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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | March 2024

Click here to read the full newsletter on our website.

AACI HEADLINES

Register for the 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

Registration is open for the 16th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting, which will be held June 24-26 at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL. The programming for this year's CRI meeting, "Compassion and Collaboration Through Clinical Trials," aims to stimulate cancer center interactions and maximize resources by creating opportunities for peer-to-peer networking and collaboration.

Read More

PCLI Webinar: Not Your Typical Wellness Talk

AACI's Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) will host a free webinar, titled "Not Your Typical Wellness Talk," at 3:00 pm eastern time on Thursday, March 28. Webinar panelists are Quan Ly, MD, FACS, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center; Sarah Richards, MD, FACP, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine; and Steven Wengel, MD, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Read More

Dr. Karen Winkfield to Deliver Leadership Diversity Keynote

A thought leader in the areas of workforce diversity and health equity, Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD, is the executive director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, holds faculty positions at both Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University, and was appointed by President Joe Biden to the National Cancer Advisory Board in 2021. Dr. Winkfield will deliver the opening keynote at 8:00 am central time on Monday, March 12, during the 2024 AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop. Read More
Nominations Open for Cancer Research Ally Award, Hill Day Scholarships

Nominations are being accepted for the annual Cancer Research Ally Award, which will be presented to one Democrat and one Republican member of Congress at a reception before the 2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day. AACI is also accepting nominations for Hill Day scholarship recipients. The scholarships enable patient advocates to attend the event and share their perspectives during congressional meetings. Read More

Ask Your Representatives to Support the Knock Out Cancer Act

Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus, and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), jointly introduced the Knock Out (KO) Cancer Act for the 118th Congress in December 2023. 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. Write to your legislators today to urge them to support the KO Cancer Act. Read More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Cancer Research Institute Recognizes Bhardwaj

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, is the recipient of a Cancer Research Institute (CRI)/Oliver R. Grace CLIP grant. Recognition of Dr. Bhardwaj as a Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP) investigator distinguishes her as one of the CRI's most promising scientists. Read More

Cedars-Sinai Radiation Oncology Earns Top Accreditation
The Department of Radiation Oncology at Cedars-Sinai Cancer has earned accreditation from the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Accreditation Program for Excellence. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

UAMS Achieves $30 Million Fundraising Goal for NCI Designation
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Behnke Family Commits $15 Million to Support Fred Hutch Campaign
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Duke Collaboration Results in Multi-Million Dollar Award to Support Blood Cancer Research
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

$3.7 Million NIH Grant Will Boost Study of New Cancer Therapy
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

$1.3 Million Gift From Curing Kids Cancer Endows Cancer Professorship
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

$1.1 Million Grant Supports Research in Breast Cancer Survivorship Among Black Women
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Nursing Researchers Receive Grant to Increase Clinical Trial Enrollment of Underrepresented Kidney Cancer Patients
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Macleod Named Associate Director for Basic Sciences
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Kay Macleod, PhD, has been appointed as the associate director for basic sciences for the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center. The role was previously held for many years by Geoffrey Greene, PhD. Dr. Macleod is also a program co-leader of the center's Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer Research Program. Read More

Bloom Named System Director of Cardio-Oncology
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone

Michelle Bloom, MD, has joined NYU Langone Health as system director of the Cardio-Oncology Program, which provides specialized care to protect patients' heart health throughout cancer treatment and survivorship. Previously, Dr. Bloom served as co-director of the Cardio-Oncology Program at Stony Brook University Hospital. Read More
New Senior Director of Cancer Training and Career Enhancement Appointed
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

Huntsman Cancer Institute recently welcomed Katharine S. Ullman, PhD, into a new position of leadership. Dr. Ullman is celebrated for her advocacy in training and mentoring and dedication to learning. Read More

Rutgers Unveils Leadership Enhancements
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey has modified its leadership structure, elevating two associate director functions to deputy director positions. Andrew M. Evens, DO, MBA, MSc, is deputy director for clinical services; Linda Tanzer is deputy director for administration and planning and chief financial and administrative officer; and Eileen White, PhD, will continue in the roles of deputy director and chief scientific officer. Read More

Health Equity Expert Appointed Deputy Director
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Monica L. Baskin, PhD, has been appointed deputy director of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center where she will expand her efforts aimed at reducing health disparities, advancing the science of community outreach and engagement, and promoting representation in the workforce and clinical trials. Read More

New Chief of Neuro-Oncology and Co-Director of Brain and Spine Tumor Center Named
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone

Alexandra Miller, MD, PhD, has been named chief of the Neuro-Oncology Program and a co-director of the Brain and Spine Tumor Center at NYU Langone Health’s Perlmutter Cancer Center. She joins NYU Langone from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Read More
**Wells Named Assistant Director for Community Outreach and Engagement**

*Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University*

Jessica Wells, PhD, FAAN, has been named assistant director for community outreach and engagement at Winship Cancer Institute. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and president-elect of the board of the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health. [Read More]

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**Draetta to Serve as Principal Investigator of CCSG at MD Anderson**

*The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

Giulio Draetta, MD, PhD, will serve as principal investigator (PI) of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Cancer Center Support Grant. Historically, MD Anderson's president served as PI; however, this change addresses the demands of an increasingly complex organization and will optimize the institution’s programming and support for the grant. [Read More]

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**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**Research Reveals Extent of Undiagnosed Cancer Cases Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

*UK Markey Cancer Center*

**Scientists Use Cancer's Strength to Fight Against It**

*UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center*

**Novel Drug Combination Shows Promise for Advanced HER2-Negative Breast Cancer**

*Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University*

**Blood Cancer Discovery Identifies High-Risk Patients, Could Improve Outcomes**

*University of Virginia Cancer Center*
First-of-Its-Kind Compound Opens New Avenue in Immunotherapy Treatment for Cancers
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Nanodrug May Be a Paradigm Shift for Cancer
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

CRISPR-Cas13d Platform Could Lead to Upgrades in Cell Therapies for Cancer
Stanford Cancer Institute

Stem Cell Researchers Pioneer New Technology to Test Chemotherapies and Other Cancer Drugs for Heart Toxicity
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Study Defines Mechanisms Underlying Promising Precision Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Comprehensive Care Improves Outcomes in Adult Lymphoblastic Leukemia
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Novel Liquid Biopsy of Lymph Fluid Could Guide Precision Treatment for Head and Neck Cancer
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Oldest Patient to Achieve Remission for Leukemia and HIV Successfully Treated
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Discover Why One Type of Chemotherapy Works Best in Bladder Cancer
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Study Shows Expanded Cancer Gene Testing Feasible, Beneficial for Patients
UK Markey Cancer Center

Decoding the Genes Behind Dolastatin 10 Paves Way for New Cancer Therapeutics
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Is Lung Cancer Treatment Working? This Chip Can Tell From a Blood Draw
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

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

Tumor Biology May Underlie Racial Differences in Certain Breast Cancer Outcomes
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center
Age-Related Changes in Fibroblast Cells Promote Pancreatic Cancer Growth, Spread

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Inosine Induces Stemness Features in CAR T Cells and Enhances Potency

Stanford Cancer Institute

Study Points to Possible New Therapy for Advanced Kidney Cancer

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

Two Common Biomarkers Predict Heart Risk in Asymptomatic Childhood Cancer Survivors

Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Fatty Acids Rewire Energy Supply Chain in Stomach Cancer Development

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Novel Bispecific Design Improves CAR T-cell Immunotherapy for Childhood Leukemia

Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

OTHER NEWS

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute to Seek National Designation

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Rodney Rocconi, MD, director of the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute (CCRI), has been tasked with enhancing CCRI's mission of combating cancer through UMMC's three-part mission of clinical care, research and education. His first order of business: to begin the journey towards National Cancer Institute designation. Read More

Winn Career Development Award Applications Open

VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Award Program (Winn Awards) is designed to increase diversity in clinical trials and transform the clinical research landscape. Applications for one of the Winn Awards’ signature programs, the Winn Career Development Award, are being accepted through Monday, May 13. Read More
New Radiation Therapy Targets Tumors More Precisely
Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa

UI Health Care is the first medical center in North America—and the second in the world—to cross over into the next phase of MR-Linac technology, offering even more precise real-time targeting of soft tissue tumors with radiation therapy. Read More

Early Detection Project Launches to Arrest Cancer Before It Spreads
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

UC San Francisco is embarking on a bold initiative to catch cancer in its earliest forms and prevent it from progressing. Led by Margaret Tempero, MD, the new Cancer Early Detection and Interception initiative aims to detect and halt cancer before it takes root and spreads. Read More

Spurring Action Against Cervical Cancer
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

During the last days of January, which was Cervical Cancer Awareness month, Prajakta Adsul, MBBS, PhD, MPH, headed for Washington, DC, to participate in the inaugural White House Cervical Cancer Forum hosted by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, through the Biden Moonshot Initiative. Read More

New Digital Tool Aims to Improve Treatment Plans for Pediatric Cancer Patients
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

Jonathan Constance, PhD, associate member in the Cell Response and Regulation Program at Huntsman Cancer Institute, is seeking to better understand how medications can be used more safely and effectively in different patient populations, especially pediatric cancer patients. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CTO Assistant Director of Research Finance
VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center
Research Technician I-II - Single Cell Genomics - Immunology
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Program Coordinator - HPV Cancer Center Prevention Program
Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Cancer Center Administrator
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Health Services Research - Cancer Faculty Position
The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Clinical Research Coordinator - Various Positions/Levels
Moffitt Cancer Center

Operations Research Scientist
Moffitt Cancer Center

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop
March 12-13, 2024
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL

PCLI Webinar | Not Your Typical Wellness Talk
REGISTER TODAY
March 28, 2024
Webinar

2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day
REGISTER TODAY
May 16, 2024
Washington, DC

16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
REGISTER TODAY
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