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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | June 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

VCU Massey Cancer Center Achieves NCI Comprehensive Status

VCU Massey Cancer Center has been designated a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Massey's receipt of the highest level of recognition from the NCI places it among an elite group of cancer centers influencing a new standard of care through research, education, and community engagement. Massey’s director, Robert A. Winn, MD, is the first African American to lead a cancer center to comprehensive status. Dr. Winn is AACI's vice president/president-elect. Read More

Clinical Research Innovation Keynote: The Power of Positivity

Ted A. James, MD, MHCM, FACS, will present “The Power of Positivity: Building a Stronger, More Resilient Clinical Cancer Research Team” at 3:45 pm central time on Tuesday, June 27, during the 15th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting in Rosemont, IL. During this keynote, participants will gain valuable insights and learn actionable tactics for promoting a positive workplace culture, raising morale and retention, and improving outcomes. Read More

Annual Meeting Keynote: NCI's Division of Cancer Prevention

Philip E. Castle, PhD, MPH, will present "From Global Interventions to Individual Effort: NCI's Division of Cancer Prevention," during the 2023 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Washington DC. Dr. Castle, director of the Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), will provide an update on DCP/NCI initiatives to support research
Cancer Research Advocates Return to Capitol Hill

On Thursday, May 18, AACI co-hosted the 2023 Hill Day with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) – the first in person since 2019. Eighty-five participants, including cancer center directors, researchers, oncologists, survivors, and other advocates, representing 27 states, attended meetings with legislators and staff on Capitol Hill. The group gathered to present a unified voice in support of stable funding increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Read More

Integra Connect: A Value-Based, Precision Medicine Company

At Integra Connect, we connect providers, payers, and life sciences with the experiences, outcomes, and costs of cancer they need to understand to improve care, embrace scientific advancements, manage costs, and deliver innovations for patients.

- Industry-leading specialty care data
- Insights from powerful AI and analytics solutions
- Intelligence from unprecedented experience and expertise

Watch Our Webinar

Vitalief: Cultivating the Clinical Trial Office and Beyond

Vitalief is a Functional Service Provider (FSP) offering robust solutions that help research organizations and clinical trial offices address the Healthcare Human Capital Epidemic.

Consulting
Resourcing & Education
Managed Services

Visit our booth at the 15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting, June 26-28!

Learn More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Ashworth Honored for Research Contributions
Alan Ashworth, PhD, FRS, president of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, has been recognized for his transformative contributions to cancer research. The American Society of Clinical Oncology honored him with the 2023 Science of Oncology Award and Lecture, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center named him for its C. Chester Stock Award Lectureship. Read More

Leaders Honored as ASCO Advocacy Champions

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Thomas George, MD, FACP, and Merry Jennifer Markham, MD, FACP, FASCO, have been honored by the American Society for Clinical Oncology as Advocacy Champions for exemplifying cancer care advocacy in 2022. Dr. George is a member of AACI’s Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Steering Committee. Read More

Skalka Receives Reimann Honor Award

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

In a ceremony honoring faculty at Fox Chase Cancer Center, Anna Marie Skalka, PhD, senior advisor to the president and professor emerita, was recognized with the Stanley P. Reimann Honor Award, the center’s highest distinction. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

Study of Cancer Metastasis Gets $35 Million Boost

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Effects of Menthol, E-Cigarette Flavors Considered for People Who Currently Smoke Cigarettes

Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

$3 Million Gift Funds Director of Cancer Research

The University of Arizona

Researchers Get $3 Million to Improve Survivorship Care for Younger Colorectal Cancer Patients

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center
Mao Awarded $1.6 Million Grant
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

State Legislators Thanked for Securing $1.5 Million in Funding
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

HHMI Selects Byndloss as Early-Career Scholar
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Winship Catalyst Fund Bridges Research Funding Gap
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Berchuck, Plichta Named Cancer Genetics Co-Directors
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Duke Cancer Institute faculty Andrew Berchuck, MD, and Jennifer Plichta, MD, MS, were recently named co-directors of cancer genetics at Duke Cancer Institute. Dr. Berchuck is chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology and Dr. Plichta is director of the Duke Breast Risk Assessment Clinic. Read More

New OncoBiobank Director Appointed
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Cedars-Sinai Cancer welcomes Karine Sargsyan, MD, formerly director of one of the world’s largest clinical biobanks, as scientific director of its OncoBiobank. Dr. Sargsyan is charged with leading biobank development and creating new strategies for the optimal deployment and use of the Cedars-Sinai Cancer Molecular Twin Precision Oncology Platform for both research and clinical practice. Read More

Foucar Joins UNM
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Charles Foucar, MD, applies his problem-solving experiences in engineering and computer sciences to his work as a hematologist-oncologist at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Foucar holds a medical degree from Northwestern University and his research interests are in high-risk leukemias that can occur after treatment for other medical conditions or cancers. Read More
Wetter Named Inaugural Senior Director of Cancer Health Equity Science
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

David W. Wetter, PhD, has been appointed inaugural senior director of cancer health equity science at Huntsman Cancer Institute. Dr. Wetter also serves as the director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Population Equity. Read More

Allen Named DUHS Vice President for Cancer Services
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Peter J. Allen, MD, has been named Duke University Health System vice president for cancer services. He will oversee clinical cancer care for Duke, working closely with Duke Cancer Institute Executive Director Michael Kastan, MD, PhD. Dr. Allen currently serves as the chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology. His research lab focuses on pancreatic cancer. Read More

Senior Director of Community Outreach and Engagement Named
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Rachel Ceballos, PhD, has been appointed senior director of community outreach and engagement at Huntsman Cancer Institute, associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, and a Huntsman Cancer Institute Endowed Chair in Cancer Research. Read More

Howe Appointed Associate Director of Cancer Research, Training, and Education
The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Alan Howe, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology, has been appointed to serve as associate director of cancer research, training and education coordination for the University of Vermont Cancer Center. Dr. Howe has been a member of UVM’s Cell, Molecular, and Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program for nearly 20 years. Read More
McKenna is New Chief Human Resources Officer
Moffitt Cancer Center

Jack McKenna has joined Moffitt Cancer Center as the new chief human resources (HR) officer. In his role, he will lead the cancer center's HR team and oversee HR strategies and functions. McKenna has nearly 40 years of experience in human resources and organizational development, most recently serving as chief human resources officer at Universal Engineering Sciences, Inc., a national geotechnical engineering firm.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Long Telomeres Not 'Fountain of Youth' as Once Thought
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

A Metabolic Process in Cancer Cells Could Unlock a Possible Treatment for Glioblastoma
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Gene p16 Drives Colorectal Cancer, Emerging as Target for Potential Therapies
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Study Shows Immigrant Adults With Liver Cancer Have Higher Survival Rates Than Those Born in the U.S.
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Rethinking the Protein Inhibitor Approach to Cancer Therapy
Stony Brook Cancer Center

A Simple Antibacterial Treatment Solves a Severe Skin Problem Caused by Radiation Therapy
Montefiore Einstein Cancer Center

Healthy Lifestyle Reduces Risk of Recurrence and Death in High-Risk Breast Cancer Patients
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Highlights Racial Disparities in Ovarian Cancer Risk for Women
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Study Finds Cancer Cells Use a New Fuel in Absence of Sugar
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Study Identifies New Treatment Target for Metastatic Cancer
UK Markey Cancer Center

Microbiome Varies Widely in Tumors of People With Early Vs. Late-Onset Colorectal Cancer
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
Scientists Create Most Powerful, Accurate Tool Yet to Research Deadliest Blood Cancer
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Ascending the 'Mount Everest' of Cancer Research
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Excess and Rising Weight in Adulthood Associated With Increased Risk of Gastrointestinal Cancer
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Combined Delivery of Engineered Virus With Immunotherapy is Safe and Improves Outcomes in Subset of Patients With Glioblastoma
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Delivering on the Promise of Personalized Breast Cancer Therapy
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Potential New Strategy Identified to Prevent Side Effects From Immunotherapy
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Scientists Discover Hidden Weakness in Deadly Brain Cancer
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

CAR T Cells Developed That Fight Prostate Cancer in Bone
Moffitt Cancer Center

Genomic Analysis of SCLC Tumors Reveals Subtypes, Offers Cues Toward Personalized Treatments
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Risk Biomarkers Could Predict Serious Side Effect of Stem Cell Transplant
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

OTHER NEWS

Winship Opens New Cancer Care Center in Midtown Atlanta
Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University

The new Winship Cancer Institute at Emory Midtown opened for patients May 9. Winship Cancer Institute designed the full-service center to support a unique model of patient-centered, multidisciplinary cancer care integrated with innovative research to provide the best patient outcomes and a personalized patient experience. Read More
Major Expansion Provides Improved Cancer Care to Utah and Beyond
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Huntsman Cancer Institute has announced the opening of the Kathryn F. Kirk Center for Comprehensive Cancer Care and Women’s Cancers. The center has an entire floor dedicated to breast and gynecologic cancers and additional space for the sophisticated treatment of blood and marrow transplant patients, including immunotherapies and clinical trial options. Read More

Allison Institute Announces Appointment of Inaugural Members
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

The James P. Allison Institute at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center announced the appointment of its first members, James P. Allison, PhD; Padmanee Sharma, MD, PhD; Jennifer Wargo, MD; Sangeeta Goswami, MD, PhD; and Kenneth Hu, PhD. In addition, Garry Nolan, PhD, will join the Allison Institute as an adjunct member. The institute was launched to drive breakthroughs that will integrate immunobiology across disciplines. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Multiple Job Opportunities

LSU-LCMC Cancer Center

Director of Cancer Clinical Program
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center

Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor in Otolaryngology
UK Markey Cancer Center

Associate or Full Researcher/Professor (Director, Nutrition Shared Resources)
University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Bioinformatics Analyst I
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Cancer Bioengineering Faculty
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Manager, Cancer Clinical Trials Office
Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center, Loyola University Medical Center

Senior Manager, Grants and Scientific Writers
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

Supervisor, Clinical Research
Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Assistant Director, Oncology Clinical Coordination Unit
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone
MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Annual Conference of the Cancer Molecular Therapeutics Research Association (CMTRA)
July 23-27, 2023
Watkins Glen, NY

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
REGISTER TODAY | VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE
June 26-28, 2023
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL

2023 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
REGISTER TODAY | VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE
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