USC Norris Names Lerman as New Director

The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center has appointed Caryn Lerman, PhD, as the center’s new director, effective March 15, 2019. She also will hold the position of professor of psychiatry and the behavioral sciences at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Dr. Lerman will join USC Norris from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, where she serves as the John H. Glick Professor for Cancer Research and vice dean for strategic initiatives. Read More

Cortes Named New Director of Georgia Cancer Center

Jorge Cortes, MD, has been named director of the Georgia Cancer Center at Augusta University. He will join the leadership of the Georgia Cancer Center and Medical College of Georgia September 1. Dr. Cortes is currently deputy department chair in the Department of Leukemia in the Division of Cancer Medicine at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Read More

Perlmutter Earns NCI Comprehensive Status

NYU Langone Health’s Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center has been designated a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The center received an overall “outstanding” rating on the competitive renewal of its Cancer Center Support Grant, which will provide nearly $20 million in new funding—a 51 percent increase from its last grant—for research programs, infrastructure, and technology. Benjamin G. Neel, MD, PhD, is Perlmutter’s director. Read More
Registration Open for 11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

The 11th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting, "Strategies to Maximize Innovation to Advance Cancer Clinical Research," will be held July 9-11, at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel. This year's meeting has been expanded to a three-day format and will start on Tuesday, July 9 at 1:00 pm central and end on Thursday, July 11 at noon central. The agenda is packed with networking sessions, extra poster sessions, and panel discussions with content experts.

AACI Congressional Briefing: Breaking Down Barriers to a Cure

AACI will host a briefing targeted toward new members of Congress and staff at 9:00 am on Wednesday, March 27 in room 2043 of the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Moderated by AACI President, Roy A. Jensen, MD, "Breaking Down Barriers to a Cure" will examine financial and structural barriers to cancer research and treatment, focusing on cancer-related legislation and breakthroughs in CAR T-cell therapy.

CMS Releases CAR T National Coverage Analysis

On February 15, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its proposed National Coverage Analysis for CAR T-cell therapy. CMS has opened a 30-day comment period for the proposal, with comments due by Friday, March 15.

Register Today for PCLI Telemedicine Webinar

Registration is now open for an AACI Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) webinar on developing and implementing a telemedicine program. The webinar is scheduled for Thursday, April 25 at 12:00 pm eastern. Moderated by Andrew E. Chapman, DO, FACP, chief of cancer services at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health (SKCC) and member of the PCLI steering committee, the webinar will address a telemedicine approach to oncology. Dr. Chapman will be joined by his SKCC colleagues, Adam Binder, MD, and Ana María López, MD, MPH, MACP.

Join Us at Hill Day to Advocate for Cancer Research

AACI and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) will co-host the 2019 Hill Day in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, April 30. AACI is encouraging its U.S. members to send at least one representative to Washington to advocate on your center's behalf. All faculty and staff of AACI cancer centers are invited to attend and bring patient advocates, whose impactful stories are vital to demonstrating the importance of cancer research and care.
Lonial Honored with Gray Family Chair in Cancer
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Sagar Lonial, MD, chief medical officer for Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, was honored with the Anne and Bernard Gray Family Chair in Cancer. The endowment honors the life of Mrs. Gray's sister, Karen Ammons Howell, who died of breast cancer.
Read More

Slamon Awarded Prize for Pioneering Research
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dennis Slamon, MD, PhD, director of the Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program, has been named a co-winner of the 2019 Sjöberg Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and Sweden’s Sjöberg Foundation. Honored for his groundbreaking research in targeted cancer therapies, Dr. Slamon shares the award with Brian Druker, MD, of Oregon Health & Science University.
Read More

Levine, Raz, Shen Receive Honors
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Three members of the faculty at City of Hope received awards in recognition of their contributions to the field of oncology: Alexandra Levine, MD, MACP, received the Margaret L. Kripke Legend Award for Promotion of Women in Cancer Medicine and Cancer Science; Dan Raz, MD, MAS, received a Global Lung Cancer Coalition Journalism Award; and Binghui Shen, PhD, was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Read More

Dhodapkar Awarded Inaugural Brock Chair
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Madhav V. Dhodapkar, MBBS, director of Winship Cancer Institute’s new Center for Cancer Immunology, has been honored as the inaugural holder of the Anise McDaniel Brock Chair. He was also named a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Cancer Innovation at a ceremony in February. Read More

$75 Million Gift to Establish Blood Cancer Center
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone

$30 Million Gift Supports Next Expansion
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

$12 Million Gift to Advance Brain Tumor Research
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Patient Feedback Improves Cancer Treatments
Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

NCI Awards Lymphoma SPORE Grant
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center
LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Vogelbaum is New Chief of Neurosurgery
Moffitt Cancer Center

Moffitt Cancer Center has a new program leader of neuro-oncology and chief of neurosurgery. Michael Vogelbaum, MD, PhD, has stepped into the roles, working alongside Peter Forsyth, MD, Department of Neuro-Oncology chair. Dr. Vogelbaum was most recently the associate director of the Cleveland Clinic’s Brain Tumor and Neuro-Oncology Center and the director of its Center for Translational Therapeutics.

Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Expanded Cord Blood Promising for Use in Adult Bone Marrow Transplants
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Drug Target Identified for Chemotherapy-Resistant Ovarian, Breast Cancer
Siteman Cancer Center

Genetic, Metabolic Differences May Explain Diet, Cancer Study Variations
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Making Immune Cells Better Cancer Killers
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Mimicking Metastasis in a Dish
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Risk-Adapted Approach to Assessing Kidney Tumors Recommended
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Reducing Hospital Stay After Whipple Operation
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

How to Boost Cancer Clinical Trial Participation
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Lymph Nodes May Help Determine Course of Pleural Mesothelioma
University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

Novel Strategy for Therapy-Resistant Melanoma with BRAF Gene Mutations
The Wistar Institute

Researchers Develop Urine Test for Bladder Cancer
Stanford Cancer Institute

Study: Survival Benefit for Black Men on New Prostate Cancer Drugs
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

A Long Shot Could Bear Fruit
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Bioluminescent Deep-Sea Creatures Poised to Improve Cellular Therapies
Biomechanics of Phenylalanine Maintenance Illustrated in New Study
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Shorter Course of Radiation Therapy Effective in Treating Prostate Cancer
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Immunotherapy Looks Better Than Chemo for Merkel Cell Carcinoma
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Is It Possible to Prevent Breast Cancer Metastasis?
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Overcoming Drug Resistance in HER2-Positive Breast Cancer
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Antibody Could Increase Cure Rate for Blood, Immune Disorders
Stanford Cancer Institute

Medicaid Expansion Increases Colon Cancer Screenings, Survival in KY
UK Markey Cancer Center

New Therapeutic Target for Rare Pediatric Cancer
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Noninvasive Liquid Biopsies Rapidly, Accurately Determine Response to Cancer Treatment
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Sitting, Watching TV Linked to Colorectal Cancer Risk Before Age 50
Siteman Cancer Center

Study Finds HIV+ Cancer Patients Benefit From Immunotherapy
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Blood Cells Could Hold Master Clock Behind Aging
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Early Surveillance Cost Effective for Patients at High Risk of Cancer
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

SMACing Down Lung Cancer Progression
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Annual Noninvasive Stool Test Shown Effective for Colon Cancer Screening
Indiana University Melvin & Bren Simon Cancer Center

Breast Cancer More Likely to Metastasize Even 10 Years After Childbirth
University of Colorado Cancer Center

Cancer Vaccine May Be Option for AML Relapse
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Develop Novel Lab-on-a-Chip
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Young Adult Cancer Survivors Face Debt, Work-Related Impairments
Enhancing Lung Disease Care in Appalachia

University of Virginia Cancer Center

A new program will use telehealth to bring together a University of Virginia Health System team with primary care providers in the Appalachian region of Virginia. To enhance the ability of primary care providers to prevent, diagnose, and treat lung diseases, UVA pulmonary care experts will provide 10 education sessions through the UVA Center for Telehealth, with the topics determined through a survey of local primary care providers based on their needs and interests. Read More

International HPV Awareness Day is March 4

International HPV Awareness Day is Monday, March 4. Developed in 2018 by the International Papillomavirus Society (IPVS), the day is an annual opportunity to educate about HPV, its associated cancers, and prevention against the virus. Communications professionals from NCI-Designated Cancer Centers have compiled a toolkit of key messages, along with important facts and figures about HPV, for use by AACI members. Read More

Student Aims at Novel Drug Combos for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Tia Turner, a Virginia Commonwealth University MD-PhD student, recently received a National Cancer Institute grant to fund her research, which is aimed at uncovering novel drug combinations to treat triple-negative breast cancer. For the past few years she has worked in the pathology laboratory of Chuck Harrell, PhD. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Director, Research Administration
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Director, Liver Cancer Program
Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Division Director, Gynecological Oncology
Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **3rd Annual Cancer Disparities Symposium**
  - March 1, 2019
  - Cleveland, OH
  - Learn More

- **AACI Congressional Briefing: Breaking Down Barriers to a Cure**
  - March 27, 2019
  - Washington, DC
  - Learn More

- **Epigenetics in Cancer Scientific Symposium**
  - April 25, 2019
  - Philadelphia, PA
  - Learn More

- **AACI/AACR Hill Day**
  - April 30, 2019
  - Washington, DC
  - Register Today

- **11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting**
  - July 9-11, 2019
  - Chicago, IL
  - Register Today

- **2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**
  - October 20-22, 2019
  - Washington, DC
  - Save the Date