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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | August 2025

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[Awards & Honors](#) | [Grants & Gifts](#) | [Leadership Transitions](#) | [Research Highlights](#) | [Other News](#)
[Job Opportunities](#) | [Meeting Announcements](#)

AACI HEADLINES

[Support Opportunities Available for Annual Meeting, Impact Summit](#)



AACI members are invited to support the 2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting by purchasing an ad in the digital meeting program. Support opportunities are also available for the Impact Summit, hosted in conjunction with the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Center Network. Both events will be held in Washington, DC, this October. [Read More](#)

[AACI Commends Republican Senators for Advocating for NIH Funding](#)

AACI commends U.S. Senator **Katie Britt (R-AL)**, for galvanizing the support of 13 Senate Republicans to advocate for the disbursement of appropriated funds for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). AACI also applauds Senators **John Boozman (R-AR)**, **Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)**, **Bill Cassidy (R-LA)**, **Susan Collins (R-ME)**, **Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**, **Mitch McConnell (R-KY)**, **Dave McCormick (R-PA)**, **Jerry Moran (R-KS)**, **Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)**, **Tim Scott (R-SC)**, **Dan Sullivan (R-AK)**, **Thom Tillis (R-NC)**, and **Todd Young (R-IN)**, who cosigned [Senator Britt's letter](#) to the director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. [Read More](#)

[AACI Partners With Medlive on CAR T Video Series](#)

A new Medlive [continuing medical education video series](#), created in partnership with AACI and [American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy](#), will explore how CAR T-cell therapy is transforming patient outcomes in hematologic malignancies like non-Hodgkin lymphoma and multiple myeloma. The on-demand educational videos will help oncologists navigate this rapidly evolving treatment landscape through real-world strategies for community practice and referral pathways for optimal care delivery. [Learn More](#)



CAR T Vision Coalition Launches With Ambitious Goal



In the United States, despite the availability of CAR T-cell therapy to treat certain types of aggressive and advanced blood cancers, only about 2 out of 10 eligible patients are able to access CAR T therapy. The **CAR T Vision** Steering Committee was established with a goal of doubling the proportion of eligible patients treated with CAR T therapy by 2030. [Read More](#)

AACI Welcomes PhRMA to Corporate Roundtable



AACI welcomes **PhRMA** to its **Corporate Roundtable**. PhRMA conducts advocacy for public policies that encourage the discovery of important, new medicines for patients by biopharmaceutical research companies. The AACI Corporate Roundtable provides a forum for AACI cancer centers to address topics of mutual interest with their pharmaceutical industry colleagues. [Read More](#)

The James Hosts Clinical Trial Concept Workshop in Partnership With AACI



Photo credit: Randy Belice

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - The James hosted the in-person component of its inaugural "Clinical Trial Concept in the Oncology Landscape" course during the 17th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting in Rosemont, IL. The R25 National Cancer Institute (NCI)-supported course, also known as idea2Concept (i2C), trains early-career investigators in oncology to design a cancer clinical trial concept that is scientifically sound and feasible. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Rathmell to Receive Alt Award

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center



Jeffrey C. Rathmell, PhD, chair of UChicago's Ben May Department for Cancer Research and director of Ludwig Center, will receive the Cancer Research Institute's 2025 Frederick W. Alt Award for New Discoveries in Immunology. [Read More](#)

Farma Named Chair in Surgical Oncology

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Jeffrey Farma, MD, FACS, chair and professor in the Department of Surgery, has been appointed to the Paul Grotzinger and Wilbur Raab Chair in Surgical Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

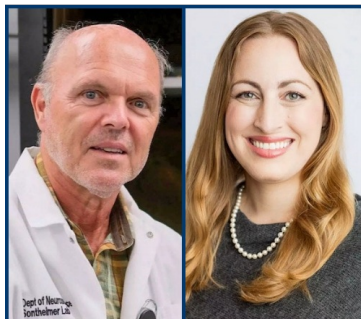
Stem Cell Transplant Program Recognized as Center of Excellence

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Health services company Optum has recognized Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as a Center of Excellence for the stem cell transplant program provided through its Transplant & Cellular Therapy Center. To be certified, a center undergoes a rigorous evaluation process, including assessing factors like clinical expertise, patient outcomes, and quality of care. [Read More](#)

Brain Cancer Discoveries Earn Top Award

University of Virginia Cancer Center



The School of Medicine's **Harald Sontheimer, PhD**, (pictured, left) and Stanford's **Michelle Monje, MD, PhD** (pictured, right) have received the 2025 International Prize in Translational Neuroscience from the Gertrud Reemtsma Foundation. [Read More](#)

De Los Santos, Hugo Recognized by ASTRO

Siteman Cancer Center

Two WashU Medicine professors of radiation oncology affiliated with Siteman Cancer Center—**Jennifer De Los Santos, MD**, and **Geoffrey Hugo, PhD**—have been named fellows of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO). [Read More](#)

[Gift Launches \\$200 Million Initiative for the Weill Cancer Hub West](#)

[UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[\\$31 Million Pledged to Establish Center for Advanced Therapeutics and Innovation](#)

[Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah](#)

[Seven High-Impact Research Projects Funded](#)

[The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Beckerle Steps Down as CEO](#)

[Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah](#)



Mary Beckerle, PhD, is stepping down as CEO of Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI). During her 20-year tenure, HCI became a National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and completed two major expansions. [Read More](#)

[Team to Advance NCI Designation Goals](#)

[WVU Cancer Institute](#)

WVU Cancer Institute Director **Hannah Hazard-Jenkins, MD**, has appointed WVU School of Medicine members **Ashkan Emadi, MD, PhD**; **Reagan Curtis, PhD**; and **Stephenie Kennedy-Rea, EdD**, and the cancer institute's **Lori Hazlehurst, PhD**, to strengthen and align an ecosystem of clinical care, education, and research. [Read More](#)

[Barnholtz-Sloan Joins Winship](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)



Jill S. Barnholtz-Sloan, PhD, has been named chief administrative officer and associate director for research administration at Winship Cancer Institute. She comes to Winship from the National Cancer Institute. [Read More](#)

[Coyne to Lead New START Center](#)

[Northwell Health Cancer Institute](#)

Geraldine O'Sullivan Coyne, MD, PhD, MRCPI, has been named system head of Northwell and principal investigator for The START Center for Cancer Research, a new unit aimed at bringing early-stage clinical trials to patients in a community-based cancer center. [Read More](#)



Thaker Named Chief of Gynecologic Oncology

Siteman Cancer Center



Premal H. Thaker, MD, MS, has been named chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at WashU Medicine, where she will oversee a continuum of research and clinical approaches at Siteman Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Thomas Appointed Associate Director for Basic Science

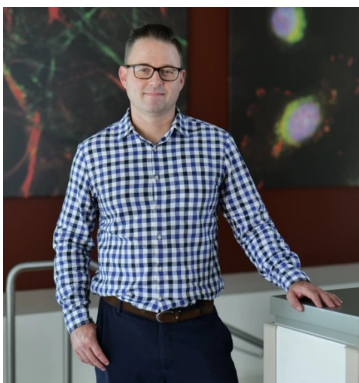
The University of Kansas Cancer Center



Sufi Thomas, PhD, professor of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, has been named associate director for Basic Science at The University of Kansas Cancer Center, succeeding **Shrikant Anant, PhD**. [Read More](#)

Scott Appointed Early Therapeutics Director

The University of Arizona Cancer Center



Aaron Scott, MD, has been appointed director of the Early Therapeutics Program at the University of Arizona Cancer Center. Dr. Scott currently serves as co-leader of the Clinical and Translational Oncology Program. [Read More](#)

Henry Named Associate Director for COE

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center has named breast



oncologist **N. Lynn Henry, MD, PhD**, as associate director for community outreach and engagement. [Read More](#)

Bernstein Named Vice Chair of Oncological Sciences

[The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai](#)



Emily Bernstein, PhD, an internationally recognized expert on cancer epigenetics, was named vice chair of the Department of Oncological Sciences in the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Respiratory Viruses Can 'Wake Up' Breast Cancer Cells in Lungs

[Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Researcher Publishes Three Studies Advancing CLL Treatment

[The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai](#)

Prioritizing Head and Neck Cancer Nutrition Research, Therapies

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

AI, Advanced Data Metrics Forging a New Era in Cancer Research

[Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Study Provides New Data on COVID Outcomes for Cancer Patients

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

Common Medication for Lung Cancer Symptoms Found to Limit Effectiveness of Cancer Treatment

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Microbiomes May Provide a Biomarker for Endometrial Cancer

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

Scientists Advance Efforts to Create Virtual Cell Lab as Testing Ground for Future Research With Live Cells

[Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University](#)

Studies Identify Pancreatic Cancer Biomarker Driving Basal Disease

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Chromosomal Abnormality Scores Unlock Path to Personalized Immunotherapy](#)

[The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Scientists Wipe Out Aggressive Brain Cancer Tumors by Targeting Cellular Motors](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

[Gene Signature an Early Warning System for Aggressive Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center](#)

[Genetic Marker Could Guide Brain Cancer Treatment](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Research Shows Key Resistance Mechanism in Breast Cancer](#)

[Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health](#)

[Stepping Toward Understanding: Gait Analysis to Advance Neuroscience and Cancer Survivorship](#)

[Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)

[Could a Simple Change in Cancer Screening Save More Black Women's Lives?](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

[In-Body CAR T-Cell Generation Proves Effective, Safe in Mice](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Common Autoimmune Drug May Help Reverse Immunotherapy-Induced Diabetes](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[New Treatment Strategy Targets Aggressive Blood Cancer](#)

[Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Unlikely Duo: T Cells and B Cells Join Forces to Fight Solid Tumors](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[AI Tool May Help Some Prostate Cancer Patients Avoid Hormone Therapy](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

[Cancer-Fighting Herpes Virus Shown to Be Effective Treatment for Some Advanced Melanoma](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Pancreatic Cancer Spreads to Liver or Lung Due to This Protein](#)

[UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Validate a New Therapeutic Target for Acute Myeloid Leukemia](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Surprising Finding Could Pave Way for Universal Cancer Vaccine](#)

[Data From Fluorescence Imaging Can Improve Outcomes in Head and Neck Cancer Surgery](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

['Mismatched' Transplants Now Safe for Blood Cancer Patients](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

[New Target for Obesity-Related Breast Cancer Identified](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Shedding Light on Why Some Prostate Tumors Resist Treatment](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Study Identifies Key Protein That Helps Liver Cancer Resist Heat-Based Treatment](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

OTHER NEWS

[Clinical Trial Workshop for Junior Faculty](#)

[The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute](#)

The [idea2Concept Workshop](#) hybrid course is designed to educate oncology trainees (fellows/residents) and junior faculty from any cancer specialty in applying good clinical practice and scientific reasoning in effective clinical trial conceptualization and design. Courses will take place online starting in fall 2025 with an in-person workshop held at the 18th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting in June 2026. The application deadline is **Monday, August 11, 2025** at 5:00 pm eastern time. [Apply Here](#)

[Researchers Form Empire State Cellular Therapy Consortium](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Five New York State research centers are collaborating to develop new cell and gene therapies for cancer and other diseases. Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, the University of Rochester Wilmot Cancer Institute, and three academic research centers in New York City—The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NYU Langone Health, and Weill Cornell Medicine—have launched the Empire State Cellular Therapy Consortium. [Read More](#)

[Weeding Out Cancer With CAR T](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

In 2023, Sixta Georgina Calderón Hernández planted a garden to help her cope with a diagnosis of lymphoma and the side effects of chemotherapy. A year later the cancer came back. But thanks to the CAR T-cell therapy Calederón Hernández received this spring at Cedars-Sinai, her cancer is now in remission. She is the 100th patient to receive CAR T-cell therapy at Cedars-Sinai. [Read More](#)

[Partnership to Boost Colorectal Cancer Screenings in Arkansas](#)

[UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute](#)

A new partnership between the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute and ARcare aims to dramatically improve colorectal cancer screening rates in seven rural Arkansas counties where late-stage diagnoses and cancer disparities are on the rise. [Read More](#)

[Specialty Clinic Launched](#)

[University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

David Savage, MD, PhD, recently launched a specialty clinic at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center to treat skin cancers and soft tissue sarcomas. [Read More](#)



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Translational Scientist - Leukemia/Lymphoma](#)

[UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute](#)

[Translational Scientist - Multiple Myeloma](#)

[UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute](#)

[Physician Scientist](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Program Director, Cancer Clinical Trials Office](#)

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)

[Director](#)

[Dartmouth Cancer Center](#)

[Associate Director for Administration](#)

[Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center](#)

[Research Scientist](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Associate Director of Administration](#)

[WVU Cancer Institute](#)

[Director](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 19-21, 2025](#)

[Washington DC](#)

[De Docta Ignorantia: Cancer Immunology in the Era of Omics and Artificial Intelligence](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[November 6-7, 2025](#)

[Bethesda, MD](#)

[2026 AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence \(CADEx\) Conference](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[March 9-11, 2026](#)
[Atlanta, GA](#)

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