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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | January 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

Call for Abstracts: 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

The AACI CRI Steering Committee is currently soliciting abstracts for the 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting. This year’s meeting theme will focus on compassion and collaboration through clinical trials. The purpose of the abstracts is to inform meeting attendees about clinical trials office challenges and solutions implemented at AACI cancer centers. Read More

LDDW Keynote: Dr. Edith Mitchell

For over 50 years, Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCPP, FRCP (London), has blazed trails in diverse fields, from being the first female physician to achieve the rank of Brigadier General in the United States Air Force to leading diversity programs and serving as enterprise vice president for cancer disparities at Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health. Dr. Mitchell will deliver the opening keynote at 8:00 am central time on Monday, March 12, during the 2024 Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop (LDDW). Read More

Bipartisan Knock Out Cancer Act Aims to Transform Cancer Research Landscape

Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus, and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), have jointly introduced the Knock Out Cancer Act (KO Cancer Act) in the 118th Congress. This bipartisan legislation seeks to revolutionize cancer research funding by allocating a
25 percent increase to the National Cancer Institute's budget for the fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

Pictured, left to right: Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick and Debbie Dingell

READ MORE

AACI Endorses CONNECT for Health Act

The Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act (H.R. 4189/S.2016) was initially introduced in 2016. Reintroduced in 2023, the comprehensive, bicameral, and widely supported bill aims to expand the telehealth services covered by Medicare and to maintain and bolster the progress made during the COVID-19 pandemic. READ MORE

AACI Publishes 2023 Annual Report

Affectionately deemed “the city of bridges,” Pittsburgh is home to nearly 450 bridges, connecting the city’s diverse neighborhoods across three major rivers. Though AACI is headquartered in Pittsburgh, that is not the only reason we chose “building bridges” as the theme of the 2023 annual report. It’s also an apt summary of AACI’s work throughout the year, in which the association served as a central hub linking cancer centers with government agencies, pharmaceutical and tech companies, cancer advocacy organizations, and—most importantly—each other. READ THE REPORT

Support AACI With An Ad in Our Newsletter

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 several packages. READ MORE

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

El-Deiry Elected Chair of WIN Consortium

Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University

The Worldwide Innovative Network (WIN) Consortium in precision cancer medicine and Brown University have announced the election of Wafik El-Deiry, MD, PhD, FACP, director of the Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University, as chair of the WIN Consortium. READ MORE

Uzzo Receives Mentorship Award

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health
Robert Uzzo, MD, MBA, FACS, president and CEO of Fox Chase Cancer Center, was recently recognized with the Society of Urologic Oncology's Joseph A. Smith Jr. Mentorship Award. Read More

Oncologist Receives Clinical Investigator Leadership Award

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Sherise Rogers, MD, has received the inaugural Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials: Clinical Investigator Leadership Award from Conquer Cancer, the American Society of Clinical Oncology Foundation, funded by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation. The award is named for AACI President Robert A. Winn, MD, director of VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. Read More

Hayes Receives Breast Cancer Research Award

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Daniel F. Hayes, MD, received the Brinker Award for Clinical Research from Susan G. Komen. The award recognizes physician-scientists for their work to improve breast cancer patient outcomes. Dr. Hayes has created and conducted validations studies for tumor biomarker tests, which predict prognosis, chemotherapy response, recurrence, and treatment side effects. Read More

Bhardwaj, Merad Named Academy of Immuno-Oncology Fellows

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, and Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, were inducted as fellows of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology, Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC), at the SITC Annual Meeting in November. They were honored as scientists who have launched the field of cancer immunotherapy and who are advancing the field and the next generation of immuno-oncologists. Read More

Small Elected ASCO President

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has elected Eric J. Small, MD, FASCO, to serve as its president for the term beginning in June 2025. Dr. Small is deputy director and chief scientific officer of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Read More

**Investigator Receives Award for Metastatic Breast Cancer Research**

*Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah*

Alana Welm, PhD, senior director of basic science at Huntsman Cancer Institute and professor of oncological sciences at the University of Utah, received the 2023 American Association for Cancer Research Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research. Read More

**Cukierman Named to Pancreatic Cancer Research Chair**

*Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health*

Edna "Eti" Cukierman, PhD, co-leader of the Cancer Signaling and Microenvironment Research Program and co-director of The Marvin and Concetta Greenberg Pancreatic Cancer Institute at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been appointed to the newly created Marvin & Concetta Greenberg Chair in Pancreatic Cancer Research. Read More

**OSU Scientists Elected to the National Academy of Inventors**

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

The National Academy of Inventors has elected Krystof Bankiewicz, MD, PhD, and Michael Tweedle, PhD (pictured), to its 2023 class of Fellows. Dr. Tweedle is a member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at OSUCCC - James. Read More
Scientists Receive $9.1 Million to Improve Early Detection Methods for Cancer
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Receive $7 Million to Improve Outcomes for High-Risk Blood Cancer Patients
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Culinary Stars Raise $6.2 Million for Cancer Research
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Researchers Receive $3.4 Million Grant to Detect High-Risk Oral Pre-Cancers
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

New Cancer Research Consortium Melds Scientific Disciplines
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Summer Research Programs for Students, Teachers Expanded With New Grants Totaling $3 Million
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

$1.5 Million Grant Funds Mobile Mammography Unit
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Al Achkar is New Associate Center Director for Education
Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Karmanos Cancer Institute welcomes Morhaf Al Achkar, MD, PhD, MSCR, FAAFP, as the associate center director for education. Dr. Al Achkar brings over 10 years of professional experience to his new role, along with valuable personal experience as a seven-year stage IV lung cancer survivor. Read More

Hawkins Appointed Deputy Director
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

William Hawkins, MD, joined MUSC Hollings Cancer Center on January 1, in the newly created role of deputy director, where he will focus on strengthening translational research, increasing clinical trials across South Carolina. Read More
Buckley Appointed Co-Leader of Cell Response and Regulation Program
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah has appointed Shannon Buckley, PhD, as co-leader of the Cell Response and Regulation Program. The program concentrates on cellular mechanisms of cancer biology and how healthy cells transform into cancer. Read More

Director Named for Biorepository and Tissue Analysis Shared Resource
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Angela J. Yoon, DDS, has been appointed director of the MUSC Hollings Cancer Center Biorepository and Tissue Analysis Shared Resource, overseeing a growing collection of cancer-associated biospecimens that allow researchers to translate biological discoveries into prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. Read More

New Leader for Breast Cancer Program, Translational Research Integration
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Aditya Bardia, MD, has joined the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the UCLA Health Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center where he will assume several leadership roles including director of translational research integration and co-director of the Breast Cancer Disease Site Group for the cancer center. Read More

Ely Joins Thoracic Oncology Program
GW Cancer Center

Sora Ely, MD, has joined the GW Cancer Center and the GW Medical Faculty Associates as a thoracic surgeon. She treats benign and malignant pathologies of the chest and foregut.

Note: This story originally appeared in the December AACI Update with an incorrect link. Read More
Scar Tissue Holds Hints About Pancreatic Cancer Outcome
Stanford Cancer Institute

Pancreatic Cancer Discovery Opens the Door for New Clinical Trial
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

New Strategy for Protecting Bones From Cancer Treatment
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Research Into Targeted Treatments, Better Prediction Models in Breast Cancer Funded
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Colorectal Cancer Mapping Reveals a Path to Improved Immunotherapy
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Country of Birth a Factor in Stomach Cancer
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami

Nivolumab Associated With Higher Progression-Free Survival in Pediatric Advanced-Stage Hodgkin Lymphoma
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

AI Helps Experts Distinguish Between Two Rare Blood Cancers
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Researchers Find Link Between Folic Acid and Blood Cell Production
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

Maintaining Levels of Two Key Proteins Could Be Key to Protecting the Liver From Cancerous Cells
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Real World Data Show Impact of Immunotherapy in Populations Underrepresented in Clinical Trials
Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center

Liquid Biopsy Predicts Immunotherapy Response in Patients With Advanced Lung Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University
Studies Uncover Effects of Pre-Conception Smoking and Racial Disparities in Pediatric Leukemias
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Administered Earlier, Cilta-Cel CAR T Produces Deep, Durable Responses in Multiple Myeloma Patients
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Hodgkin Lymphoma Prognosis, Biology Tracked With Circulating Tumor DNA
Stanford Cancer Institute

Clinical Trial Shows Efficacy for Atezolizumab Combined with Carboplatin
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS

UNM Starts $61 Million Expansion
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, led by Yolanda Sanchez, PhD, has broken ground on a $61 million clinic building addition. The expansion will make room for advanced radiation treatment machines, theranostic treatment rooms, interventional radiology procedures, and cellular therapiess. Dr. Sanchez is a member of AACI's Board of Directors. Read More

Unique Summer Trainee Program Launched
Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University

The Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University, the American Cancer Society (ACS), and Morehouse School of Medicine have joined to support an extended cancer research internship experience at Brown. The summer program originated via an ACS-Fostering Innovation Award granted to Wafik S. El-Deiry, MD, PhD, FACP, director of the cancer center. Read More

Novel Community Engagement, Research Effort in Head and Neck Cancer Launches
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

The Duke University School of Medicine Department of Head and Neck Surgery & Communication Sciences recently launched Project CHECKERS (Community Head and Neck Cancer Knowledge, Engagement, Research and Screening), a Duke Cancer Institute-funded pilot project to bring head and neck cancer resources and education to the community. Read More
Assistant Professor, Early Drug Development
Stanford Cancer Institute

Associate Director of Clinical Translational Research
The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Senior Director, Clinical Trial Operations
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Vice President, Clinical Research
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Research Technician I-II
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Administrative Director
Louisiana Cancer Research Center

Chief, Division of Breast Medical Oncology
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Multiple Faculty Openings
University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor in the Non-Tenure Line (Research), Department of Surgery
Stanford Cancer Institute

Chair, Department of Surgical Oncology
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Oncology Clinicians and Scientists
Dartmouth Cancer Center

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
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

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