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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | June 2024

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AACI HEADLINES

Dr. Patricia LoRusso to Keynote CRI Meeting

Patricia LoRusso, DO, PhD, will present a keynote at 8:30 am central time on Tuesday, June 25, during the 16th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting in Rosemont, IL. Dr. LoRusso is an oncologist and associate director of innovative medicine at the Yale School of Medicine. Her keynote, “The Making of a Clinical Researcher: A Personal Journey,” will detail the inspiring story of her path to clinical research. Read More

AACI and ACCC to Host Virtual Conversation on Equity in Cancer

At 12:00 pm eastern time on Tuesday, June 18, in advance of the Juneteenth holiday, join Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC) President Nadine J. Barrett, PhD, MA, MS, FACCC, and AACI President Robert A. Winn, MD, in an empowering discussion about a shared organizational goal to advance equitable cancer care. Read More

Advocates Gather in Washington for 2024 Hill Day

On Thursday, May 16, AACI co-hosted the 2024 Hill Day with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). One hundred participants, representing 27 states, presented a unified voice supporting stable funding increases for the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute. Read More
NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

**Loggers Recognized as National Palliative Care Leader**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Elizabeth Loggers, MD, PhD, has been recognized as an Emerging Leader in Hospice and Palliative Medicine by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. The academy has recognized a new cohort of emerging leaders every five years since the program began in 2014. **Read More**

**Sparano Selected as OncLive Giant of Cancer Care**
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Joseph A. Sparano, MD, was selected as the 2024 OncLive Giant of Cancer Care in Breast Cancer. The Giants of Cancer Care program honors the accomplishments of leading researchers and educators whose discoveries have propelled the field. Inductees are recognized for their achievements in oncology research and clinical practice. **Read More**

**Wetter Recognized for Exemplary Leadership in Cancer Equity Initiatives**
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

David W. Wetter, PhD, senior director for cancer health equity science at Huntsman Cancer Institute, has been awarded the Society of Behavioral Medicine Senior Investigator Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Prevention and Control. **Read More**
Ragin Awarded AACR Lectureship

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Camille Ragin, PhD, MPH, associate director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Fox Chase Cancer Center, received the American Association for Cancer Research’s (AACR) Minorities in Cancer Research Jane Cooke Wright Lectureship. She delivered the lecture at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024 in San Diego. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

NCI Renews Comprehensive Designation for Georgetown Lombardi

Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Study to Find Out What Drives Cancer in Asian Americans

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Grant Funds Study of Novel Drug for Immunotherapy Treatment of Melanoma

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

$3.3 Million Awarded to Develop Risk-Based Approach to Thyroid Cancer Survivorship Care

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

$2.7 Million Grant to Explore Hypoxia Impact on Blood Stem Cells

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Stoyanova Receives DOD Award

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Clinical and Translational Researcher Leads Phase I Clinical Trials

Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Karmanos Cancer Institute welcomes Wasif Saif, MD, MBBS, as the new leader of the Phase I Clinical Trials Multidisciplinary Team and co-leader of the Gastrointestinal and Neuroendocrine Oncology Multidisciplinary Team. Read More
New Vice Chair of Research Announced
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Cedars-Sinai Cancer has selected radiation oncology physicist Indrin Chetty, PhD, as the new vice chair of Research and director of the Medical Physics Division in the Department of Radiation Oncology. Read More

Thoracic Chair Tapped as Chief Strategy Officer, Senior VP of Business Development and Outreach
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has appointed Sai Yendamuri, MD, MBA, FACS, as chief strategy officer and senior vice president of Business Development and Outreach. Dr. Yendamuri has worked tirelessly to improve lung cancer care and outcomes both in the clinic and laboratory since his start at Roswell Park in 2007. Read More

Blind Named Associate Director for DEI
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Ray Blind, PhD, has been named associate director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. He is a nationally recognized investigator in the understanding of the structure, function, and signaling of nuclear lipids. Read More

Merad Named Dean for Translational Research and Therapeutic Innovation
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai


Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, has been appointed dean for Translational Research and Therapeutic Innovation of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She will focus on cultivating a culture of mechanistic clinical trials throughout the campus and forging stronger partnerships with the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors. Read More

Castillo Named DEI Associate Director
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center has named Eliseo F. Castillo, PhD, as associate director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He has been deeply engaged in several mentoring and outreach programs at the center. Read More

New Leadership for Office of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility
UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center Interim Physician-in-Chief David Tom Cooke, MD, is now associate director of the center’s Office of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEAL). Dr. Cooke (at right, in photo) will lead the newly appointed IDEAL team that includes assistant directors Miquell Olivia Miller, MD, and Luis Godoy, MD. Read More

Nanotechnology Expert to Lead NanoSTAR Institute
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Evan A. Scott, PhD, an expert in the use of nanotechnology to understand and fight disease, will head up the University of Virginia’s Institute for Nanoscale Scientific and Technological Advanced Research, or nanoSTAR, as UVA enters a new era in nanotechnology research with the launch of the Paul and Diane Manning Institute of Biotechnology. Read More
Proximity to a Cancer Center Contributes to Cancer Stage at Diagnosis
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Quadruple Therapies and the Future of Multiple Myeloma Treatment
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami

Research Shows Muscle, Fat Strongly Linked to Survival in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Widening Inequality Seen Where Cancer Clinical Trials Are Available
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

New Therapeutic Target in Advanced Prostate Cancer Uncovered
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

New Treatment May Enable More Patients With High Risk Blood Cancers to Receive Stem Cell Transplants
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami

Strengthening CAR T Therapy to Work Against Solid Tumors
Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center

CAR T Cell Therapy for Pediatric Brain Cancer Warrants Further Study
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

mRNA Vaccine Triggers Fierce Immune Response to Fight Malignant Brain Tumor
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

New Immunotherapy Offers Hope to Patients With Metastatic Lung Cancer
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Prostate Cancer Study: More Health Benefits From Plant-Based Diet
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Immune Boosting Agent Plus Personalized Cancer Vaccine Supercharges Immune Defense Against Malignant Brain Tumors
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Scientists Identify Protein That Controls CAR T Longevity
Stanford Cancer Institute

Curing Colorectal Cancer Through a Microscope
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS
Partnership Established With Ukrainian Cancer Center

UK Markey Cancer Center

UK Markey Cancer Center has formed an international partnership with the Kyiv Regional Oncology Dispensary, based in Kyiv, Ukraine. The institutions will engage in mutually beneficial activities focused on cancer prevention and treatment, research collaboration, and personnel exchanges for training and education. Read More

Northwell Opens Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory

Northwell Health Cancer Institute

The Northwell Health Cancer Institute and its Center for Genomic Medicine has opened a clinical molecular diagnostics laboratory. The $3.2 million, 2,800 square foot state-of-the-art facility boasts cutting-edge technology of next-generation sequencing that provides point-of-care tumor and patient genomic profiling to inform precision cancer therapy. Read More

New Program Shares HPB Expertise

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

A new UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center program, led by Itzhak Nir, MD, reduces the burden of care by bringing New Mexico’s community providers and cancer experts together virtually. The program is currently focusing on those diagnosed with hepato-pancreatico-biliary (HPB) cancers. Read More

Program for Reducing Allergic Reactions to Cancer Treatments Hits New Care Milestone

Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center

An outpatient cancer therapy desensitization program at Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center has completed 200 procedures, allowing patients to complete optimal treatments within recommended timeframes and avoid the hospital. Read More

Stanford Administers First Lifileucel Infusion

Stanford Cancer Institute

In April, Stanford administered the first lifileucel infusion after the treatment received U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval in February. Lifileucel (Amtagvi) leverages tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes and is now approved to treat melanoma. Read More

Forging Collaborations for Community Health

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

If you could imagine the ideal physician to serve as the medical director for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and lead the University of Arizona Cancer Center community advisory board, that vision would culminate in Adalberto Renteria, MD. Read More
Northwell Cardiothoracic Programs Earn Top Quality Rating
Northwell Health Cancer Institute

All four Northwell Health hospitals with cardiothoracic surgery programs earned three-star overall quality ratings, the highest rating given, in several surgical categories analyzed by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Cancer Clinical Research Coordinator 2 Thoracic Oncology (Hybrid)
Stanford Cancer Institute

Director of Research Development
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Operations Manager, Research
Dartmouth Cancer Center

Program Manager, Oncology Education
Dartmouth Cancer Center

Senior Research Operations Manager
Dartmouth Cancer Center

Clinical Operations Manager & Clinical Research Coordinators
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Operations Manager, Cancer Screening Research Network
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Vice President of Cedars-Sinai Cancer
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reimagining Community Engagement and Equity in Cancer: A Virtual Conversation With Two Presidents
Presented in partnership with the Association of Cancer Care Centers
REGISTER TODAY
June 18, 2024
Webinar

16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
REGISTER TODAY
June 24-26, 2024
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL

The Cancer Prevention Research Conference
Presented by the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, and Cancer Research UK
REGISTER TODAY

June 25-27, 2024
Boston Marriott Copley Place
Boston, MA

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Summit
Connecting Leaders: Strategies for Change
Presented by AACI in partnership with the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Center DEI Network
REGISTER TODAY

October 19-20, 2024
Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk
Chicago, IL

2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
REGISTER TODAY

October 20-22, 2024
Loews Chicago Downtown 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