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

[Click here](#) to read the full newsletter on our website.



[Awards & Honors](#) | [Grants & Gifts](#) | [Leadership Transitions](#) | [Research Highlights](#) | [Other News](#)  
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## AACI HEADLINES

### [OHSU Knight Cancer Institute Receives \\$2 Billion Gift](#)



*Pictured, left to right: Nike co-founder Phil Knight, Penny Knight, and Brian Druker, MD, Knight Cancer Institute's JELD-WEN chair of leukemia research*

Phil and Penny Knight recently announced a record-breaking \$2 billion gift to OHSU Knight Cancer Institute to transform the future of cancer care. The Knights received the [AACI Champion for Cures Award](#) in 2020 in recognition of their philanthropy. [Read More](#)

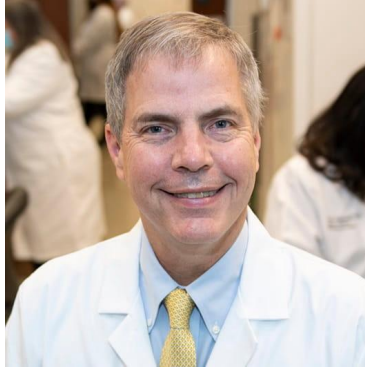
### [Bergan is New Director at Stony Brook](#)



Stony Brook Cancer Center has named **Raymond C. Bergan, MD**, as its next director. Dr. Bergan comes to Stony Brook Medicine from the Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where he served as deputy director of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

### [UPMC Hillman Appoints Byrd as Director](#)

**John C. Byrd, MD**, a physician scientist in hematologic malignancies, has been appointed director of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. Since 2021, Dr. Byrd has served as professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and



as a senior advisor to the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

## [AACI Welcomes Tampa General Hospital Cancer Institute](#)



AACI is pleased to add Tampa General Hospital Cancer Institute (TGHCI) to its membership roster. Established in 2021, TGHCI is the result of a partnership between Tampa General Hospital and the University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine. **Eduardo M. Sotomayor, MD**, is vice president and executive director of TGHCI. [Read More](#)

## [Chris Draft to Deliver Annual Meeting Keynote](#)



**Chris Draft** will deliver a keynote presentation at 9:00 am eastern time on **Monday, October 20**, during the **2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting** in Washington, DC. Draft is the founder, president, and CEO of the **Chris Draft Family Foundation**, co-founder of **Team Draft**, an NFL ambassador, and a national spokesperson on health-related issues, including lung cancer. [Read More](#) | [Register for the Meeting](#)

## [PCLI Webinar: Navigating Research Careers in Uncertain Times](#)



*Pictured, clockwise from top left: Webinar panelists Drs. Bhavana Bhatnagar, Randall Kimple, Lily Gutnik, and Arsen Osipov*

AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative** (PCLI) will host a webinar titled **"Resilient Paths: Navigating Research Careers in Uncertain Times"** at 12:00 pm eastern time on **Tuesday, September 23**. [Read More](#) | [Register for the Webinar](#)

## [AACI Announces New CRI Steering Committee Members](#)

*Photo credit: Randy Belice*

The AACI **Clinical Research Innovation** (CRI) Steering Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of **Margaret "Margie" Kasner, MD, MSCE**, as its new chair, succeeding **Thomas J. George, Jr., MD, FACP, FASCO**. We are also excited to welcome four new steering committee members. [Read More](#)



## [Call for Abstracts: 2026 AACI CADEx Conference](#)



AACI is currently [soliciting abstracts and posters](#) for the 2026 [AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence \(CADEx\) Conference](#). The 2026 meeting theme is Bringing Data to Life: Connecting Catchment Area Science to People. [Read More](#)

## [AACI to Honor Britt, Castro With Public Service Award at Annual Meeting](#)



AACI will present the 2025 [Public Service Award](#) to U.S. Senator [Katie Britt \(R-AL\)](#) and U.S. Representative [Joaquin Castro \(D-TX\)](#) on [Monday, October 20](#), during the [2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#) in Washington, DC. Both legislators have championed increases in cancer research funding for the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute. [Read More](#) | [Register for the Meeting](#)

## [Paid Advertisement: Foundation Medicine](#)



As part of Foundation Medicine's Advancing Inclusive Research initiative, we invite the oncology community to apply for retrospective data collaborations focused on the intersection of cancer disparities across demographics and genomic testing. To learn more about our work and the upcoming request for proposals, join our webinar and visit our website for details. [Read More](#)

## NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

### AWARDS & HONORS

## Dehdashti Honored by Radiological Society

Siteman Cancer Center



WashU Medicine physician-scientist **Farrokh Dehdashti, MD**, at Siteman Cancer Center will receive the 2025 Outstanding Researcher award from the Radiological Society of North America for advancing the radiologic sciences throughout her career in research. [Read More](#)

## Yashar Named President-Elect of ASTRO

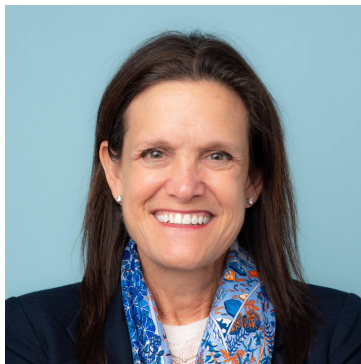
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center



**Catheryn Yashar, MD**, chief medical officer and breast and gynecologic cancer radiation oncologist for UC San Diego Health, has been appointed president-elect of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO). [Read More](#)

## Blank Appointed ABOG Division Chair

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai



**Stephanie Blank, MD**, has been appointed chair of the Gynecologic Oncology Division of the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology (ABOG). She will also serve as the Subspecialty Division Chair of the Board of Directors. [Read More](#)

## Breast Program Receives Accreditation for Sixth Consecutive Time

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

The National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) has renewed Fox Chase Cancer Center's accreditation, making it the sixth consecutive time Fox Chase has been honored with this distinction. The standards set forth by the NAPBC represent the entire cancer care continuum, from prevention through survivorship. [Read More](#)

### GRANTS & GIFTS

## Multi-Institutional Team Awarded NCI Grant for Novel AML Trial

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

## NIH Grant Supports Development of Head-Mounted Augmented



## [Reality System to Guide Tumor Resection](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

## [UAMS Graduate Student First in State to Earn Highly Competitive NCI Award](#)

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

## [Scientists Awarded Research Assistance From Argonne National Laboratory](#)

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

### LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

## [Memmott Named Associate Director of Administration](#)

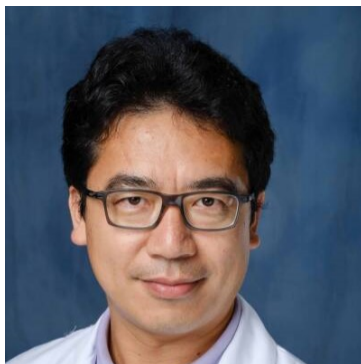
[The University of Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Following a national search, **Drew Memmott** has been named associate director of administration at the University of Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Center, effective September 2. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Zhang Named Co-Leader of Mechanisms of Oncogenesis Research Program](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)



**Weizhou Zhang, PhD**, has been named co-leader of the UF Health Cancer Center's Mechanisms of Oncogenesis research program, which aims to understand how normal cells undergo complex changes leading to cancer. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Leaders Drive Theranostics Expansion](#)

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

Huntsman Cancer Institute has announced that **Heloisa Soares, MD, PhD**, will serve as medical director of the theranostics program, with **Jeffrey Yap, PhD**, serving as research director of theranostics and continuing as director of the Center for Quantitative Cancer Imaging and Theranostics. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Pinheiro Appointed Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement](#)

[Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine](#)

The Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center (MCC) of Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital has appointed **Laura Pinheiro, PhD, MPH**, to co-lead the center's Office of Community Outreach and Engagement. [\*Read More\*](#)



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### [A Global Collaboration to Advance Brain Metastasis Research](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

### [Basic Scientists Study mRNA Technology to Develop Promising Treatments](#)

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

### [At-Home Melanoma Testing: Skin Patch Test Works in Mice](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

### [Study Reveals How HPV Reprograms Immune Cells to Help Cancer Grow](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Immunotherapy Helps Extend Lives of Patients With Rare Skin Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Researchers Engineer Rare Immune Cells to Create Powerful New Cancer Vaccine](#)

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

### [Genomics-Guided Tool to Inform Treatment of Advanced Kidney Cancers](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Understanding What Makes Some Bladder Cancers Resistant to Chemotherapy](#)

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

### [Vesalius Cell-Mapping Tool Provides Insightful Multi-Layered View of Cancer Behavior](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Do These Two Cancer Drugs Have What It Takes to Beat Alzheimer's?](#)

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

### [Final Clinical Trial Data Reported for Advanced Kidney Cancer Treatment](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

### [This Artificial Sweetener Could Make Cancer Treatment Less](#)

## [Effective](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

## [FDA Clears New DMG Treatment: What It Means for a Deadly Pediatric Brain Tumor](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

## [Study Identifies Molecular Pathway That Drives Advanced Prostate Cancer](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

## [Trial Leads to FDA Approval of Drug for Rare, Deadly Blood Cancer](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

## [A Microbial DNA Signature Differentiates Two Types of Cancer in the Liver](#)

[UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center](#)

## [AI Reveals How Protein Modifications Link Mutations to Disease](#)

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

## [New Research Uncovers Gene Impacts of PFAS Exposure in Firefighters](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

## [Roswell Park Leads Largest-Ever Genomic Study of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer in African American Women](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Study Shows Childhood Cancer Survivors Face New Health Problems Later in Life](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Triple Threat CAR T-Cell Therapy Clinical Trial Debuts](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

## [AI Tool Speeds Acute Myeloid Leukemia Diagnosis](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Cancer Vaccine Elicits Strong Immune Response in Pancreatic, Colorectal Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [New Treatment Eliminates Bladder Cancer in 82 Percent of Trial Patients](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Drug Combination May Provide Effective New Treatment for Kidney Cancer Subtypes](#)

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

## [Some Breast Tumors Tunnel Into Fat to Fuel Up. Can We Stop Them?](#)

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

## [Study Shows How Cells Sense Nutrients and Initiate Growth](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

### OTHER NEWS

## [New Thyroid Cancer Center Announced](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)



Duke Cancer Institute has launched the Thyroid Cancer Center, a multidisciplinary hub dedicated to delivering the highest level of care for patients with thyroid disease. [Read More](#)

## [Expanding Access to CAR T-Cell Therapy](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)



In 2022, **Nausheen Ahmed, MD**, and her team published a study showing clear issues in who could access CAR T-cell therapy. They followed up with two more studies in 2024, one focusing on myeloma and the other on lymphoma. [Read More](#)

## [TIL Therapy Provided for Advanced Melanoma](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center provides tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy for advanced stage melanoma patients. This one-time treatment option—the first cellular therapy to be FDA-approved for solid tumors—may also be commonly referred to as "adoptive cell therapy," "Amtagvi," or "lifileucel." [Read More](#)

## [Design and Management of Cancer Clinical Trials Course Starts September 5](#)

[Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami](#)

This course was designed to provide physicians and others involved in developing and managing clinical trials with key information to foster better clinical trial design, advance a program of clinical research, and ultimately improve patient care. Participants will learn basic research concepts and principles that underlie the design and day-to-day conduct of cancer clinical trials. [Register Here](#)

## [Proton Therapy Center Expansion to Boost Patient Capacity Across Mountain West](#)

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

Huntsman Cancer Institute is expanding its Senator Orrin G. Hatch Proton Therapy Center, doubling treatment capacity and increasing





access for patients in Utah, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Wyoming.  
[Read More](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### [Principal Investigator - Targeted Agent and Profiling Utilization Registry \(TAPUR\) Study](#)

[American Society of Clinical Oncology](#)

### [Genetic Risk Community Education and Access Coordinator](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

### [Director, Clinical Trial Coordination](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

### [Hematology/Oncology - Solid Tumor Faculty](#)

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Faculty Scientist - Translational Cell and Molecular Biology](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

### [Director - Carbone Cancer Center](#)

[University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center](#)

### [Director for Administration and Operations](#)

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

### [Chief of Division of Hematology and Oncology](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### [2025 Design and Management of Cancer Clinical Trials Course](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[September 5 - October 10, 2025 \(6-week course, every Friday\)Virtual | Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami](#)

### [PCLI Webinar | Resilient Paths: Navigating Research Careers in Uncertain Times](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[September 23, 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](#)

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

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[March 9-11, 2026](#)

[Atlanta, GA](#)

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