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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | February 2026

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

AACI HEADLINES

[New Director Appointed for Perlmutter Cancer Center](#)



Anirban Maitra, MD, a physician–scientist whose work has widely influenced the field of pancreatic cancer research, has been appointed as the new director of the Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center, an NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Before joining NYU Langone, Dr. Maitra served as the inaugural scientific director of the Pancreatic Cancer Research Center at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. [Read More](#)

[AACI 2025 Report: Common Goals, Collective Action](#)



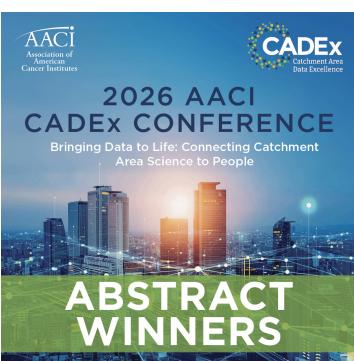
This past year posed unprecedented challenges for AACI and its members. Throughout 2025, the cancer center community demonstrated strength and resilience amid uncertainty and upheaval. AACI's 2025 report highlights how collective action is helping cancer centers achieve their common goals. [Read the 2025 Report](#)

[Posit PBC to Host Workshop at 2026 AACI CADEx Conference](#)

2026 AACI CADEx Conference Champion Supporter **Posit PBC** will host "AI, R & Shiny for Catchment Area Cancer Surveillance" on **Tuesday, March 10**, during the CADEx conference. This two-hour workshop will teach attendees a 100 percent open-source workflow for building interactive, geospatial apps for cancer surveillance. Facilitators are Posit PBC Life Sciences and Healthcare Industry Director **Phil Bowsher** and Director of Learning **Garrett Grolemund**. [Read More](#) | [Register for the 2026 AACI CADEx Conference](#)



Abstract Winners Announced for 2026 AACI CADEX Conference



The AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence (CADEx) Conference Planning Committee has selected three abstracts from 48 submissions for formal presentation at the [2026 AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence \(CADEx\) Conference, March 9-11](#), in Atlanta. Winning abstract authors represent Moffitt Cancer Center; The University of Kansas Cancer Center; and Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University Irving Medical Center. [Read More](#) | [Register for the 2026 AACI CADEX Conference](#)

Two-Part REDCap Workshop Series: Virtual and In-Person Sessions



AACI will host a two-part REDCap workshop series designed to support cancer center professionals at different stages of REDCap use. This series, facilitated by [Todd Burus, PhD](#), and [Namoonga Mantina, PhD](#), begins with a virtual introductory session and continues with an in-person, advanced workshop at the [2026 AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence \(CADEx\) Conference](#) in Atlanta. [Read More](#)

AACI and Medlive Advance Education on CAR T-Cell Therapy Through Video-Based Learning



AACI is collaborating with Medlive, a leader in expert-guided digital medical education, on a series of educational video initiatives focused on CAR T-cell therapy. This partnership supports AACI's mission to provide cancer center leaders and care teams with timely, evidence-based education on emerging therapies and evolving models of care in hematologic malignancies. Through this collaboration, AACI and Medlive have launched three active video-based projects exploring the transformative impact of CAR T-cell therapy. [Read More](#)

AACI Award Nominations Due February 23

AACI members are invited to submit nominations for the 2026 [Cancer Health Equity](#), [Champion for Cures](#), and [Distinguished Scientist](#) awards. Any faculty and staff at AACI member institutions are eligible to submit nominations for all three awards; recipients will be selected from the slate of nominees by AACI's Board of Directors. The awards will be presented during the [2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#), October 25-27, in Chicago. [Read More](#) | [Complete the Awards Survey](#)

AACI Welcomes New Corporate Roundtable, Tech Gold Members



AACI is pleased to announce that **Gilead** and **Novartis** have joined its **Corporate Roundtable** and **Medidata** and **Paradigm Health** have become **Tech Gold** members in 2026. By building important relationships with AACI cancer centers, Corporate Roundtable and Tech Gold members have the potential to accelerate progress against cancer, benefiting patients and their families. [Read More](#)

Paid Advertisement: Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson



The 2026 Advancing Cancer Research for Latinos and All Populations conference unites stakeholders who are conducting patient, community, and translational cancer research. Conference attendees will receive information on the latest biomedical and population-based findings on cancer, identify effective approaches for engaging people in cancer research, and leave with ideas for advancing the science of cancer for Latinos and all populations. [Register Today](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Goodman Elected to ASCO Board

Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center



Karyn Goodman, MD, MS, was elected to the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Board of Directors as the Designated Radiation Oncologist. Dr. Goodman has had a long history of ASCO involvement, with membership on multiple ASCO volunteer groups including the Gastrointestinal (GI) Guideline Advisory Group, and the GI Cancers Symposium Steering Committee (serving as meeting chair in 2018). [Read More](#)

Beckerle Honored With Executive Leadership Award

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

Mary Beckerle, PhD, CEO emerita of Huntsman Cancer Institute, was honored with the 2025 Executive Leadership Award by the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce in recognition of her enduring contributions to Utah County, including her exemplary leadership in the development of the Huntsman Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center in Vineyard. [Read More](#)



GRANTS & GIFTS

Therapy Using Engineered Immune Cells to Kill Prostate Cancer Earns \$1.8 Million Department of Defense Grant

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

ARPA-H Award Will Fund Creation of Portable Lymphatic Imaging Scanner

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

\$1 Million Lung Cancer Screening Grant Awarded

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

Grant Backs Cutting-Edge Ovarian Cancer Research

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

Stony Brook Receives Endowment Pledge

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

Investigator Targets Key Enzyme Complex to Treat KRAS-Mutated Lung Cancer

[University of Cincinnati Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Altieri Leadership Transition Announced

[Ellen and Ronald Caplan Cancer Center of The Wistar Institute](#)

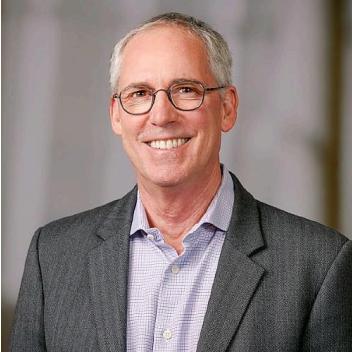


Dario C. Altieri, MD, Wistar's president and CEO, director of the Ellen and Ronald Caplan Cancer Center, and Robert and Penny Fox Distinguished Professor, will step down from his leadership role in 2026. The Board of Trustees will undertake a comprehensive national search process to identify his successor. Dr. Altieri is a past member of AACI's Board of Directors. [Read More](#)

Sellers Appointed Deputy Director of Population Sciences

[Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center](#)

Thomas Sellers, PhD, has joined the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center as deputy director of population sciences. Dr. Sellers hopes to harness his experience in transdisciplinary research to inspire the cancer prevention and control program, build on community outreach and engagement, and ultimately demonstrate the achievements and impact expected of a comprehensive cancer center. [Read More](#)



Kimple Named Chair of Radiation Oncology

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)



Randall J. Kimple, MD, PhD, MBA, FASTRO, a radiation oncologist at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center, will join the University of Rochester as Philip Rubin Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology. He will also serve on the executive committee for Wilmot Cancer Institute, an NCI-Designated Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Major Study Identifies Proteins Linked to Prostate Cancer

[LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center](#)

New Drug Delivery Mechanism Could Aid Breast Cancer Treatment

[UF Health Cancer Institute](#)

Study Finds a Better Way to Screen for Breast Cancer

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

First Patient in U.S. is Treated With New Lung Cancer Therapy

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

Major Review Highlights Barriers to Follow-up Care for Childhood Cancer Survivors

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Model Predicts Long Term Mortality Risk From Prostate Cancer

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

Inflammatory Immune Cells Predict Survival, Relapse in Multiple Myeloma

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

A Natural 'Safety Switch' Protects the Liver as It Heals From Injury, Study Finds

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

Investigators Offer Free Atlas of Immunotherapy Responses in Pancreatic Cancers

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

[Finding New Cell Markers to Track Most Aggressive Breast Cancer in Blood](#)

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

[New Imaging Approach Reduces Unnecessary Breast Biopsies by Nearly 25 Percent](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[Brain Cancer Digital Twin Predicts Treatment Outcomes](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Novel Endocrine Therapy Reduces the Risk of Breast Cancer Recurrence](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Immune Clues Could Personalize Multiple Myeloma Treatment](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[Researchers Work to Enhance HPV Self-Testing to Screen for Cervical Cancer](#)

[UF Health Cancer Institute](#)

[Oral Bacterium May Promote Breast Cancer Development and Spread](#)

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

[Uncovering Hidden Complexity of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

[AI is Helping Doctors See Prostate Cancer More Clearly and Guide More Effective Treatments](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Benefit of Nivolumab Combo in Teens With Advanced Hodgkin Lymphoma Confirmed](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Research Leads to Updated HPV Clinical Guidelines](#)

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)

[Women Who Receive Mammograms Also Undergo Lung Scans if Notified of Eligibility](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Uncovering Why Cancer Immunotherapy Leads to Heart Inflammation](#)

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

[Autologous T Cell Therapy Targeting Multiple Antigens Shows Promise Treating Pancreatic Cancer](#)

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

[Scientists Develop Sugar-Based Molecule to Target Cancer Stem Cells](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Trial Shows Promising Therapy for Aggressive Brain Cancer

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

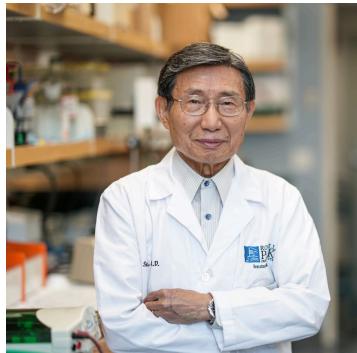
Concerns Raised About Faster Aging, Possible Early-Onset Dementia, for Children and Young Adult Cancer Survivors

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

OTHER NEWS

In Memoriam: Ben Seon, 1936-2025

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Institute



Ben K. Seon, PhD, a senior faculty member and distinguished immunology scientist at Roswell Park across six decades, died December 17, 2025, at age 89. Dr. Seon had a remarkably long and impactful career, reaching a milestone few scientists ever achieve – U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of a drug based on his innovative ideas and fundamental discoveries. [Read More](#)

New Pancreatic Cancer Center Announced

Duke Cancer Institute

The Duke Cancer Institute has launched a multidisciplinary pancreatic cancer center. The center is led by Executive Director Peter Allen, MD, and Deputy Directors Daniel Nussbaum, MD, and John Strickler, MD. [Read More](#)

Cancer Institute Expands OnCore to Strengthen Clinical Trials

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute has fully implemented the Advarra OnCore Clinical Trials Management System to strengthen oversight, efficiency, and growth of cancer clinical trials. Approximately 150 users across the cancer institute and the UAMS Translational Research Institute are now using the system to manage 303 active clinical trials and track 1,127 patients enrolled in studies. [Read More](#)

Partnership Advances 3D Genome Diagnostics for Cancer Care

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center and Arima Genomics, Inc., a company leveraging whole-genome sequence and structure information to provide comprehensive cancer therapy selection insights, have announced a new partnership to bring advanced diagnostics based on analysis of the three-dimensional structure of DNA into broad clinical practice. [Read More](#)

Survivorship Care Educational Opportunities Announced

Rutgers Cancer Institute

Join the Project ECHO Survivorship Series – Community Cancer Action Resource Education Series (CARES). Sessions will be held in February and March. They are designed to connect health care professionals, community health workers, and advocates to share best practices and strengthen survivorship care. [Register Today](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Chair, Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cancer Center Director

[Chair, Department of Cancer Biology](#)

[Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center, Florida](#)

[Associate Director of Population Health and Cancer Control](#)

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)

[Director, Clinical Trials](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[February 18-20, 2026](#)

[San Antonio, TX](#)

[Tampa General Hospital Cancer Institute International Meeting: Microbes, Genes and Cancer](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[March 2-3, 2026](#)

[Tampa, FL](#)

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

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[March 9-11, 2026](#)

[Atlanta, GA](#)

[2026 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[May 14, 2026](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

[18th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation \(CRI\) Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[June 23-25, 2026](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

[2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[October 25-27, 2026](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

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