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

AACI HEADLINES

AACI Welcomes New Member Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center

Last month AACI welcomed the Houston Methodist Dr. Mary and Ron Neal Cancer Center as its 105th member. The center serves eight counties in Southeast Texas and is led by Jenny Chang, MD. The center recently announced a $25 million philanthropic gift from Dr. Mary and Ron Neal; the funding will further bolster current efforts to create impactful research, training, and outreach efforts for the communities that the center serves. Read More

Annual Meeting Spotlight: From Chemical Weapons to Chemotherapy

By the end of World War I, the use of chemical weapons had resulted in over 1,000,000 casualties on both sides. Through a series of events these weapons set in motion discoveries that led to the development of chemotherapy. Matthew Naylor, PhD, will describe these discoveries and their impact on modern cancer treatment during the opening keynote at the 2022 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting. Read More

AACI Shares Policy Recommendations for Diversity in Clinical Trials

AACI recently engaged in several conversations with representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about the Biden administration’s efforts to increase clinical trial diversity. AACI’s CRI
Steering Committee and Board of Directors developed recommendations related to clinical research infrastructure at community research sites; financial toxicity for patients; education among patients and physicians; enrollment criteria for clinical trials; and funding for clinical research. Read More

**AACI Congratulates New NCI Director**

AACI commends the Biden administration on its appointment of surgical oncologist Monica Bertagnolli, MD, as the director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In addition to being the first woman to serve in the role, Dr. Bertagnolli is the first woman to hold the title of chief of surgical oncology at AACI member center Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Bertagnolli is also a longtime advocate of increasing diversity in cancer research as it applies to physicians, researchers, and patients enrolled in clinical trials. Read More

**Visit Patient Resource in Kansas City**

*Patient Resource* is proud to support the upcoming 2022 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, October 2-4 in Kansas City. Please stop by our booth to learn more about how you can empower your patients while increasing your market share. Read More

**NEWS FROM THE CENTERS**

**AWARDS & HONORS**

**NCI Names Fong Outstanding Investigator**

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) recently awarded Larry Fong, MD, leader of the Cancer Immunotherapy Program, an Outstanding Investigator Award (R35). These awards support investigators with outstanding records of productivity in cancer research. Dr. Fong’s project will use single-cell approaches to explore response and resistance to immunotherapy. Read More

**Calvi is ASBMR President-Elect**

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Laura Calvi, MD, a leader at the Wilmot Cancer Institute and the University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Medicine, has been voted president-elect of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR). Read More
NCI Comprehensive Designation Renewed
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

$9.5 Million Grant Received to Study Esophageal Cancer
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

UVA Receives $5.75 Million Gift to Battle Rare Blood Cancers
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Liver Cancer Risk and Prevention Study Funded
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

$5.3 Million Grant Supports Research Into Lung Cancer Recurrence
Siteman Cancer Center

$5 Million Gift Dedicated to Oral Cancer Research
Moffitt Cancer Center

Intricate Interplay
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Tailgate Gala Raises More Than $2 Million
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

$1.9 Million Grant to Fund Study of Protein Associated With Cancer Development
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Researcher to Lead Study on Antibiotic Resistance in Fresh Vegetables
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Fagan Joins Leadership Team
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Pebbles Fagan, PhD, MPH, a leading expert on tobacco-related health disparities and co-founder of the National Cancer Institute’s Tobacco Research Network on Disparities, has assumed the role of associate director for Cancer Prevention and Control for the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Read More
Darr Named Associate Director of Administration

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Following a national search, David Darr has been named associate director of administration and senior director for research strategy and operations for Duke Cancer Institute (DCI). As part of this role, Darr will serve as the direct administrator for DCI’s Cancer Center Support Grant. Read More

Family Doctor Appointed Head of DEI

Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Family medicine doctor Nicholas Shungu, MD, focuses on reducing health disparities, patient by patient, day by day, in his practice. Now, he’ll get to expand his reach as the newly appointed associate director for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. Read More

George to Lead DEI Efforts

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center has named Sophia George, PhD, the inaugural associate director of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). In addition to this new role, she will continue her extramurally funded research on the study of breast and gynecologic cancers in women from the African diaspora and Africa. Read More

Senior Director of Data Science Named

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Aik Choon Tan, PhD, has been appointed senior director of data science at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) and will also serve as a member of the research executive committee and research leadership council within the comprehensive cancer center at HCI. Dr. Tan will begin
Epidemiology, Biomarker, and Clinical Outcome Researcher to Direct Liver Cancer Program

Ju Dong Yang, MD, a liver cancer clinician-researcher who studies epidemiology, health disparities and outcomes, and biomarkers both nationally and globally, has been appointed medical director of the Liver Cancer Program at Cedars-Sinai Cancer.

In With the New

New technologies and treatment approaches brought Lara McKeane Basté, MD, to colorectal surgery and to the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. Originally wanting to be a cardiac surgeon, McKeane Basté says that the diversity of diseases in the lower intestine drew her to the practice. And UNM's mission to serve everyone in the state drew her to New Mexico.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Link Found Between Genetic Mutations and Cancer Treatment Resistance

Neuroscientists Create Computer Models of Individual Brain Cells

Study Reveals Need for Matching Targeted Therapies With EGFR Subtypes

Study Shows Hope, Options for Older Patients With Liver Cancer

In a World Full of 3D Models, Researchers Build a New One for
Cancer-Busting Broccoli Sprout Pills? It's a Thing.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Clinical Trial Sets Stage for New Paradigm in Kidney Cancer Treatment
Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center

AI Can Recognize Thyroid Nodules That Are Very Unlikely to Be Cancerous
University of Colorado Cancer Center

Giving Immunotherapy Cells Resilience
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Novel Drug Shows Promising Efficacy for Patients With Multiple Myeloma
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Synthetic 'Forever Chemical' Linked to Liver Cancer
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Brain Tumor Study Highlights Differences Among Hispanics
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Prompt Recognition, Treatment Found Effective for Lung Disease in Patients Who Received New Drug for Advanced Cancer
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Markers of Chemotherapy Resistance in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Identified
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Mental Illness Elevated Among Hodgkin Lymphoma Patients
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Researchers Discover Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts Induce Drug Sensitivity
Moffitt Cancer Center

Study Offers Insights Into How Pancreatic Cancer Develops
Siteman Cancer Center

Patient Activation Creates More Equitable Interactions With Physicians
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Tarlatamab Shows Efficacy Against Metastatic Small Cell Lung Cancer in Phase I Study
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Using Big Data to Better Understand Cancerous Mutations
University of Colorado Cancer Center
Betamethasone Could Improve Outcomes for Prostate Cancer Radiation Therapy
UK Markey Cancer Center

Study Finds Many Cancer Patients Have No Antibodies to Measles or Mumps
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Targeted Cancer Drug During Pregnancy
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

New Combination Therapy Reverses Resistance in Treating Certain Non-Small Cell Lung Cancers
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

New Technology Aims Toward Earlier Detection of Hepatocellular Carcinoma
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Pralsetinib Achieves Tissue-Agnostic Benefits for Patients With RET Gene Fusions
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Scientists Identify Novel Molecular Biomarkers in Cells That Spread a Deadly Form of Breast Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

AI Tools Predict DNA Regulatory Role and 3D Structure
Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Lack of Diversity Seen in Cancer Center Leadership
Association of American Cancer Institutes

In an interview with HemOnc Today, AACI President Caryn Lerman, PhD, said, "There's an awareness of limited diversity at the highest levels of leadership, such as cancer center directors, but we didn't know as much about the level of diversity among emerging leaders, such as associate directors of cancer centers, deputy directors and even program leaders." Dr. Lerman is director of USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Read More

Cancer Activist, AACI 2021 Keynote Speaker Scroggins Dies
Association of American Cancer Institutes

AACI was saddened to learn that Mary "Dicey" Jackson Scroggins passed away on August 1. In her keynote at the 2021 AACI CRI Annual Meeting, she advocated for eliminating health disparities in cancer clinical trials. The news of her death came just a few weeks before her 26th ovarian cancer survivorship anniversary. In January 2021, Dicey was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and later underwent a bone marrow transplant. Read More
**Allison Institute Announces Formation of Scientific Advisory Board**
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

The James P. Allison Institute at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center today announced the establishment of its scientific advisory board to provide strategic guidance and evaluation of its research portfolio and programs. The 11-person advisory board, which brings together global leaders in immunotherapy and immunobiology, held its inaugural meeting in August. Read More

**New Pediatric Tumor Identifications Could Help Predict Chemo Response**
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

After a decade of researching inequities in clinical trials with a team of researchers and physicians in cancer digital health, Hala Borno, MD, introduced Trial Library, a new, tech-enabled approach that prioritizes the need for diverse and underrepresented patient groups. Read More

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Director of Operations, Biospecimen Repository Core Facility**
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

**Research Assistant, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**
Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University

**Grants Administrator I**
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

**Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer**
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Manager, Clinical Research Operations**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

**Assistant Director, Biospecimen Core Lab**
Louisiana Cancer Research Center

**Assistant Director, Community Outreach and Engagement**
MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022 Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Conference: Discovery to Mainstream Oncology
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD
September 15, 2022

Spotlight on Stomach Cancer Symposium
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC
September 17, 2022

Cardio-Oncology in the Era of Precision Medicine
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center
JB Duke Hotel
Durham, NC
October 14, 2022

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2022 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
REGISTER TODAY
October 2-4, 2022
InterContinental at the Plaza
Kansas City, MO

AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Initiative Workshop
REGISTER TODAY
November 8-9, 2022
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL
2023 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE
October 1-3, 2023
Washington, DC

PO Box 7317
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-647-6111

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