

Some email communications may be filtered to your Spam or Junk folder, even if you have subscribed to them. Please mark aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.ccsend.com as a Safe Sender to ensure that AACI emails are delivered to your inbox.

News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | September 2026

[Click here](#) to read the full newsletter on our website.



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

AACI HEADLINES

[Roberts Named President and CEO of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)



Following an extensive international search, the Board of Governors of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital announced **Charles W.M. Roberts, MD, PhD**, executive vice president and current director of the St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center, as its next president and chief executive officer, effective January 1, 2027. As the hospital's seventh president and CEO, Dr. Roberts will oversee a global organization dedicated to advancing cures and means of prevention for pediatric catastrophic diseases. [Read More](#)

[Pisters to Retire, Interim President Named for The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)



Peter W.T. Pisters, MD, announced his plans to retire from UT MD Anderson Cancer Center after nine years as president. The UT System Board of Regents and Chancellor John M. Zerwas, MD, have named **Jeffrey E. Lee, MD**, interim president, effective immediately. Dr. Pisters will work with Dr. Lee on a thoughtful transition through the end of September. [Read More](#)

[Three New Members Elected to AACI Board](#)

AACI has elected **Jonathan W. Friedberg, MD, MMSc**; **Primo N. Lara, Jr., MD**; and **Matthew Vander Heiden, MD, PhD**, to its Board of Directors. The new board members will begin three-year terms during the [2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#), when they will replace outgoing board members **Raymond N. DuBois, MD, PhD**, and **Yolanda (Yoli) Sanchez, PhD**. [Read More](#)



Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute is Newest AACI Member



AACI is pleased to welcome Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute as its newest cancer center member. Led by President **David Ryan, MD**, the cancer institute delivers comprehensive cancer care to patients in its New England catchment area, spanning eastern Massachusetts, the North Shore, and southern New Hampshire, with a focus on populations served by Mass General Brigham community health centers. [Read More](#)

AACI Announces New CRI Steering Committee Members



Pictured, clockwise from top left: Dr. Edward J. Kim, Stephanie Brogan, Dr. Wencesley A. Paez, and Kelli Thorne

The AACI **Clinical Research Innovation (CRI)** Steering Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of **Edward J. Kim, MD, PhD**, as its new chair-elect. We are also excited to welcome three new steering committee members: **Stephanie Brogan, CCRP**; **Wencesley A. Paez, MD, MS**; and **Kelli Thorne, MPH, CCRP**. [Read More](#)

AACI Announces PCL Leadership Transition



Pictured, left to right: Drs. Lee G. Wilke and Paula M. Fracasso

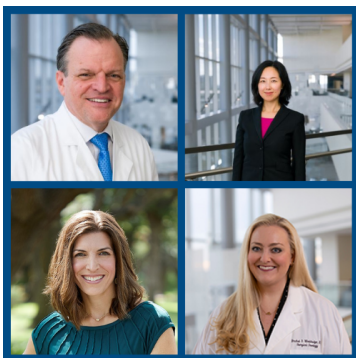
Lee G. Wilke, MD, FACS, senior medical director of clinical cancer services at UW Health and the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center, is the new chair of AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI)** Steering Committee, replacing **Paula M. Fracasso, MD, PhD**, who has stepped down as PCLI chair following a change in her role at VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

NCI Director to Present at Annual Meeting

National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director **Anthony Letai, MD, PhD**, will report on the current status of the national cancer research enterprise at **11:15 am central time on Tuesday, October 27**, during the closing session of the **2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**. A longstanding highlight of the annual meeting, the NCI Director's Report provides crucial updates on funding mechanisms, priorities, and goals for NCI-Designated Cancer Centers. [Read More](#) | [Register Today](#)



[Register for Our Next PCLI Webinar: Innovating Cancer Genetics Programs](#)



Pictured, clockwise from top left: Dr. Jason Fleming, Dr. Christine Hong, Sara Pirzadeh-Miller, and Dr. Rachel Wooldridge

AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI)** will host a webinar titled **"Innovating Cancer Genetics Programs: From Pharmacogenomics to Longitudinal Prevention"** at **1:00 pm eastern time on Tuesday, September 15**. Attendees will gain insight into the development of standardized clinical workflows, lessons learned from implementing these initiatives, and early program outcomes. [Read More](#) | [Register Today](#)

[Paradigm Health and AACI to Present Webinar on 'Pioneering a Modern Regulatory Framework'](#)



Pictured, clockwise from top left: Dr. Ivy Altomare and Kent Thelke of Paradigm Health; Jeremy Walsh, formerly of U.S. FDA; and Dr. Emma Meagher of Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Paradigm Health and AACI will present a webinar titled **"Pioneering a Modern Regulatory Framework: a Discussion With the Leaders Behind FDA's Real-Time Clinical Trials"** at **11:00 am eastern time on Monday, September 28**. Learn more about the landmark initiative from some of the pioneers at the center of the FDA's proof-of-concept trials. [Read More](#) | [Register Today](#)

[Nominate an Emerging Leader for 2026 LDW and New Yearlong Training Program](#)

Nominations for the new AACI **Leadership Advancement Program (LAP)** and the **Leadership Development Workshop (LDW)** are due by **8:00 pm eastern time on Wednesday, September 30**. Directors of AACI member cancer centers are encouraged to select an emerging leader for each program. The **LDW** provides an opportunity for emerging cancer center leaders to strengthen their leadership skills. The yearlong **LAP** is designed for those who are registered for the 2026 LDW or have already participated in a past workshop. [Read More](#)

[AACI Comments on Proposed Changes to 340B Program](#)

Last month, AACI **submitted comments** in response to **CY 2027 Hospital Outpatient PPS Policy Changes and Payment Rates and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Policy Changes and Payment Rates (CMS-2026-2344)**, proposed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Throughout its comments, AACI noted that the proposed rule does not keep pace with sustained increases in operating costs for cancer centers and shared concerns with provisions related to site-neutral payments, 340B reimbursement, and new provider requirements. [Read More](#)

[Paid Advertisement: Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center is currently seeking a highly skilled and experienced Executive Administrator. You'll partner with our Executive Cancer Center Director to lead a world-class, multidisciplinary



team in a high-performance research ecosystem in our laboratories, clinics, and communities. Discover a life-changing career today! [Learn More & Apply](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Ley Elected to American Philosophical Society](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)



Timothy J. Ley, MD, a professor of medicine and of genetics at WashU Medicine, the Lewis T. and Rosalind B. Apple Chair in Oncology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and a research member at Siteman Cancer Center, has been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society. The society was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 to “promote useful knowledge.” [Read More](#)

[Lonial to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award From International Myeloma Society](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)



Sagar Lonial, MD, FACP, FASCO, chief medical officer of Winship Cancer Institute and chair of Emory's Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology, has been named the 2026 recipient of the Waldenström Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Myeloma Society. He will receive the honor during the 23rd Annual Meeting of the International Myeloma Society. [Read More](#)

[Roswell Park Named Optum Center of Excellence for Adult and Pediatric Stem Cell Transplants](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Optum, a health services company, has again recognized Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as a Center of Excellence for its adult and pediatric stem cell transplant programs. Certification requires an evaluation process conducted by Optum's Clinical Sciences Institute assessing factors like clinical expertise, patient outcomes, and quality of care to ensure the center meets specific criteria. [Read More](#)

[Fox Chase Cancer Center Recognized Among Nation's Best for Cancer Care, Urology](#)

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

Fox Chase Cancer Center was recognized in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2026-27 Best Hospitals rankings. The cancer center ranked number 32 for cancer care and treatment and number 11 for urology. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[Winship Awarded \\$10.9M Lung Cancer SPORE Grant](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[Angeles Receives \\$4.6M NCI Grant to Study Role of Memory T Cells in Melanoma](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[\\$2.6M NCI Grant to Fund Metastasis Research](#)

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)

[NCI Awards \\$2M Grant to Study Role of Cholesterol in Pancreatic Cancer Survival](#)

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

[\\$1.75M Grant to Expand Lung Cancer Screening](#)

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

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Bacik Tapped as CEO of New MUSC Comprehensive Cancer Hospital](#)

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



Adam Bacik has been named CEO of the MUSC comprehensive cancer hospital, slated for completion in 2030. Bacik will direct efforts related to oncology services, cancer care expansion, and hospital development. [Read More](#)

[Kremyanskaya Named Chief Quality Officer](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)



Marina Kremyanskaya, MD, PhD, has been named chief quality officer at the Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center. Dr. Kremyanskaya will lead initiatives to advance clinical quality and patient safety across cancer care delivery sites throughout the health system. She previously served as medical director of the Inpatient Hematologic Malignancies Services at The Mount Sinai Hospital. [Read More](#)

[Thompson to Lead Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research](#)

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



The IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center has recruited **Alastair Thompson, MD**, an internationally recognized breast cancer physician-scientist, to serve as director of its Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research. [Read More](#)

[Ozbun Named Associate Director for Basic Research at UNMCCC](#) [University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Michelle Ozbun, PhD, has been named associate director for basic research at UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. An internationally recognized leader in human papillomavirus research, Dr. Ozbun is a distinguished professor and the Maralyn S. Budke Endowed Professor in Viral Oncology in the UNM Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology and the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. [Read More](#)

[Kaffenberger Named Deputy Director of Cancer Clinical Services](#) [University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



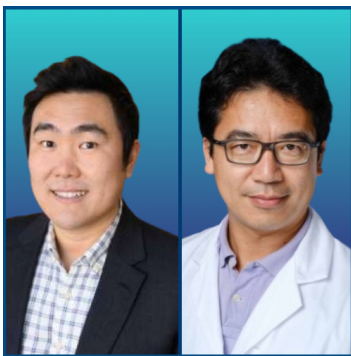
The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center has named **Samuel Kaffenberger, MD**, as deputy director for cancer clinical services, a role that complements his current position as senior medical director for cancer services at Michigan Medicine. Dr. Kaffenberger was also named medical director of clinical operations for the cancer center. [Read More](#)

[Bur Appointed to Positions at Siteman, WashU Medicine](#) [Siteman Cancer Center](#)



Andrés M. Bur, MD, FACS, has been named chief of Head and Neck Surgery at WashU Medicine and co-director of the Robert Ebert and Greg Stubblefield Head and Neck Tumor Center at Siteman Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[UF Health Cancer Institute Announces Research Program Leadership Changes](#) [UF Health Cancer Institute](#)



Ramon Sun, PhD, a biochemist and molecular biologist, has been named co-leader of the UF Health Cancer Institute's Mechanisms of Oncogenesis research program. **Weizhou Zhang, PhD**, who is leading novel research on cancer immunotherapeutics, was named co-leader of the Immuno-Oncology and Microenvironment research program. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Combination Therapies Overcome Treatment Resistance in Advanced Prostate Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[CS18: a New Drug That Can Potentially Overcome Cancer Drug Resistance](#)

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

[For Early Prostate Cancer, 'Active Surveillance' is Now No. 1 Choice](#)

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

[Fox Chase Study Reveals How the Genome Responds to Epigenetic Change](#)

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

[Giving Appalachian Communities a Stronger Voice in Tobacco Regulations](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Johns Hopkins Liver Cancer Experts Co-Author New Hepatocellular Carcinoma Treatment Framework](#)

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

[New Approach Improves Survival, Reduces Recurrence for Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)

[Practice-Changing Breast Cancer Discovery Stems From Decades of Research](#)

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

[Protein That Repairs Bone Marrow Identified in Study](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Researchers Develop New Drug for Aggressive Leukemias](#)

[UF Health Cancer Institute](#)

[Social Determinants of Health Linked to More Fatalistic Cancer Beliefs](#)

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

[Study Shows Promise of New Approach to Lung Cancer Treatment](#)

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

[Discovery of Hidden Survival Strategy of Antibiotic-Tolerant Bacteria Could Be Relevant for Pediatric Cancer Patients](#)

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

[Can Mini Organs Help Predict Breast Tumor Response to Therapy?](#)

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

[Experimental Synthetic mRNA Platform May Lead to Faster, More Effective Therapeutics for Cancer](#)

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

[New Method Could Boost Monitoring Value of Colon Cancer Blood Test](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Researchers Uncovered How Loss of NF1 Drives ER+ Breast Cancer to Metastasize to the Bone](#)

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

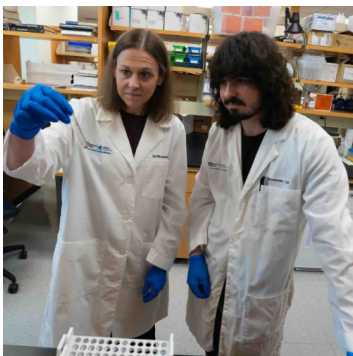
[Women Diagnosed Within Three Years of Childbirth May Face More Aggressive Breast Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

OTHER NEWS

[Combination Treatment Shows Promise in Pediatric Leukemia Patients](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



A combination treatment in development at Roswell Park could give more kids with pediatric leukemia a chance to grow up. **Lisa Niswander, MD, PhD**, a physician-scientist and pediatric oncologist, is investigating ways to combine two new but proven therapies, CAR T cells and a new class of targeted cancer drugs, to see if they can work better together to combat leukemia in the youngest patients.

[Read More](#)

[Huntsman Surgical Team Performs First Robotic Mastectomy in Mountain West](#)

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



A surgical team from Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah performed the first robotic nipple-sparing mastectomy in the Mountain West, making it one of only a small number of cancer centers in the United States offering the procedure. The robotic technique offers eligible patients a less invasive surgical option with smaller, less visible scars.

[Read More](#)

[AACI Joins Cancer Center Community in Mourning Loss of Patient Navigation Pioneer](#)

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)



Photo by Randy Belice

Surgical oncologist **Harold P. Freeman, MD**, died **August 11, 2026**, at age 93. Dr. Freeman was a pioneer of health equity research and a familiar face to the AACI community, most recently joining a panel discussion on the future of patient navigation during the 2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Chicago. [Read More](#)

[Record Fundraising at UAMS Includes Cancer Center Donations](#)

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

A record-breaking fundraising year for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences extended to the Rockefeller Cancer Institute. Donations to the institution included a \$5 million gift from Anne and Merritt Dyke to support clinical services at the Anne Dyke Breast Center, \$2.8 million raised during the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute's Gala for Life, and two \$500,000 gifts in honor of Jonnie Kay Westbrook. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Director, Division of Hematology/Oncology](#)

[O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham](#)

[Associate Director of Administration](#)

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

[Hematology/Oncology - Solid Tumor Faculty](#)

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Clinical Research Nurse](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Director for Research Administration](#)

[Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center](#)

[Academic Research Scientist \(Multiple Openings\)](#)

[UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Executive Administrator](#)

[Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Clinical Trials Fiscal Manager](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Associate Director of Clinical Research Operations \(IIT & Program Strategy Focus\)](#)

[Washington University School of Medicine](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[Annual Gastrointestinal Oncology Symposium](#)

Hosted by Karmanos Cancer Institute

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[September 19, 2026](#)

[Troy, MI](#)

[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](#)

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 New Cancer Center Directors Meeting](#)

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

[BY INVITATION ONLY](#)

[October 24, 2026](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

[2026 AACI Leadership Development Workshop](#)

Nomination deadline is September 30

[NOMINATE AN EMERGING LEADER](#)

[October 24-25, 2026](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

[2026 AACI Government Relations Forum](#)

Not CME accredited; pre-registration required

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[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](#)



322 North Shore Drive
Building 1B, Suite 200, #362
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5875

FOLLOW US



Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)
322 North Shore Drive
Building 1B, Suite 200, #362
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5875 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!