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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | June 2026

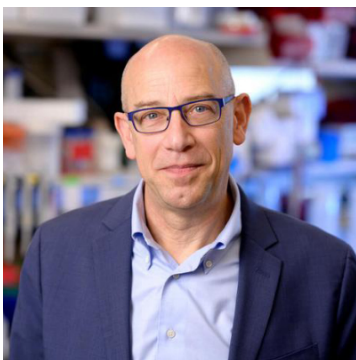
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[Job Opportunities](#) | [Meeting Announcements](#)

AACI HEADLINES

[Rudin Named Director at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)



Charles Rudin, MD, PhD, was appointed director of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), effective June 1, as reported in [The Cancer Letter](#). Dr. Rudin has served as the cancer center deputy director since 2023. He also co-directs of the Druckenmiller Center focused on pre-clinical lung cancer research at MSK and has led the National Cancer Institute's Small Cell Lung Cancer Research Consortium since its inception in 2015. [Read More](#)

[CRI Breakout Session: Five-Minute Wins](#)



A new breakout session at the [18th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation \(CRI\) Meeting](#) will give participants a forum to celebrate their successes and share replicable ideas with their peers.

"Five-Minute Wins" will highlight common challenges and proven solutions during two, one-hour breakout sessions at 10:45 am and 2:15 pm central time on **Wednesday, June 24**. Each presenter will have five minutes to share a challenge, their team's approach to the problem, and measurable outcomes. [Read More](#)

[2026 AACI Leadership Development Workshop Slated for October](#)

Formerly a standalone meeting, the [AACI Leadership Development Workshop \(LDW\)](#) has been added to the slate of professional development opportunities offered in conjunction with the [2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#). AACI invites cancer center directors to [select one emerging leader](#) from their cancer center to attend the 2026 workshop, **October 24-25**, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. [Read More](#) | [Support LDW](#)



[AACI Seeks CRI Steering Committee Nominations](#)



The AACI **Clinical Research Innovation** (CRI) Steering Committee is seeking **nominations** for a chair-elect and three new members. The **CRI Steering Committee** helps guide and implement activities at clinical trials offices at AACI member institutions. Nominations are due by **5:00 pm Pacific time on Wednesday, July 1**. [Read More](#)

[United by Cancer Research: Advocates Come Together at 2026 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)



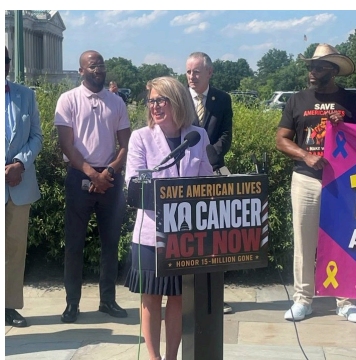
On **Thursday, May 14**, AACI co-hosted its annual joint **Hill Day** with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), making the signature advocacy event a centerpiece of National Cancer Research Month. The timing gave attendees an ideal opportunity to reflect on decades of progress against cancer while embracing the future of cancer research and the lifesaving discoveries it holds.

Photos by Phojestic Photography

[Read More](#)



[AACI Executive Director Speaks at Press Conference in Support of K.O. Cancer Act](#)



On **Tuesday, May 19**, AACI Executive Director **Jennifer W. Pegher** called on federal legislators to significantly expand support for cancer research and patient care by passing the **Knock Out Cancer Act (H.R. 3873)**. Pegher joined the bill's sponsors, Representatives **Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)** and **Debbie Dingell (D-MI)**, co-chairs of the bipartisan House Cancer Caucus, to deliver remarks outside the United States Capitol.

Photo by Jaren Love

[Read More](#) | [Monitor the K.O. Cancer Act](#)

[Senate Appropriators Examine Research Funding Environment](#)

On **Thursday, May 21**, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget request. The hearing included testimony from NIH Director **Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD**, and NCI Director **Anthony Letai, MD, PhD**. Members discussed a range of issues relevant to academic

cancer centers and the broader biomedical research enterprise, including grant funding, workforce stability, research infrastructure, and access to clinical trials. [Read More](#)

[AACI Forms CRI Task Force to Develop AI Resources, Guidance](#)

A breakout session on artificial intelligence (AI) at the 2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting sparked thought-provoking conversations – and a new task force. Recognizing the growing role of AI in cancer clinical research, AACI formed the Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) AI Task Force last fall. The group meets monthly to discuss the responsible use of AI in cancer center operations and develop frameworks and best practices. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Odunsi Receives Ellis Island Medal of Honor](#)

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



Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor on May 16, during a gala at the historic immigration gateway. Dr. Odunsi, a gynecologic oncologist who hails from Nigeria, is the director of the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center and a former member of AACI's Board of Directors. [Read More](#)

[Saphier Nominated for Surgeon General](#)

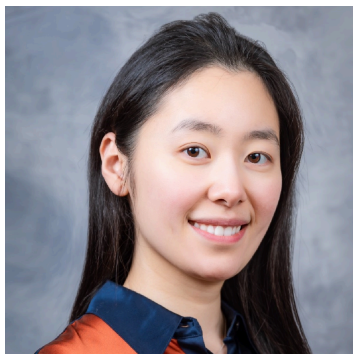
[Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) congratulates **Nicole B. Saphier, MD**, on her nomination to become the next Surgeon General of the United States. Over her decade of service to the MSK community, Dr. Saphier has been a tireless advocate for women's health and early cancer detection, expanding access to breast cancer screening, and raising awareness at a community and national level. [Read More](#)

[Jiang Recognized for Statistical Innovation](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)



WashU Medicine cancer biostatistician **Shu (Joy) Jiang, PhD**, has received the Annie T. Randall Innovator Award for early-career statistical innovators from the American Statistical Association. The award was named in honor of pioneering Black female statistician Annie T. Randall for her career in government amid pervasive racial discrimination. [Read More](#)

[Reddy Appointed to Top Medical Society Leadership Positions](#)

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



Sanjay S. Reddy, MD, FACS, was recently appointed vice chair of the Surgical Oncology Program Directors Committee within the Society of Surgical Oncology. Dr. Reddy was also appointed secretary of the new joint Pennsylvania chapter of the American College of Surgeons. [Read More](#)

[USF Student Wins Top Award at AACI CADEx Conference](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)



Aarya Satardekar, MPH, received first place in the [abstract competition](#) at the 2026 AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence (CADEx) Conference in Atlanta this past March. Satardekar, a Class of 2026 graduate from the University of South Florida College of Public Health, addressed differences in cancer mortality based on distance to cancer screening and treatment locations. There were 48 total abstracts submitted to the conference. [Read More](#) | [View Abstract](#) | [View Poster](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[Utah Investment in AI and Computing to Advance Health and Discovery](#)

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

[CPRIT Awards More Than \\$12 Million for Cancer Research](#)

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

[Stanford and the ACS Plan Hope Lodge for Patients and Families](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Researchers Help Lead National Effort to Improve Care for Patients With Glioblastoma](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[\\$3.8 Million Grant Focuses on Molecular Studies That Could Improve Treatment for Inflammatory Disease, Cancer](#)

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

[Researchers Awarded \\$1.9 Million to Study Treatment-Resistant Cancers](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Melanoma Research Alliance Announces Grant](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)

[Altieri to Move to Jefferson in 2027](#)

[Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Jefferson](#)



Dario C. Altieri, MD, has been named special advisor to the director of Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center and a professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Cancer Biology of Sidney Kimmel Medical College. He is the director of Ellen and Ronald Caplan Cancer Center of The Wistar Institute and a past member of AACI's Board of Directors. [Read More](#)

[Jernigan Named Cancer Service Line Director](#)

[LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center](#)



Amelia Jernigan, MD, professor of Gynecological Oncology at LSU Health New Orleans, has been named cancer service line director at LCMC Health. The strategic leadership role is focused on advancing coordinated, high-quality cancer care across the health system and expanding access to comprehensive oncology services for patients throughout the region. [Read More](#)

[Zurawsky to Retire After 18 Years at AACI](#)

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)



AACI announces the retirement of **Chris Zurawsky, MS, MPPM**, director of communications, effective June 1. Since 2008, Zurawsky has played a key role in shaping AACI publications, including [AACI Update](#), [Commentary](#), and the [annual report](#). Drawing from decades of work in newsrooms, Zurawsky approached AACI communications with curiosity, a critical eye, and attention to detail. He is succeeded by **Emily E. Stimmel, MA**. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Study Dramatically Expands Therapeutic Range of Approved Kinase Drugs](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Study Identifies PHIP as a Novel Dependency in Cancers Driven by SWI/SNF Mutations](#)

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

[Challenging Understanding of mRNA Vaccines to Make Them More Effective](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)

[Personalized Glioblastoma Vaccine Shows Promise](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[Targeted Therapy Drug Shows Early Promise Against KRAS-Driven Lung and Pancreatic Cancers](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Real-World Study Compares Leading ALK+ Lung Cancer Therapies](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Phase I Trial of Alrizomadlin Shows Promise in Targeting Metastatic Salivary Gland Cancers](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Experimental Drug Shows Promise for Some Patients With Advanced Prostate Cancer](#)

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

[A Blood Test Reveals Neighborhoods of Cells in Tumors, Predicts Immunotherapy Responses](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Scientists Discover How Gut Bacteria Toxin Invades Colon Cells to Trigger Cancer](#)

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

[Should Immunotherapy Become the First Line of Treatment for Metastatic Cancer?](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

[New AI Tool Could Replace Costly Cancer Gene Expression Profiling](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[UC Team First to Achieve Complete Remission of Aggressive Pituitary Tumor Through Immunotherapy](#)

[University of Cincinnati Cancer Center](#)

[Collaboration to Test Ultra-Sensitive Blood-Based Assay for Early-Stage Lung Cancer Recurrence Risk](#)

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

[Could K17 Be a Key Treatment Target for Pancreatic Cancer?](#)

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

[Inhibiting Regulator Protein Can Make Aggressive Prostate Cancers More Vulnerable](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Inherited Long Telomeres May Drive Broad Risk for Lymphoid Cancers](#)

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

[Using Light, AI to See Cancer in Real Time](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

[Despite Breakthroughs, Many Go Without Treatment for Metastatic Lung Cancer](#)

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

[New Dual-Target Drug May Help Overcome Immunotherapy Resistance in Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Multidrug Nanofiber Shows Promise for Treating Brain Cancer](#)

[University of Cincinnati Cancer Center](#)

[Study Finds Barriers to Hormone Therapy for Patients With Cervical Cancer](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

OTHER NEWS

[NCI Director Participates in 'Mountainside Chat'](#)

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



National Cancer Institute Director **Anthony Letai, MD, PhD**, visited Huntsman Cancer Institute to discuss cancer research and care with AACI Vice President/President-elect **Neli Ulrich, PhD, MS**, chief scientific officer and executive director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, and **Alana Welm, PhD**, senior director of basic science. The event drew over 500 researchers, caregivers, and staff.

Pictured, left to right: Drs. Welm, Ulrich, and Letai with Huntsman Cancer Institute CEO Bradley Cairns, PhD

[Read More](#)

[Global Conference Focuses on Indigenous Peoples and Cancer](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Rodney C. Haring, PhD, MSW (Seneca Nation, Beaver Clan), chair of the Department of Indigenous Cancer Health at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, co-delivered the opening plenary at the 2026 World Indigenous Cancer Conference in Tāmaki Makaurau, Aotearoa (Auckland, New Zealand). More than 700 delegates representing over 30 countries attended the global conference. [Read More](#)

[Reminder: Register Today for the PCLI Medical-Legal Partnerships Webinar](#)

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)

AACI's [Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative](#) (PCLI) will host a webinar titled "[Medical-Legal Partnerships: Breaking Barriers in Cancer Care](#)" at **2:00 pm eastern time next Tuesday, June 9**. Attendees will explore the role of medical-legal partnerships (MLPs) in cancer care, the history and evolution of the model, and how MLPs can be integrated into cancer centers to better support patients and advance patient-centered care. [Read More](#) | [Register Today](#) | [View Resources](#)



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[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Faculty Position, Associate/Full Professor - Environmental Cancer Epidemiology](#)

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

[Open Rank Faculty Positions, Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program](#)

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

[Project Coordinator PRMC/DSMC](#)

[Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University Irving Medical Center](#)

[Associate Director, Administrative & Scientific Affairs](#)

[Dartmouth Cancer Center](#)

[President and Chief Executive Officer](#)

[The Wistar Institute](#)

[Associate Professor or Professor of Head and Neck Cancer Oncology](#)

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

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

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Post-Doctoral Research Fellow - Functional Genomics and RNA Biology](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

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

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Division Chief, Medical Oncology](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[Rural Health and Cancer Conference](#)

Hosted by The University of Vermont Cancer Center

[REGISTRATION CLOSED](#)

[June 2-4, 2026](#)

[Burlington, VT](#)

[Medical-Legal Partnerships: Breaking Barriers in Cancer Care](#)

Hosted by AACI Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) in partnership with Medlive

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[June 9, 2026, 2:00 pm ET](#)

[Webinar](#)

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

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[June 23-25, 2026](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

[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](#)

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