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## News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | April 2023

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[Awards & Honors](#) | [Grants & Gifts](#) | [Leadership Highlights](#) | [Research Highlights](#) | [Other News](#)  
[Job Opportunities](#) | [Meeting Announcements](#)

## AACI HEADLINES

### [Inaugural DEI Summit Held in San Diego](#)



In partnership with the [American Cancer Society](#) and the Cancer Center DEI Network, AACI supported the inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Summit. The two-day event, held March 10 and 11, convened cancer center leaders, researchers, and administrators to share insights on how institutions are enhancing DEI efforts, and to address barriers that centers face in carrying out these initiatives.

**Robert A. Winn, MD**, AACI president-elect and director of VCU Massey Cancer Center, shared remarks at the event. [Read More](#)

### [AACI Hosts Spring GR Forum at Huntsman Cancer Institute](#)



On March 20, AACI held its annual spring Government Relations (GR) Forum at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) in Salt Lake City. The meeting gave AACI government relations representatives and sustaining members an opportunity to gather and tour the Huntsman Cancer Institute and hear from a variety of speakers on cancer-related public policy. [Read More](#)

### [New Corporate Roundtable Member: Eagle Pharmaceuticals](#)

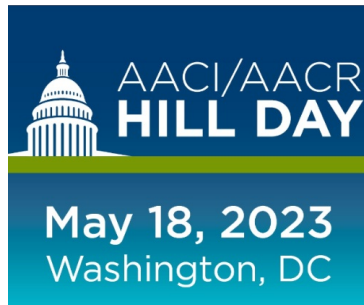
AACI welcomes [Eagle Pharmaceuticals](#) to its [Corporate Roundtable](#). Eagle is a specialty pharmaceutical company working to advance safe and efficient injectable treatments for patients across oncology, critical care, and orphan diseases. The AACI Corporate Roundtable provides a forum for AACI cancer centers to address topics of mutual interest with their pharmaceutical industry colleagues. [Learn More](#)



## [Nominations Open for 2023 Cancer Health Equity Award](#)

**Nominations** are now being accepted for the 2023 **AACI Cancer Health Equity Award**. The award was created in 2021 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 **Wednesday, May 31**. [Read More](#)

## [Recommend a Patient Advocate for a Hill Day Scholarship](#)



This year, AACI is partnering with AACR to offer scholarships of up to \$1,000 to enable patient advocates to attend **Hill Day** on May 18 and share their perspectives during congressional meetings. Nominations are due **Friday, April 7**. Up to 10 scholarship recipients will be selected, and the cancer center representative submitting the application will be notified of their nominee's status by **April 21, 2023**. [Read More](#)

## [Promote Your Cancer Center With a CRI Meeting Program Ad](#)



AACI invites you to promote your cancer center by purchasing an ad in the **15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting** program book. 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. Artwork should be submitted to Communications and External Relations Manager **Emily Stimmel** by **Wednesday, May 3** for inclusion in the event program. [Read More](#)

## [NCI Releases National Cancer Plan](#)

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has announced the release of the National Cancer Plan, a long-term, ambitious framework to end cancer as we know it. The plan was developed to coordinate a national response to achieving the goals of the Cancer Moonshot and deliver better cancer outcomes to all people. [Read More](#)

## [Vitalief: We Are Your Solution](#)

Vitalief is a Functional Service Provider (FSP) offering robust solutions to research and clinical trial organizations that are founded in a future-ready, flexible, people-first culture to deliver greater value for client organizations and our employees.

Visit us at the **15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting!** Stop by our exhibit booth to learn how we are addressing the healthcare human capital epidemic with innovative resource, advisory, and managed services. [Check Out Our Website](#)



## NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

### AWARDS & HONORS

#### [National Cancer Clinical Leadership Role for UH Researcher](#)

[University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa](#)



University of Hawai'i Cancer Center researcher **Stephanie Si Lim, MD**, was selected as a member of AACI's Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) Steering Committee. The committee seeks to identify roadblocks in cancer care, ensure quality of services, provide faculty career development, and disseminate information across cancer centers. [Read More](#)

#### [McAllister Receives Award for Pancreatic Tumor Microbiome Research](#)

[The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)



**Florencia McAllister, MD**, has been awarded the 2023 Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship from the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology. Her pioneering research on the intra-tumoral bacteria detected in long-term pancreatic cancer survivors led to the discovery of a gut-tumor axis and the use of fecal microbial transplants to improve therapy outcomes. [Read More](#)

#### [Nussbaum Named to NCI Surgeon-Scientist Program Cohort](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center](#)

**Daniel Nussbaum, MD**, is one of 12 surgeons selected for the National Cancer Institute 2023 Early-Stage Surgeon Scientist Program. This pilot program builds surgeon-scientist cohorts that will be trained together for up to three years. Dr. Nussbaum has also received a Duke Physician-Scientist Strong Start Award for his research on pancreatic cancer metastasis to the liver. [Read More](#)



## [Salloum Selected to Lead NCI Action Group](#)

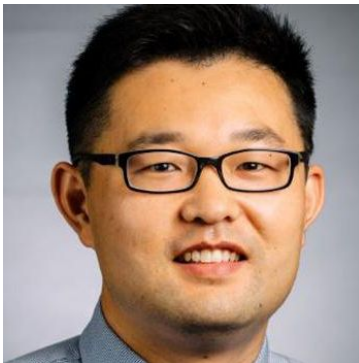
[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)



The National Cancer Institute's Consortium for Cancer Implementation Science has selected **Ramzi Salloum, PhD**, to chair its Learning Healthcare Systems as Natural Laboratories action group. The group focuses on facilitating implementation research that advances the study and understanding of learning health care systems as natural laboratories for improving health care quality, equity, and patient outcomes. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Gao Receives AAPM Early-Career Scientist Award](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)



**Hao Gao, PhD**, associate professor and director of physics research in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, is a recipient of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine's (AAPM) John S. Laughlin Early-Career Scientist Award. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Goyal Named ACS Researcher of the Year](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



**Lipika Goyal, MD**, was honored as the American Cancer Society's (ACS) Researcher of the Year, which recognizes investigators who have benefited from an ACS extramural grant and made remarkable advances in cancer research. She has also recently been appointed director of Stanford Cancer Institute's Gastrointestinal Oncology program. [\*Read More\*](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[The American Cancer Society, Winship Partner to Accelerate Cancer Research in Georgia](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

## [\\$3.3 Million Grant Aims to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening in Rural Indiana](#)

[Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Researchers Receive \\$1 Million Grant to Create Platform That Could Assist in Development of New Drugs](#)

[Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health](#)

## [ACS Funding Received for Research, Education Programs](#)

[Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [American Cancer Society Supports Promising UVA Research](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

## [Hollings Surgeon Awarded NCI Grant to Increase Number of Surgeon-Scientists](#)

[Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina](#)

### LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

## [Govindarajan Named Chief of Hematology and Oncology Division](#)

[UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute](#)



**Rangaswamy Govindarajan, MD**, hematologist and oncologist at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, has been appointed chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. [Read More](#)

## [Curseen Named Director of Palliative Medicine Program](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)



**Kimberly A. Curseen, MD**, has been named director of the Palliative Medicine Program at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. Dr. Curseen joined Emory in 2015 and has led Winship's Supportive Oncology Clinic since that time. [Read More](#)

## [Hematology/Oncology Expert Joins Roswell Park in Vice Chair Role](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

**Peter Maslak, MD**, has been named vice chair of clinical affairs and technical director of the Clinical Flow Cytometry Laboratory at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. He joins Roswell Park from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. [Read More](#)



## [Swiecicki Named Associate Medical Director for Oncology Clinical Trials Support Unit](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



**Paul Swiecicki, MD**, is the inaugural associate medical director for the Oncology Clinical Trials Support Unit (O-CTSU) at the Rogel Cancer Center. Clinical Trials Support Units (CTSUs) are business units that partner with investigators and their teams to ensure efficient activation and execution of clinical trials at Michigan Medicine. [\*Read More\*](#)

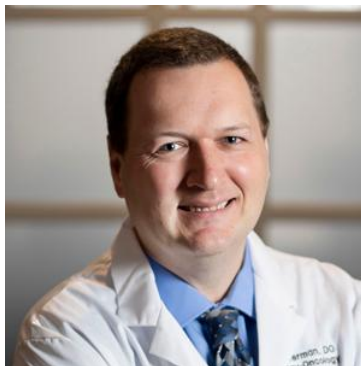
## [Moffitt Names Three New Research Leaders](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

Moffitt Cancer Center has named three new research leaders. **Damon Vidrine, Dr.PH, MS**, has been named chair of the Department of Health Outcomes and Behavior; **Gina DeNicola, PhD**, has been named the leader of the newly established Metabolism Program; and **Matthew Schabath, PhD**, has been named co-leader of the Cancer Epidemiology Program. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Osterman Named Associate Vice President for Research Informatics](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)



**Travis Osterman, DO, MS**, director of cancer clinical informatics at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, has been appointed to a new role as associate vice president for research informatics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [New Leadership Appointments Announced](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

**Kathrin Plath, PhD**, and **Hanna Mikkola, MD**, have been named director and co-director of the Epigenomics, RNA & Gene Regulation Research Program. **William Lowry, PhD**, has been named co-director of the Office of Cancer Training & Education. The appointments became effective April 1. [\*Read More\*](#)

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## [Troubling Disparities Found in Esophageal Cancer Outcomes](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

## [Wheeler Leads Study to Improve Risk-Based Cancer Screening for HPV](#)

[University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Clinical Trial Could Help Men Avoid Surgery to Remove Prostate](#)

[Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health](#)

## [Investigators Find Disparities in Mesothelioma Survival Due to Social Determinants, Limited Access](#)

[Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System](#)

## [Paid Sick Leave Means More People Get Screened for Cancer](#)

[UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Clinical Trials Add Beta Blocker to Arsenal Against Esophageal Cancer](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [New Program Shows Promise in Reducing Financial Burden of Cancer Care](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

## [Study Finds Education and Navigation Increased Cancer Genetic Counseling, Testing](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

## [Alternative Bladder Cancer Treatment Emerges Amid Worldwide Shortage of Standard of Care BCG](#)

[Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa](#)

## [Possible Treatment Strategy Identified for Bone Marrow Failure Syndrome](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

## [Study Reveals New Understanding of How Androgen Therapy Affects Breast Tissue](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

## [New Anti-Cancer Compound Takes Major Step Towards Clinical Development](#)

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

## [Small Molecule Developed to Stimulate Natural Killer Cells Against Neuroblastoma](#)

[Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina](#)

## [Oncolytic Virus Treatment Produces Promising Results in Patients With Triple-Negative Breast Cancer](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

## [Researchers Identify White Blood Cells Called Neutrophils as Major Culprits in Treatment Resistance of Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System](#)

## [Study of Prostate Cancer in Men of African Descent Finds New Risk Factors for the Disease](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Two Mutations Team Up to Cloak a Deadly Brain Cancer From the Immune System, Study Suggests](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

## [A New Combination Therapy Regimen Shows Promising Results for Prostate Cancer](#)

[Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah](#)

## [Study Shows Potential for New Radiopharmaceutical Cancer Treatment](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

## [Biomarkers Show Promise for Identifying Early Risk of Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center](#)

## [Fat Burning-Linked Molecule Promising Target for Most Common Childhood Brain Cancer](#)

[Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University](#)

## [New Study on Mutation Linked to Leukemia Could Help Identify Patients Most at Risk](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Study Finds Differences in Microbes in Breast Tumors From Women of Different Races](#)

[Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University](#)

## [Big Data and AI Meet Cancer Research](#)

[University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Immunotherapy Before Surgery Significantly Improves Outcomes of Patients With Melanoma](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Two-Pronged Immunotherapy Eliminates Metastatic Breast Cancer in Mice](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

## [New Data Show Therapies May Activate Lymph Nodes to Produce Tumor-Tackling T Cells](#)

[UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Study Shows How Cancer Gene Tricks Immune Cells](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

### OTHER NEWS

## [Cancer Center Uses Art to Reach Underserved Communities](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)





Sometimes the best way to reach a community is through art. That's the idea behind The University of Kansas Cancer Center's new mural being painted by artist Vania Soto on the side of the Guadalupe Centers Middle School in Kansas City, Missouri. The mural is a portrait of four cancer survivors and co-survivors, all from underserved populations, beneath which are painted the words "Clinical Research Needs Representation." [Read More](#)

## [Jill Biden Commends Unique Collaborative Approach at LCRC](#)

[Louisiana Cancer Research Center](#)



After First Lady **Jill Biden** toured the Louisiana Cancer Research Center, with Center Director **Joe W. Ramos, PhD**, United States Senator Bill Cassidy, Dr. Laura Cassidy, and U.S. Representative Troy Carter, she told a room packed with researchers and policymakers how impressed she was with the work of LCRC's member institutions and its statewide partner researchers. [Read More](#)

## [A New Chapter for DEIJ at Rogel](#)

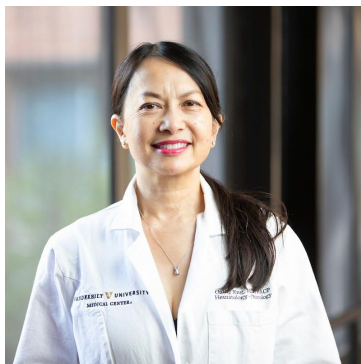
[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



Diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice are crucial to Rogel Cancer Center's mission, from Community Outreach and Engagement programs addressing health care disparities to hiring processes and leadership development. [Read More](#)

## [Need for Clinical Trial Support Stressed at Cancer Forum](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)



**Cathy Eng, MD**, stressed the need for more patient participation and better funding for clinical trials to improve colorectal cancer treatment and outcomes during the White House Cancer Moonshot Colorectal Cancer Forum in March. She was one of four panelists who discussed efforts to improve treatment outcomes during the event. [Read More](#)

## [Victory is Sweet in Super Bowl Challenge](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

Leading up to the Super Bowl between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles, **Roy Jensen, MD**, KU Cancer Center director and



AACI immediate past president, challenged **Andrew Chapman, DO**, director of Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health, to a friendly wager. As a result, Dr. Jensen is enjoying Philly cheesesteaks and snacks, and Dr. Chapman will be sporting a Chiefs jersey at AACI's annual meeting in October. [Read More](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### [Clinical Research Coordinator IV](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

### [Clinical Research Nurse II](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

### [Clinical Trials Manager](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

### [Senior Administrator, Quality Management](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

### [Clinical Research Coordinator](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

### [Multiple Positions Available](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

### [Assistant Director of Clinical Research Administration](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

### [Clinical Study Initiation Analyst](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Director, Head & Neck Medical Oncology](#)

[UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Open-Rank Faculty Position, Thoracic Oncology](#)

[UCI Chao Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Assistant Director, Clinical Trials Unit \(2\)](#)

[UCI Chao Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Basic Science and Population Studies and Disparities \(Multiple Positions\)](#)

[Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University](#)

### [Quality and Education Assistant Director \(Remote\)](#)

[Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine](#)

### [Regulatory Affairs Manager \(Remote\)](#)

[Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine](#)

## [Regulatory Affairs Specialist 2 \(Remote\)](#)

[Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine](#)

## [Senior Regulatory Affairs Specialist \(Remote\)](#)

[Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine](#)

### MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## [Ginny L. Clements Breast Cancer Research Institute Inaugural Symposium](#)

[May 5, 2023](#)

[University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Tucson, AZ](#)

## [2023 Annual Conference of the Cancer Molecular Therapeutics Research Association \(CMTRA\)](#)

[July 23-27, 2023](#)

[Watkins Glen, NY](#)

### AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## [2023 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[May 18, 2023](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

## [15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[June 26-28, 2023](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

## [2023 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[October 1-3, 2023](#)

[Salamander Washington DC \(formerly Mandarin Oriental, DC\)](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

## [16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[June 24-26, 2024](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

## [2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[October 20-22, 2024](#)

[Loews Chicago Hotel](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)



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