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## News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | October 2025

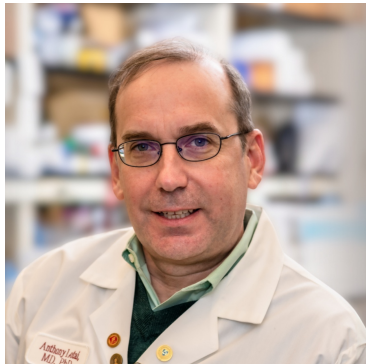
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[Awards & Honors](#) | [Grants & Gifts](#) | [Leadership Transitions](#) | [Research Highlights](#) | [Other News](#)  
[Job Opportunities](#) | [Meeting Announcements](#)

## AACI HEADLINES

### [Dr. Anthony Letai to Lead National Cancer Institute](#)



On Monday, September 29, **Anthony Letai, MD, PhD**, was **confirmed as the 18th director** of the National Cancer Institute. AACI congratulates Dr. Letai on his confirmation and we look forward to working with him to advance our mutual goals and accelerate progress against cancer. [Read More](#)

### [Ulrich Named AACI President-Elect; Two Cancer Center Leaders Join Board](#)



**Cornelia Ulrich, MS, PhD**, has been named vice president/president-elect of AACI's Board of Directors. Dr. Ulrich is chief scientific officer and executive director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah. **Diane M. Simeone, MD**, and **Barry P. Sleckman, MD, PhD**, were also selected to join the board. [Read More](#)

### [AACI Announces 2025 Award Recipients](#)

*Pictured, clockwise from top left: Dr. Thomas F. Gajewski, Dr. John D. Carpten, the 11 Day Power Play, Representative Joaquin Castro, and Senator Katie Britt*



AACI congratulates this year's **Distinguished Scientist**, **Cancer Health Equity**, **Champion for Cures**, and **Public Service** award recipients. The awards will be presented during the **2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting** in Washington, DC. [Read More](#)

## [Call for AACI Steering Committee Nominations](#)



Nominations are now being accepted for the AACI **Cellular Therapy Initiative** and **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative** steering committees. All AACI cancer center members are welcome to [submit nominations](#) through 5:00 pm Pacific time on **Friday, October 31**. [Read More](#)

## [CARDS Webinar: Innovating Catchment Area Communication for Cancer Centers](#)



*Pictured, clockwise from top right: Todd Burus, PhD; Tesla DuBois; and Leah Lambart, PhD, MPH, CCRP*

AACI will host a Catchment Area Research Data Science (CARDS) webinar titled **"Innovating Catchment Area Communication for Cancer Centers"** at 1:00 pm eastern time on **Monday, October 13**. [Read More](#)

## [Cancer Service Line Survey Findings Published](#)

AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI)** has **published findings from its cancer service line (CSL) survey** in *JCO Oncology Practice*, marking a major milestone in efforts to better understand how cancer centers structure and manage their CSL. [Read More](#)

## [AACI Ramps Up Advocacy Efforts](#)

Throughout Medical Research Month in September, AACI participated in advocacy activities and events to raise awareness of the value of medical research and make a strong case for federal funding ahead of a potential government shutdown. [Read More](#)

## [Cognizant SIP: A Decade of Impact](#)

For over a decade, Cognizant's **Shared Investigator Platform (SIP)** has transformed global clinical research from a bold vision into a trusted solution that connects thousands of sponsors, sites, and investigators. Today, SIP continues to streamline collaboration, accelerate trials, and enhance transparency to deliver better patient outcomes. [Explore SIP's 10-year journey in the full eBook.](#)

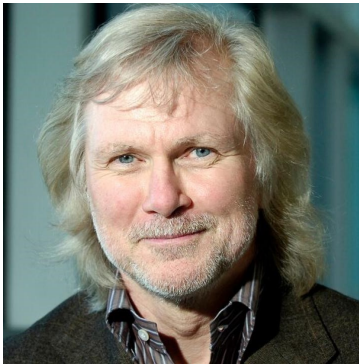


## NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

### AWARDS & HONORS

#### [McCormick Awarded \\$1 Million for Pancreatic Cancer Research](#)

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



David A. Wood Chair of Tumor Biology and Cancer Research **Frank McCormick, PhD, FRS, DSc (Hon)**, received the Stephenson Global Prize for uncovering how KRAS gene mutations disrupt the body's ability to regulate cell growth. [Read More](#)

#### [Dunbrack Receives DeLano Award for Computational Biosciences](#)

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



The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology will honor **Roland L. Dunbrack, Jr., PhD**, co-leader of the Cancer Signaling and Microenvironment Research Program at Fox Chase, with the 2026 DeLano Award. [Read More](#)

#### [Cancer Center Members Honored as 2025 Faculty of the Year](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

The Kansas Board of Regents has named **Sufi Thomas, PhD**, and **Dinesh Pal Mudaranthakam, PhD**, among its 2025 Faculty of the Year for their outstanding contributions to research and service in higher education. [Read More](#)



## GRANTS & GIFTS

### [Leslie Awarded \\$12.9 Million NCI Grant to Study Endometrial Cancer](#)

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

### [SPORE Grant Funds \\$12.6 Million for Colorectal Cancer Research](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

### [\\$12 Million SPORE Grant Awarded to Improve Cancer Outcomes](#)

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

### [\\$5.8 Million NIH Award to Continue Research on Cancer Treatment Side Effects](#)

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

### [\\$4 Million ACS Grant to Launch Cancer Health Research Center](#)

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

### [Team Receives \\$3 Million to Advance Pancreatic Cancer Research](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

### [\\$1.7 Million Grant Funds Virtual Cancer Center to Support Research Into Military Health](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

### [Project Will Evaluate Progestin Use to Treat Endometrial Cancer](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

### [Cairns Begins Tenure as CEO](#)

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



Huntsman Cancer Institute welcomes **Bradley Cairns, PhD**, as chief executive officer. Dr. Cairns was selected to lead Huntsman in July, following the departure of **Mary Beckerle, PhD**. [\*Read More\*](#)

## New Leaders Named for Key Programs

### [UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center](#)

The UCLA Health Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center has appointed several new program leaders. **Caius Radu, MD**, will direct the Cancer Molecular Imaging, Nanotechnology, and Theranostics Research Program, with co-directors **Christine Mona, PhD**, and **Amar Kishan, MD**. The Cancer Control and Survivorship Research Program will be led by **Beth Glenn, PhD**, and **Mina Sedrak, MD, MS**. **William Lowry, PhD**, will lead the Cancer Research Training, Education, and Coordination/Training & Education Program. [Read More](#)

## New Associate Directors, Program Leaders Named

### [Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

Four Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center researchers have new leadership roles. **William Tansey, PhD**, has been appointed associate director for Shared Resources. **Douglas Johnson, MD, MSCI**, will be associate director for Translational Research. **Douglas Kojetin, PhD**, will join two other experts as co-leader of the Genome Maintenance Research Program. **Kristen Ciombor, MD, MSCI**, has been named co-leader of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Research Program. [Read More](#)

## New Colorectal Surgery Leader Selected

### [Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)



**Alessio Pigazzi, MD, PhD**, will lead Cedar-Sinai's Faculty Division of Colorectal Surgery in the Jim and Eleanor Randall Department of Surgery. Dr. Pigazzi performed the world's first robot-assisted tumor removal for rectal cancer over 20 years ago. [Read More](#)

## Delgoffe Announced as Associate Director for Basic Science

### [UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)



**Greg M. Delgoffe, PhD**, has been named associate director for Basic Science at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. Since March 2022, Dr. Delgoffe has led the Tumor Microenvironment Center and is co-leader of the Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program. [Read More](#)

## New Dermatology Department to Train Physicians, Researchers and Safeguard Skin Health

### [The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

**Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, MD**, has been named inaugural chair of the new Department of Dermatology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson. [Read More](#)





## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### [Researcher Co-Leads International Study on Smoking, Lung Cancer Staging](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

### [Researchers Pioneer First Targeted Therapy for Rare T-Cell Lymphoma After CAR T Treatment](#)

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

### [Trial Shows Complete Response for Patients with a Rare, Deadly Blood Cancer](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

### [Dietary Changes Could Provide a Therapeutic Avenue for Brain Cancer](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

### [New Urine-Based Test Created to ID Prostate Cancers](#)

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

### [Study Finds Most Cancer Patients Exposed to Misinformation](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

### [Study Shows How Smoking Drives Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

### [In Extensive Sequencing Study, Scientists Find Few Links Between Cancer and Microbiome](#)

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

### [Mammograms May Benefit Women Well Into Their 80s, Study Finds](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Healthy Telomeres Are Key for Cancer-Fighting T Cells](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

### [Lung Cancer Cells in the Brain Form Electrical Connections With Neurons That Spur Tumor Growth](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Do CT Scans Increase Childhood Cancer Risk?](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

### [Researchers Detail Reliable Measurement for Blood-Brain Barrier](#)

## [Opening Using Focused Ultrasound](#)

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

## [Study Finds Melanoma Less Common in Individuals With Several Tattoos](#)

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

## [Study Finds GLP-1 Receptor Agonists Improve Lung Cancer Outcomes](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### OTHER NEWS

## [World Lung Cancer Expert Diagnosed With Advanced Lung Cancer](#)

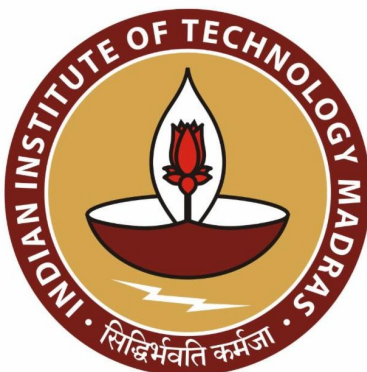
[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)



**D. Ross Camidge, MD, PhD**, has spent his career fighting lung cancer. In 2022, that fight turned personal when he received a diagnosis of his own. For the past three years, Camidge has only revealed his diagnosis to a small group. But after a recent progression, he felt it was time to reveal that he is also a patient. [Read More](#)

## [Partnership with IIT Madras to Accelerate Global Health Innovation](#)

[LSU LCMC Cancer Center](#)



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is partnering with LSU Health New Orleans (LSUHSC-NO) to advance global health through education, research, and technology-driven entrepreneurship programs. [Read More](#)

## [Conference: Advancing Cancer Research for Latinos and All Populations](#)

[Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio](#)

Join Mays Cancer Center and **Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, MPH**, of the University of Texas at San Antonio Health Science Center, for the Advancing Cancer Research for Latinos and All Populations conference, **February 18-20, 2026**, in San Antonio. [Read More](#)



## [Reinforcing the Importance of HPV Vaccination to Prevent Cancer](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, along with 61 other National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Centers, leading national organizations, and the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center, have endorsed a joint statement urging the nation's health care systems, physicians, health care professionals, parents, caregivers, and the public to promote and choose human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for cancer prevention. [Read More](#)

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## [Research Community Health Educator I](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

## [Assistant Director of Finance](#)

[Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone Health](#)

## [Director, Office of Data Quality-Clinical Research](#)

[Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School](#)

## [Manager, Clinical Trials Registry](#)

[Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School](#)

## [Pediatric Oncology and Cellular Therapy Physician Scientist](#)

[Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina](#)

## [Chair, Department of Internal Medicine](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Chief Quality Officer](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Multiple Hematology/Oncology Positions Available](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

## [What You Should Know About Your Amazing Liver](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 8, 2025](#)

[Webinar](#)

## [Innovating Catchment Area Communication for Cancer Centers](#)

[AACI CARDS Webinar](#)



[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 13, 2025](#)

[Webinar](#)

## [2025 Impact Summit](#)

[Hosted by AACI, American Cancer Society, and Cancer Center Network](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 18, 2025](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

## [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](#)

## [Young Adult Cancer Symposium](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[November 15, 2025](#)

[Nashville, TN](#)

## [Advancing Cancer Research for Latinos and All Populations](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[February 18-20, 2026](#)

[San Antonio, TX](#)

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

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[March 9-11, 2026](#)

[Atlanta, GA](#)

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