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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | December 2023
Click here to read the full newsletter on our website.

Awards & Honors | Grants & Gifts | Leadership Highlights | Research Highlights | Other News
Job Opportunities | Meeting Announcements

AACI HEADLINES

LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center Names Ramos Director

To accelerate the attainment of the first National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Center in Louisiana, LSU Health, LCMC Health, Louisiana Cancer Research Center (LCRC), and Tulane University have aligned and signed an agreement that Joe W. Ramos, PhD, will serve as director of the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center. Read More

Kimmelman Named Director of Perlmutter Cancer Center

Alec Kimmelman, MD, PhD, a renowned researcher and radiation oncologist, has been named director of the Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center. Dr. Kimmelman will also retain his title as the Anita Steckler and Joseph Steckler Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. This appointment is effective immediately. Read More

Rathmell Nominated as NCI Director

On November 17, President Joe Biden announced his nomination of W. Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD, MMHC, to be the next director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). She will be the NCI’s 17th director and only the second woman to hold this position. Dr. Rathmell is the Hugh Jackson Professor of Medicine and chair of the Department of Medicine
Register Today for AACI's Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop

Registration is now open for AACI's 2024 Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop (LDDW), which will be held March 12-13 at Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel. AACI cancer center directors are encouraged to select one emerging leader from their center to attend. Read More

AACI Participates in HPV, Lung Cancer Advocacy Events

Continuing its engagement with issues that affect the cancer center community, AACI staff attended several events in Washington, DC, last month. Following the Friends of Cancer Research annual meeting on Tuesday, November 14, AACI participated in advocacy events promoting HPV- and lung cancer-related legislation. Read More

AACI Announces Additions to Inclusive Excellence Steering Committee

AACI President Robert A. Winn, MD, director of VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, has appointed community advocates Rudene Haynes, JD, and Loriana Hernández-Aldama to the steering committee of his Inclusive Excellence Initiative. Read More

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industry funding opportunities. Create a profile, upload your CV or Biosketch, and we’ll keep you updated on all the best matches. Use the code AACI2023 to get 25% off between now and the end of the year! Learn More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Kutikov Receives Kidney Cancer Association Award
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Alexander Kutikov, MD, FACS, chair of the Department of Urology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has received the Andrew C. Novick Award from the Kidney Cancer Association. Read More

Sparano Receives Chemotherapy Foundation Award
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Joseph Sparano, MD, received the Ezra Greenspan Award from The Chemotherapy Foundation for his groundbreaking work in breast cancer and HIV-related malignancies, and his work to address cancer disparities in vulnerable populations. Dr. Sparano is chair of the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Icahn Mount Sinai and deputy director of The Tisch Cancer Institute. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

$13.5 Million Effort Aims to Understand Racial Differences in Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

$13.3 Million Grant Renewal to Address Cancer Health Disparities
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

$10.6 Million Grant to Advance Glioblastoma Research With Mathematical Oncology
Researchers Receive $7 Million to Improve Outcomes for High-Risk Blood Cancer Patients

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Grant Awarded for Clinical Trial on Experimental AML/MDS Treatment

Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Receive $2.4 Million to Develop Pancreatic Cancer Treatments

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Blood Cancer Trials Network Will Bring Investigational Therapies to Underserved Communities

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Tools Designed to Improve Treatment for Head and Neck Cancer

UK Markey Cancer Center

Leukemia Expert Awarded $1 Million Grant From Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Rocconi Returns Home to Lead Call to Improve Cancer Care

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

The epic fight against cancer is personal for University of Mississippi alumnus Rodney Rocconi, MD. He was appointed director of the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute in July, following 16 years in various leadership roles at the University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute. Read More

Friedman Named Cancer Center Deputy Director

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Debra Friedman, MD, MS, holder of the E. Bronson Ingram Chair in Pediatric Oncology, has been named deputy director of Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. Dr. Friedman serves as associate director for Community Science and Health Outcomes for Vanderbilt-Ingram and served as a research program leader for Vanderbilt-Ingram from 2008-2023. Read More
Robinson Named Director of Neuro-Oncology
Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Giles Robinson, MD, has assumed the role of director for the Department of Oncology’s Division of Neuro-Oncology. He has also become co-leader of the Neurobiology and Brain Tumor Program within the St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center. Read More

Herrera Appointed Associate Director of DEI
The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Diego Adrianzen Herrera, MD, assistant professor of medicine, has been appointed to serve as associate director of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for the University of Vermont Cancer Center. Read More

Researcher Leads New AI for Health Institute
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Launched in November under the umbrella of Emory University's AI.Humanity initiative, the Emory Empathetic AI for Health Institute will be led by Anant Madabhushi, PhD, a member of the Cancer Immunology research program at Winship Cancer Institute. Read More

Ely Joins Thoracic Oncology Program
GW Cancer Center

For Gladys Tsao-Wu, MD, and Jennifer Chan, MD, reconstruction is as much about helping patients recover emotionally as it is about physical restoration. After more than a decade working together in private practice, the duo has joined UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center to help breast cancer survivors reclaim what cancer took from them. Read More
Moffitt Cancer Center has announced Jeremy Goecks, PhD, as its assistant center director of research informatics. Dr. Goecks will lead adoption of innovative technology platforms and computing standards within the data-related core services, as well as transition research innovations to clinical applications through the Center of Digital Health.

Jennifer Vaz, MD, has joined the GW University Cancer Center and the GW Medical Faculty Associates as a gynecological oncologist. She specializes in malignant and benign tumors of the pelvis, including ovarian, uterine, cervical, and vulvar/vaginal malignancies.

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**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Potato Starch Supplements Could Be Solution to Bone Marrow Transplant Complications**
  - University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

- **Using Human In Vitro Models to Study Prostate Cancer**
  - The University of Arizona Cancer Center

- **AI Model Can Help Predict Survival Outcomes for Patients With Cancer**
  - UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

- **Nutrient Found in Beef and Dairy Improves Immune Response to Cancer**
  - The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

- **Turning Drug Resistance Against Itself**
  - Stony Brook Cancer Center

- **Can Gene Expression Predict if a Brain Tumor is Likely to Grow Back?**
  - UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

- **Computer Models Fill Critical Knowledge Gaps to Help Reduce Cancer Disparities**
  - Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines Perpetuate Racial Disparities
Stanford Cancer Institute

Novel Immunotherapy Approach Shows Promise in Metastatic Triple-Negative Breast Cancer
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

First-in-Human Trial of New Drug Raises Hopes for Patients With Relapsed Blood Cancer
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Metabolite Tells Cells Whether to Repair DNA
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Pathologic Scoring Shows Promise for Assessing Lung Tumor Therapy Response
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Liver Cancer Rates Increase in Each Successive Generation of Mexican Americans, Study Finds
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Urban Environmental Exposures Drive Increased Breast Cancer Incidence
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Scientists Discover Key to Potential Natural Cancer Treatment Potency
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Tumors Can Hijack the Biological Machinery of Brain Plasticity
Stanford Cancer Institute

Cancer Blood Tests Jumpstart Diagnoses and Targeted Therapy
UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Finds New Genetic Variants Linked to Prostate Cancer
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Provides Valuable Insights Into Drivers of Cancer Risk
UK Markey Cancer Center

Oral Pouch Products Do Little to Curb Addictive Nicotine Cravings
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Disrupting Cancer Cell-Fat Cell Interactions Prevents Metastasis in Ovarian Cancers
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Hospitals Serving Large Black, Latino Populations Have Fewer Resources for Cancer Care
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center
Inclusion of New Risk Factors Improves Prediction of Invasive Breast Cancer
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Promising Target for CAR T Cells Helps Cancer Trick the Immune System
Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

OTHER NEWS

Northwell Opens $52 Million Cancer Center, Multispecialty Practice in Queens
Northwell Health Cancer Institute

Northwell Health has opened a suite of medical practices meant to cover a host of conditions and deliver complex, coordinated health care in the heart of Queens. The $52 million, 70,000-square-foot facility is easily reachable by car, subway, or bus line and anchored by the largest outpatient cancer center in the borough. Read More

Worthy to Spearhead Cancer Moonshot Project Geared Toward Black Breast Cancer Patients
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

The White House Cancer Moonshot program has signaled its support for a new initiative led by TOUCH, to bolster Black women’s breast cancer clinical trial participation by 2025. The White House also highlighted a connected program, TOUCH Care, led by Valarie Worthy, MSN, RN, that provides nurse navigator services to assist Black breast cancer patients in clinical trials. Read More

Statewide Collaboration to Attain NCI Designation Announced
LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center

Governor John Bel Edwards has announced a new statewide collaboration among LSU, LCMC Health, Louisiana Cancer Research Center, and Tulane University to accelerate the attainment of the first National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Center in Louisiana. Read More

Understanding How Data Impact Cancer Care
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

When Reiko Horst was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer, she knew next to nothing about the disease. To help determine the best treatment plan, her medical oncologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center recommended doing a test called Oncotype DX to help predict Horst’s risk of the cancer returning and the benefit of chemotherapy. Read More

Jefferson Health Pledges to Share Data to Improve Veteran Health Care
Jefferson Health is joining the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), alongside 12 other community health care systems, to share data to improve the veteran experience regardless of where veterans receive their health care – inside or outside of the VA. Read More

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Vice President, DEI Strategy, Insights, and Innovation**  
American Cancer Society

**Community Health Open Rank Faculty (Cancer Focused)**  
LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center

**Environmental Health Open Rank Faculty (Cancer Focused)**  
LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center

**Director, Regulatory Operations**  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

**Faculty Position in Cancer Research Focused on Indigenous Populations**  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

**COE Postdoctoral Fellow**  
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

**MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1st Annual Catchment Area Data Conference: Beyond Definition**  
REGISTER BY DECEMBER 3  
December 7-9, 2023  
Richmond, VA

**AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop**  
REGISTER TODAY  
March 12-13, 2024  
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel  
Rosemont, IL

**2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day**  
SAVE THE DATE  
May 16, 2024  
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
17th Annual AACI CRI Meeting  
SAVE THE DATE  
June 23-25, 2025  
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel  
Rosemont, IL

2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting  
SAVE THE DATE  
October 19-21, 2025  
Salamander Washington DC