Some email communications may be filtered to your Spam or Junk folder, even if you have subscribed to them. Please mark aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.ccsend.com as a Safe Sender to ensure that AACI emails are delivered to your inbox.

News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | May 2024
Click here to read the full newsletter on our website.

Awards & Honors | Grants & Gifts | Leadership Transitions | Research Highlights | Other News
Job Opportunities | Meeting Announcements

AACI HEADLINES

SKCC at Jefferson Health Earns Comprehensive Designation From NCI

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) at Jefferson Health has earned a National Cancer Institute (NCI) "Comprehensive" Cancer Center designation, the highest recognition awarded by the NCI. This recognition places SKCC among an elite group of only 57 cancer centers nationwide. Andrew Chapman, DO, FACP, is director of the cancer center. Read More

Register Today for the 2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for the 2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, which will take place October 20-22 at the Loews Chicago Downtown Hotel. Preceding the meeting, AACI will host the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Summit, in partnership with the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Center DEI Network. The DEI Summit is scheduled October 19-20 in Chicago. Read More

Abstract Winners Announced for the 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

The AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Steering Committee, with the assistance of peer reviewers from CRI committees and volunteers, have selected three abstracts from 154 submissions for formal presentation on Tuesday, June 25, during the 16th Annual AACI CRI
CRI Annual Meeting: Support Opportunities

AACI invites you to promote your cancer center or company by purchasing an ad in the 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting digital program book. Your program ad may highlight a conference or a new initiative, or celebrate the success of your cancer center's clinical trials office. The deadline to submit a program ad is 5:00 pm eastern time on Friday, May 24. Read More


Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA) will be honored with the Cancer Research Ally Award before the 2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day, which will be held on Thursday, May 16. The awards will be presented during an evening reception on Wednesday, May 15. Read More

PCLI Webinar: Exploring Urgent Care Models in Oncology

AACI's Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) will host a webinar titled "On the Frontlines of Cancer Care: Exploring Urgent Care Models in Oncology" at 1:00 pm eastern time on Thursday, May 9. Panelists will offer invaluable insights into the evolving landscape of oncology care and strategies for delivering high-quality, patient-centered services in urgent care settings. This webinar is supported by Advarra. Read More

AACI CAR T Initiative Renamed Cellular Therapy Initiative

Recognizing the evolution of immunotherapies over the past several years, the AACI CAR T Steering Committee recently voted to change the name of the CAR T Initiative to AACI Cellular Therapy Initiative. Along with the new name, the steering committee will expand to include experts in other cellular-based therapies. Read More
AACI Introduces Tech Gold Membership

AACI is pleased to announce Tech Gold, a new membership category designed especially for technology companies whose products and services benefit cancer centers. This membership provides a forum for AACI cancer centers and these companies to exchange ideas and imagine new possibilities for enhancing oncology through technology. The 2024 Tech Gold members are Caris Life Sciences, Cognizant, and Yunu. Read More

Paid Advertisement: Prevent Cancer Foundation

Call for Research Grant and Fellowship Applications

Deadline: June 14, 2024 (11:59 pm ET)
The goal of the Prevent Cancer Foundation's research program is to identify and fund innovative projects with the potential to make substantial contributions to cancer prevention or early detection. Apply for a $100,000 award.

Read about the impact of the research program and awarded researchers to discover projects driving key advancements in the field. Learn More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Ulrich Receives Governor’s Medal

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

Neli Ulrich, PhD, MS, chief scientific officer and executive director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, has been awarded the 2024 Governor’s Medal for Science and Technology. Read More

Licht Named AAAS Fellow

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Jonathan D. Licht, MD, director of the UF Health Cancer Center, has been named a 2023 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a distinguished lifetime honor within the scientific community. Read More
Dickson, Khabele, Longmore Elected to Association of American Physicians

Siteman Cancer Center

Three Washington University physician-scientists at Siteman Cancer Center—Patricia I. Dickson, MD, Dineo Khabele, MD, and Gregory D. Longmore, MD—have been elected to the Association of American Physicians. Membership in the organization is an honor bestowed on physicians who lead innovative scientific research to improve health care.

Read More

Kaelin Recognized With Reimann Honor Award

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

William Kaelin Jr., MD, physician, scientist, and Nobel laureate, was recognized at Fox Chase Cancer Center with the Stanley P. Reimann Honor Award, the center’s highest distinction. The award was presented while Dr. Kaelin was visiting Fox Chase to deliver a scheduled lecture.

Read More

Bondy Receives ASPO Award

Stanford Cancer Institute

Melissa Bondy, PhD, received the American Society of Preventive Oncology Joseph F. Fraumeni, Jr. Distinguished Achievement Award. The award is extended annually to an outstanding scientist in the areas of preventive oncology, cancer control, and/or cancer prevention.

Read More

Sharma Named President of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

The University of Kansas Cancer Center
Prateek Sharma, MD, FASGE, has been elected president of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy for 2024-2025. Dr. Sharma is a member of The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s Cancer Prevention and Control research program. His term begins in May. Read More

Researchers Receive Team Science Award From Melanoma Research Alliance
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

A multidisciplinary team of investigators from the UCLA Health Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center was awarded a Translational Melanoma Research Alliance Team Science Award to identify small-molecular compounds that will prevent cancer cells from developing resistance to current mutation-targeted therapies and immunotherapies. Read More

NCI ESSP 2024 Cohort Selected
Stanford Cancer Institute

Candice Thompson, MD, was selected to participate in the NCI Early-stage Surgeon Scientist Program (ESSP), which is designed to train surgeon-scientists and retain them in basic/translational cancer research. This program brings together surgeon-scientists from across the United States and builds cohorts that will be trained together for up to three years. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

Perlmutter Earns Redesignation as Comprehensive Cancer Center
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone

Hollings Achieves its Highest Score, Receives NCI Designation Renewal
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Charitable Trust Makes $50 Million Gift to Build New Cancer Hospital
WVU Cancer Institute

New Lung Cancer Research Center to be Established With $20 Million Gift
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Scientists Build a Molecular GPS to Guide Cell Therapies
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researcher Awarded $3 Million to Study New Target for Melanoma Treatment
**UK Markey Cancer Center**

**Zhou Receives $2.9 Million to Develop System to Predict Multiple Myeloma Outcomes**

**University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center**

**$1 Million Pledged to Support Regional Campus, Cancer Patients**

**UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**

**Researchers Receive Grant to Study Role of Obesity in Colorectal Cancer**

**University of Florida Health Cancer Center**

**LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS**

**Winkfield Named Associate Director for COE**

**Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center**

Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD, executive director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, has been named associate director for Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. Earlier this year, Dr. Winkfield delivered the keynote talk at the 2024 AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop. Read More

**New Director of Melanoma Research**

**Cedars-Sinai Cancer**

Bin Zheng, PhD, a specialist in targeted therapies and immunotherapy, has joined Cedars-Sinai Cancer as director of Melanoma Research in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. Read More

**NRG Oncology Announces New Committee Leadership**

**The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai**

Stephanie Blank, MD, has been appointed vice chair of NRG Oncology’s Cancer Prevention and Control (CPC) Committee. NRG Oncology is a NCI National Clinical Trials Network group; the CPC Committee focuses on reducing cancer risk through optimal screening, biomarker evaluation, and risk reduction strategies. Read More
Kaumaya to Continue Cancer Therapy Work at IU
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Pravin Kaumaya, PhD, recognized for creating a cancer treatment blueprint that uses peptides in vaccines to block the growth and spread of cancer, has been named the Vera Bradley Foundation Professor of Breast Cancer Innovation at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center. Read More

Thompson Named Pediatric Neurosurgery Director
Siteman Cancer Center

Eric Thompson, MD, will join Siteman Kids at St. Louis Children’s Hospital on August 5 through his appointments at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. Siteman Kids is the pediatric oncology program of Siteman Cancer Center. Read More

Blackmon Named Director of Lung Institute
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Utah

Shanda H. Blackmon, MD, MPH, specializing in minimally invasive lung segmentectomy and complex thoracic surgery, has been named director of the Lung Institute at Baylor Medicine. She is returning to Houston from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Read More

Director for Research Education Named
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Chris Williams, MD, PhD, associate dean for Physician-Scientist Education and Training at Vanderbilt University, has been named to lead Research Education at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC). He succeeds Scott Hiebert, PhD, who will continue to serve as associate director for Shared Resources at VICC. Read More
Enhanced Melanoma Vaccine Offers Improved Survival for Men
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Team Identifies New Approach to Boosting Effectiveness of Chemotherapy in Hematologic Cancers
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Colorless, Odorless Gas Likely Linked to Alarming Rise in Non-Smoking Lung Cancer
Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Research Suggests Interventions to Address Higher Mental Health Care Needs in Parents Caring for Children With Cancer
Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University

New Plan Seeks to Improve Cancer Prevention, Clinical Trial Access
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Personalized Vaccine for Liver Cancer Shows Promise in Clinical Trial
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Study Shows Resistance to Chemotherapy May Point Toward Favorable Outcomes in Bilateral Wilms Tumor
Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Investigators Develop Novel Treatment for T-cell Leukemias and Lymphomas
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

New Urine-Based Test Detects High Grade Prostate Cancer
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Bacteria Subtype Linked to Growth in Up To 50 Percent of Human Colorectal Cancers
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Novel Approach Shows Promise in Enhancing Radiotherapy Efficacy for Squamous Cell Head and Neck Cancer
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Predicting Ovarian Cancer Relapse
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

CAR T Cell Therapy Targeting HER2 Antigen Shows Promise Against Advanced Sarcoma
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

FDA Approves Immunotherapy Drug Combo for Non-Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center
Gene Therapy Is Halting Cancer. Can It Work Against Brain Tumors?
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Surprising Connection Between Male Infertility and Family Cancer Risk
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

OTHER NEWS

Cancer Administrators Convene in Philadelphia
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

The Association of Cancer Center Administrators welcomed over 400 attendees to its inaugural meeting in Philadelphia, March 17-19. The conference was chaired by Matthew Huesser, DBA, vice president for Cancer Research Administration at Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health. Read More

Construction Begins on New Cancer and Advanced Ambulatory Building
UK Markey Cancer Center

The University of Kentucky has broken ground on the new UK Cancer and Advanced Ambulatory Building. The 550,000-square-foot facility will become the new home of the UK Markey Cancer Center. The building and an adjacent 2,400-space parking structure are slated for completion in 2027. Read More

Clinic Focuses on Immunotherapy Side Effect Management
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

A new clinic at OSUCCC – James and Pelotonia Immuno-Oncology Institute aims to help manage the autoimmune side effects of immunotherapy-based cancer treatment and allow patients to live the fullest life possible both during cancer treatment and long-term as a survivor. Read More

Fox Chase Opens First New Jersey Location
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center is welcoming patients to its newly opened office in Voorhees, New Jersey. The site is the first that Fox Chase has opened in the state. Approximately 20 percent of patients at Fox Chase's Philadelphia locations travel from New Jersey. Read More

Cold Spring Harbor, Northwell Extend Affiliation Agreement
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center
The Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory-Northwell Health affiliation agreement, first signed in 2015, has been updated with the aim to bring cutting-edge biology research to the bedside of tens of thousands of cancer patients in diverse communities across New York. Read More

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Chief Medical Officer**  
Moffitt Cancer Center

**Professor/Associate Professor, Physiology (Translational Cancer Chemoprevention/Immunoprevention)**  
The University of Arizona Cancer Center

**Program Head, Palliative Care**  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

**Adult Transplant and Cell Therapy Medical Director**  
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Bone Marrow Transplant**  
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Bone Marrow Transplant Park Ridge**  
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Assistant, Associate or Full Professor, Medical and Cancer Genetics Programs**  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PCLI Webinar | On the Frontlines of Cancer Care: Exploring Urgent Care Models in Oncology**  
REGISTER TODAY  
May 9, 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

**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 (DEI) Summit
Presented by AACI in partnership with the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Center DEI Network
REGISTER TODAY
October 19-20, 2024
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