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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | March 2026

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Rathmell Named OSUCCC Director, Pollock Becomes Director Emeritus](#)



W. Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD, CEO of the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, has also been named director of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC) in place of former Director **Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD**, who stepped down from the position to become OSUCCC director emeritus. This transition has been planned since Dr. Rathmell became CEO of The James in May 2025. [Read More](#)

[Weiner to Step Down as Georgetown Director](#)



After more than 18 years leading Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, **Louis M. Weiner, MD**, has announced his decision to step down later this year. He will also step down as director of the MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute and as chair of the Department of Oncology. Dr. Weiner served on AACI's annual meeting program committee in 2009 and 2015. [Read More](#)

[Register Today for the 18th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

Registration is open for the **118th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting, June 23-25**, at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL. A discounted early registration rate will be available through **Monday, March 16**. The programming for this year's CRI meeting will focus on the theme, *Shaping the Future of Clinical Trial Innovation*. [Read More](#)



[Patient Advocate to Keynote 2026 AACI CADEx Conference](#)



Patient advocate **Loriana Hernández-Aldama** will present the opening keynote at 1:30 pm eastern time on **Monday, March 9**, during the 2026 AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence (CADEx) Conference in Atlanta. She will share her thoughts on the importance of working with patient advocates in community outreach and engagement work. [Read More](#)

[PCL I Webinar: Improving Clinical Trial Accruals Through Data, Collaboration, and Targeted Interventions](#)



AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCL I)** will host a webinar titled "**Improving Clinical Trial Accruals Through Data, Collaboration, and Targeted Interventions**" at 1:00 pm eastern time on **Tuesday, March 24**. The webinar will be moderated by **Ajay K. Nooka, MD, MPH**, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. Presenters are **Theresa Wicklin Gillespie, PhD, MA, FAAN**, Winship Cancer Institute, and **Amy M. Overby, BSs**, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Join AACI and Medidata for a Webinar on March 17](#)



As clinical trial complexity increases and site resources are stretched thinner than ever, the move toward automated, interoperable workflows is no longer a luxury; it is a strategic necessity. Join AACI, **Tech Gold** member **Medidata**, and AACI cancer center members for an informative, one-hour webinar titled "**The Site-First Playbook: Best Practices for Successful EHR-to-EDC Adoption**" at 2:00 pm eastern time on **Tuesday, March 17**. [Read More](#)

[Register Today for Spring GR Forum, AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

AACI will bring together cancer center government relations leaders and advocates in Washington, DC for its **2026 Spring Government Relations (GR) Forum** and the **2026 AACI/AACR Hill Day**, two events focused on advancing federal policies that support cancer research, care, and patients. [Read More](#)



NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Xu Named Among Time Magazine Most Influential in Health](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



Zhen Xu, PhD, was selected to *Time* magazine's TIME100 Health 2026. The magazine describes it as a list of "the people most influential in the world of health right now." Dr. Xu was recognized for developing histotripsy, which was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2023 to treat liver tumors. [Read More](#)

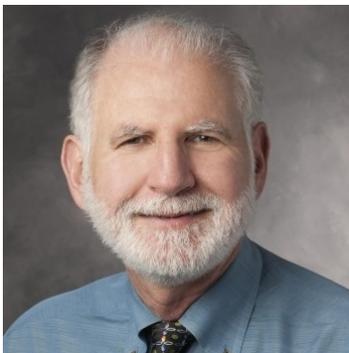
[Physicians Inducted Into Philadelphia Academy of Surgery](#)

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

Four Fox Chase Cancer Center physicians have been elected as Fellows of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery (PAS), the oldest continuously meeting surgical society in the United States. They are: **Lisa A. Bevilacqua, MD**; **Louis F. Chai, MD**; **Walker Lyons, MD**; and **Maureen V. Hill, MD**. [Read More](#)

[Negrin Awarded ASTCT Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



Robert Negrin, MD, was awarded the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in transforming our understanding of immune-mediated reactions, as well as for his exceptional leadership. [Read More](#)

[Fox Chase Earns National Recognition for Workplace Culture](#)

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

Fox Chase Cancer Center has been recognized with the Press Ganey Human Experience Guardian of Excellence Award in the category of Employee and Physician Experience. This national honor celebrates health care organizations that excel in creating supportive, engaging, and mission-driven workplace cultures. [Read More](#)

[\\$36 Million in Federal Funding to Support Research Capacity of New Building](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Ralph Lauren Center to Expand Access to Cancer Care and Support](#)

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

[\\$12.5 Million Gift Will Support Markey Mission, Priorities](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[\\$5 Million Grant Will Expand Access to Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Care in Kenya](#)

[Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Researcher Participates in \\$2 Million Project Examining DNA Damage and Cancer Mutations](#)

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

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Yellowhair Appointed Assistant Director of Native American Partnerships](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)



The University of Arizona Cancer Center announces the appointment of **Monica Yellowhair, PhD**, as assistant director of Native American Partnerships. Dr. Yellowhair has served with distinction as the center's assistant director of Community Outreach and Engagement. [*Read More*](#)

[Subbiah Appointed Associate Director for Drug Development and Precision Oncology](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



Vivek Subbiah, MD, has been appointed as the Stanford Cancer Institute's inaugural associate director for Drug Development and Precision Oncology. He will lead the Early Drug Development Program, focusing on Phase I clinical trials, biomarker-driven study design, targeted therapeutics, and rare cancers. [*Read More*](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Giving Less Chemotherapy Can Still Cure Lymphoma Patients in Their Eighties](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[Molecular Imaging May Reduce Need for Melanoma Biopsies](#)

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

[How a Heart Medication Could Unlock a New Targeted Approach in Lymphoma](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Immunotherapy Before Surgery Helps Shrink Tumors in Patients With Desmoplastic Melanoma](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[New Oral Vaccine Strategy Could Help Combat Colorectal Cancer](#)

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

[As Taurine Fuels Leukemia, It May Also Impact Bone Health](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[FDA Grants Breakthrough Therapy Designation to Treatment for Rare Blood Cancers](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[Two New Breakthroughs Advance Research on Neurological Disorders, Cancer](#)

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

[Updated Guidelines Standardize How Tumor Response is Measured After Surgery](#)

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

[Gene-Based Test May Help Personalize Treatment for Early-Stage Melanoma](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

[Experimental Therapy Targets Cancer Bodyguards, Turning Foe to Friend to Eliminate Tumors](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)

[Scientists Identify Potential Treatment for Deadliest Brain Cancer](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

[Study Identifies Key Predictors of PFAS Levels in Career Firefighters](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Study: AI Can Help Identify More Patients for Cancer Clinical Trials](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[Team Provides First Direct Evidence of CD28 Effects on CAR T-Cell Therapy](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[New Genetic Tools Offer More Accurate Breast Cancer Prediction for Women of African Ancestry](#)

[The University of Chicago Medicine](#)

[Review Maps Path Forward for Cancer Vaccines](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)

[Study Identifies Tool to Measure Heart Disease Risk in Testicular Cancer Survivors](#)

[Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[How Bacteria May Promote Breast Cancer](#)

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

[Mineral Sunscreen Formulation Reduces White Cast](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Neighborhood Factors Related to Financial Stress Are Linked to Worse Breast Cancer Outcomes](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[New Treatment May Dramatically Improve Survival for Those With Deadly Brain Cancer](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Study Shows COVID-19 Disruptions Led to Worse Cancer Outcomes](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

OTHER NEWS

[Why Biology Demands a Different Playbook for Kids With Cancer](#)

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



Pediatric cancers follow their own biological rules, and understanding this distinction is the foundation of effective research. For **Charles W.M. Roberts, MD, PhD**, St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center director, this difference underpins his approach to discovering the next generation of therapies for children. [*Read More*](#)

[Addressing Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer](#)

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

Colorectal cancer is rising in adults under 50, and the trend is reshaping how we think about screening, stigma, and care. UCSF has launched a new Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer Program designed to meet the distinct medical and life-stage needs of younger patients. [*Read More*](#)

[New Research Program on Obesity and Cancer Starts](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

The University of Kansas Cancer Center has launched a new research program focused on understanding the connection between obesity and cancer and on developing interventions to improve metabolic health. It is the first such research program at any National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center in the United States. [*Read More*](#)

[Free Online Tool Launched to Assess Colorectal Cancer Risk](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

Fred Hutch Cancer Center researchers have developed a new tool that enables anyone to immediately assess their colorectal cancer risk online. Called MyGeneRisk, the free, web-based calculator allows users to input basic health information, including lifestyle habits and genetic data, to estimate their risk. [*Read More*](#)

[First Academic Medical Center in Nation to Manufacture Newly Approved Prostate Cancer Imaging Drug](#)

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

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah will soon become the first academic medical center in the nation to manufacture a new prostate cancer imaging drug. Called flutufolostat F 18 (POSLUMA) and developed by Blue Earth Diagnostics, the new drug builds on Huntsman's leadership in molecular imaging and theranostics. [*Read More*](#)

[Blood Cancer Healing Center Realizes Vision of Comprehensive Care](#)

[University of Cincinnati Cancer Center](#)

With the opening of research laboratories and the UC Osher Wellness Suite and Learning Kitchen, the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center's Blood Cancer Healing Center has brought its full mission to life as a comprehensive blood cancer hub. [*Read More*](#)

[Patient With Melanoma Receives TIL Therapy](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center has treated its first patient in a newly launched therapy program that magnifies a person's natural defense system against tumors. Tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy involves isolating white blood cells from a tumor after it is surgically removed, expanding the magnitude of those cells in a lab, then infusing them back into the patient to elicit a more powerful counterattack. [*Read More*](#)

[Understanding Cancer Vaccines: What Are They and How Do They Work?](#)

[Duke Cancer Institute](#)

We all have damaged cells, and our body has robust, built-in systems to detect and destroy damaged or mutated cells before they grow into tumors. Cancer vaccines promote that response and encourage the immune system to go after and destroy cancer cells. As part of the "Conversations in Cancer" video series, experts talk about cancer vaccines, what they are, how they work, and what's on the horizon. [*Read More*](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Cancer Clinical Research Manager 1 - GI Oncology \(Hybrid\)](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Cancer Clinical Research Manager 2 - Neurology \(Hybrid\)](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Senior Director, Clinical Operations](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Faculty Position, Cancer Pharmacology](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Chief of Hematology/Oncology \(Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Institute\)](#)

[LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center](#)

[Chair, Department of Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Tenure Track Faculty Position - Population Science Research](#)

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Research Finance Manager II](#)

[Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center](#)

[Chief - Division of Cancer Data and Artificial Intelligence](#)

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

[Senior Administrative Director, Clinical Research Services](#)

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

[Director - Myeloma Program](#)

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

[Assistant Director - Clinical Operations Position](#)

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

[Associate Director for Clinical Research](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute](#)

[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](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[May 14, 2026](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

[Rural Health and Cancer Conference](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[June 2, 2026](#)

[Burlington, VT](#)

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

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[June 23-25, 2026](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

[2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

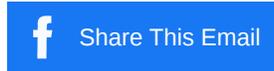
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322 North Shore Dr
Building 1B Ste 200, #362
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5875

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