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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | January 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

Sanchez Named to Head the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center

Yolanda Sanchez, PhD, has been named to head the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Sanchez is currently associate director of basic sciences at Dartmouth Cancer Center. She will start in her new role on February 6, 2023, becoming the first Hispanic woman to lead a National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Read More

Mesa to Lead Atrium Health Cancer Service Line

Ruben A. Mesa, MD, FACP, has been named president and executive director of Atrium Health's cancer service line—which includes both Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute and Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center—and vice dean for cancer programs at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. A member of AACI's Board of Directors, Dr. Mesa currently serves as executive director of Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson and professor of medicine at UT Health Science Center San Antonio. Read More

Ellis Fischel Cancer Center Becomes AACI's Newest Member

AACI is pleased to add Ellis Fischel Cancer Center to its membership roster. Directed by Gerhard Hildebrandt, MD, FACS, Ellis Fischel’s strategic imperative is to use research and innovation to create accessible, value-based, cancer care and prevention. With more than 200 cancer-focused researchers across four Missouri campuses, the center has launched an innovative plan to create a consortium...
Call for Abstracts: 15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

The AACI CRI Steering Committee is currently soliciting abstracts for the 15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting. This year’s meeting theme will focus on taking innovations in cancer clinical research from abstract to reality. The purpose of the abstracts is to inform meeting attendees about clinical trials office challenges and solutions implemented at AACI cancer centers. Read More

AACI Applauds Passage of FY 2023 Omnibus Spending Package

Top congressional appropriators came to an agreement on a $1.7 trillion omnibus spending package for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. The budget was passed and signed by President Biden ahead of the December 23 deadline. The agreement framework from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on the omnibus includes funding numbers that fall short of AACI’s requests. However, the final budget numbers still represent significant increases for both the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI). Read More

Place an Ad in the AACI Newsletter

AACI invites you to promote your cancer center by purchasing an ad in the AACI Update. Your cancer center’s program ad may highlight a conference or a new initiative. Cancer centers may include links to their website and any upcoming events. Ads are available by the month or in a series. Read More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Jensen Appointed to ACS CAN Board

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Roy Jensen, MD, vice chancellor and director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, has been named to the national board of directors for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). Read More

Hitchcock Appointed Vice Chair of National DEI Committee

University of Florida Health Cancer Center
Kate Hitchcock, MD, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology in the University of Florida College of Medicine, has been appointed vice chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee of NRG Oncology, a nonprofit research organization. Read More

Clinicians Named to List of World's Most Highly Cited Researchers
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center physicians Hossein Borghaei, DO, MS, and Elizabeth Plimack, MD, MS, have been named to the 2022 list of Highly Cited Researchers by Clarivate, an information and analytics firm focused on research. Read More

Bhardwaj Honored With ESMO Award
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, was honored with the 2022 ESMO Award for Immuno-Oncology from the European Society for Medical Oncology in recognition of her outstanding contributions to cancer immunology research. Dr. Bhardwaj delivered her award lecture on December 7 during the ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress 2022. Read More

Flowers Receives ASH Mentor Award
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Christopher Flowers, MD, division head ad interim of cancer medicine and chair of Lymphoma and Myeloma at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, has received a 2022 ASH Mentor Award from the American Society of Hematology in acknowledgment of his career-long commitment to mentoring. Read More

Gersbach Elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Charles Gersbach, PhD, associate professor of surgery, orthopedic surgery, and cell biology, and Duke Cancer Institute member, has been elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors Class of 2022.
National Accreditation for Multidisciplinary High-Quality Care Renewed

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

The UF Health Cancer Center has received a three-year reaccreditation from the Commission on Cancer, or CoC, a quality program of the American College of Surgeons, in recognition of its commitment to providing high-quality, patient-centered cancer care. Read More

Wolmark Recognized for Scientific Distinction

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Norman Wolmark, MD, received the 2022 Susan G. Komen Brinker Award for Scientific Distinction at the recent San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS). Dr. Wolmark, chair of the NSABP Foundation and chair and principal investigator of NRG Oncology, delivered his address, "The Contribution of NSABP Clinical Trials to the Management of Early Breast Cancer: PAST AS PROLOGUE," on December 9 at SABCS. Read More

Lovly Receives Lung Cancer Award

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

The GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer has recognized Christine Lovly, MD, PhD, with the 2022 Asclepios Award. The foundation recognized Dr. Lovly for her work on understanding and developing improved therapeutic strategies for specific clinically relevant molecular subsets of lung cancer, with a focus on mechanisms of sensitivity and resistance to agents used in clinical practice. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

$12 Million Grant Launches Research Center to Study Obesity and Obesity-Related Disease

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

$10.8 Million Initiative Unites Engineering, Health Researchers to Improve Cancer Treatments

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Improving Bladder Cancer Trials and Treatments Goal of New $6 Million CPRIT Recruit

Houston Methodist Dr. Mary and Ron Neal Cancer Center

Researcher Receives Grant to Study Synthetic Targets for Tumor Drug Delivery

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health
Sobol Appointed Associate Director for Basic Research
Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University

Robert W. Sobol, PhD, has been appointed associate director for basic research and co-leader of the Cancer Biology Program at the Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University. He leads efforts toward continued growth of the basic science program and will serve as the co-leader of the Cancer Biology Program. Read More

Fatatis Appointed Associate Director for Basic Research
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD, has been named associate director for basic research at Jefferson Health’s Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC). Dr. Fatatis previously served as co-leader for SKCC’s Translational and Cellular Oncology Research Program. Read More

Hajiran Named Chief of Urologic Oncology
WVU Cancer Institute

Ali Hajiran, MD, has been appointed chief of Urologic Oncology. He specializes in treating complex cases of kidney, bladder, prostate, and testicular cancers using minimally-invasive robotic and traditional surgical techniques. Read More

Lee Named Director of Radiation Oncology
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

David Y. Lee, MD, PhD, has been named director of radiation oncology at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. He joined UNM in September 2012 and assumed his new role on December 1, 2022. Read More
Associate Director of Translational Oncology Appointed
Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University

Sendurai A. Mani, PhD, has been appointed associate director for translational oncology at the Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University and professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, effective December 1, 2022. Read More

Owusu Assumes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Role
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cynthia Owusu, MD, is the new associate director for diversity, equity, and inclusion for the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is the principal investigator on a $2.8 million research grant awarded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Family History, Gene Variants Put Black Men at Risk for Early Prostate Cancer
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Liquid Biopsies Could Predict Survival Odds for Patients With Metastatic Cancer
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Cooling Glioblastoma to Room Temperature Extends Survival in Preclinical Study
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

New Approach to Managing Post-Surgery Pain Reduces Opioid-Based Medication Use by 50 Percent
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Personalized Immune Therapy Extended Survival in Patients With Aggressive Brain Cancer
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Study Finds Inherited Link to Appendix Cancer
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Clues Found Regarding Tumor Suppressor Gene Breast Cancer Activity
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University
Killing Pancreatic Cancer With T Cells That Supercharge Themselves
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Shows Menthol Cigarette Alternatives Pose Significant Addiction and Health Risks
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Study: Hodgkin Lymphoma Survivors Show Signs of Dementia in Early Adulthood
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Experimental Cancer Therapy Shows Success in More Than 70 Percent of Patients in Global Clinical Trials
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

P53 Could Be Key to Therapies for Salivary Gland Cancer
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Women With Elevated Breast Cancer Risk Could See Mortality Benefit From Estrogen-Blocking Drugs
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Generate Lab-Grown Human Tissue Model for Food Tube Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Accelerating Innovations in Early-Phase Oncology Trials
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone

Novel Drug Combinations and Targeted Therapies Show Promise for Patients With Leukemia
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Study Finds Black Women Have Worst HR+/HER2- Breast Cancer Outcomes of All Racial and Ethnic Groups
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Myocarditis in Cancer Patients is Driven by Specific Immune Cells
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS

Construction, Expansion Approved for New Cancer Center Complex
UK Markey Cancer Center

The University of Kentucky Board of Trustees approved the initiation of the construction of the new UK HealthCare cancer and advanced ambulatory complex. It also approved an expansion of the original design for the facility. The revised financial scope of this project is $500 million. Read More
Approval Received to Build Myeloma Research Institute

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

Two years ago, when C. Ola Landgren, MD, PhD, joined Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center to lead the myeloma program, he told Director Stephen D. Nimer, MD, that his goal was to establish a "top three" U.S. myeloma program within five years. Read More

Center for Amputation Reconstruction Launches Osseointegration Program With FDA-Approved Implant System

Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone

NYU Langone Health has completed its first set of surgeries using the only U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved implantable prosthetic for people with limb loss available in the greater New York City area. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Cancer Research Education - Assistant Professor
The University of Vermont Cancer Center

GI Medical Oncology - Assistant Professor
The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Cancer Redox Biology Tenure Pathway Faculty
The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Associate Professor - Nanomedicine Department
Houston Methodist Dr. Mary and Ron Neal Cancer Center

Associate Center Director for Education
Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Associate Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson

Project Management Manager
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Project Manager III (Multiple Positions)
University of Arizona Cancer Center

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**AACI/AACR Hill Day**
SAVE THE DATE
May 18, 2023
Washington, DC

**15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting**
SAVE THE DATE
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

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