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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | February 2024
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

Simeone Named New Director of UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Following an extensive national search, Diane M. Simeone, MD, has been appointed director of UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center, effective April 1. Dr. Simeone currently serves as the Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Professor of Surgery, director of the Pancreatic Cancer Center, and the associate director of translational research at Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone. Read More

In Memoriam: Dr. Edith P. Mitchell

Oncologist and researcher, Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCCP, FRCP (London), died January 21. Dr. Mitchell was slated to present a keynote at the 2024 AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop. She shared her expertise at meetings of AACI's Clinical Research Innovation and Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative and as a member of the Leadership Diversity and Development Initiative Steering Committee. At the time of her death, Dr. Mitchell was the enterprise vice president for cancer disparities at Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health. Read More

Register Today for the 2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day

Registration is now open for AACI's joint Hill Day with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), which will take place in Washington, DC, on Thursday, May 16. Your participation in Hill Day is critical to sharing our message with our legislators in Washington: that
stable, predictable funds are needed to advance cancer research and care at our nation's cancer centers. Read More

Submit an Abstract for the 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

Abstract submissions are now being accepted for the 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting, June 24-26, at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL. This year's meeting theme will focus on compassion and collaboration through clinical trials. Please visit the 2024 Call for Abstracts page for important dates, templates, and more information. Read More

AACI Collaborates on Initiative to Enhance Patient Access to CAR T Therapy

AACI, the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy, and the Association of Community Cancer Centers, recently announced the RECUR initiative, a collaboration aimed at revolutionizing the evaluation process for CAR T therapy. Peter Riedell, MD, is the chair of AACI's CAR T Steering Committee. Read More

LDDW Spotlight: Dr. Ted A. James

Ted A. James, MD, MHCM, FACS, will present the closing keynote, "Inclusive Team Building: Strategies for Cancer Center Leadership Excellence," at 1:15 pm central time on Wednesday, March 13, during the 2024 AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop in Rosemont, IL. Dr. James is a surgical oncologist and cancer center medical director dedicated to transforming health care by promoting patient-centered care and fostering positive workplace culture. Read More

AACI Award Nominations Due April 1

AACI members are invited to submit nominations for the 2024 Champion for Cures and Cancer Health Equity awards. The submission deadline for both awards is Monday, April 1. The awards will be presented during the 2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, October 20-22, at the Loews Chicago Hotel.
NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

**Luckenbaugh Elected Chair for Society of Women in Urologic Oncology**

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

The Society of Women in Urologic Oncology (WUO) has named Amy Luckenbaugh, MD, to chair its executive board until November 2025. She is the inaugural chair of the WUO, whose core objective is to advance the recruitment, retention, and promotion of women in urologic oncology with the goal of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Society of Urologic Oncology. Read More

**Radiation Oncologist Receives Emerging Investigator Award**

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Rebecca Shulman, MD, was recently recognized with the American Society for Radiation Oncology-Breast Cancer Research Foundation Emerging Investigator Award to Build a Diverse Scientific Workforce. Her project, "Combination Therapy with Radiotherapy, Immune Checkpoint Blockade, and Curaxin Enhances Tumor Regression in Metastatic Triple-Negative Breast Cancer," is a collaborative undertaking with Siddharth Balachandran, PhD. Read More

**Challen Receives Scholar Achievement Award**

Siteman Cancer Center

Grant Challen, PhD, a Washington University researcher at Siteman Cancer Center, has received a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Career Development Program Scholar Achievement Award, which will provide funding for two to five years. Read More
Merad Named Fellow of AACR Academy

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Academy, for her contributions in elucidating the roles of myeloid cells in inflammation and tumorigenesis and paving the way for the advancement of targeted therapies focusing on myeloid cells in both cancer and inflammatory diseases. Read More

Chang Recognized by the American Urological Association

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

The American Urological Association has announced that Sam S. Chang, MD, MBA, is one of its 2024 award recipients who will be recognized at the organization’s annual meeting in May in San Antonio. He has been chosen for the Hugh Hampton Young Award, which is presented annually to an individual for outstanding contributions to the study of genitourinary tract diseases. Read More

Hanks Elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Duke Cancer Institute physician scientist Brent Hanks, MD, PhD, has been elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), one of the nation’s oldest medical honor societies. The ASCI supports the scientific efforts, educational needs, and clinical aspirations of physician-scientists to improve health. Read More

Researchers Join Translational Scholar Ranks

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

Huntsman Cancer Institute and the University of Utah have named
Umang Swami, MD, MS, and Matthew Covington, MD, as members of The Society of Huntsman Translational Scholars. This institutional initiative recognizes excellence in translational science and allows researchers to apply fundamental scientific findings to address clinical challenges in patient care. Read More

Pierce Elected AACR Academy Fellow
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Lori J. Pierce, MD, was one of 30 cancer scientists elected to the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) class of Fellows of the AACR Academy. Dr. Pierce is professor of radiation oncology at Michigan Medicine and vice provost for academic and faculty affairs at the University of Michigan. Read More

Thoracic Chair Earns National, Local Accolades
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

In recognition of his dedication toward advancements in lung cancer care as well as his contributions as a valued mentor, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center chair of thoracic surgery, Sai Yendamuri, MD, MBA, FACS, has recently been honored with prestigious leadership roles, awards, and grant funding from both local and national organizations. Read More

Jagsi Receives AAWR 2023 Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

The American Association for Women in Radiology (AAWR) awarded the 2023 AAWR Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award to Winship Cancer Institute researcher Reshma Jagsi, MD, DPhil, Lawrence W. Davis professor and chair of radiation oncology at the Emory University School of Medicine. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

WVU Making Investments in Cancer Care, Research With $50
Million Commitment From State
WVU Cancer Institute

Martin Receives $4.6 Million CIRM Grant
UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center

$3 Million Grant for Breast Cancer Surgery Technology
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Markey Researcher Awarded $2.6 Million to Study New Metastatic Lung Cancer Target
UK Markey Cancer Center

Researchers Awarded $2.23 Million for Myeloma Precursor Study
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Researchers Receive $1.5 Million Grant for Melanoma Clinical Trial
Siteman Cancer Center

$1.2 Million Grant Awarded to Help Break Down Barriers to Cervical Cancer Prevention
LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center

Pediatric Cancer Researcher Awarded Grant to Understand Medulloblastoma Relapse
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

New Leadership Roles for Werner, Agarwal
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah rang in the new year with new leadership roles for Theresa Werner, MD, and Neeraj Agarwal, MD, FASCO. Dr. Werner is the new deputy director of Huntsman Cancer Institute and Dr. Agarwal is the new senior director for clinical research. Read More

Surgical Oncologist Named CEO of University of Rochester Medical Center
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

David Linehan, MD, is the new CEO of the University Rochester Medical Center (URMC), dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, and senior vice president for health sciences. Prior to this appointment, the surgical oncologist, internationally renowned for his clinical innovation and research into new treatments for pancreatic cancer, guided URMC’s Department of Surgery through a period of tremendous growth. Read More
**Gillette Named Associate Director for Training and Education**

United States of America, New Mexico, Albuquerque - Jennifer Gillette, PhD, has been named the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center associate director for training and education. Dr. Gillette is a professor and senior director for research for the UNM Department of Pathology. Angela Wandinger-Ness, PhD, formerly held this role through the most recent Cancer Center Support Grant competitive renewal. Read More

**Karmanos Cancer Network Appoints New VP**

Karmanos Cancer Network, Wayne State University - Karmanos Cancer Institute has appointed Doris Ranski-Zazula, RN, MSA, as the vice president of the Karmanos Cancer Network, part of McLaren Health Care. The network has 15 locations anchored by the Karmanos freestanding cancer hospital headquartered in Detroit. Read More

**Mehrotra Named Co-Leader of Cancer Biology and Immunology Research Program**

Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina - Shikhar Mehrotra, PhD, will take on the role of co-leader of the cancer biology and immunology research program at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center alongside Philip Howe, PhD. As co-leader, Dr. Mehrotra anticipates seeing more collaborative projects that take a holistic view of the mechanisms of cancer growth. Read More

**Roswell Park Welcomes New Chief Digital & Information Officer**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center -
Following a national search, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has selected George T. "Buddy" Hickman as its new chief digital & information officer. Hickman succeeds Tom Furlani, PhD, who retires this month. Hickman comes to Roswell Park with 30 years of experience in health care senior leadership. He was most recently with First Health Advisory, where he served as chief strategy officer. Read More

Teshome Named Chief of Breast Surgery
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

UCLA Health has appointed leading breast surgical oncologist Mediget Teshome, MD, as the new chief of breast surgery and director of breast health. Before joining UCLA, Dr. Teshome was an associate professor at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in the department of breast surgical oncology. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

High-Dose Radiotherapy With Chemotherapy Effective in Treating People With Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Natural Compounds From Soy, Other Plants Reduce Breast Cancer Recurrence and Improve Survival, Research Shows
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Survey Finds Link Between Drug/Cannabis Use During Pregnancy and Certain Childhood Cancers
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Could Two Drugs Be Better Than One for Treating Prostate Cancer?
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Shows Some Postmenopausal Patients May Safely Omit Radiotherapy for HR+ Breast Cancer
Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University

A Report From the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium
Stanford Cancer Institute

Researchers Identify Why Cancer Immunotherapy Can Cause Colitis
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Two Common Biomarkers Predict Heart Risk in Asymptomatic
Childhood Cancer Survivors
Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

A Type of Allergy Medicine Might Help Treat Lung Cancer, Research Suggests
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Research Reveals an Immune Cell That Can Attack Cancer
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Genetic Score Advances Personalized Treatment Strategies With Promising AML Drug
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Community Cancer Care Linked With Poorer Outcomes for Some Head and Neck Cancers
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Metastatic Breast Cancer Treatments Have Aided Decline in Deaths
Stanford Cancer Institute

Study Finds Novel Mechanism for Making Small Cell Lung Cancer Tumors Vulnerable to Attack by Immune System
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

AI Tools See Beyond the Human Eye to Better Diagnose Cancer
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

SKCC Researchers Investigate Tumor-Immune Cell Crosstalk in Aggressive Form of Prostate Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Study Provides Clinician Guidance on Follow-up for Ovarian Cysts
UK Markey Cancer Center

Method Improves Detection of Potential Therapeutic Tumor Targets in Human Biopsies
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Chronic Inflammation Combined With Poverty Significantly Raises Risk of Dying From Cancer
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Simple Blood Protein Tests Predict Which Lymphoma Patients Are Most Likely to Have Poor CAR T Outcomes
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS

New in 2024: CARDS Webinar Series
Association of American Cancer Institutes

AACI and the Catchment Area Research Data Science (CARDS) listserv community announce a series of webinars dedicated to discussions around cancer center data collection, analysis, and utilization. The CARDS listserv and webinars are aimed at individuals at AACI cancer centers working in community...
ACS Offers New Navigation Training and Credentialing Program

American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society Leadership in Oncology Navigation (ACS LION) is a standardized training and credentialing program that helps patient navigators deliver essential nonclinical support to individuals, caregivers, and families facing cancer. The goal of the program is to help build a standardized professional knowledge base and positively impact oncology patients by expanding access to high-quality navigation programs and services. Standardized training will also help reduce barriers and health disparities among various patient groups. Read More

ASCO Issues Call to Expand Access to Clinical Trials

American Society of Clinical Oncology

A new call-to-action published in the journal Cancer details practical steps for the oncology research and clinical care communities to expand access to clinical trials and enable patients to participate closer to their homes. The paper, authored by members of an American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Task Force, illuminates the importance of enabling patients to receive trial related testing and care near their homes, rather than requiring patients to travel to major research institutions hours from where they live. Read More

Innovative Treatment Uses Radio Frequency to Target and Reduce Cancerous Tumors

Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Karmanos Cancer Institute has announced that it will be the first provider in the country to offer patients the new FDA-approved TheraBionic P1 device for the treatment of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. The TheraBionic P1 emits low levels of radio-frequency electromagnetic fields that block the growth of tumor cells without affecting healthy tissue. Read More

A Game Changer for Blood Cancer Treatment in New Mexico

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center completed the first allogeneic stem cell transplant in the state. The team also recently completed a haploidentical transplant. Such transplants make treatment possible for many New Mexican patients, who may not find matched donors in the registries of unrelated donors. Matthew Fero, MD, leads the stem cell transplantation team. Read More

Central Ohio's First Proton Therapy Center Opens to Treat Children and Adults

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

The OSUCCC – James, in collaboration with Nationwide Children’s Hospital, recently celebrated the opening of a $100 million, 55,000-square-foot Proton Therapy Center, the first treatment facility in central Ohio to offer this highly targeted radiation therapy for treating complex tumors. Read More

Place an Ad in the AACI Newsletter

Association of American Cancer Institutes

AACI invites you to promote your cancer center or business by purchasing an ad in the AACI Update. Your newsletter ad may highlight a conference or a new initiative. Supporters may include links to their website and any upcoming events. Ads can be purchased monthly or in one of several packages. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Interdisciplinary Oncology, Multiple Faculty Positions

LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center

Director of Cancer Research Development

Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina
Translational Science Laboratory (TSL) Core Operations Manager
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Chief People Officer
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Compliance Program Manager, Sr
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Deputy Director
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Assistant Director of Clinical Research (Project Management)
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Assistant Director of Clinical Research (Study Coordination)
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Program Manager, Strategic Planning and Partnerships (Hybrid)
Stanford Cancer Institute

Project Manager II
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Scientific Director, Multiple Myeloma Program
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Associate Director for Basic Cancer Research
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Associate Director for Translational Research
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Research Data/Informatics Specialist, Senior
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Faculty Scientist
The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Unveiling Insights: Using Data to Guide Catchment Area Strategy
REGISTER TODAY
February 21, 2024
Webinar

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

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