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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | October 2026

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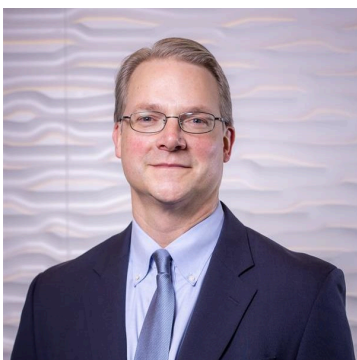
AACI HEADLINES

[Tuveson Named Director of Duke Cancer Institute](#)



David Tuveson, MD, PhD, will step into the role of executive director of the Duke Cancer Institute, a National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, on October 31. He is currently director of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center and chief scientist for the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research. Since developing the first mouse model of pancreatic cancer in 2002, discoveries by his lab team have revealed the molecular drivers of this disease and have led to promising new treatment options. [Read More](#)

[Messersmith Named Director of CU Anschutz Cancer Center](#)



Following a nationwide search, **Wells Messersmith, MD**, has been named director of the University of Colorado Anschutz Cancer Center, effective October 1. As the fourth director in the 41-year history of Colorado's only NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Messersmith will oversee research, patient care, workforce development, and community outreach and education. [Read More](#)

[Mitchell Selected to Lead UF Health Cancer Institute](#)

Duane A. Mitchell, MD, PhD, began in his new role as director of the UF Health Cancer Institute on September 21. Dr. Mitchell previously served as director of the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute and is co-director of the Preston A. Wells Jr. Center for Brain Tumor Therapy. As director, he will lead the cancer institute in its mission to expand its research portfolio, promote community engagement, and impact patient success as part of its long-term goal of National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center designation. [Read More](#)



Kalluri Appointed to Leadership Roles at UT Medical Branch Cancer Center



Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD, took the helm at the University of Texas Medical Branch Cancer Center as executive director, senior vice president, and chief scientific officer on September 1. As the cancer center's leader, Dr. Kalluri will support the center's commitments to advancing scientific discovery and expanding access to innovative cancer care. An internationally recognized cancer researcher, Dr. Kalluri was previously chair of Cancer Biology and director of the Metastasis Research Center at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Executive Coach to Deliver Annual Meeting Keynote



Peter A. James, PhD, will deliver the opening keynote of the **2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting** at **2:00 pm central time** on **Sunday, October 25**. Dr. James, president and CEO of **HCG Strategic Partners**, will share how cancer center leaders can implement lasting, meaningful change at their institutions. [Read More](#) | [Register for the Meeting](#)

AACI CARDS Webinar: Transforming Cancer Registry Data to Community Impact



AACI will host a Catchment Area Research Data Science (CARDS) webinar titled **"Transforming Cancer Registry Data to Community Impact"** at **2:00 pm eastern time** on **Tuesday, October 13**. The webinar will highlight innovative collaborations between cancer centers and registries to extend the use of population-based cancer data. [Read More](#) | [Register Today](#)

IgniteData and AACI to Present Webinar: One Platform, Every Study

IgniteData and AACI will present a webinar titled **"One Platform, Every Study"** at **2:00 pm eastern time** on **Wednesday, October 14**. This **AACI Tech Gold** webinar will feature the partners behind IgniteData's Archer platform, which connects electronic health record data to any electronic data capture (EDC) software. [Read More](#) | [Register Today](#)



[AACI Call for Nominations: CTI and PCLI Steering Committees](#)



AACI is accepting [nominations](#) for the [Cellular Therapy Initiative](#) (CTI) and [Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative](#) (PCLI) steering committees till **5:00 pm Pacific time on Friday, October 30**. This election cycle, AACI will select two new CTI Steering Committee members and three new PCLI Steering Committee members, with selected members beginning a three-year term in January 2027. [Read More](#) | [Submit a Nomination](#)

[Policy Roundup: NIH Grant Review Changes Dropped, NCI Budget Announced](#)

As part of its commitment to amplifying the impact of cancer centers in Washington, AACI monitors cancer-related public policy and participates in advocacy activities on behalf of the cancer research community. Last month, AACI weighed in on a [proposed executive order](#) that would have impacted federal grant review, the National Cancer Institute announced its [Fiscal Year 2028 Professional Judgment Budget](#), and AACI supported the [Rally for Medical Research](#) and [Congressional Women's Softball Game](#). Looking ahead, AACI will host the Fall 2026 Government Relations Forum during the [2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#), and planning is underway for the [2027 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#). [Read More](#)

[Save the Dates for 2027 AACI Meetings](#)



AACI has scheduled its 2027 meetings and conferences. Please mark your calendars for the [2027 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#), [2027 Catchment Area Data Excellence \(CADEx\) Conference](#), [19th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation \(CRI\) Meeting](#), [2027 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#), and [2027 AACI Leadership Development Workshop](#). [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Eberlein Installed as President of American College of Surgeons](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, FACS, director of Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and WashU Medicine, has been installed as the 107th president of the American College of Surgeons, the world's largest organization of surgeons. [Read More](#)



[Rosenzweig Elected Vice Chair of ASTRO Education Council](#)

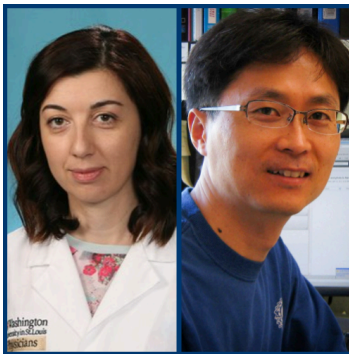
[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)



Kenneth Rosenzweig, MD, was elected the incoming vice chair of the Education Council of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), the world's premier radiation oncology society. He currently chairs ASTRO's Annual Meeting Scientific Committee and has led the task force that developed the society's small cell lung cancer guideline. [Read More](#)

[Ferraro, Choi Recognized for Leukemia Research](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)



WashU Medicine researchers **Francesca Ferraro, MD, PhD**, and **Jaebok Choi, PhD**, at Siteman Cancer Center each have received an Award for Research Careers in Hematology from the American Society of Hematology. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[IU Establishes Neuro-Oncology Research Center Through \\$10M Gift](#)

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

[Fred Hutch Awarded \\$3.7M Grant to Study Aging After Childhood Cancer](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[NCI Grants \\$3.46M to Study AML Biomarkers, Treatment Resistance in Older Adults](#)

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

[Wilmot Receives \\$3M for Pancreatic Cancer Research](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[Researcher Awarded \\$2.9M to Study Prostate Cancer Screening Gap Among Black Men](#)

[Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma](#)

[\\$2.8M Federal Grant Awarded for Acral Melanoma Research](#)

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

[UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center Earns NCI Redesignation](#)

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

[TICaRT Collaboration Leads to NCI Grant Targeting Virus](#)

[UF Health Cancer Institute](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Takebe Named Leader of Early-Phase Clinical Trials and Developmental Therapeutics Program](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)



Naoko Takebe, MD, PhD, joined University of Rochester Medicine on September 1 as a professor of medicine and associate director for clinical research at Wilmot Cancer Institute, and director of the Early Phase Therapy Clinic at Wilmot. She will lead a new Wilmot research initiative for developmental therapeutics. [*Read More*](#)

[Chakraborty Appointed Associate Director of Shared Resources](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)



Goutam Chakraborty, PhD, an assistant professor in the departments of Urology and Oncological Sciences, has been appointed as associate director of shared resources at Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center. In this role, Dr. Chakraborty will support and strengthen the scientific infrastructure that enables cutting-edge cancer research. [*Read More*](#)

[Mrksich Named Associate Director for Translational Research](#)

[Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University](#)

Milan Mrksich, PhD, has been named associate director for translational research at the Lurie Cancer Center. In this role, he will oversee the development and coordination of translational science across both the Evanston and Chicago campuses and drive initiatives to develop new therapies from the laboratory to the clinic. [*Read More*](#)



[Makowski Appointed Professor of Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics at Ohio State](#)

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



Liza Makowski, PhD, whose research explores connections among metabolism, the immune system, and cancer, has been appointed professor of Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr. Makowski previously held faculty appointments at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

[Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Obesity May Remove a Natural Defense Against Breast Cancer](#)

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

[A New Frontier at the Intersection of Aging and Cancer](#)

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

[CARE Study Reports Complete Regression of Liver Cancer in Child Treated With Novel Immunotherapy](#)

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

[Emotional Health Supports Physical Health in Survivors of Childhood Cancer](#)

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

[FDA Approves Targeted Therapy for Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Improving Outcomes After Bladder Removal](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Landmark Discovery Still Recognized as Foundation of Modern Cancer Immunotherapy 50 Years Later](#)

[Tampa General Hospital Cancer Institute](#)

[Loss of Y Chromosome in Men Could be Early Warning Sign of Cancer](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[New Assay Better Predicts Treatment for Two Cancers](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[New Drug With UCSF Roots Has Revolutionized Pancreatic Cancer Care](#)

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

[New MRI Approach Detects Tiny Lung Tumors and Metastases in Preclinical Study](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[New Oral Nanomedicine Boosts Effectiveness of Cancer Immunotherapies](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[New Recommendations Address Cancer in Latinos and All Populations](#)

[Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson](#)

[Study Reveals New Clues to Treatment Resistance in Deadly Melanoma](#)

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

[Study: Supplement With Chemo Boosts Pancreatic Cancer Survival](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Targeting Calcium Could Improve Brain Cancer Outcomes](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

[Wistar Scientists Identify Connection Between Nervous System and Aggressive Prostate Cancer](#)

[The Wistar Institute](#)

[Study Highlights Promising New Option for Skin Cancer Reconstruction](#)

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

[FDA Approves PET Imaging Agent for Brain Cancer Based on UCSF Data](#)

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

[Paper Offers First Clinical Guidance in U.S. on E-Cigarettes for Smoking Cessation](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Walking Reduces Fatigue in Colorectal Cancer Survivors](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

OTHER NEWS

[Honoring Dr. Rachna Shroff Through a New Young Investigator Award in Biliary Cancer](#)

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)

AACI is pleased to announce that the [Endowed Conquer Cancer – Rachna Shroff, MD, MS, FASCO Young Investigator Award in Biliary Cancer](#) exceeded its goal of \$1.35 million. Funded through the



support of over 600 generous donors, the endowed award aims to ensure financial stability for early-career scientists focused on biliary, or bile duct, cancer research. [Read More](#)

[Cancer Center Founder to Retire After 46 Years](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



Max S. Wicha, MD, founding director of the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center, will retire from the University of Michigan and move to emeritus status after 46 years of service. Dr. Wicha founded what is now the Rogel Cancer Center in 1986 and shepherded it to its first National Cancer Institute cancer center designation in 1988. Two years later the center earned comprehensive status, which it has maintained since.

[Read More](#)

[Cancer Center Leaders Discuss Expanding Access to Care at TIME100 Health Leadership Forum](#)

[OHSU Knight Cancer Institute](#)



On September 10, **Eneida R. Nemecek, MD, MS, MBA**, of OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, and **David L. Porter, MD**, of Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania, participated in an expert panel at the third annual TIME100 Health Leadership Forum in New York City. TIME senior health correspondent **Alice Park** moderated the panel, which also featured **Amy Ronneberg**, CEO of the National Marrow Donor Program.

[Read More](#)

[Hope Lodge Chicago to Provide No-Cost Lodging to Patients and Caregivers](#)

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



A facility that will provide free accommodations for cancer patients and their caregivers is being developed through a partnership between UChicago Medicine, the American Cancer Society, and community partners. Hope Lodge Chicago will be located about one mile from UChicago Medicine's 575,000-square-foot AbbVie Foundation Cancer Pavilion, scheduled to open in April 2027. [Read More](#)

[UVA Cancer Care to Expand With New Lynchburg Facility](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)



Patients will begin receiving care at a new UVA Cancer Center Lynchburg clinic later this fall. The new center will allow patients from Lynchburg who previously had to travel to the Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center in Charlottesville to receive care locally. Most standard cancer treatments, including infusion therapies, will be available at the clinic through the UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Construction Begins on New Huntsman Cancer Center in Vineyard](#)

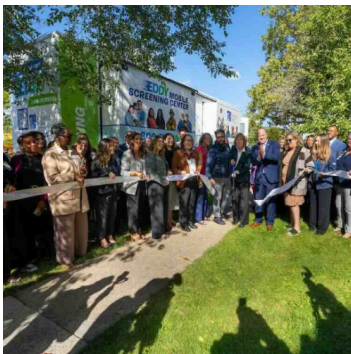
[Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah](#)



Community leaders, elected officials, supporters, and residents attended a cornerstone celebration marking the start of vertical construction on the future Huntsman Cancer Institute in Vineyard and recognizing Huntsman's long-term commitment to Vineyard, Utah County, and the families who will benefit from expanded access to cancer care, research, education, and innovation. [Read More](#)

[EDDY Unit to Expand Lung Cancer Screening](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Roswell Park is expanding the reach of its Early Detection Driven to You (EDDY) mobile cancer screening program with the addition of a more compact mobile lung cancer screening unit. Together with the EDDY Mobile Breast & Prostate Cancer Screening Center, the screening program will bring early detection services for the three most common invasive cancers directly to urban and rural communities in Western New York. [Read More](#)

[New Precision Surgical Approach to Diagnosing, Treating Early Lung Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



UCLA Health's thoracic surgery, interventional pulmonology, and pathology teams have adopted a novel, streamlined approach that combines diagnosis, staging, localization, and treatment into a single operating room session under one anesthetic event for select patients with suspected early-stage lung cancer. [Read More](#)

[Application Period Open for Immersive Postdoctoral Training Program](#)

[OHSU Knight Cancer Institute](#)

The application window for the Experimental Therapeutics in Cancer Training Program at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, an immersive two-year postdoctoral training program for PhD and MD fellows, is open through **Monday, November 2**. The program bridges basic and clinical research to train future translational oncology scientists in therapeutic development, and fosters collaboration and creativity in developing novel cancer therapies. [Read More](#)

[UChicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center Partners With Lilly to Expand Clinical Trial Access](#)

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

Under a new two-year partnership between The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center and Lilly, the organizations will work together over time to expand access to clinical trials with innovative investigational therapies and improve the overall research experience. Unique elements to the partnership include dedicated project management, regular communication, and shared learning opportunities that provide a broad scope and long-term focus. [Read More](#)

[Roswell Park Breaks Ground on Community Outreach and Engagement Center Expansion](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Roswell Park broke ground on the expansion of their Broadview Community Outreach and Engagement Center, a project made possible through partnerships with New York State and Broadview Federal Credit Union. The enhanced space will support cancer education, prevention, and screening and reach historically underserved communities to reduce cancer disparities. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Assistant or Associate Professor, Gastroenterology](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Associate Director for Administration | Senior Research Administrator](#)

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

[Medical Director, Clinical Trials Office](#)

[Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine](#)

[Senior Editor](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[Division Chief, Hematology/Oncology \(Open Rank Tenure System Faculty\) - Department of Medicine](#)

[University of Illinois Cancer Center](#)

[Head, Section of Thoracic Medical Oncology](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)

[Nursing Lead, Hospital Research Integration](#)

[UT Health San Antonio](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 25-27, 2026](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

The following meetings will be held in conjunction with the 2026 AACI/CCAF

Annual Meeting.

[2026 Impact Summit](#)

Hosted by AACI in partnership with the Cancer Center Network

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 24, 2026](#)
[Chicago, IL](#)

[2026 AACI Leadership Development Workshop](#)

The 2026 nomination period is now closed.

[BY NOMINATION ONLY](#)

[October 24-25, 2026](#)
[Chicago, IL](#)

[2026 New Cancer Center Directors Meeting](#)

Contact AACI Program Coordinator [Chloe Boothby](#) for more information

[BY INVITATION ONLY](#)

[October 24, 2026](#)
[Chicago, IL](#)

[2026 AACI Government Relations Forum](#)

Not CME accredited; pre-registration required

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 26, 2026](#)
[Chicago, IL](#)

[Gordon Ginder Innovations in Cancer Symposium: ELEVATE Liver Cancer & MASH](#)

Hosted by VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center and the VCU Stravitz-Sanyal Institute

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[April 8-9, 2027](#)
[Richmond, VA](#)

[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](#)

[2027 Catchment Area Data Excellence \(CADEx\) Conference](#)

Hosted by AACI in partnership with the Cancer Center Community Impact Forum

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[September 28-30, 2027](#)
[Kansas City, MO](#)

[2027 AACI Leadership Development Workshop](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[October 23-24, 2027](#)
[Washington, DC](#)

[2027 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

The 2027 Impact Summit and New Cancer Center Directors Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2027 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[October 24-26, 2027](#)
[Washington, DC](#)

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