June 15, 2022

14th Annual AACI CRI Meeting