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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | March 2025

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Theodorescu Appointed Director of the University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)



Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD, has been appointed director of the University of Arizona Cancer Center. Dr. Theodorescu is a leader in bladder cancer research. He has also served as director of Cedars-Sinai Cancer, in Los Angeles, and the University of Colorado Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Stand Up for Science Rallies Set for March 7 Nationwide](#)



Stand Up for Science is supporting rallies in Washington, DC, and 31 other U.S. cities on **Friday, March 7**. The grassroots group aims to defend science as a public good and a pillar of social, political, and economic progress, calling on policymakers, institutions, and the scientific community to uphold the integrity of science and ensure it benefits all people. **At least 40 AACI member cancer centers are located within an hour of a rally site and we encourage you to participate in a rally near you.** [Read More](#)

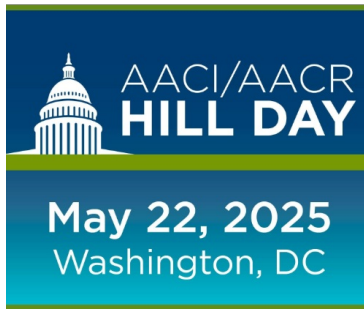
[Register Today for the 17th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

Registration is open for the **17th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting, June 23-25**, at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL. The programming for this year's CRI meeting, "Driving Solutions Together," will center on fostering inclusive practices



and expanding community impact. [Read More](#)

[Join AACI and AACR in Washington for 2025 Hill Day](#)



Registration is now open for AACI's joint **Hill Day** with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), which will take place on **Thursday, May 22**, in Washington, DC.

Your participation in Hill Day is crucial to sharing our message with legislators: that stable, predictable funds for the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute are critical for advancing research and care at our nation's cancer centers. [Read More](#)

[Register for Upcoming PCLI, CARDS Webinars](#)



Registration is open for two upcoming **AACI webinars**. "**From Outreach to Action: Embedding Community Perspectives in Cancer Research**" is scheduled for **Thursday, March 20**, and "**Statistical Approaches to Bridging Gaps in Catchment Area Data**" will be held on **Tuesday, March 25**. As always, AACI webinars are free and open to all faculty and staff at our member cancer centers. [Read More](#)

[Nominations Open for 2025 AACI Awards](#)



*Pictured, clockwise from top: 2024 recipients of AACI's Champion for Cures, Distinguished Scientist, and Cancer Health Equity awards
Photos by Randy Belice*

AACI members are invited to submit nominations for the 2025 **Cancer Health Equity** and **Champion for Cures** awards. The submission deadline for both awards is **Friday, May 2**. Any faculty and staff at an AACI member institution may submit a nomination for one or both awards. Recipients will be selected from the slate of nominees by AACI's Board of Directors. [Read More](#)

[IgniteData Joins Tech Gold](#)

AACI welcomes **IgniteData** to its **Tech Gold** members. IgniteData exists to help researchers collect and study patient data fast, enabling vital treatments to reach patients sooner and deliver modern clinical trials. The company's market-leading data transfer technology, **Archer**, brings the benefits of fast, accurate EHR-to-EDC data transfer to both sites and sponsors.



See insights from IgniteData's recent roundtable discussion with AACI members.

[Read More](#)

[Paid Advertisement: Caris Life Sciences](#)



Webinar: MI Cancer Seek

Join **Caris Life Sciences** scientific and medical leaders as they discuss **MI Cancer Seek™**, the first and only simultaneous WES/WTS-based assay with CDx indications for adult and pediatric patients (ages 1-22). This assay includes eight CDx indications covering five tumor types and one pan-cancer approval for 19 FDA-approved therapies.

For complete product information, view the [Technical Information document](#). [Learn More](#)

[Paid Advertisement: UK Markey Cancer Center](#)



At Markey Cancer Center, we're breaking down barriers to advance innovations in cancer research on a global scale. Read the full story at ukhealthcare.com/cancer. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Blood Cancer Expert Honored With Research Award](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



The GVHD Alliance has honored **Shernan Holtan, MD**, chief of blood and marrow transplantation at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, as the recipient of the 2025 Lukas D. Wartman Award. This recognition acknowledges Dr. Holtan's groundbreaking contributions to improving outcomes for patients battling graft-versus-host disease. [Read More](#)

[Postdoctoral Associate Selected as Forbeck Scholar](#)

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



Emma Guilbaud, PhD, a postdoctoral associate at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been selected as a Forbeck Scholar by the William Guy Forbeck Research Foundation. This appointment recognizes early career cancer researchers for their achievements, research, and dedication to the field. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[Ronai Earns Outstanding Investigator Award](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Federal Funding Received to Integrate Clinical Research Into Primary Care Practices](#)

[Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma](#)

[Federal Program Expands Treatment to Rural and Frontier Communities](#)

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

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Chang to Lead Houston Methodist Academic Institute](#)

[Houston Methodist Dr. Mary and Ron Neal Cancer Center](#)



Jenny Chang, MD, MBBChir, MHCM, has been chosen to lead the Houston Methodist Academic Institute. Dr. Chang has led the Dr. Mary and Ron Neal Cancer Center since 2010. **Nestor F. Esnaola, MD, MPH, MBA, FACS**, will serve as interim director of the cancer center while a national search is conducted to replace Dr. Chang. [Read More](#)

[New Interim Leadership Announced](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center has announced a new interim director, **Kathryn Schmitz, PhD, MPH**, and interim deputy director, **José P. Zevallos, MD, MPH**. The former interim director, **Jeremy Rich, MD, MHS, MBA**, has accepted a new role outside the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC. [Read More](#)

[Davis Named Surgical Oncology Lead](#)

[University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

*Correction: This news was misattributed in the February 2025 AACI Update and has been reposted under the correct source. **Jeremy L. Davis, MD**, was named the new surgical oncology lead for the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center and chief of the Division of*



Surgical Oncology in the Department of Surgery at University of Maryland School of Medicine. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Co-Located Cell Types Help Drive Aggressive Brain Tumors](#)

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

[Study Shows End-of-Life Cancer Care Lacking for Medicare Patients](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[New Trial Reveals Major Advance in Treatment of Aggressive Lymphoma](#)

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

[Research Shows Promising Outcomes for Prostate Cancer Patients Treated With Olaparib](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center](#)

[Researchers Identify DNA Changes, Biological Pathways Associated With Inherited Cancer Risk](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Urine Test for Prostate Cancer May Be Appropriate for Home Use](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Cancer Interception: the First HPV Antiviral Treatment Fights Pre-Cancers](#)

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

[New Combination Treatment Strategy Dramatically Increases Cell Death in Leukemia](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Study Sets Benchmark for Treatment of Advanced Cervical Cancer](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Study Establishes Link Between Early Side Effects From Prostate Cancer Radiation and Long-Term Side Effects](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Jumbled Proteins Paint a Bold Target on the Backs of Brain Tumors](#)

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

[Team Proposes CDK2 Enzyme as New Target for Cancer Therapy](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Long-Term Survival Following CAR T Cell Therapy to Treat Neuroblastoma](#)

[Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine](#)

[Plant Extract Inspires New Chemistry and New Early Lead Against Triple-Negative Breast Cancer](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[Repair Drive: Precision Gene Therapy for Liver Disorders](#)

[Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine](#)

[Researchers Discover Why Some Colon Cancers Resist Treatment](#)

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

[Scientists Identify Epigenetic Key That May Open Door to Colon Cancer](#)

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

[Short-Course Radiation Therapy Effective for Endometrial Cancer Patients](#)

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

[Algorithm-Based Approach Improves Access to Palliative Care](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[New Blood Test Helps Predict Survival of Advanced Prostate Cancer Patients](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center](#)

[Research Team Develops New Compound With Cancer-Fighting Properties](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Review Guidelines for Therapies Given to Melanoma Patients Before and After Initial Treatment](#)

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

[Speculum Exams Unnecessary for HPV Screening](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Study Characterizes Risks and Benefits of Lung Cancer Screening](#)

[University of Florida Health Center](#)

[Can Scientists Throw a Wrench Into Cancer Growth Gears?](#)

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

[Research Sheds New Light on a Key Ovarian Cancer Biomarker](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Targeting Protein Restores Aging Blood Cells, Researchers Find](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

[Innovative CT Scan Technique Could Improve Prognosis and Treatments for Head and Neck Cancers](#)

[Trastuzumab Emtansine Improves Long-Term Survival in HER2 Breast Cancer](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

OTHER NEWS

[WHO, St. Jude Partner on International Delivery of Childhood Cancer Medicines](#)

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



World Health Organization

Through the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines, the World Health Organization (WHO) and St. Jude have begun distributing critically-needed childhood cancer medicines in two of six pilot countries. Medicines are currently being delivered to Mongolia and Uzbekistan, with shipments planned for Ecuador, Jordan, Nepal, and Zambia. [Read More](#)

[Massey Partners With Hollings to Empower Next Generation of Cancer Center Leaders](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Center Center](#)



In January, VCU Massey welcomed the inaugural cohort for the Executive Leadership Academy for Cancer Centers, an 18-month intensive leadership academy in partnership with Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina. The robust curriculum empowers scientists who are interested in becoming future leaders of National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers. [Read More](#)

[Now Streaming: Season 9 of the Advocates in Action Podcast](#)

[Patient Advocate Foundation](#)



Season 9 of the [Patient Advocate Foundation's](#) (PAF) acclaimed podcast, [Advocates in Action](#), is now streaming. Please listen to the [first episode](#), featuring PAF's [Gwen Darien](#) in conversation with [Freddie White-Johnson](#), [Robert A. Winn, MD](#), and [Reginald Tucker-Seeley, ScD](#), as they share the common and unique barriers to care in the regions they serve, along with the solutions they champion. [Read More](#)

[Tobacco Settlement Delivers Lung Cancer Screenings to More Oklahomans](#)

[Stephenson Center Center, University of Oklahoma](#)

OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center has launched a mobile lung cancer screening bus, in collaboration with the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and others, to bring critical early detection capabilities directly to communities across Oklahoma. [Read More](#)

[Stanford Infuses First Patient With Innovative Solid Tumor Therapy](#)

[Stanford Center Institute](#)

Stanford has treated its first patient with Tecelra, an engineered T cell receptor (TCR) therapy that uses a patient's own immune cells to target the cancer. Tecelra is the first FDA-approved, engineered TCR therapy and the first drug to receive FDA approval specifically for synovial sarcoma. Tecelra is also the second cell therapy approved for solid tumors. [Read More](#)

[Legacy of Theranostics Innovation Transforms Cancer Care](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Center Center](#)

UCLA Health is celebrating one year of treating patients with advanced prostate, thyroid, and neuroendocrine cancers at its Outpatient Theranostics Center, one of the largest clinics of its kind in the United States. The 3,000-square-foot facility continues the health system's decade-long involvement the field of theranostics, which uses advanced imaging and radiopharmaceuticals to target tumors with precision. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

[Director, Research Operations](#)

[Dartmouth Cancer Center](#)

[Director, Cancer Center](#)

[Houston Methodist Dr. Mary and Ron Neal Cancer Center](#)

[Chief Department Administrator](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Director, Early Phase Clinical Trials & Precision Therapeutics](#)

[UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Director, Early Phase Clinical Trials Program](#)

[UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Executive Service Line Administrator](#)

[Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa](#)

[Faculty Position in Medical Oncology - Leader, Medical Oncology Phase I](#)

[GW Cancer Center](#)

[Open Rank Faculty Position in Head and Neck Surgery Research](#)

[Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Program Head, Phase I Clinical Trials](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

AACI WEBINARS

[PCLI Webinar | From Outreach to Action: Embedding Community Perspectives in Cancer Research](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[March 20, 2025 | 3:00 pm ET](#)

[CARDS Webinar | Statistical Approaches to Bridging Gaps in](#)

Catchment Area Data

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[March 25, 2025 | 2:00 pm ET](#)

2025 AACI MEETINGS

2025 AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[March 11-12, 2025](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

2025 AACI/AACR Hill Day

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[May 22, 2025](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

17th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[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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