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News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes

September 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

Headlines

Annual Meeting Considers Shape of Things to Come in Cancer Research

Perspectives on the future of cancer research and care, including the latest on CAR T-cell therapy, Big Data management, and international partnerships, will highlight the 2018 joint annual meeting of the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) and the Cancer Center Administrators Forum (CCAF), September 30 - October 2, in Chicago. [more...](#)



Jensen to Take AACI Helm; Knudsen is President-elect, 4 Added to Board

Roy A. Jensen, MD, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, will become AACI's next president on September 30 during the AACI/CCAF annual meeting in Chicago. In addition, AACI members have elected **Karen E. Knudsen, PhD**, to a two-year term as vice president/president-elect. Dr. Knudsen is enterprise director of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) - Jefferson Health in Philadelphia.



Four leaders of AACI member cancer centers also have been selected to join the association's board of directors: **Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA**; **Thomas P. Loughran, Jr., MD**; **Leonidas (Leon) Platanias, MD, PhD**; **Benjamin G. Neel, MD, PhD**.

In 2004 Dr. Jensen was appointed the William R. Jewell, M.D. Distinguished Kansas Masonic Professor, the director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, the director of the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, and professor of anatomy and cell biology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Under his leadership, KU Cancer Center earned designation as a National Cancer Institute cancer center in 2012. Dr. Jensen has been a member of AACI's board of directors since October 2013. He chaired the association's 2013 Annual Meeting program committee. [more...](#)



Record Attendance, Focus on Managing Change, Mark Annual CRI Meeting



The Association of American Cancer Institutes' (AACI) Clinical Research Initiative (CRI) convened its 10th annual meeting in July in Chicago. The 2018 meeting covered two full days and was attended by 405 clinical research office leaders, medical directors, cancer center administrators, and representatives from the NCI and industry.

complete stories posted on individual cancer center websites. Please e-mail materials to aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org. AACI reserves the right to decide whether or not materials are appropriate for inclusion.

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The theme for this year's meeting was "Leveraging Change to Advance Cures for Cancer Patients." With more than 10 years of management and consulting experience in a variety of mid-sized, Fortune 500 companies, along with academic experience in program design and innovation, Kimberly S. Scott, PhD, of Northwestern University, delivered a talk on the guiding principles of change. Her presentation was informed by insights from research and cutting-edge practice in facilitating organizational change. [more...](#)

AACI Webinar: The Impact of 340B Reimbursement Cuts on Cancer Centers

AACI will present a webinar on reimbursement cuts to the 340B drug pricing program on **Friday, September 14** at 1:00 pm EST. Panelists include Cheryl L. Willman, MD, CEO and director of the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Jeff Davis, senior advisor and of counsel with Baker Donelson. [more...](#)

News from the Centers

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

Awards & Honors



Rubin Recognized by Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

Siteman Cancer Center

Joshua B. Rubin, MD, PhD, a professor of pediatrics and of neuroscience at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and a co-leader of the Solid Tumor Therapeutics Program at Siteman Cancer Center, has received the Pioneer Award for Pediatric Neuro-Oncology from the Children's Brain Tumor Foundation. [more...](#)

Grants & Gifts



Rogel Awarded \$33.4 Million from NCI

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

The National Cancer Institute has awarded the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center a grant worth \$33.4 million over five years. At the same time, the center's designation as a "comprehensive cancer center" was renewed. The grant is a renewal of the Rogel Cancer Center's support grant, provided as part of the NCI's cancer centers program. U-M is in its 30th year of NCI funding for its cancer center. The new grant will fund the center through 2023. It represents a 9 percent increase over the previous support grant. Eric R. Fearon, MD, PhD, is the center's director. [more...](#)



Lurie Cancer Center Earns "Exceptional" Rating from NCI

The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University received the highest rating possible from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), an overall "exceptional," on the competitive renewal of its Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG). The grant award will provide nearly \$31.5 million in core funding, a significant increase of 36 percent over the previous award. The CCSG provides essential support for Lurie Cancer Center's dynamic research programs, as well as infrastructure that includes 14 shared research facilities, resources, and technology. Leonidas C. Plataniadis, MD, PhD, is director of the center. [more...](#)

Markey Receives NCI Renewal

UK Markey Cancer Center

The University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center has earned NCI designation for another five years. The NCI renewal means almost \$11 million in federal dollars to support research, recruitment of faculty,



education, and clinical trials. Mark Evers, MD, FACS, is the center's director. [more...](#)



UH Cancer Center Renews NCI Designation

University of Hawaii Cancer Center

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center successfully competed for renewal of its NCI designation, and has been awarded a \$6 million CCSG to fund research at the center. Randall Holcombe, MD, MBA, is the center's director. [more...](#)



Rutgers Redesignated as Comprehensive Cancer Center

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey has successfully renewed its designation by the NCI as a comprehensive cancer center. Held by only 49 such centers across the country, the designation is granted competitively to institutions characterized by the highest level of scientific excellence in cancer research and the ability to bring research discoveries to patients through novel treatments and clinical practice. Steven K. Libutti, MD, FACS, is the institute's director. [more...](#)



NIH Awards \$25 Million to Ohio State College of Medicine Faculty

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a \$25 million Clinical and Translational Science Award to Rebecca Jackson, MD, who is in the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC - James and also directs Ohio State's Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS). The grant will further the CCTS mission of translating discoveries into therapies to improve human health. This is the CCTS' third five-year cycle of funding since 2008 from the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. [more...](#)

\$11.5 Million NCI Award to Accelerate Brain Tumor Research

The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University has been awarded a new, five-year \$11.5 million Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant to advance translational research and improve outcomes for patients with brain cancer. [more...](#)



\$9.3 Million to Boost Prostate Cancer Treatment in the Community

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Members of the UCLA urology department have received \$9.3 million of funding from the state of California to help combat the financial burden of cancer treatment for men diagnosed with prostate cancer, one of the most common cancers in American men. During the next three years, the award will directly support the 17-year-old IMPACT program, which stands for Improving Access, Counseling and Treatment for Californians with prostate cancer. Mark Litwin, MD, is founding director of the program. [more...](#)

Wistar Receives More Than \$5.5 Million from Private Foundations, Funding Agencies

The Wistar Institute

In the first half of 2018, The Wistar Institute, an international biomedical research leader in cancer, immunology, and infectious diseases, received more than \$5.5 million in grants and awards from local foundations and national and international funding agencies to support

research, education, and training at the institute. [more...](#)

\$3.7 Million Awarded to Develop Glioblastoma Trial

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

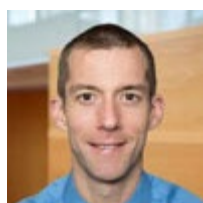
The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine board has awarded City of Hope \$3.7 million to develop a phase I clinical trial for glioblastoma patients that will genetically engineer their stem cells to better tolerate chemotherapy's side effects, allowing them to receive higher doses of the therapy. [more...](#)



Researchers to Develop Targeted Therapies for Pancreatic Cancer

GW Cancer Center

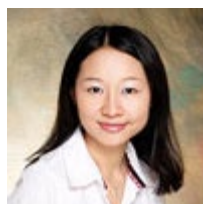
A team at the George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center has received more than \$1.8 million from the NIH to develop genetically engineered models to comprehensively study the role of COMPASS, a protein complex that epigenetically regulates cell fate decisions that drive the initiation and progression of pancreatic cancer. Alexandros Tzatsos, MD, PhD, is principal investigator on the study. [more...](#)



Hall Receives American Cancer Society Grant

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Michael J. Hall, MD, MS, has received an American Cancer Society research grant of \$1.4 million in research support over five years to improve understanding and communication of genetic risk information among physicians and cancer patients, including a web-enabled decision support aid for African-American patients. [more...](#)



Grant to Develop Cellular Therapy for Cancer Using Blood Stem Cells

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Lili Yang, a researcher at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, has received a Quest Discovery Program award totaling approximately \$1.4 million from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the state stem cell agency. [more...](#)

Leadership Transitions



Walker Appointed Chief Operating Officer

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jeff A. Walker has been appointed City of Hope's chief operating officer (COO), effective August 1. Walker has more than two decades of experience in cancer center leadership and transformation, taking programs from the strategic business phase into mature operational structures. Walker joined City of Hope earlier this year as senior vice president in transformation development and has been leading the institution's efforts around operational design and planning for new strategic initiatives and ventures. [more...](#)



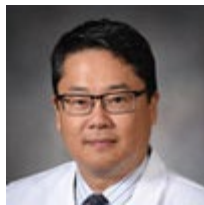
Anant Appointed Chair of Cancer Biology

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Shrikant Anant, PhD, has been named chair of The University of Kansas Cancer Center Department of Cancer Biology. Dr. Anant joined KU Cancer Center in 2010 after serving as director of gastroenterology research at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. He led a team of researchers who discovered a new gene, RBM3, which can cause normal cells to turn into cancer cells; also, stopping RBM3's expression in cancer cells causes the cancer cells to die. [more...](#)

Markey Names New Chief of Surgical Oncology

UK Markey Cancer Center



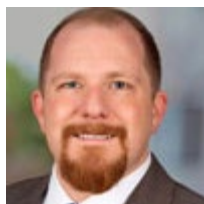
The University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center has named Joseph Kim, MD, FACS, as its new chief of surgical oncology. Dr. Kim is board certified in surgical oncology and specializes in the treatment of hepatobiliary and gastrointestinal cancers. He performs hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC), an innovative procedure that delivers chemotherapy to the abdomen during surgery. He has performed more than 100 complex robotic GI procedures and has more than 15 years of experience with HIPEC procedures. [more...](#)



López to Lead Medical Oncology

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University

Ana María López, MD, MPH, joins the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center - Jefferson Health as the vice chair of medical oncology and chief of cancer services at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center - Washington Township. Dr. López comes from the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, where she was director of cancer health equity and inclusion. [more...](#)



Director of Technology Transfer and Commercial Development Named **Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Patrick Emmerling, PhD, MBA, CLP, has been promoted to director of technology transfer and commercial development at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. As the leader of the department dedicated to supporting Roswell Park inventors and maximizing the impact of their work, he will collaborate with researchers and other colleagues to assess market opportunities, secure intellectual property protection, negotiate partnering and licensing agreements, and assist in commercializing Roswell Park innovations. [more...](#)



Collier to Head Children's Cancer Center

University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Institute

Anderson Collier, MD, professor of pediatric hematology and oncology, has been named director of the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology. As director he works with the UMMC Cancer Institute and leads Mississippi's only Children's Cancer Center and clinics for cancer and hematologic disorders throughout the state. [more...](#)



Farma Appointed Chief of the Division of General Surgery

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Jeffrey Farma, MD, surgical oncologist at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been appointed chief of the Division of General Surgery within the Department of Surgery. In addition to his new role, Dr. Farma serves in several leadership positions at Fox Chase and within the oncology field, including co-director of the Fox Chase Melanoma and Skin Cancer program, and a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) panel on non-melanoma skin cancer. [more...](#)



Norboge Named Director, Oncology Clinical and Research IT

Duke Cancer Institute

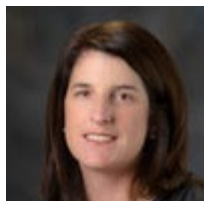
Emily Norboge, MPA, was recently named director for Oncology Clinical and Research Information Technology (IT), a newly created position supporting Duke Cancer Institute Health Information Technology. Previously, Norboge served as strategic planning solutions manager for Enterprise Analytics and Data Sciences at the University of North Carolina Health Care Systems. [more...](#)

Research Highlights

Undruggable Cancers Slowed by Targeting Growth Signals

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

As many as 50 percent of human cancer cases-across a wide variety of tissues-involve defects in a common cellular growth signaling pathway. Now researchers at UC San Francisco and Redwood City-based Revolution Medicines, Inc, have identified a new strategy for potentially treating a subset of such intractable cancers by decoupling the entire RAS/MAP Kinase (MAPK) signaling pathway from external growth signals. The efficacy of this novel approach in human lung, skin, colon, and pancreatic cancers in laboratory experiments is prompting a rapid move toward clinical trials. [more...](#)



PARP Inhibitor Improves Progression-Free Survival in Patients with Advanced Breast Cancers and BRCA Mutations

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

In a randomized, Phase III trial led by researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, the PARP inhibitor talazoparib extended progression-free survival (PFS) and improved quality-of-life measures over available chemotherapies for patients with metastatic HER2-negative breast cancer and mutations in the BRCA1/2 genes. Jennifer Litton, MD, is corresponding author of the study. [more...](#)

Study Links Palliative Care with Shorter Hospitalizations, Reduced Medical Costs

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Palliative care consultations administered within three days of admission are linked to shorter hospitalizations and significant cost savings for chronically ill adults, according to a large meta-analysis study involving researchers at VCU Massey Cancer Center. The investigation revealed that hospitals saved an average of \$3,237 per patient when treatment for complex illnesses included palliative care, a team-based practice focused on symptom management, and improved care coordination. [more...](#)

Better Access to Quality Cancer Care May Reduce Rural and Urban Disparities

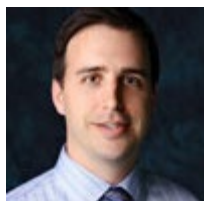
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

When enrolled in a cancer clinical trial, the differences in survival rates between rural and urban patients are significantly reduced, according to a study led by Joseph Unger, PhD, a biostatistician and health services researcher at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. It's the first study to comprehensively compare survival outcomes in rural and urban cancer patients enrolled in clinical trials. [more...](#)

Brain Metastases Common and Difficult to Treat in ROS1 Lung Cancer

University of Colorado Cancer Center

A University of Colorado Cancer Center study explores the occurrence and treatment of brain metastases in stage IV ROS1-positive non-small cell lung cancer. Importantly, and in contrast with the findings of previous groups, brain metastases were found to be fairly common in stage IV ROS1-positive cancers. In this study, 36 percent of 33 ROS1 patients (compared with 34 percent of 115 ALK patients) tested positive for brain metastases at the time of diagnosis. When the rate of brain metastases at stage IV disease was compared across ROS1, ALK, EGFR, KRAS, and BRAF mutations, there was no statistically significant difference between the groups. [more...](#)



CT Assessment of Kidney Tumors May Spare Some Patients Surgery

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

A research team from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has discovered a way to use computed tomography (CT) imaging to assess kidney tumors that test positive for the biomarker CD117 and accurately determine-before surgery-whether the tumor is benign or malignant. Eric Kauffman, MD, is senior author on the study. [more...](#)

Liquid Biopsy Could Ease the Way to Immunotherapy for Lung Cancer

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers at UC Davis, Genentech, and Foundation Medicine are the first to show that a blood-based test to assess tumor mutational burden



accurately identifies non-small cell lung cancer patients who could benefit from immunotherapies called checkpoint inhibitors. The blood test offers a much less invasive and more repeatable alternative to tissue testing. David Gandara, MD, is first author on the paper. [more...](#)



Analysis of Prostate Tumors Reveals Clues to Cancer's Aggressiveness

Siteman Cancer Center

Using genetic sequencing, scientists have revealed the complete DNA makeup of more than 100 aggressive prostate tumors, pinpointing important genetic errors these deadly tumors have in common. The multicenter study, led by Washington University scientists at Siteman Cancer Center and by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, lays the foundation for finding new ways to treat prostate cancer, particularly for the most aggressive forms of the disease. Christopher A. Maher, PhD, is co-first author on the study. [more...](#)



Research Identifies New Treatment Targets in Breast Cancer

Huntsman Cancer Institute

Scientists at Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, in collaboration with the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, have generated the first single cell resolution atlas of genes that control the formation of breast tissue. The atlas provides a comprehensive molecular map that will be used to help researchers understand how breast cancers form and to pinpoint new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat the disease. The study was led by Benjamin Spike, PhD. [more...](#)



Combination Immunotherapy Shrinks Melanoma Brain Metastases

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Combination immunotherapy shrank melanoma that has spread to the brain in more than half of the patients in a clinical trial led by Hussein Tawbi, MD, PhD, at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Of 94 patients in the single-arm study combining checkpoint inhibitors ipilimumab and nivolumab, at a minimum follow-up of nine months and a median of 14 months, 24 (26 percent) had a complete response, 28 (30 percent) had a partial response and 2 (2 percent) had stable disease. [more...](#)



Study of Focused Ultrasound to Open Blood-Brain Barrier

University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

In the first such clinical trial in the United States, physician-scientists with the University of Maryland School of Medicine are investigating the use of MRI-guided focused ultrasound to open the blood-brain barrier. The FDA-approved trial will be conducted with patients undergoing brain cancer surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Principal investigator is Graeme F. Woodworth, MD. [more...](#)

Researchers Using Big Data to Predict Immunotherapy Responses

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

In the age of Big Data, cancer researchers are discovering new ways to monitor the effectiveness of immunotherapy treatments. Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy developed a new way to use bioinformatics as a gathering tool to determine how a patient's immune system responds to immunotherapy and recognizes its own tumor. [more...](#)

Nuclear Gatekeeper Could Block Undruggable Prostate Cancer Targets

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University

Certain molecular drivers of cancer growth are "undruggable" - it's been nearly impossible to develop chemicals that would block their action and prevent cancer growth. Many of these molecules function by passing cancer-promoting information through a gate in the nucleus, where the instructions are carried out. Researchers at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center - Jefferson Health have found a way to block the nuclear gates used by these molecules, and show that this inhibition can halt aggressive prostate cancer in mice bearing human tumors. [more...](#)

Promising Clinical Trial Results of Tucatinib with T-DM1 Against HER2+ Breast Cancer

University of Colorado Cancer Center

Phase 1b clinical trial results published in JAMA Oncology show promise for the combination of tucatinib (formerly ONT-380) with T-DM1 against heavily pretreated HER2-positive breast cancer. Of 57 patients treated, 48 percent responded to the combination, with cancer control of median 8.2 months. Importantly, tucatinib acted against brain metastases stemming from HER2+ breast cancer, a major cause of mortality from the disease. [more...](#)

Breast Cancer Advocates Make Their Case in Cancer Research Journal

Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

At Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, a group of breast cancer advocates says they've created a model for developing productive, successful, and sustainable collaborations between advocates and scientists in cancer research. They describe their efforts in an article published online August 17 in the journal *Cancer Research*. [more...](#)

Zombie Gene Protects Against Cancer in Elephants

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Elephants have lots of cells, plus extra copies of the master tumor-suppressor gene p53. UChicago researchers describe leukemia inhibitory factor 6, a once broken gene that long ago gained a new on-switch. Now back from the dead, LIF6 can respond promptly to DNA damage by attacking the cell's main energy source, killing cancerous cells. [more...](#)



Eliminating Radiation for HER2-Positive Breast Cancer Investigated

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Researchers at The University of Kansas Cancer Center have launched a clinical trial led by Melissa Mitchell, MD, PhD, that eliminates radiation from the treatment protocol for an invasive type of breast cancer that accounts for one-fifth of all breast cancer patients. The trial is believed to be the first to examine removing radiation from the treatment plan for HER2-positive cancer with lumpectomy. [more...](#)



Common Skin Cancer Can Signal Increased Risk of Other Cancers

Stanford Cancer Institute

Frequent skin cancers due to mutations in genes responsible for repairing DNA are linked to a threefold risk of unrelated cancers, according to a Stanford study. The finding could help identify people for more vigilant screening. Kavita Sarin, MD, PhD, is senior author on the study. [more...](#)

Sequencing Genomes of Nigerian Women Could Help Prevent Many Lethal Breast Cancers

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

African and African American women are more likely than women of other ancestries to develop and to die from triple-negative breast cancer. In the August 21, 2018 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, a multinational research team identifies the genes responsible for inherited breast cancer in Nigerian women. [more...](#)

Researchers Solve Mystery of How ALL Enters the Central Nervous System

Duke Cancer Institute

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in the central nervous system is very difficult to treat,

because most drugs are blocked from the organ system due to a "blood-brain barrier" designed to protect the brain. How cancer cells enter the central nervous system has been an unanswered question for researchers and clinicians for decades. Now, a research team led by Duke Cancer Institute scientists found that this blood cancer infiltrates the central nervous system not by breaching the blood-brain barrier, but by evading the barrier altogether. [more...](#)

Researchers Find Prostate Cancer Drug Byproduct Can Fuel Cancer Cells

Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute

A genetic anomaly in certain men with prostate cancer may impact their response to common drugs used to treat the disease, according to new research at Cleveland Clinic. The findings may provide important information for identifying which patients potentially fare better when treated with an alternate therapy. [more...](#)



Protein Involved in Milk Production During Pregnancy Identified as Potential Target for Novel Breast Cancer Therapies

VCU Massey Cancer Center

VCU Massey Cancer Center researchers led by Charles Clevenger, MD, PhD, have identified a protein involved in milk production that stimulates the growth and spread of breast cancer and could ultimately serve as a target for novel therapies to treat breast cancer. The researchers discovered that the enzyme cyclophilin A (CypA) regulates the Jak2/Stat5 genetic pathway. This pathway is responsible for the natural maturation of mammary glands as well as the development of breast cancer cells. [more...](#)



End-of-Life Talks with Nonclinical Worker Raise Patient Satisfaction

Stanford Cancer Institute

Patients with advanced cancer who spoke with a trained nonclinical worker about personal goals for care were more likely to talk with doctors about their preferences, report higher satisfaction with their care, and incur lower health costs in their final month of life, Stanford University School of Medicine researchers report. Manali Patel, MD, is the study's lead author. [more...](#)

Other News

Stay Current with FDA-Approved Immunotherapy Treatments: Attend a Local Program

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy™ (ACI) programs are CME-, CNE-, and CPE-accredited programs presented by local authorities in tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy. These regional education programs are free for scientists and health care professionals working in academic and clinical settings, students, and patient advocates.

Upcoming locations include: Boston (Sept. 27); Indianapolis (Oct. 25); Minneapolis (Oct. 27); Seattle (Nov. 3); New York City (Nov. 15); Louisville, Ky. (Dec. 6); and Pittsburgh (Dec. 15). [more...](#)



Pioneering Physician-Scientist Marks 100th Birthday

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Bernard Fisher, MD, University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Service Professor of Surgery, recently celebrated his 100th birthday. A role model for the surgeon-scientist, Fisher advanced the understanding of the clinical biology of breast cancer and pioneered the design and implementation of large-scale, multi-institutional, randomized clinical trials. His work set the standard for hundreds of subsequent trials that have improved the rate of survival and quality of life for countless women with breast cancer as well as patients with other forms of cancer. [more...](#)

Initiative Aims to Help Patients Tackle Nicotine Addiction

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

Steven Berkstresser has chewed tobacco for most of the past 40 years, and he's always wanted to kick the habit. But it was a cancer diagnosis that prompted him to join a UC Davis program to help him quit. Through the Stop Tobacco classes at UC Davis Health, Berkstresser learned that quitting tobacco can actually boost his chances of survival and cut the risk of a second cancer diagnosis. [more...](#)



Cancer-Tracking Registry to Locate at UCSF

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Greater Bay Area Cancer Registry, which has been at the forefront of cancer data collection throughout the region for more than 40 years and has helped lead to improved state and national understanding of cancer, is moving its headquarters and management to UC San Francisco. The institute conducts essential monitoring of cancer occurrence and mortality in the Bay Area, gathering information about all cancers diagnosed or treated in the region and identifying the cancer burden and risk factors, as well as the impact of cancer control programs. [more...](#)

Two for One

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center will begin offering a new targeted therapy for neuroendocrine cancers. An atom swap converts imaging agent gallium-68 dotatate into the potent radiation treatment Lutathera, lutetium-177 dotatate. The theranostic—a combination of diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine—provides spectacular PET/CT scan images and selectively targets neuroendocrine tumors. Heloisa Soares, MD, PhD, and Joanna Fair, MD, PhD, already provide the improved imaging and will offer Lutathera to their gastrointestinal patients later this year. [more...](#)

Job Opportunities

Administrative Director

Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute Cedars-Sinai Medical Center [more...](#)

IIT Program Manager

The University of Kansas Cancer Center [more...](#)

Chief Medical Officer

Duke Cancer Institute [more...](#)

Research Associate I

University of Illinois Cancer Center [more...](#)

Biomedical Informatics Research Specialist

University of Illinois Cancer Center [more...](#)

Assistant Director and Director of Clinical Trials Office

The Yale Cancer Center [more...](#)

Director of Regulatory Affairs

The University of Kansas Cancer Center [more...](#)

Caspar Wistar Fellows Program

The Wistar Institute [more...](#)

NCTN Clinical Research Program Manager

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

Director of Human Subject Compliance

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa [more...](#)

Manager of Data Safety & Monitoring
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center [more...](#)

Advertising Specialist
UC Davis Medical Center[more...](#)

Research Scientist
University of Illinois Cancer Center[more...](#)

Senior Regulatory Specialist
University of Illinois Cancer Center [more...](#)

Clinical Trials - Research Nurse Manager
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina [more...](#)

Clinical Research Coordinator
University of Florida Health Cancer Center [more...](#)

Meeting Announcements

2018 ASCO RCF Annual Meeting

Discuss challenges, solutions, and best practices at the 2018 ASCO RCF Annual Meeting. Exciting plans for this year's ASCO Research Community Forum (RCF) Annual Meeting are highlighted in a new ASCO Connection blog post by ASCO RCF Council Chair Edward Kim, MD. Taking place September 23-24 at ASCO headquarters in the Washington, DC metro area, this year's meeting features presentations and dynamic discussions about innovative solutions, best practices, and excellence in cancer research. Check out the [blog](#).

Frontiers in Basic Immunology: 2018

September 27-28, 2018
Masur and Lipsett Auditorium, Bldg. 10, NIH
Bethesda, MD
The Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute is hosting a two-day national symposium entitled "Frontiers in Basic Immunology: 2018." The program includes recent advances in the field and should be an exciting forum for discussion and debate on the current understanding of basic immunological mechanisms.
ncifrederick.cancer.gov

2018 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

Register today: 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