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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | July 2026

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

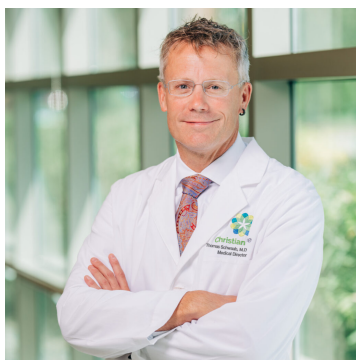
AACI HEADLINES

[Gius Takes Helm as Director of University of Cincinnati Cancer Center](#)



Following a national search, **David Gius, MD, PhD**, has assumed the role of director of the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center. Dr. Gius brings with him a nationally recognized research portfolio, including two National Institutes of Health R01 grants and two active clinical trials for women with high-risk breast cancer. He previously served as associate cancer center director at Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson. [Read More](#)

[AACI Welcomes Graham Cancer Center to Membership](#)



AACI is pleased to add Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute at ChristianaCare to its membership roster. Led by Bank of America Endowed Medical Director **Thomas Schwaab, MD, PhD**, the multidisciplinary cancer center serves most patients with cancer in Delaware. The Graham Cancer Center offers advanced medical, surgical, and radiation procedures and diagnostic services, including the ChristianaCare Breast Center, an outpatient facility featuring the only dedicated breast MRI in the region. [Read More](#)

[AACI Announces 2026 Award Recipients](#)

Pictured, clockwise from top right: Dr. Rafi Ahmed, the Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska, and Dr. Lucile Adams-Campbell

AACI congratulates this year's [Distinguished Scientist](#), [Cancer Health Equity](#), and [Champion for Cures](#) award recipients. The awards will be presented on **Monday, October 26** during the [2026 AACI/CCAF](#)



[Annual Meeting](#) in Chicago. [Read More](#)

[AACI CRI Annual Meeting Recap: Shaping the Future of Clinical Research Innovation](#)



Photo credit: Randy Belice

AACI hosted its **18th Annual Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting, June 23-25**, in Rosemont, IL. Focusing on "Shaping the Future of Clinical Research Innovation," the event drew over 600 registrants—including 613 in-person attendees—with 143 abstracts submitted for presentation. [Read More](#)

[New AACI White Paper Addresses Persistent Barriers in Clinical Trial Start-up](#)



AACI is pleased to share ***Accelerating Clinical Trial Activation: A Collaborative Framework for Managing Pre-Activation Protocol Amendments***. This new white paper from the AACI Corporate Roundtable Trial Activation Task Force builds on AACI's ongoing efforts to improve oncology clinical trial activation through benchmarking, collaboration, and innovation across North American cancer centers. [Read More](#)

[AACI Calls for Reducing Waste in Clinical Trial Supply Kits](#)



Last month, AACI published ***Sustainable Practices for Disposing of Unused Lab Kit Supplies in Cancer Clinical Trials***. The AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Unused Lab Kit Supplies Task Force developed the call to action to address the significant volume of unused laboratory kits generated by industry-sponsored clinical trials. With reports indicating that up to 50 percent of trial laboratory kits go unused, cancer centers face increasing costs, storage burdens, staff workload, and environmental waste. [Read More](#)

[Upcoming Webinar: Leveraging Oncology Surplus Medicine for Good](#)

Pictured, clockwise from top right: Drs. George Wang, Heather Jones, and Jennifer Booth

In partnership with **SIRUM**, AACI will host a webinar titled **"Leveraging Oncology Surplus Medicine for Good"** at 1:00 pm eastern time on **Monday, August 10**. Learn more about how surplus medicine can be



safely and effectively donated with presenters **George Wang, PhD**, SIRUM; **Heather Jones, PharmD, MS**, Cleveland Clinic; and **Jennifer Booth, PharmD, MS, BCPS**, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.TK. [Read More](#) | [Register Today](#)

[OMB Proposes Sweeping Changes to Federal Financial Assistance](#)

AACI is submitting institutional comments on [Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance](#) (OMB-2026-0034), a proposed rule posted to the Federal Register on Friday, May 29 by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The comments were developed with input from cancer center leaders on provisions related to grant delivery, permissible research, and the use of grant funding that could significantly impact AACI members. AACI urges members to [submit substantive, evidence-based comments](#) that describe the specific impact of the proposed rule on you or your institution by **Monday, July 13**.

[Read More](#)

[OVAC Congressional Briefing Highlights Importance of Federal Investment in Cancer Research](#)



On **Tuesday, June 23**, AACI participated in a bipartisan congressional briefing on Capitol Hill, hosted by One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC). The briefing brought together congressional staff, advocacy partners, researchers, clinicians, and patients to highlight the impact of federally funded cancer research and the critical role of the National Cancer Institute in advancing progress against the disease. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Zipfel Elected President of Society of Neurological Surgeons](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)



Gregory J. Zipfel, MD, the Ralph G. Dacey Distinguished Professor of Neurosurgery and head of the Taylor Family Department of Neurosurgery at WashU Medicine, and a research member of Siteman Cancer Center, has been elected president of the Society of Neurological Surgeons, the world's oldest neurological society. [Read More](#)

[Theodorescu Awarded Spence Medal](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD, the Nancy C. and Craig M. Berge Endowed Chair and director of the University of Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Center, has been awarded the Spence Medal by the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons. The Spence Medal recognizes outstanding lifetime contributions to the field of urology through research, innovation, leadership, mentorship, and service. [Read More](#)



Vander Heiden Named Editor-in-Chief of AACR Journal

Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT



The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) has appointed **Matthew Vander Heiden, MD, PhD**, as editor-in-chief of *Cancer Discovery*, one of the 10 journals published by AACR. Dr. Vander Heiden is director of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT.

[Read More](#)

Desai Receives ASCO Career Development Award

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Parth Desai, MBBS, MD, assistant professor in the Fox Chase Department of Hematology/Oncology and director of clinical and translational research for the Thoracic and Head and Neck Service Lines, has received the ASCO Conquer Cancer Career Development Award. Dr. Desai's work focuses on converting "immune-cold" tumors—those that fail to attract or activate immune cells—into tumors that can respond to immunotherapy. [Read More](#)

Radiation Therapy Team Recognized for Excellence by ASTRO

Siteman Cancer Center



The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) has again recognized the Department of Radiation Oncology at Siteman Cancer Center and WashU Medicine as among the best in the nation. **Sana Karam, MD, PhD**, is chair of Radiation Oncology at Siteman Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Tewari Awarded Honorary Fellowship

Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center

Ashutosh Tewari, MBBS, director of the Center of Excellence for Prostate Cancer at Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center, was awarded an honorary fellowship by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Dr. Tewari was recognized as a pioneer of robotic surgery and for his work on genomic causes of prostate cancer and innovative imaging techniques to identify key biomarkers. [Read More](#)



Roswell Park Recognized for Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Efforts

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center



Last month, U.S. Representatives **Tim Kennedy (D-NY)** and **Jim McGovern (D-MA)** and individuals representing the Prevent Cancer Foundation's Congressional Families® Program and the Seneca Nation of Indians visited Roswell Park to recognize the cancer center's leadership in cancer prevention, screening, early detection, and community outreach. **Candace S. Johnson, PhD**, is president and CEO of the cancer center. [Read More](#)

Kamber Named a 2026 Pew-Stewart Scholar

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center



Roarke Kamber, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy at UC San Francisco, has been named a 2026 Pew-Stewart Scholar, an award that supports early-career scientists who pursue breakthroughs in cancer development, diagnosis, and treatment. Dr. Kamber wants to retrain macrophages, the immune system's garbage disposal cells, to destroy cancer. [Read More](#)

St. Jude Redesignated as WHO Collaborating Centre for Childhood Cancer

Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has been redesignated as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Childhood Cancer, reaffirming the longstanding collaboration between WHO and St. Jude to improve outcomes for children with cancer worldwide through the provision of strategic, scientific, and technical expertise. [Read More](#)

[UChicago Renewed to Host NRG Oncology Statistics and Data Management Center for NCI](#)

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

[Moore's Cancer Center Receives \\$25 Million in NCI Support](#)

[UC San Diego Moore's Cancer Center](#)

[Funding Renewed for Biomedical Research Program](#)

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

[NCI Selects UChicago Medicine as Lead Site for Clinical Trials](#)

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

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Adams Named Deputy Director of UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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



Sarah Adams, MD, has been appointed deputy director of the University of New Mexico (UNM) Comprehensive Cancer Center, effective July 1. Dr. Adams is a nationally recognized physician-scientist whose research focuses on tumor immunology and novel immunotherapy strategies for ovarian cancer. She succeeds **Alan Tomkinson, PhD**, as deputy director. [Read More](#)

[Brenner to Lead New Houston Methodist Center for Cell and Gene Therapy](#)

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



Malcolm Brenner, MD, PhD, has been tapped to lead the newly formed Houston Methodist Center for Cell and Gene Therapy. The center will foster interdisciplinary collaboration by bringing together scientists and clinicians across Houston Methodist to accelerate the translation of promising pre-clinical discoveries into clinical evaluation. [Read More](#)

[Sahin to Co-Lead Cancer Biology & Immunology Program](#)

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

Ozgur Sahin, PhD, has joined **Sophie Paczesny, MD, PhD**, as co-leader of the Cancer Biology & Immunology Program at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. Dr. Sahin currently serves as Hollings Advisory for Rapid Translation program director for basic science translation and co-leader of the Breast Transdisciplinary Cancer Team. [Read More](#)



[Figueiredo Appointed Associate Director for Population Sciences](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)



Jane Figueiredo, PhD, professor of medicine, has been appointed as the new associate director for Population Sciences at Cedars-Sinai Cancer. Dr. Figueiredo, who joined Cedars-Sinai Cancer in 2016, also serves as the director for Community and Population Health Research and associate director for the Center for Integrated Research on Cancer and Lifestyle. [Read More](#)

[Rojewski Named Assistant Director, Clinical Trials & Healthcare Provider Training](#)

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



Alana Rojewski, PhD, has been appointed assistant director, Clinical Trials & Healthcare Provider Training, in the MUSC Hollings Cancer Center Office of Cancer Research Training Education Coordination. Dr. Rojewski will spearhead training efforts across South Carolina, advancing education initiatives for staff, providers, and allied health professionals. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Novel Tool Optimizes Data Collection in Investigator-Initiated Clinical Trials](#)

[UF Health Cancer Institute](#)

[Bladder Cancer History May Predict Treatment Success](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

[Magnetic Particle Imaging May Help Researchers Find More Effective Ways to Deliver Cell Therapies](#)

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

[Molecular 'Seesaw' Drives Healthy Skin Development](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Investigational Targeted Therapy Doubles Survival in Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Study Sheds Light on How Early Pancreas Lesions Become Cancerous](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Leveraging Biological Similarities Could Help Humans and Dogs With Cancer](#)

[UF Health Cancer Institute](#)

[Proton FLASH Therapy Protects Healthy Tissue by Preserving Gut Microbiome](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Study Proposes Reconsidering How Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors Work in Cancer Treatment](#)

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

[New CRISPR Technique Selectively Shreds Cancer Cells, Including 'Undruggable' Cancers](#)

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

[Targeted Therapy Reduces Risk of Lung Cancer Recurrence in Rare Genetic Subtype](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Machine Learning Model Improves Accuracy of Liquid Biopsy Results](#)

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

[Reprogrammed Glial Cells Might Tell Different Origin Story for Rare GI Cancers](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Novel Prostate Cancer Treatment Can Reduce Risk of Disease Progression by Half](#)

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

[Updated Colorectal Cancer Guidelines Endorse New Stool Tests](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

[Stopping Ewing Sarcoma Relapses Where They Start](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Newly Discovered 'Chimeras' Influence Women's Health](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Create Renewable Cell Source](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Expanding Horizons of CAR T-cell Treatment](#)

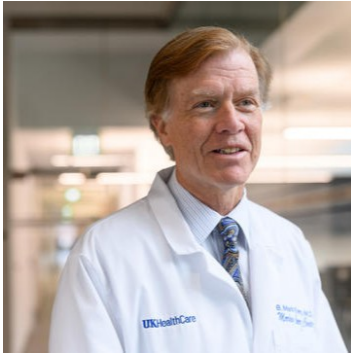
[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Scientists Uncover Genetic 'Shield' That Lowers Risk of Colorectal Cancer](#)

[Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University](#)

Evers: How Cancer Death Rates Hit 30-Year Low

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)



In an op-ed published June 26 in the Lexington Herald Leader, **B. Mark Evers, MD, FACS**, highlights the role of clinical research in reducing cancer mortality in the United States by 34 percent since 1991. Dr. Evers is the director of UK Markey Cancer Center and a member of AACI's Board of Directors. [Read More](#)

Winn Shares Story of Hope, Journey to Fox Chase

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



AACI Immediate Past President **Robert A. Winn, MD**, joined Fox Chase Cancer Center as its new director last month. In an interview published on the Fox Chase website, he shared the experiences and people that shaped his career path — and his life. "I'm not so much a self-made man as I am a man made and created by the community that existed around me and lifted me up," said Dr. Winn. [Read More](#)

Seven-Year-Old Patient is First to Receive Proton Therapy at Stanford Facility

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



Seventy years after Henry Kaplan pioneered the medical linear accelerator to treat a 2-year-old boy's retinoblastoma, Stanford Medicine treated its first patient—a 7-year-old boy with a rare, malignant brain tumor—at its new, ultracompact proton therapy facility, a watershed moment for Stanford's first-in-the-world technology. [Read More](#)

Huntsman CEO Joins Cancer Symposium With HHS Secretary

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

During a City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center symposium, Huntsman Cancer Institute CEO **Bradley Cairns, PhD**, was among top cancer center leaders who met with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**, to discuss emerging opportunities to advance cancer research and care. [Read More](#)



[New MRI-LINAC Allows for Better Precision in Radiation Treatments](#)

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



A new MRI-linear accelerator (MRI-LINAC) at UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center combines the clarity of magnetic resonance imaging with targeted radiation therapy, potentially saving patients from multiple appointments and CT scans. **David Lee, MD, PhD**, is the cancer center's medical director of Radiation Oncology. [Read More](#)

[Groundbreaking for the Future Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Hospital](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)



Pictured, left to right: Drs. Brendan G. Carr and Merryl H. Tisch, and James S. Tisch

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Hospital took place on June 1. The transformational support from visionary philanthropic leaders **James S. Tisch** and **Merryl H. Tisch, EdD**, has brought this milestone project to life. [Read More](#)

[Redefining Cancer Survivorship](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

There are 18 million cancer survivors in the United States, thanks to advances in care and treatment. Cancers that used to be death sentences are now treatable, but the effects of chemotherapy, radiation and surgery can last long after treatment ends. An emerging field of cancer care called survivorship focuses on helping people manage the short- and long-term or late effects of cancer treatment. A new Fred Hutch podcast, *From Bench to Bedside and Beyond*, dives deep into what it means—physically, emotionally and spiritually—to survive cancer. [Read More](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Launches New Cayton BRCA Center](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

Supported by a \$30 million gift from the Cayton Goldrich Family Foundation, the Cedars-Sinai Cayton BRCA Center will open in early July. "This center will provide every relevant service: comprehensive risk assessment, state-of-the-art surveillance, prevention strategies, clinical trials, and access to the latest scientific discoveries," said **Farin Amersi, MD**, a surgical oncologist who treats patients with BRCA mutations. "More importantly, it will create a true home for patients and families facing hereditary cancer risk." [Read More](#)

[Conversations in Cancer: Cell Therapy](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

At Duke Cancer Institute (DCI), researchers are making cell therapies safer and more effective, and investigating whether specially engineered cell therapies can be used to treat solid tumors like lung cancer. A new video for DCI's ongoing Conversations in Cancer series explains how cell therapies work and what the future may hold. [Read More](#)

[Karmanos Cancer Institute Reaches Historic Growth Milestone](#)

[Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University](#)

Karmanos Cancer Institute celebrated the continued success of a multi-year growth strategy with a major milestone in Fiscal Year 2025, treating 15,754 new cancer cases, the most in its history. The achievement reflects a more than 47-percent increase in new cases compared to the 10,670 new cases in 2020, representing one of the most significant sustained growth trajectories among National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers nationwide. The growth was driven by innovation, expertise, expanded access, and a focus on patient experience. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Director of Administration, Cancer Clinical Trials Office](#)

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

[Post-Doctoral Research Fellow - Clurman Lab](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Post-Doctoral Research Fellow - Hsieh Lab](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology](#)

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

[Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Cellular Therapy and Pediatric Transplantation Physician](#)

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

[Founding Director of Research in Cancer Care Delivery Transformation](#)

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

[Associate Administrator, Upstate Cancer Center](#)

[Upstate Cancer Center, SUNY Upstate Medical University](#)

[Clinical Operations Manager](#)

[UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[Leveraging Oncology Surplus Medicine for Good](#)

Hosted by AACI in partnership with SIRUM

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[August 10, 2026](#)

[Webinar](#)

[Cancer Center Community Impact Forum \(CCCIF\)](#)

Hosted by Fred Hutch Cancer Center/University of Washington/Seattle Children's Cancer Consortium

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[September 27-29, 2026](#)

[Seattle, WA](#)

[2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 25-27, 2026](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)



[Impact Summit](#)

Hosted by AACI in partnership with the Cancer Center Network

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 24, 2026](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)



[AACI Leadership Development Workshop](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 24-25, 2026](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

[2027 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[May 20, 2027](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

[19th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation \(CRI\) Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[June 28-30, 2027](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

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