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## News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes

April 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@aacii-cancer.org](mailto:aaciupdate@aacii-cancer.org). AACI reserves the right to decide whether or not materials are appropriate for inclusion.

## Headlines

### Early Registration Ends Soon for 10th Annual AACI CRI Meeting



The 10th Annual AACI Clinical Research Initiative Meeting will be held **July 11-12**, in Chicago, at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel. The theme of this year's meeting is "Leveraging Change to Advance Cures for Cancer Patients". More information on the meeting, including the program and electronic registration, is available at [aacii-cancer.org/cri\\_meeting](http://aacii-cancer.org/cri_meeting). Please note early registration rates end April 11, 2018. [more...](#)

### Help Promote NIH Research Funding at Hill Day 2018

AACI's annual Hill Day brings cancer center directors, administrators, researchers, physician-scientists, cancer survivors and other patient advocates to Capitol Hill to build support for biomedical research in general, and cancer research in particular. This year's event is set for **Tuesday, April 24**, in Washington, DC. Partnering with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), AACI will bring advocates to Capitol Hill to request stable, predictable investments for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI).



Registration and accommodation information can be found [here](#). Please contact [Jennifer Pegher](#) with questions. [more...](#)

### Sign Up Today for the 2018 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

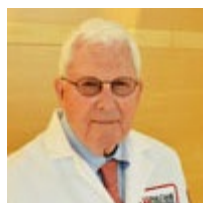
This year's AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting will be held at the Loews Chicago Downtown Hotel from **September 30 - October 2**. Information on the meeting, including the program and electronic registration, is available on the [AACI website](#). [more...](#)



## News from the Centers

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### Awards & Honors



#### Engstrom Receives Cancer Prevention Lifetime Achievement Award Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Paul F. Engstrom, MD, FACP, Samuel M.V. Hamilton Chair in Cancer Prevention and special adviser to the president at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been selected to receive the Prevent Cancer Foundation's Laurels Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Prevention. With more than 50 years as an oncologist, including more than 45 at Fox Chase, Dr. Engstrom has a long history of successful leadership in cancer prevention and early detection. [more...](#)

To subscribe to AACI *Update*, please send an e-mail to [aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org](mailto:aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org) with your name, title, and telephone number asking to be added to the AACI's distribution list. To unsubscribe, please send an email with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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### **Stephenson Tops in NCI-Sponsored Trials for New Cancer Treatments** **Stephenson Cancer Center**

The Stephenson Cancer Center now ranks number one in the nation for the number of patients participating in clinical trials for new cancer therapies sponsored by the National Clinical Trials Network. Participating in clinical trials improves patient outcomes by providing access to new and promising drugs to battle cancer. Since 2014, the Stephenson Cancer Center has been one of just 30 Lead Academic Participating Sites in the National Clinical Trials Network. [more...](#)



### **Clinical Trials Research Unit Among Top Ten For Accrual** **WVU Cancer Institute**

The WVU Clinical Trials Research Unit and Adham Salkeni, WVU's principal investigator for the NRG Oncology group, the largest clinical trials collaborative network in the United States. During the recent biannual meeting of the NRG, WVU's CTRU was recognized as among the top ten main member sites to enroll the most patients on cancer clinical trials between January and June 2017. [more...](#)



### **Kelly Elected Co-Chair of NCI Steering Committee** **Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University**

William Kevin Kelly, DO, leader of the Prostate Cancer Program and associate director of Clinical Research at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health, has been elected to serve as medical oncology co-chair on the National Cancer Institute Genitourinary Cancers Steering Committee. [more...](#)



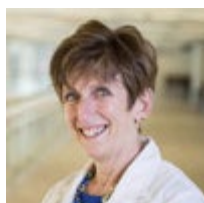
### **Sharma Named Vice Chair of SWOG Breast Committee** **The University of Kansas Cancer Center**

Priyanka Sharma, MD, a breast cancer medical oncologist at The University of Kansas Cancer Center, has been named vice chair of SWOG's Breast Committee. SWOG, formerly the Southwest Oncology Group, is a global cancer research community that designs and conducts publicly funded clinical trials. It is one of five National Cancer Institute National Clinical Trials Network-funded groups. [more...](#)



### **Research in Challenging Populations, Settings Recognized** **University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Clement A. Adebamowo, BM, ChB, ScD, FWACS, FACS, Associate Director of Population Science at the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Institute of Human Virology, has been named a 2018 Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. [more...](#)



### **American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation Honors Nurse** **Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health**

Margaret Bellerjeau, MSN, RN, OCN, BMTCN, CHTC, bone marrow transplant nurse coordinator, at the Fox Chase-Temple University Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant Program, received the 2018 Nursing Special Interest Group (SIG) Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT). [more...](#)

### **Aplin Is First Recipient of New Professorship in Cancer Research** **Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University**

The Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University has established a new professorship, made possible through donations from the estates of Raymond B. Kalbach and Caroline Newton. Andrew E.



Aplin, PhD, one of Jefferson's leading cancer researchers, has been named as the first recipient of the Kalbach-Newton Professorship in Cancer Research. [more...](#)



### **Libutti Named to NJBIZ Power 100 List**

**Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey**

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Director Steven K. Libutti, MD, FACS, has been named by the business journal NJBIZ to its Power 100 list. NJBIZ editors looked at heads of companies and organizations, legislators, educators and other leaders around the state to find those with "impressive track records of affecting change" and who are fostering growth in their respective fields. The recipient of National Cancer Institute funding for more than two decades, Dr. Libutti is also a researcher whose work focuses on developing novel cancer therapies through an understanding of the tumor microenvironment. He is studying the interaction between tumor cells and the components of the tumor microenvironment. [more...](#)

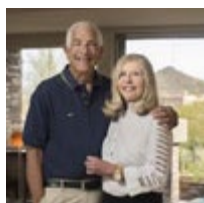


### **Pen-Like Device That Detects Cancer Takes Prize at SXSW**

**LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes**

Livia S. Eberlin, PhD, and her team have been honored with a prestigious SXSW Interactive Innovation Award for the MasSpec Pen, a device that will allow surgeons to identify cancerous tissue in seconds. The MasSpec Pen is a handheld instrument that gives surgeons precise diagnostic information about what tissue to cut or preserve during cancer surgery. Currently awaiting clinical trials in humans, it is projected to improve treatment and reduce the chances of cancer recurrence. [more...](#)

## **Grants & Gifts**



### **\$150 Million Gift Will Help Transform U-M Cancer Research, Care**

**University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Richard and Susan Rogel are on a mission to boost innovative cancer research and develop the next generation of cancer pioneers--and they are committing \$150 million to the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center to realize that vision. The gift is the largest ever to Michigan Medicine and one of the largest in the University of Michigan's history. [more...](#)

### **\$5.7 Million Awarded for Clinical Trial**

**City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center**

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine board awarded \$5.74 million to City of Hope to fund a phase 1 clinical trial testing a novel blood stem cell transplantation procedure for adult patients with severe sickle cell disease. Joseph Rosenthal, MD, chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at City of Hope, is the trial's principal investigator. [more...](#)



### **\$1.1 Million Awarded to Study Role of Fatty Acids in Breast Cancer**

**VCU Massey Cancer Center**

VCU Massey Cancer Center researcher Xianjun Fang, MS, PhD, was awarded more than \$1.1 million by the U.S. Department of Defense to study how an enzyme that plays a role in metabolizing fatty acids contributes to the development of breast cancer. He hopes this research will translate into the creation of novel therapies. [more...](#)

## Leadership Transitions



### **Gradishar Named Chief of Hematology and Oncology**

#### **The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center**

William J. Gradishar, MD, the Betsy Bramsen Professor of Breast Oncology & Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Director of the Clinical Network of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, has been appointed Chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the Feinberg School of Medicine, effective April 1, 2018. [more...](#)



### **Viles Named to Dual Role at UT Health San Antonio**

#### **Mays Cancer Center**

Jeremy Viles, DNP, MBA, RN, NE-BC, has been hired in a new dual role at UT Health San Antonio. He will serve as the inaugural chief nursing officer for the Mays Cancer Center, the newly named center of UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center, and as assistant dean of the clinical practice in the UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing, called UT Health Nursing. [more...](#)



### **Brain Tumor Center Gets New Director**

#### **Duke Cancer Institute**

David M. Ashley, PhD, was recently named director of The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center. He succeeds Darell Bigner, MD, PhD, who became director emeritus on Feb. 1. Before leaving Australia to join Duke in 2017 as professor of neurosurgery and director of the pediatric neuro-oncology program in the Department of Neurosurgery, Dr. Ashley had served as chair of the Department of Medicine at Deakin University, the program director of Cancer Services University Hospital Barwon Health, and executive director of the Western Alliance Academic Health Science Centre. [more...](#)



### **Rutgers Expands Oncology Leadership**

#### **Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey**

New oncology leaders for Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey at University Hospital in Newark have been named. Serving as the new director for Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey at University Hospital is Wadih Arap, MD, PhD. Renata Pasqualini, PhD, has been named as chief of the Division of Cancer Biology in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. [more...](#)



### **HPV Specialist to Lead Community Outreach Efforts**

#### **University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Diane Harper, MD, MPH, MS, has been named physician director for Community Outreach, Engagement and Health Disparities at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Harper, professor of family medicine at Michigan Medicine, is an internationally recognized clinical research expert in HPV-associated diseases, including prevention, screening and early detection. [more...](#)



### **Tidwell Named Director of Operations**

#### **Duke Cancer Institute**

Lisa Tidwell, MHA, FACHE, was recently named director of operations for Oncology Services at Duke University Hospital. Prior to returning to Duke, Ms. Tidwell was on-staff at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where she spent the past 10 years in various leadership positions. Previously, Ms. Tidwell served as program coordinator at Duke Eye Center. [more...](#)

### **Interim Associate Center Director for Population Sciences and Policy Announced**

#### **GW Cancer Center**



The George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center has announced that Lorien Abrams, ScD, associate professor of prevention and community health at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at GW, has been named interim associate center director for population sciences and policy at the GW Cancer Center. [more...](#)

## Research Highlights



### **Brain Network Interactions Can Measure Trust Among Robot-Assisted Surgery Teams**

**Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Trust can be measured using electroencephalography activity, according to a Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center research and surgical team led by Khurshid A. Guru, MD. Their method uses brain activity patterns to objectively assess the level of trust between mentor and trainee during robot-assisted surgery. [more...](#)



### **Stored Tissue Samples Can Have Misleading Results for Lab Test**

**Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center**

A method currently used by thousands of laboratories across the country to preserve tissue could render samples useless over time for a common test to assess gene activity, a study led by Johns Hopkins researchers suggests. The findings could eventually lead to significant changes in how tissues are stored for clinical and research purposes. Angelo M. De Marzo, MD, PhD, is the study leader. [more...](#)

### **Imaging Agent Helps Predict Success of Lung Cancer Therapy**

**Stanford Cancer Institute**

Doctors contemplating the best therapy for lung cancer patients may soon be able to predict the efficacy of a widely used lung cancer drug based on an imaging agent and a simple scan, according to the findings of a new clinical trial co-led by researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine. The researchers developed a PET scan-compatible imaging agent engineered to seek out a specific mutation found in nonsmall cell lung cancer (which accounts for about 80 percent of lung cancers), bind to it and emit a radioactive signal that flags its presence. [more...](#)

### **New Technology Invented for Cancer Immunotherapy**

**Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Johns Hopkins researchers have invented a new class of cancer immunotherapy drugs that are more effective at harnessing the power of the immune system to fight cancer. This new approach results in a significant decrease of tumor growth, even against cancers that do not respond to existing immunotherapy. [more...](#)

### **Huntsman Joins National Clinical Trial Targeting AML**

**Huntsman Cancer Institute**

Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah has been selected to participate in the Beat AML Master Trial, an innovative clinical trial sponsored by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The clinical trial is testing several new targeted therapies for the treatment of patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). [more...](#)

### **Cancer Immunotherapy Drugs Linked With More Serious Heart Effects**

**Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center**

Vanderbilt University Medical Center investigators have identified a growing number of serious and sometimes fatal cases of heart problems among cancer patients treated with some forms of immunotherapy. Investigators searched the World Health Organization's database of individual safety case reports (VigiBase), and identified 101 reports of severe myocarditis following treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) drugs. Among these patients, 46 (46 percent) died following treatment with the ICIs. [more...](#)

### **Deeper Look at Biopsy Shows Mutation Set to Ambush Drug**



### **Combination**

**University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**

A powerful resistance mutation that appeared to emerge in melanoma after a patient received a targeted therapy combination, instead was lurking in the tumor all along, primed to thwart treatment before it began. Researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, led by Lawrence Kwong, PhD, analyzed a series of biopsies taken before and during treatment to ferret out the pre-existing mutation and then developed a potential way to target its troublesome abilities. [more...](#)

### **First Patient Dosed with Ciclopirox Prodrug in Phase I Trial**

**The University of Kansas Cancer Center**

CicloMed LLC, a biotechnology company developing novel treatments for bladder cancer, has announced that the first patient has been dosed in a Phase I clinical trial. The anti-cancer drug, called Ciclopirox Prodrug, or CPX-POM, was discovered at The University of Kansas Cancer Center. The study is characterizing the safety, dose tolerance, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in patients with advanced solid tumors. [more...](#)

### **Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry Data Link Ovarian and Testicular Cancer**

**Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Testicular cancer is rare, affecting about 1 of every 250 males, but it is one of the most common malignancies among younger men aged 15 to 44 years. Using data from a large ovarian cancer registry, a research team from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center uncovered a link between testicular cancer and familial ovarian cancer that may be attributable to genetic factors on the X chromosome. [more...](#)

### **Study Reports On Promising New Drug To Fight Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia**

**City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center**

City of Hope scientists and doctors may have discovered a more effective treatment for patients with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) using a drug that was developed at the institution to eradicate CML stem cells. Although there are first-line drug treatments to induce long-term remission in CML patients, called tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI), leukemia stem cells, which initiate and maintain the disease, frequently persist; these cells can result in a relapse of the disease. Testing a drug called miristen, researchers aimed to find a treatment for CML that was effective enough for people to stop using TKIs. [more...](#)

### **Turning Off Autophagy Helps Chemotherapy Stress Cancer Cells to Death**

**University of Colorado Cancer Center**

While researchers have known of the relationship between autophagy and apoptosis, what creates this link hasn't been clear - in other words, we have known that turning off autophagy can help drugs push cancer cells into apoptosis, but we haven't known how. Until now. A University of Colorado Cancer Center study pinpoints a molecule that links autophagy and apoptosis, namely a transcription factor called FOXO3a. [more...](#)

### **Finding Could Lead To New Combination Therapies for Aggressive Form of Breast Cancer**

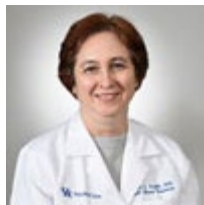
**VCU Massey Cancer Center**

VCU Massey Cancer Center researchers have discovered why a molecule expressed with a protein known to drive 20 percent of breast cancers can lead to decreased effectiveness of a well-known targeted therapy. They found that a molecule called microRNA-4728 prevents therapies targeting the HER2 protein from being effective. MicroRNA-4728 is co-expressed with HER2 in certain types of breast cancer cells, which means that when HER2 is overexpressed, so is microRNA-4728. [more...](#)

### **Two Drugs Prevent Heart Failure in Breast Cancer Patients**

**UK Markey Cancer Center**

Data released in a large multi-center study provides a view into the effectiveness of two drugs used to prevent heart problems resulting from breast cancer treatment. The data was presented at the American College



of Cardiology's 67th Annual Scientific Session, in Orlando, Florida. Maya Guglin, MD, is the study chair. [more...](#)



### **'Instagram' of Immune System Blends Science, Technology**

**Hollings Cancer Center**

Being on the cutting edge of science and technology excites Hollings Cancer Center researcher Carsten Krieg, PhD. Each day, he walks into his lab that houses a mass cytometry machine, aptly labeled Helios, that helps him create a sort of 'Instagram' of a person's immune system. For cancer patients on experimental immunotherapy treatments, the practical application is obvious and exciting. [more...](#)

### **Probing RNA Epigenetics, Chromatin Structures to Predict Leukemia Drug Resistance**

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

A research team based at the University of Chicago has begun to unravel the role of RNA epigenetics and chromatin structure in regulation of 5-azacytidine (5-AZA), a well-known DNA hypomethylating agent in MDS and AML. The finding may lead to novel strategies, as well as guidance from clinical biomarkers that could help predict and reduce the risk of drug resistance, a major obstacle in leukemia treatment. [more...](#)

### **Researchers Identify Genetic 'Seeds' of Metastatic Breast Cancer**

**UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center**

UNC Lineberger researchers Lisa A. Carey, MD, Charles M. Perou, PhD, and Carey Anders, MD, along with Marni Siegel and colleagues, have published their analysis of the genetic differences they discovered in patients' primary breast cancers and their metastatic cancers. The researchers analyzed DNA and the gene expression patterns in both the primary tumor and matched metastatic cancers from 16 patients. One of the major findings was that the cancer typically did not spread outside the breast as a single cell. Instead, researchers found that, based on the genetic patterns, a collection of cells most likely broke away. [more...](#)

### **Older Colorectal Cancer Patients at Higher Risk of Cardiovascular Disease, Congestive Heart Failure**

**UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Older patients with colorectal cancer are at an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease and congestive heart failure, according to a new study. The study also finds that morbidities such as diabetes and hypertension negatively interact with chemotherapy designated for colorectal cancer, which adds to the patient's increased risk for cardiovascular morbidity. [more...](#)



### **Discovery Provides Insights into Aggressive Endometrial Cancers**

**Huntsman Cancer Institute**

New research from Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, led by Jay Gertz, PhD, indicates steroid and hormone receptors are simultaneously active in many endometrial cancer tissues. Researchers were surprised to discover that two receptors - estrogen and glucocorticoid - which have opposing effects on normal growth of the uterine lining, work together to promote more aggressive endometrial cancers. [more...](#)

### **Workaround Erases Side Effects of Promising Cell-Based Cancer Therapy**

**Stanford Cancer Institute**

Altering a powerful immune-signaling chemical plus its receptor on immune cells may bring a promising cancer treatment closer to the clinic, according to a study led by investigators at the Stanford University School of Medicine. If the advance proves as beneficial in humans as in mice used in the study, which was conducted in collaboration with researchers at the

University of California-Los Angeles and UC-San Francisco, then incorporating it into the experimental regimen, called adoptive cell transfer, could speed that treatment's acceptance as a standard anti-cancer practice. [more...](#)

### **Fundamental Step Found in Cellular Response to Stress From Pathological, Pharmacological Insults**

**The Wistar Institute**

A study conducted by researchers at The Wistar Institute revealed how a key protein residing in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) helps cells respond to stress. This process is especially important for B cells to respond to severe stress conditions and their ability to produce antibodies. The ER is a cellular structure where protein production, folding and assembly occur. It harbors complex mechanisms to supervise these processes and respond to the stress caused by the accumulation of misfolded proteins resulting from a number of pathological and pharmacological causes. [more...](#)

### **WVU Participates in Study On New Cancer Drug for Pediatric, Adult Cancers**

**WVU Cancer Institute**

The WVU Cancer Institute is one of several sites nationwide that participated in a groundbreaking clinical research study of a novel drug proven very effective in the treatment of pediatric and adult cancers that carry a specific genetic mutation. Larotrectinib, developed by biopharmaceutical company Loxo Oncology, was tested in three clinical research studies at cancer centers nationwide. Patients ranged in age from four months to 76 years and had a total of 12 different tumor types, including common and rare cancers, but all had the genetic mutation in the NTRK gene in common. [more...](#)

### **New Model, New Drugs, and a "Remarkable" Response in Adrenal Cancer**

**University of Colorado Cancer Center**

Two University of Colorado Cancer Center studies presented at ENDO 2018 use new models to identify genetic targets and test promising treatments in adrenal cancer. One patient was treated with the immunotherapy pembrolizumab and now more than a year after starting treatment remains on the drug with 77 percent tumor reduction and no new metastases. [more...](#)

### **CRISPR Enhances Cancer Immunotherapy**

**Siteman Cancer Center**

Scientists at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have used the gene-editing technology CRISPR to engineer human T cells that can attack human T cell cancers without succumbing to friendly fire. The researchers have also engineered the T cells so that any donor's T cells could be used. A "matched" donor with similar immunity is not required and neither are the patient's own T cells, which is important for the obvious reason: Many of the patient's own T cells are cancerous. [more...](#)

### **Researchers Find Molecular Target For Brain Cancer, Develop Immunotherapy Approach To Attack It**

**UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center**

An international team of researchers has genetically engineered cancer-killing immune cells that can hunt brain tumors displaying a new molecular target that is highly prevalent on brain cancer cells. Based on the findings from their early, preclinical studies, the researchers believe their approach holds promise for a new immunotherapy treatment for glioblastoma, which is the most lethal primary brain tumor. [more...](#)

## **Other News**

### **Greenebaum Among Institutions Certified to Give CAR T-Cell Therapy for Lymphoma**

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

The University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center is now certified to offer a groundbreaking treatment for non-Hodgkin lymphoma, in which a patient's own immune cells are genetically engineered to recognize and attack the cancer. Last October, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Yescarta, a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, to treat adults with certain types of large B-cell lymphoma, a



cancer of white blood cells. It was the FDA's second approval of a gene therapy to treat cancer since August 2017. [more...](#)

### **Company Launched to Accelerate Development of Cell Therapies for Cancer**

**University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Berkeley Lights, Inc. have announced the launch of Optera Therapeutics Corp, a biopharmaceutical company developing cell therapies with scalable manufacturing solutions for cancer. Cell-based immunotherapies where patients are treated with their own immune cells, such as chimeric antigen receptor (CAR-T) and T cell receptor (TCR) engineered T cells, tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL) and endogenous T cells (ETC), have demonstrated promise for treating cancer. Optera Therapeutics will develop cancer cell therapies discovered at MD Anderson and apply Berkeley Lights' advanced cell therapy manufacturing systems with the goal of making these novel therapies accessible to all. [more...](#)

### **Training Kentucky's Next Generation of Cancer Fighters**

**UK Markey Cancer Center**

Kentucky has the unfortunate distinction of being ranked first in the nation in overall cancer incidence and mortality, with the greatest disparity falling in the Appalachian region of the state. Carrigan Wasilchenko, a native of Eastern Kentucky and a freshman majoring in Human Health Sciences at the University of Kentucky, is one of a select group of young students seeking to make a difference in the state's major health problems through the Career Training in Oncology Program at the UK Markey Cancer Center. [more...](#)

### **UAMS to Offer Arkansas' First Radiation Oncology Residency Program**

**UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**

Radiation oncology is a complex and competitive field, attracting some of the brightest medical students from across the country. Until now, however, anyone in Arkansas interested in pursuing a career in radiation oncology had to leave the state for advanced training. This summer, that will change when Arkansas' first-ever radiation oncology residency program welcomes its inaugural resident at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science (UAMS). [more...](#)

## **Job Opportunities**

**Assistant/Associate/Full Professor, Cancer Drug Discovery**

**University of Arizona Cancer Center** [more...](#)

**Clinical Research Coordinator, Senior**

**University of Virginia Cancer Center** [more...](#)

**Associate Cancer Center Director for Clinical Research & Director, Clinical Trials Office**

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

## **Meeting Announcements**

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

AACI will co-host its annual Capitol Hill Day with the American Association for Cancer Research.

April 24, 2018

Washington, DC

[Register](#) to attend today!

### **2018 ASCO Annual Meeting**

American Society of Clinical Oncology

Friday, June 1, 2018 to Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Chicago, Illinois

[www.asco.org](http://www.asco.org)

### **10th Annual AACI CRI Meeting**

Register today: [aaci-cancer.org/cri\\_meeting](http://aaci-cancer.org/cri_meeting)

10th Annual AACI Clinical Research Initiative Meeting  
July 11-12, 2018  
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel  
Rosemont, IL

### **Multidisciplinary Approaches to Cancer Symposium**

September 20-23, 2018  
Loews Coronado Bay Resort, 4000 Coronado Bay Road, Coronado, CA 92118  
[cme.cityofhope.org/eventinfo\\_9171](http://cme.cityofhope.org/eventinfo_9171)

### **2018 ASCO Research Community Forum Annual Meeting**

The theme of this year's meeting has been announced: "Innovative Solutions. Best Practices. Excellence in Cancer Research." This year's ASCO Research Community Forum (RCF) Annual Meeting, will be held on September 23-24, 2018 at ASCO headquarters just outside Washington DC. The meeting will feature a networking event, training workshop, general sessions, and discussions that provide concrete strategies to overcome common challenges associated with conducting clinical trials. Stay tuned for updates regarding registration and this year's meeting content.

September 23-24, 2018  
DC Metro Area (Alexandria, VA)  
For more information visit: [www.asco.org/research-progress](http://www.asco.org/research-progress)

### **2018 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**

Register today: [aaci-cancer.org/annual\\_meeting](http://aaci-cancer.org/annual_meeting)  
September 30 - October 2, 2018  
Loews Chicago Downtown Hotel  
Chicago, IL

### **Neoplastic Hematopathology Update**

November 8-10, 2018  
The Waterfront Beach Resort, A Hilton Hotel  
[cme.cityofhope.org/eventinfo\\_9520](http://cme.cityofhope.org/eventinfo_9520)