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News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes

November 2018

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## MISSION

The Association is dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer by enhancing the impact of the nation's leading academic cancer centers.

## ABOUT UPDATE

AACI *Update* is an e-newsletter for the cancer center directors and key contacts at AACI member institutions as well as individuals interested in the cancer center-related activities of AACI. AACI *Update* reports on the progress of AACI initiatives along with other AACI endeavors that benefit the cancer community and highlights important news and events at AACI member institutions.

## SUBMISSIONS

AACI encourages member institutions to submit cancer center highlights to AACI *Update*. News briefs are linked to complete stories posted on individual cancer center websites. Please e-mail materials to [aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org](mailto:aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org). AACI reserves the right to decide whether or not materials are appropriate for inclusion.

To subscribe to AACI *Update*, please send an e-mail to [aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org](mailto:aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org) with

## Headlines

### AACI Launches National CAR T-cell Therapy Initiative

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) has established a national initiative to advance the use of chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapies (CAR T). By early 2018, nearly half of AACI's 98 member cancer centers were approved to provide the therapies. To establish best practices, AACI developed a CAR T working group, spearheaded by **Joseph McGuirk, DO**, division director of the Hematologic Malignancies and Cellular Therapeutics program at The University of Kansas Cancer Center (KU Cancer Center). The AACI Board of Directors voted to expand the CAR T working group into an initiative, effective September 29. [more...](#)



### New AACI Executive Director Appointed

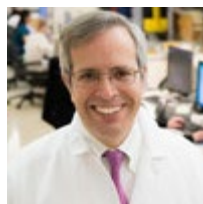
**Jennifer W. Pegher, MA**, is the new executive director of AACI. She is AACI's second executive director in its 19-year history and succeeds its founding executive director, Barbara Duffy Stewart, MPH, who retired in October. Ms. Pegher has been with AACI for six years, most recently serving as the association's deputy director. Previously, she managed AACI's government relations efforts. [more...](#)



## News from the Centers

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### Awards & Honors



#### Caligiuri Elected to National Academy of Medicine

**City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, president of City of Hope National Medical Center, and Deana and Steve Campbell Physician-in-Chief Distinguished Chair, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. Membership in NAM recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievements and commitment to service. [more...](#)



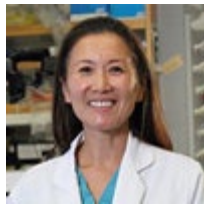
#### Odunsi is New Member of National Academy of Medicine

**Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, deputy director of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). The election of new members recognized for their outstanding professional achievements and commitment to service was announced at the NAM annual meeting, "Cancers: Can We Beat the Odds," held in Washington, DC. Dr. Odunsi has been on staff at Roswell Park since 2001. [more...](#)

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### Neurosurgeon Named to National Academy of Medicine

**UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Linda Liao, MD, PhD, MBA, a neurosurgeon-scientist and chair of the neurosurgery department at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, has been elected by her peers to the National Academy of Medicine, one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. Dr. Liao's research efforts are focused on the molecular biology of brain tumors, gene therapy, immunotherapy, and brain cancer vaccines.

[more...](#)



### Researcher is Sixth VCU Faculty Member Elected to National Academy

**VCU Massey Cancer Center**

Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center researcher Alex Krist, MPH, MD, has been elected as a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Krist is a member of Massey's Cancer Prevention and Control research program. He is also the co-director of community-engaged research at the VCU C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research. [more...](#)



### Radiation Oncologist Selected for National Academy of Medicine

**University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center**

Lori J. Pierce, MD, is among the new members of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Pierce is professor of radiation oncology at Michigan Medicine. Her research focuses on the use of radiotherapy in the multi-modality treatment of breast cancer, with emphasis on intensity modulated radiotherapy in node positive breast cancer, the use of radiosensitizing agents, and the outcomes of radiation in women with breast cancer who carry a BRCA1/2 breast cancer susceptibility gene.

[more...](#)

### Program Earns Nation's First Joint Commission Disease-Specific Care Certification

**The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center**

**James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute**

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC - James) Sickle Cell Program recently earned the nation's first disease-specific care certification in sickle cell disease, an honor bestowed by The Joint Commission, the nation's top hospital ranking organization. The Joint Commission offers this two-year advanced-level certification in several clinical or procedural areas, with the James being the first institution in the country to gain certification for sickle cell disease. [more...](#)



### Research Recognized as Among Year's Best Scientific Work

**UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Amar Kishan, MD, assistant professor of radiation oncology and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, will receive the 2018 Publication Award from the Radiation Oncology Institute in recognition of his outstanding manuscript that highlighted the value of radiation therapy in the treatment of aggressive prostate cancer. [more...](#)

## Grants & Gifts

### Eight Scientists Awarded NIH Grants for High-Risk, High-Reward Research

**Stanford Cancer Institute**

Eight School of Medicine researchers have been awarded High-Risk, High-Reward Research grants from the National Institutes of Health. In all, the Stanford researchers will receive \$32 million over the next five years to fund their investigations. The grants support high-risk research efforts with the potential to make a big impact in the biomedical sciences.

[more...](#)

## Utah Cancer Registry Receives Renewal from National Cancer Institute

### Huntsman Cancer Institute

Huntsman Cancer Institute and the University of Utah (U of U) will receive up to \$28 million over the next 10 years from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to continue its participation in the NCI's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results program, if all contract options are exercised. The work is conducted through the Utah Cancer Registry at the U of U, in collaboration with the Utah Department of Health. [more...](#)



## \$25 Million Gift to Greenebaum Cancer Center

### University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

Baltimore-area businessman Leonard Stoler and his wife, Roslyn, have given a \$25 million gift to help fund a major expansion of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. Their generous gift is the largest philanthropic donation in the history of the University of Maryland Medical Center. [more...](#)

## Grant Aims to Predict Outcomes of Tobacco Product Regulations

### VCU Massey Cancer Center

Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center researchers at the VCU Center for the Study of Tobacco Products have received a \$19.78 million grant through a partnership between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the FDA Center for Tobacco Products to launch a five-year project focused on predicting the outcomes of government regulations of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. [more...](#)

## \$6 Million Grant to Prevent Colorectal Cancer

### The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

The University of Chicago Medicine's Center for Asian Health Equity is joining the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot<sup>SM</sup> Initiative to accelerate the pace of progress in the fight against cancer. As one of three grantees nationwide for colorectal cancer prevention, University of Chicago cancer specialists Karen Kim, MD, MS, and Blase Polite, MD, MPP, have been awarded nearly \$6 million over five years to test novel ways to improve colorectal cancer screening and follow-up among groups that have not been screened. [more...](#)



## \$3.8 Million Awarded to Develop Immunotherapy Trial for HIV

### City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine has awarded City of Hope's Xiuli Wang, PhD, research professor in the Department of Hematology & Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, \$3.8 million to develop chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells that can target and kill HIV-infected cells. The treatment will also use the cytomegalovirus vaccine to stimulate the immune system to proliferate and maintain the CAR T cells. [more...](#)

## Grant Project Looks at Small Cell Lung Cancer Treatment Resistances

### Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center have received a \$3.1 million grant to study the resistance of limited stage small cell lung cancer to a combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy (chemoradiation). The project, titled "Bioinformatic-Chemical Approach to Credential Molecular Targets to Combat Rapid Chemo-Radiation Resistance in SCLC," will run for five years. [more...](#)



## MacArthur Fellows Include Inventor of MasSpec Pen

### LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes

Livia Schiavinato Eberlin, PhD, an assistant professor of chemistry at The University of Texas at Austin, has won a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, which awards \$625,000 to each recipient. Dr. Eberlin is developing new ways to identify cancerous tissue to improve outcomes for patients using a chemical analysis method called mass spectrometry.

One tool she has developed, called the MasSpec Pen, enables a surgeon to rapidly differentiate cancerous tissue from healthy tissue directly in patients in a surgical setting, which might help them decide what to remove and what to leave intact. [more...](#)

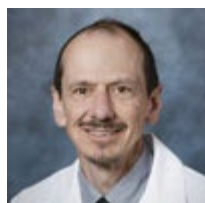
## Leadership Transitions



### **Cowan to Step Down as Cancer Center Director**

#### **Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center**

The man who helped spearhead the ascent of UNMC/Nebraska Medicine into an international powerhouse for cancer care and research—Ken Cowan, MD, PhD—will step down as director of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and the Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer at the end of June 2019. Dr. Cowan, who joined the medical center in 1999, will remain as a full-time faculty member and will continue to see patients. [more...](#)



### **Expert Joins Team Researching Rare Blood Cancer**

#### **Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute**

Ronald Paquette, MD, clinical director of the Cedars-Sinai Blood & Marrow Transplant Program and the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, recently was accepted as a member of the Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Research Consortium. The group, a multi-institutional nonprofit consortium of laboratory and clinical scientists from 11 institutions, is funded by the National Cancer Institute. It coordinates and performs research into the genetic and cellular mechanisms of the Philadelphia Chromosome (Ph)-negative myeloproliferative neoplasms. [more...](#)



### **Tsung Appointed Surgical Oncology Division Director**

#### **The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center**

#### **James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute**

Allan Tsung, MD, has been appointed director of the Division of Surgical Oncology, a key clinical and research leadership role at both The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC - James) and the Ohio State University College of Medicine. His appointment is effective January 1, 2019. Dr. Tsung currently is on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), where he has served since 2008. [more...](#)



### **New Co-Director of Liver and Pancreas Tumor Center Appointed**

#### **Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Roderich Schwarz, MD, PhD, has been appointed as the new co-director of the Liver and Pancreas Tumor Center at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. He will also serve as a professor of oncology in the Department of Surgical Oncology. Prior to this, Dr. Schwarz worked as a surgeon and the medical director of the Goshen Center for Cancer Care in Goshen, Indiana. [more...](#)



### **Beers Named Director of Research Operations**

#### **Siteman Cancer Center**

Courtney Beers, MPH, has joined Siteman Cancer Center as director of research operations. She oversees the research administration team, research resources shared by Washington University scientists at Siteman, and administrative support for Siteman's more than 400 therapeutic clinical trials. [more...](#)



### **Dent Named Associate Director For Clinical Research, Breast Oncology Duke Cancer Institute**

Medical oncologist Susan F. Dent, MD, FRCPC, was recently named associate director for clinical research for breast oncology and co-director of Duke cardio-oncology. Previously, Dr. Dent was professor of medicine, University of Ottawa Division of Medical Oncology. There, she also served as research lead for the breast disease site group. She is founder and past president of the Canadian Cardiac Oncology Network and was the inaugural co-chair of the first Global Cardio-Oncology Summit. [more...](#)



### **Emory Names New Director of Cardio-Oncology Program**

#### **Winship Cancer Institute**

Anant Mandawat, MD, has joined Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University and Emory University Division of Cardiology as the new director of the cardio-oncology program. The joint effort, initiated in 2011, is one of a few programs in the United States dedicated to addressing the cardiovascular consequences of cancer and of cancer therapy and caring for the heart health of cancer survivors. [more...](#)



### **Thompson to Lead Breast Surgical Oncology**

#### **Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Alastair Thompson, BSc (Hons), MBChB, MD, is bringing his expertise to Baylor College of Medicine as the new section chief of breast surgery in the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, and co-director of the Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center, part of the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. [more...](#)



### **Chair of Toxicology and Cancer Biology Named**

#### **UK Markey Cancer Center**

Biochemist Xiaoyi Liu, PhD, has been named chair of the University of Kentucky Department of Toxicology and Cancer Biology. Dr. Liu's research involves the molecular mechanisms that cause cancer with the goal of using this information to create new avenues for cancer therapy. His work specifically focuses on an enzyme known as Polo-like kinase 1, which plays a central role in controlling cell division and exists at abnormally high levels in many types of cancers, including prostate, pancreatic, melanoma, and lung cancers. [more...](#)

## **Research Highlights**



### **Study Holds Promise for New Pediatric Brain Tumor Treatment**

#### **Huntsman Cancer Institute**

New research from scientists at Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, in collaboration with the Stanford University School of Medicine, shows a specific protein regulates both the initiation of cancer spreading and the self-renewal of cancer cells in medulloblastoma, a type of pediatric brain cancer. Samuel Cheshier, MD, PhD, is the study lead. [more...](#)



### **Genetically Accurate Mouse Models in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Found**

#### **Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health**

Using a detailed analysis comparing the genetic and molecular makeup of tumors from nearly 1,000 patients with four common mouse models of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), researchers have identified animal models that most closely mimic human disease. This work will make the search for therapies for this lethal form of liver cancer more precise and more likely to succeed. Joan Font-Burgada, PhD, is author of the study. [more...](#)



### **Activities, Effects of Components in Cellular Immunotherapies Mapped**

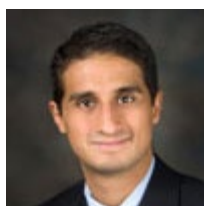
**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

In the first comprehensive study of its kind, scientists have mapped out how a critical design choice affects how CARs, or chimeric antigen receptors, signal immune attack and how well cells carrying those CARs can eradicate cancer in mice. Their findings will inform the next generations of this form of cancer immunotherapy, called CAR T-cell therapy, the researchers say. Stanley Riddell, MD, is senior scientist on the project. [more...](#)

### **Hypofractionated Radiation Provides Same Prostate Cancer Outcomes as Conventional Radiation**

**Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health**

An analysis led by researchers at Fox Chase Cancer Center found that treating localized prostate cancer with hypofractionated intensity modulated radiation therapy (H-IMRT) yields equivalent disease outcomes compared with conventional intensity modulated radiation (C-IMRT). It is the largest randomized single-institution study with the longest follow up period on this topic to date. [more...](#)



### **Surgery, Radiation Extend Survival in Limited Metastatic Lung Cancer**

**University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**

Radiation or surgical removal of metastatic tumors provides a major survival advantage for lung cancer patients with minimal stage 4 disease who have not progressed after frontline chemotherapy, a study led by researchers from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center shows. Principal investigator is Daniel Gomez, MD. [more...](#)

### **Inexpensive Testing Spurs Next of Kin to Assess Their Own Cancer Risk**

**Stanford Cancer Institute**

An online initiative offering low-cost genetic testing to relatives of people with genetic mutations that increase their risk of cancer encourages the "cascade" testing that can help identify healthy people at risk of the disease, according to a new study by researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine and Color, a health services company that provides genetic testing. [more...](#)



### **Study Eyes Effectiveness of Combo Therapy Against Refractory, Metastatic Colon Cancer**

**University of Colorado Cancer Center**

If colon cancer is caught in its early stages, patients typically have a good chance of living five years past diagnosis, and beyond. However, for patients with late-stage, metastatic colon cancer, the chance drops dramatically, to a five-year survival rate of only about 12 percent. Now a clinical trial offered at the University of Colorado Cancer Center and partner institutions will look at a new combination therapy that may be effective in treating this advanced form of the disease. Chris Lieu, MD, is principal investigator on the study. [more...](#)



### **Present at Creation of "Checkpoint Inhibitor" Therapies, Immunologist Looks to Future**

**UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Twenty-two years ago, the possibility of using immunotherapy to treat cancer was just being demonstrated in mice. Now the therapies are showing dramatic success in thousands of human patients and have just been acknowledged with a Nobel Prize. Matthew "Max" Krummel, PhD, led several of the key studies now being awarded with the Nobel Prize as a graduate student in the laboratory of James P. Allison, PhD, at UC Berkeley. Dr. Krummel and colleagues at UC San Francisco and elsewhere are working to move immunotherapy beyond cancer to find ways that numerous diseases could potentially be treated by harnessing the immune system. [more...](#)



### **Decision Support Tool Boosts Genetic Testing Knowledge in Breast Cancer Patients**

**University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center**

A team at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center recently sought to determine how much newly diagnosed cancer patients understand about the benefits of genetic testing after a diagnosis. Their other objective: to find out whether a decision support tool would help improve that knowledge. Michele Gornick, MA, PhD, is the study's lead author. [more...](#)



### **H. Pylori Test Hints at Risk Factor for Stomach Cancer**

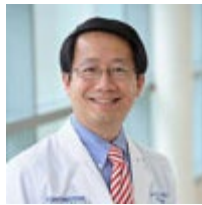
**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

A pilot study by scientists at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Zhengzhou University in China, facilitated by Fred Hutch's China Initiative, hints that a strain of H. pylori may influence cancer risk. The work shows that patients with stomach cancer are much more likely to be infected with H. pylori that possesses a specific variant of a gene called cagA, which suggests that it may raise the risk of stomach cancer in this region. Nina Salama, PhD, is the study's senior author. [more...](#)

### **The HPV Vaccine: Why Parents Really Choose to Refuse**

**Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center**

A new study of survey data finds that only a minority of parents choose not to immunize their children against the sexually transmitted human papillomavirus (HPV) due to concerns that vaccination would encourage or support youth sexual activity, a reason frequently cited by doctors as a barrier to advocating for this vaccine. Instead, the results show, parental concerns that steer young people away from vaccination tend to focus on safety worries, lack of necessity, knowledge about HPV, and absence of physician recommendation, according to Johns Hopkins researchers who led the investigation. [more...](#)



### **Marker Found for Condition that Causes Numerous Tumors**

**Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center**

UT Southwestern researchers have made a major advance in uncovering the biology of how thousands of disfiguring skin tumors occur in patients troubled by a genetic disorder called neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1). This scientific advance could slow the development of these tumors. Lu Le, MD, PhD, is senior author of the study. [more...](#)

### **Function of Neutrophils During Tumor Progression Unraveled**

**The Wistar Institute**

Researchers at The Wistar Institute have characterized the function of neutrophils, a type of white blood cells, during early stages of tumor progression, showing that they migrate from the bone marrow to distant sites and facilitate tumor cell seeding and establishment of metastasis. Importantly, these neutrophils don't possess the immunosuppressive characteristics of polymorphonuclear myeloid-derived suppressor cells. [more...](#)

### **Big-Picture Approach to Understanding Cancer Will Speed New Treatments**

**University of Virginia Cancer Center**

A new innovation in cancer research will enable scientists to understand the complex causes of the disease with unprecedented speed and sophistication. This will accelerate the development of new and better treatments, and it will help researchers find ways around roadblocks that now stand in their path. Rather than looking at individual gene mutations in isolation, the new approach allows scientists to create models incorporating many mutations. [more...](#)



### **Nanoparticles Show Promise Against Triple-Negative Breast Cancer**

**GW Cancer Center**

A new study from the George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center found that nanoparticle-encapsulated doxorubicin is promising in the treatment of triple negative breast cancer. GW's Adam Friedman, MD, and his collaborators at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, synthesized several formulations of doxorubicin containing nanoparticles to identify nanoparticle characteristics which best impact biologic activity against several resistant cancer cell lines. [more...](#)



### **RNA Thought to Spread Cancer May Suppress Breast Cancer Metastasis**

**University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**

Researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center have discovered that a form of RNA called metastasis-associated lung adenocarcinoma transcript 1 (MALAT1) appears to suppress breast cancer metastasis in mice, suggesting a potential new area of therapeutic investigation. The findings were surprising given that MALAT1, a long non-coding RNA (lncRNA), previously was described as a metastasis promoter. Li Ma, PhD, is principal investigator for the study. [more...](#)

### **Study Shows Promise for Targeting Breast Cancer Metastasis**

**UK Markey Cancer Center**

A new study by University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center researchers suggests that targeting a protein known as collagen XIII could be key for suppressing breast cancer metastasis. The study determined the role collagen XIII plays in breast cancer progression. The protein promotes cancer metastasis because it enhances anoikis resistance in cancer cells. The researchers found that the expression of this protein is significantly higher in cancerous human breast tissue compared to that of a normal mammary gland. In mouse models, the team also demonstrated that collagen XIII expression is necessary for breast cancer metastasis. [more...](#)

### **Mapping Genetic Differences in Breast Cancer Can Improve Care for Underserved Populations**

**The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center**

A study comparing DNA and RNA data from Nigerian breast cancer patients to patients in a United States database found that certain aggressive molecular features were far more prevalent in tumors from Nigerian women than in Black or White American women. The study's authors say those differences in multiple molecular features could in part explain disparities in breast cancer mortality for women from Nigeria, and perhaps other West African nations. [more...](#)



### **Independent Review Looks at Industry Claims on Heated Tobacco Products**

**UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Claims by the tobacco industry that heated tobacco products (HTPs) are safer than conventional cigarettes are not supported by the industry's own data and are likely to be misunderstood by consumers, according to research published in a special issue of *Tobacco Control*. The issue was assembled by Stanton A. Glantz, PhD, director of the UCSF Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education. [more...](#)

### **Cancer Hijacks the Microbiome to Glut Itself on Glucose**

**University of Colorado Cancer Center**

Cancer needs energy to drive its out-of-control growth. It gets energy in the form of glucose, consuming so much glucose that one method for imaging cancer simply looks for areas of extreme glucose consumption - where there is consumption, there is cancer. But how does cancer get this glucose? A University of Colorado Cancer Center study shows that leukemia undercuts the ability of normal cells to consume glucose, thus leaving more glucose available to feed its own growth. [more...](#)





### **New Prostate Cancer Prognostic Model For Enzalutamide**

**Duke Cancer Institute**

Researchers at the Duke Prostate & Urologic Cancer Center, led by genitourinary oncologist Andrew Armstrong, MD, have recently developed a novel nomogram, a prognostic model that measures overall survival for men with metastatic prostate cancer who were treated with enzalutamide. [more...](#)



### **Nobel Prize-winning Science is Key to New Treatments for Cancer**

**Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Recognized with a Nobel Prize earlier this year, immunotherapy is at the heart of an increasing number of standard treatments and many ongoing clinical trials at Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, including a recent advance in small cell lung cancer. Stephen Liu, MD, and his colleagues showed an increase in survival for those with late-stage small cell lung cancer with the addition of immunotherapy to standard chemotherapy. [more...](#)

### **Mechanism of Resistance to Novel Targeted Therapy for Ovarian Cancer Identified**

**The Wistar Institute**

Scientists at The Wistar Institute have unraveled a mechanism of resistance to EZH2 inhibitors in ovarian cancers with mutations in the ARID1A gene. The study suggests that inhibition of the cell death regulator BCL2 may be used to circumvent or prevent ovarian cancer treatment resistance. [more...](#)



### **Study Confirms Importance of Healthy Diet, Exercise for Cancer Survivors**

**The University of Kansas Cancer Center**

Findings from a recent study emphasize the importance of a consistent, structured diet and exercise program for cancer survivors. Researchers across multiple institutions, including KU Cancer Center, conducted a SWOG pilot and feasibility study of a weight loss intervention among sedentary female breast cancer and colorectal cancer survivors with a BMI score of 25 or greater. Jennifer Klemp, PhD, MPH, is co-leader of KU Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Survivorship research program. [more...](#)

## **Other News**

### **Eliminating Cancer Disparities: Staying the Course Toward Collective Impact**

**Case Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Join fellow researchers, clinicians, and community leaders at the third annual cancer disparities symposium, "Eliminating Cancer Disparities: Staying the Course toward Collective Impact," to be held Friday, March 1, 2019 at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. This event will showcase cutting-edge research, with a focus on reducing and eliminating disparities in cancer, going from bench to bedside, to community and back. [more...](#)

### **Beyond the Bench**

**University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Three doctoral students will represent the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center at International AACR Translational Biology Workshop in November in Boston. Muskan Floren, Richard Pepermans, and Melanie Rivera will learn how to expand their research to one day reach patients. The workshop will offer lectures and group discussions to 45 basic scientists who are starting their careers, to help them learn about the complexities of adapting their research for use in a clinic or hospital. [more...](#)

## **Job Opportunities**

**NCTN (National Clinical Trials Network) Administrator**

**Stanford Cancer Institute** [more...](#)

**NCTN (National Clinical Trials Network) Quality and Education Specialist**  
**Stanford Cancer Institute** [more...](#)

**Clinical Research Administrator**  
**Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa** [more...](#)

**Associate Director of Research Finance Administration**  
**Duke Cancer Institute** [more...](#)

**Manager, Protocol Development**  
**UF Health Cancer Center** [more...](#)

**Faculty Positions in Cancer Cell and Molecular Biology**  
**Purdue University Center for Cancer Research** [more...](#)

**Various Positions - Clinical Trials Office**  
**Stony Brook University Hospital Cancer Center** [more...](#)

**Director of Quality Assurance**  
**The University of Kansas Cancer Center** [more...](#)

**Lab Director, KU Cancer Center Biospecimen Repository Core Facility**  
**The University of Kansas Cancer Center** [more...](#)

**Associate Director of Administration**  
**UK Markey Cancer Center** [more...](#)

## AACI Meeting Announcements

### **AACI/AACR Hill Day 2019**

Save the Date!  
April 30, 2019  
Washington, DC

### **11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting**

Save the Date!  
July 10-11, 2019  
Chicago, IL

### **2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**

Save the Date!  
October 20-22, 2019  
Washington, DC

## Member Meeting Announcements

### **3rd Annual Cancer Disparities Symposium**

Call for Abstracts - 3rd Annual Cancer Disparities Symposium, "Eliminating Cancer Disparities: Staying the Course Toward Collective Impact"  
March 1, 2019  
Hosted by the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center in Cleveland, OH  
[case.edu/cancer/events](http://case.edu/cancer/events)