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News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes | August 2019
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Awards & Honors | Grants & Gifts | Leadership Transitions | Research Highlights | Other News

AACI HEADLINES

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center Earns NCI Designation

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, has received designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Sylvester joins a highly select group as one of only two NCI-Designated Cancer Centers in the state of Florida, and one of just 71 across the United States. “This is a testament to the incredible focus and teamwork of every single member of our center,” said Stephen D. Nimer, MD, who was named director of Sylvester in 2012. Read More

BC Cancer Names New Leader

The Provincial Health Services Authority of British Columbia has selected Kim Nguyen Chi, MD, as vice president and chief medical officer of BC Cancer. An internationally recognized expert in prostate cancer, Dr. Chi began his career at BC Cancer 20 years ago with a fellowship in medical oncology. He has a special interest in developing biomarkers and new treatments for advanced prostate cancer, and recently led a four-year international trial testing a new treatment involving more than 1,000 men and 23 countries. Read More

Three-Day CRI Meeting Focuses on Innovation, Collaboration

From July 9-11, AACI’s Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) convened its 11th annual meeting in Chicago. The 2019 meeting introduced a new three-day format, including poster discussions. A record-breaking 431 clinical research office leaders, medical directors, cancer center administrators, patient advocates, and representatives from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and industry attended the meeting, titled "Strategies to Maximize Innovation to Advance Cancer Clinical..."
Former NFL Player Devon Still to Keynote AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

Devon Still, an advocate for childhood cancer awareness and a former professional athlete, will deliver the keynote address during the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Still will speak about his and his daughter’s experiences overcoming cancer. Their fight has inspired many cancer patients, along with their families and friends; now, through the Still Strong Foundation, Still has raised more than $2 million and is influencing the global cancer conversation. Read More

Register Today for the 2019 CAR T Symposium

AACI, in collaboration with the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC), will host a CAR T symposium on Monday, October 21, during the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting. Participants will identify the key challenges to patient access and delivery of CAR T, and discuss potential solutions to address barriers to care. The 2019 CAR T Symposium is free to all attendees, but space is limited. Priority will be given to AACI and SITC members. Those who wish to attend the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in addition to the CAR T symposium must register for the annual meeting. Read More

Help AACI Build a Library of Public Policy Resources

In October 2018, AACI President Roy A. Jensen, MD, introduced his presidential initiative, a library of public policy resources, to positively advance policy that will ultimately impact public health. Now AACI is calling on members to submit materials for the AACI Public Policy Resource Library. AACI encourages members to share resources pertaining to the priority issues of state funding for cancer research, elimination of HPV-related cancers, and tobacco control. Read More

Ask Your Representative to Cosponsor the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act

Representatives Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) are seeking cosponsors for H.R. 913, the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act, a bill to guarantee coverage of routine care costs associated with clinical trial participation for Medicaid enrollees. Today, as many as 42.2 million Medicaid patients risk missing out on lifesaving treatment due to financial burden. AACI supports the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act. We encourage you to demonstrate your support by writing your representatives. Read More
HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention: Nominate a Champion

AACI is partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) to recognize leaders in health care who have demonstrated a strong commitment to preventing cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) through timely vaccination of 11- and 12-year-olds. Now in its third year, the HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion Award recognizes clinicians, practices, and health systems that go above and beyond to foster HPV vaccination among adolescents in their communities. Read More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Odunsi Receives Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance Award
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

One of Roswell Park’s most distinguished researchers has been recognized again for his contributions to advance the fight against ovarian cancer. Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance will award its Rosalind Franklin Prize for Excellence in Ovarian Cancer Research to Roswell Park Deputy Director Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, FRCOG, FACOG, during the 2019 Ovarian Cancer National Conference in Seattle. Read More

Lung Cancer Researcher Honored for Work
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Steven Dubinett, MD, a researcher in the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, has been honored by the American Lung Association for his work on the treatment of lung cancer. Dr. Dubinett was honored at the association’s Lung Force Gala for advancing partnerships designed to accelerate scientific and clinical breakthroughs to improve the health of people worldwide. Read More

Wilson Wins 2019 Clinical Scientist Development Award
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine
Yale Cancer Center’s Frederick Wilson, MD, PhD, has won a 2019 Clinical Scientist Development Award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Dr. Wilson’s research focuses on targeted therapies for the treatment of advanced non-small cell lung carcinoma and melanoma. Read More

Demark-Wahnefried Selected for Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Award
O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of Alabama professor Wendy Demark-Wahnefried, PhD, RD, has been selected to receive the 2018 Mary P. Huddleson Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is being honored for her article, "Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of a Home Vegetable Gardening Intervention Among Older Cancer Survivors Shows Feasibility, Satisfaction, and Promise in Improving Vegetable and Fruit Consumption, Reassurance of Worth, and the Trajectory of Central Adipos." Read More

Hogan Receives Lifetime Achievement Award
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Brigid L. M. Hogan, PhD, chair emeritus of Duke’s Department of Cell Biology, has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. Dr. Hogan was one of the first scientists to isolate members of the Hox gene complex in mammals and highlight their role in controlling anterior-posterior patterning in embryos across evolution. Read More

Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology Launched With $102 Million Investment
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute

$19.2 Million Trial Will Test Red Cell Exchange to Treat Advanced Sickle Cell Disease
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Winship Awarded Lung Cancer SPORE Grant
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Researchers Test Novel Gene Therapy for Glioblastoma
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

$2 Million in Grants Drives Exploration of Rare Blood Cancer
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

DOD Awards $1.6 Million to Study Health Disparity in Prostate Cancer
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Associate Director Named for Education and Training
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University has named Lawrence Boise, PhD, as its new associate director for education and training. Dr. Boise is professor and vice chair for basic research in the Department
Shinde Appointed Inaugural Wistar Fellow

The Wistar Institute

The Wistar Institute announces the appointment of Rahul Shinde, DVM, PhD, as the first Caspar Wistar Fellow. Dr. Shinde’s research focuses on the role of microphages, specialized cells that act as a front-line defense system for our immune systems. He investigates how these cells alter the tumor microenvironment, which is a key determinant of whether cancer is able to develop, progress, and resist therapies. Read More

Sebti Named Associate Director for Basic Research

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Drug discovery, design, and development expert Said M. Sebti, PhD, has been named associate director for basic research and the Lacy Family Chair in Cancer Research at Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center. Dr. Sebti joins VCU from H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute. Read More

Breast Cancer Researcher Takes Leadership Role at University of Pittsburgh

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Norman Wolmark, MD, FACS, has been recruited to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine where he will serve as director of National Cancer Institute cooperative group clinical trials. Dr. Wolmark has spent decades conducting groundbreaking research and early clinical trials in the treatment of breast and bowel cancers. Read More

Darr Named Associate Director of Administration

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

David B. Darr has been appointed associate director of administration of the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. He previously served as assistant director of research operations at UNC Lineberger since 2014, and he was the director of the cancer center’s Mouse Phase One Unit from 2009 to 2014. Read More
Hematologists Appointed to New Positions
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Larry Kwak, MD, PhD, has been appointed the deputy director of City of Hope’s Hematologic Malignancies and Stem Cell Transplantation Institute, and Tanya Siddiqi, MD, has been appointed director of the Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Program within the Toni Stephenson Lymphoma Center, one of the seven disease and modality centers within the Hematologic Malignancies and Stem Cell Transplantation Institute. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

New Biomarker-Guided Strategy Has Potential for Liver Cancer Treatment
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Scientists Discover Autoimmune Disease Associated With Testicular Cancer
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Immunotherapy Prevents Relapse in Small Leukemia Trial
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Research Finds That a New Culprit Can Cause Breast Cancer to Spread
Stanford Cancer Institute

Discovery Shows How Difficult-to-Treat Prostate Cancer Evades Immune System
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Experimental Compound Unveiled to Block Therapeutic Target in Blood Cancer
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Using Artificial Intelligence to Deliver Personalized Radiation Therapy
The Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

Determining Risk of Recurrence in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Increased Understanding of Inflammation’s Role in Cancer Should Shape Basic Discoveries, Clinical Trials, and Drug Development
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

New Process for P53 Gene Regulation Sheds Light on How to Make Cancer Therapies More Effective
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Researcher Investigates Role of BRCA1 in DNA Repair
GW Cancer Center
Researchers Characterize Mechanism of Action of CAR T Cells
Moffitt Cancer Center

Biliary Microbiome Altered After Neoadjuvant Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Technique Using Urine Suggests Individualized Bladder Cancer Treatment Possible
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Worrisome Increase in Some Medical Scans During Pregnancy
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Discovery Leads to New Clinical Trial for Myelofibrosis Patients
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Many Thyroid Cancer Patients Say They Had No Choice About Radioactive Iodine
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Institute

Noninvasive Test Improves Detection of Aggressive Prostate Cancer
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Sports Playbook Helps Doctors Predict Cancer Patient Outcomes
Stanford Cancer Institute

Researchers Identify Health Conditions Most Likely to Cause Serious Harm When Misdiagnosed
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Study Examines Disparities in Prostate Cancer Survival in Appalachian Kentucky
UK Markey Cancer Center

Study Highlights Need for Tailored Skin Cancer Prevention Programs
GW Cancer Center

New Study Probes How to Tell Elderly Patients Not to Bother With Cancer Screening
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

AACI COI Task Force Invites Comments
Association of American Cancer Institutes

In the July AACI Commentary, Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, and Leonidas C. Platanias, MD, PhD, shared the recommendations of AACI’s Conflict of Interest (COI) Task Force, which convened in response to mounting concerns about the complex relationships between academic medicine, private industry, and foreign entities. The COI Task Force reviewed polices at AACI cancer centers and established basic guidelines to ensure that all conflicts are fully disclosed, maintaining patients’ trust and allowing groundbreaking research to flourish at academic cancer centers. Read More

Female Physicians Report Skipping Scientific Conferences Because of Child Care
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

For oncologists in the beginning of their career, scientific conferences present an opportunity for them to network, share their research, gain new knowledge, and advance in their field. But many women find
themselves skipping these conferences due to family obligations, a new study finds. Read More

New $750 Million State-of-the-Art, Freestanding Cancer Pavilion in New Jersey
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

RWJBarnabas Health and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, in partnership with New Brunswick Development Corporation, have announced the development of a new, state-of-the-art, freestanding cancer pavilion in New Brunswick. The initial estimated project cost is $750 million. Read More

Three Siblings Share Cancer Diagnosis Due to Rare Genetic Mutation
O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama Birmingham

At first glance, Kevin, Kiala, and Keaira Perkins may seem like typical 17-, 14-, and 11-year-old children. But all three have suffered from thyroid cancer. The siblings, from Madison, Alabama, all have a rare genetic condition called multiple endocrine neoplasia (MEN2A), which occurs in roughly one in 35,000 people in the United States. It is caused by a mutation in the RET gene, which provides instruction for producing a protein that is involved in cell signaling and is needed for the normal development of several kinds of nerve cells. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Director, Clinical Research Office
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Associate Director, Research Projects
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Cancer Center Director
WVU Cancer Institute

Cancer Disparity or Health Equity Researchers or Research Teams
Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Executive Director, Clinical Research Services
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Executive Director, Clinical Trials Office
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

AACI MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
October 20-22, 2019
Washington, DC

Learn More

2019 CAR T Symposium
October 21, 2019
Washington, DC

Learn More
MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SITC Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Network Leadership Institute**
August 19-20, 2019
Seattle, WA

Learn More

**Wendy & Emery Reves International Breast Cancer Symposium**
September 20-21, 2019
Dallas, TX

Learn More

**Multidisciplinary Approaches to Cancer Symposium**
October 10-13, 2019
Las Vegas, NV

Learn More

**Cancer and Inflammation: From Micro to Macro**
October 17-18, 2019
Bethesda, MD

Learn More

**Artificial Intelligence in Oncology: Advancements and Policy**
October 24, 2019
Cleveland, OH

Learn More

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