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News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes | November 2019

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**AACI HEADLINES**

**Lung Cancer, Health Disparities Expert Named Director of VCU Massey**

Robert Winn, MD, has been named director of Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center. Dr. Winn, an expert in lung cancer and community-based health care, will start at VCU on December 2. He joins VCU from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he has served as director of the University of Illinois Cancer Center. Read More

**Sleckman to Lead O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Barry Paul Sleckman, MD, PhD, a world-renowned researcher who focuses on understanding how DNA double strand breaks are generated and repaired, has been named director of the O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Currently an associate director of the Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine, Dr. Sleckman will begin his new role at UAB on January 6, 2020. Read More

**Patient Advocacy Plays Prominent Role at AACI Annual Meeting**

Inspiring patient advocates delivered messages of hope and perseverance at the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC. The event convened more than 450 AACI cancer center directors and executive-level administrators with industry and government health agencies to develop solutions to common challenges and share best practices. The AACI Annual Meeting Program Committee was chaired by Michael B. Kastan, MD, PhD, director of the Duke Cancer Institute. Read More
 AACI Highlights Scientific Discovery, Public Service, and Philanthropy at Annual Meeting

National Cancer Institute Acting Director Douglas Lowy, MD, received the Distinguished Scientist Award on October 21, during the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Dr. Lowy accepted the award after delivering a talk titled “Preventing Cancer by HPV Vaccination.” Following Dr. Lowy’s talk, an awards luncheon highlighted the Public Service Award recipients, Representatives Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Fred Upton (R-MI), and the Jon M. and Karen Huntsman family, who received AACI’s Champion for Cures Award. Read More

Call for Nominations: Champion for Cures Award

AACI cancer center directors are invited to submit nominations for the 2020 Champion for Cures Award. AACI established the award in 2018 to recognize an individual or individuals who, through direct financial support of an AACI cancer center, demonstrate exceptional leadership in advancing cancer research and care and in inspiring others to do the same. The Champion for Cures Award was presented at the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting to Brynn and Peter Huntsman (pictured) of the Jon M. and Karen Huntsman family. Read More

AACI Launches Public Policy Resource Library

The AACI Public Policy Resource Library went live on October 21, during the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The resource library is the presidential initiative of Roy A. Jensen, MD, AACI president and director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center. It will enable cancer centers and partners in the cancer advocacy community to share resources in order to foster collaboration, promote cancer prevention, and spur the development of sound public health policy at the state and local level. Read More

Save the Dates: 2020 Annual Meetings - Chicago and Kansas City

Please join us in 2020 for two signature events: AACI’s Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) annual meeting, July 7 - 9, in Chicago, and the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, October 11 - 13, in Kansas City, home of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, led by AACI President Roy A. Jensen, MD.

Registration details will be available soon.
The second webinar of PCLI's two-part hereditary cancers series will highlight models of testing for colon and hematologic cancers and informed consent. It will be presented by Joanne Jeter, MD, oncologist and associate professor of medicine, and Heather Hampel, MS, LGC, associate director of the division of human genetics, from The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute.

Register Today

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Researcher Honored for Work Advancing Immunotherapy
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Cancer Research Institute has awarded Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD, director of the tumor immunology program at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, with the 2019 William B. Coley Award. Dr. Ribas was honored for his distinguished research in basic and tumor immunology, including his development of stem cell-based adoptive cell therapies. Read More

Deininger Receives Lifetime Achievement Award for Leukemia Research
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

The International Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Foundation has awarded the Rowley Prize to Michael Deininger, MD, PhD. Dr. Deininger leads the Center of Excellence in hematology and hematologic malignancies at Huntsman Cancer Institute. His work focuses on the role of tyrosine kinases, enzymes that regulate important cell functions such as cell growth and survival. Read More

Gutmann Wins Neuro-Oncology Prize
Siteman Cancer Center

Neurologist David H. Gutmann, MD, PhD, has received the Abhijit Guha Award from the Society for Neuro-Oncology and the Section on Tumors of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons.
Neurological Surgeons. The award honors an accomplished investigator who has achieved significant results in the laboratory and the clinic while mentoring the next generation of neuro-oncology professionals. Read More

Bleicher Receives Breast Cancer Award
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Richard J. Bleicher, MD, FACS, has been awarded the 2020 Jamie Brooke Lieberman Remembrance Award from Susan G. Komen® Philadelphia for his work in the breast cancer community. Dr. Bleicher is a breast cancer surgeon and clinical researcher at Fox Chase. He serves as the director of the breast fellowship and leader of the Breast Cancer Program at Fox Chase. Read More

Ferrell Elected to National Academy of Medicine
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Betty Ferrell, PhD, FAAN, FPCN, MA, director and professor of the Division of Nursing Research and Education at City of Hope, was elected to become a member of the National Academy of Medicine. The academy honored her for her pioneering work in palliative and end-of-life care, which includes developing and leading the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium. The consortium has trainers in 99 countries and all 50 states. Read More

Weiss Receives Coley Award
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Arthur “Art” Weiss, MD, PhD, received a 2019 William B. Coley Award for Distinguished Research in Basic and Tumor Immunology/Basic Immunology from the Cancer Research Institute for his contributions on CAR T-cell therapy. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

Colorectal Cancer Researchers Receive SPORE Funding
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

$6.5 Million Grant Funds Hawai‘i’s First Cutting-Edge Research Clinic
University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

$7.6 Million Grant Funds Center to Fight Cancer Disparities
Siteman Cancer Center

Grant Strengthens Breast Cancer Research Efforts
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

$8.3 Million Grant Advances Breast Cancer Immunotherapy Research
Moffitt Cancer Center

Researchers Selected to Join Immuno-Oncology Translational Network, Awarded $3.8 Million Grant
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Cancer Prevention Therapy Supported With $3.8 Million Grant
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

$2.5 Million Awarded to Engage Underrepresented Students and Their Teachers in Cancer Research
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

NCI U54 Award to Reduce HPV-Associated Cancers in Latin America
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Jensen Appointed MSK’s First Chief Digital Officer and Head of Technology
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Claus Torp Jensen, PhD, has joined Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) as its first chief digital officer and head of technology. Dr. Jensen joins MSK from CVS Health and Aetna, where he served as chief technology officer and head of architecture, leading technology innovation, business transformation incubation, architecture planning and design, and digital integration. Read More

Assistant Director for Clinical Research Announced
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

Jyoti Patel, MD, has joined Northwestern Medicine as medical director of thoracic oncology and assistant director for clinical research at the Lurie Cancer Center. She will also serve as associate vice chair for clinical research in the Department of Medicine. Read More
Menendez Named Director of Clinical Cancer Genetics
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Carolyn Menendez, MD, FACS, assistant professor of surgical oncology, has been appointed director of Duke Cancer Institute’s Clinical Cancer Genetics Program. In her newly appointed position leading Clinical Cancer Genetics, including the Hereditary Cancer Clinic, Dr. Menendez will provide leadership, strategy, and oversight for the clinic. Read More

Radiation Oncology Chair Named
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Ronald Chen, MD, MPH, has been named the Brandmeyer Chair and professor of radiation oncology at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, clinical service chief at The University of Kansas Health System, and associate director for health equity at The University of Kansas Cancer Center. Dr. Chen joins KU from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, where he served as the radiation oncology program director. Read More

Zafar Named Director of Healthcare Innovation
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Yousuf Zafar, MD, associate professor of medicine and public policy, has been appointed director of healthcare innovation at Duke Cancer Institute. In his new role, Dr. Zafar will be responsible for articulating a vision of value-based innovation in cancer care delivery. He will collaborate with representatives within Duke Cancer Institute, the Duke University Health System, and external stakeholders. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Researchers Document Marked Slowdown of Cell Division Rates in Old Age
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Pancreatic Cancer Discovery Reveals How the Aggressive Cancer Fuels Its Growth
University of Virginia Cancer Center

CAR T Trial Aims to Extend Lives of People With Most Common Types of Lymphoma, Leukemia
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Machine Learning Helps Predict Which Cancer Patients Are Most Likely to Enter BMT 'Fog'
O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham
Breast Cancer Screening: 2-D or 3-D?
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Algorithm Reduces Need for Therapy in Children With Intermediate-Risk Neuroblastoma
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Failed Alzheimer's Drug Boosts CAR T-cell Therapy
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

New Organelle Found That Helps Prevent Cancer
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Aggressive Breast Cancers Store Large Amounts of Energy, Enabling Them to Spread
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

New Mechanism Fueling Brain Metastasis Discovered at Wistar
The Wistar Institute

Metabolic Vulnerability Found in Cancer Cells With Mutated Spliceosomes
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

New Gene Expression Tool Allows for More Accurate Diagnosis of Thyroid Nodules
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Study Suggests New Metabolic Target for Liver Cancer
Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa

Triplet-Targeted Therapy Improves Survival for Patients With Advanced Colorectal Cancer and BRAF Mutations
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Using Artificial Intelligence to Predict Risk of Thyroid Cancer on Ultrasound
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Researchers First to Show That Specific Protein Inhibitor Kills Multiple Myeloma Tumor Cells
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Scientists Discover Why Targeted Immuno-Oncology Drugs Sometimes Fail
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS

2019 CRI Abstracts and Posters Now Available
Association of American Cancer Institutes

The 2019 AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Abstracts and Posters Book is now available to AACI members. The book features 66 abstracts from 24 cancer centers submitted for presentation at the 11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting this past July. This year’s submissions reflected an increase in collaboration between AACI members, vendors, and community partners, and covered topics in several categories. Read More
Varian Partnership to Optimize Radiation Oncology Treatment
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Varian have announced a new strategic collaboration to develop an integrated software platform to streamline review of radiation oncology treatment plans. The goal of the platform is to establish an efficient framework to connect participating sites to a central database, allowing MD Anderson physicians to host collaborative review sessions around treatment plans and to communicate plan changes back to physicians. Read More

Moffitt Cancer Center Launches Immunotherapy Contract Research Organization
Moffitt Cancer Center

Moffitt Cancer Center has launched a first-of-its-kind contract research organization focused on accelerating immunotherapy research. The subsidiary will provide a one-stop shop for pharmaceutical and biotech companies to accelerate their immuno-oncology and cell therapy research through collaborative clinical trial support and administration. Read More

Vaping With Nicotine Causes Sticky Mucus That May Lead to Chronic Illness
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

In an episode of The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s weekly Facebook Live series, Bench to Bedside, Roy Jensen, MD, AACI president and director of KU Cancer Center, and Matthias Salathe, MD, discuss the latest in vaping research. Dr. Salathe conducted a study that discovered vaping with nicotine causes sticky mucus that may lead to chronic illness. Watch the Video

ASTRO Grant and Fellowship Opportunities Now Open
American Society for Radiation Oncology

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) is now accepting applications for its residents/fellows seed and early career development 2020 grant cycle awards. Also, new ASTRO-Industry Research Training Fellowships will offer research training opportunities for residents to work at either an AstraZeneca site or a Varian site starting on July 1, 2020. One fellowship per site will be offered and provides salary support for up to one year. U.S.-based residents are encouraged to apply through proposalCENTRAL by November 15, 2019. Learn More
Research Excellence Awards Mark Faculty, Staff Achievements
UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Three members of the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute were honored at the medical center's annual Excellence in Research Awards event. Shou-Ching Tang, MD, PhD, Vani Vijayakumar, MD, and Keli Xu, PhD, were recognized for their achievements in gaining outside funding. The awards are based on the cumulative amount of extramural funding received by the investigator for their original research over their career at UMMC.

Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical Trials Associate Director
Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma

Coordinator, Clinical Research Contracts
Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma

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

Center Research Program Administrator
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Clinical Trial Team Manager
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

2020 AACI MEETINGS

12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
July 7-9, 2020
Chicago

AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
October 11-13, 2020
Kansas City

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Innovators in AYA Cancer: Driving Science and Policy Toward a Brighter Future for Teens and Young Adults With Cancer
November 14-15, 2019