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News from the Association of American Cancer Institutes | September 2019

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Awards & Honors | Grants & Gifts | Leadership Transitions | Research Highlights | Other News

AACI HEADLINES

IU Simon Earns Comprehensive Designation

The Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center has achieved the highest recognition from the National Cancer Institute: Comprehensive Cancer Center, signifying research excellence. Overall, the center received an "outstanding" rating from NCI reviewers and was awarded a five-year, $13.8 million grant that supports the center’s research programs and shared facilities. That marks an increase of 43 percent from the previous five-year funding period. Patrick J. Loehrer, Sr., MD, is director of the center. Read More

Three Cancer Center Directors Elected to AACI Board

Carlos L. Arteaga, MD, S. Gail Eckhardt, MD, FASCO, and Caryn Lerman, PhD, were elected by their peers to serve three-year terms on AACI’s Board of Directors. Dr. Arteaga was appointed director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center in 2017 and Dr. Eckhardt became the inaugural director of the LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes at The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School, the same year. Dr. Lerman was appointed director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in March 2019. Read More

CAR T Symposium, Other Meetings, Set for AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

The 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, October 20-22 in Washington, DC, will include additional meetings for AACI’s Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) and Government Relations (GR) Forum, as well as a CAR T Symposium. All events are included in the regular annual meeting registration. However, attendees must register online.
New Committee Chairs Selected for Three AACI Programs

AACI’s Clinical Research Innovation (CRI), Government Relations (GR) Forum, and Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) welcome new committee leaders who will provide guidance to the association in the areas of public policy and cancer center management. Theresa L. Werner, MD, John DeMuro, and Claire F. Verschraegen, MS, MD, FACP, will begin their terms during the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, October 20-22, in Washington, DC. Read More

AACI Welcomes New Corporate Roundtable Members

AACI extends a warm welcome to its newest corporate members: AbbVie, Kite, and Pfizer. Launched in 2012, the AACI Corporate Roundtable creates opportunities for open discussion around important issues between industry representatives and leaders of academic centers. Read More

Register Today for PCLI Hereditary Cancer Program Webinars

AACI’s Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) will present a two-part webinar series on hereditary cancer programs, which consist of genetic counselors and physicians with expertise in cancer risk assessment. The first webinar will focus on models of testing for pancreatic, breast, ovarian, and prostate cancers and will be held on Wednesday, October 2 at 11:00 am ET. The second part of the series will highlight models of testing for colon and hematologic cancers and informed consent and will be held on Wednesday, November 13 at 11:00 am ET. Read More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Gerson Elected to National Academy of Inventors as Senior Member

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

The National Academy of Inventors (NAI) has named 54 academic
inventors to its Spring 2019 class of senior members, including Stan Gerson, MD, director of Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Gerson, who also directs the National Center for Regenerative Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, holds 16 U.S. patents for stem cells and drug discovery. His research focuses on the relationship between stem cells, DNA, and cancer. Read More

Hallahan Named Senior Member of NAI
Siteman Cancer Center

Washington University radiation oncologist Dennis E. Hallahan, MD, of Siteman Cancer Center, has been named a senior member of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Dr. Hallahan, who also heads the Department of Radiation Oncology, is being recognized for producing "technologies that have brought, or aspire to bring, real impact on the welfare of society." Read More

Oncologist to Receive Medal for Leukemia Research
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Chicago Medicine oncologist and professor Richard A. Larson, MD, will receive the 2019 Henry M. Stratton Medal from the American Society of Hematology. Dr. Larson, director of UChicago Medicine’s Hematologic Malignancies Clinical Research Program, has dedicated his career to designing groundbreaking therapeutic trials for patients with leukemia. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

More Than $15 Million in New Funding Secured for Cancer Research
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Grant Awarded for CAR T-Cell Trial for HER2-Positive Breast Cancer That Has Spread to Brain
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

$7.8 Million Awarded to Expand Clinical Trials Access
Siteman Cancer Center

NCI Grant Will Support Community Outreach and Research
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Grant to Fund Study of Family Caregiver Training
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cancer Moonshot Grant Supports New Approach to Boost Immunotherapies
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Researcher Receives NIH Grant to Improve Therapy and Detection of Ovarian Cancer

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Seek Culprit in Liver Inflammation

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Eoff Receives Grant From National Science Foundation

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

$1 Million Awarded to Study Endometrial Cancer

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

UMMC Launches Precision Medicine Division, Names Director

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Joseph Maher, MD, has been named director of the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Division of Medical Genetics and Precision Medicine. Dr. Maher also plays a crucial role on several UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute interdisciplinary teams. Read More

Halene Named Interim Chief of Hematology

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD, has been named interim chief of hematology at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. An associate professor of medicine, Dr. Halene joined the faculty in 2006 after completing her residency and fellowship in hematology at Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. The cancer center's hematology section includes 18 faculty members focused on patient care and research. Read More

Biotech Leader Apelian Named BlueSphere Bio CEO

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

BlueSphere Bio, an immunotherapy startup formed by UPMC Enterprises, has announced that David Apelian, MD, PhD, MBA, has been named chief executive officer. He joins clinical immunology experts and company co-founders Mark Shlomchik, MD, PhD, and Warren Shlomchik, MD, of the University of Pittsburgh, to advance the TCXpress platform to develop rapid, personalized T-cell therapies for cancer. Read More
Bradley Named Executive Vice Chairman of Radiation Oncology
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University has announced that Jeffrey Bradley, MD, FASTRO, will become the new executive vice chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology. Dr. Bradley joins Winship from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis where he was the clinical director of the Kling Proton Center and chief of the Radiation Oncology Thoracic Cancer Service. Read More

Stefanek to Head Cancer Control, Epidemiology and Disparities
UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Michael Stefanek, PhD, has joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Cancer Center and Research Institute as head of its Cancer Control, Epidemiology and Disparities Program. Dr. Stefanek comes from Augusta University where he chaired and was a professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences, and full member of the Georgia Cancer Center. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Modified Drug Combination May Reduce Breast Cancer Recurrence
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Team Develops New DNA-Mapping Tool
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Molecular Sensor Scouts DNA Damage and Supervises Repair
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Researchers Find New Details of Immune System Molecular 'Switch'
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Risks of Novel Oral Prostate Cancer Therapies and Pre-Existing Conditions
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

UVA Discovers Incredible HULLK That Controls Growth of Prostate Cancer
University of Virginia Cancer Center

New Study Reveals Weakness in Prostate Tumors
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Bacteria on Tumors Influence Immune Response and Survival of Patients With Pancreatic Cancer
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Discovery of How Cells Override Genetic Changes Could Lead to New Pancreatic Cancer Treatments
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

New Signal May Provide Basis for Cancer Therapies
Stanford Cancer Institute

New Drug Shows Encouraging Survival Results for Pancreatic Cancer
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center
Researchers Identify Protein Governing Platinum-Resistant Ovarian Cancer
GW Cancer Center

Targeting Cell Division in Pancreatic Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Improving the Standard of Therapy for Patients With Intermediate-Risk Neuroblastoma
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

In-Depth Look at RAS Mutations Highlight Age-Related Molecular Differences in CRC
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

New HIV Vaccine Trial to Launch in U.S., Latin America, and Europe
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

New Study Examines Breast Cancer Survivor Experiences Managing Cancer and Work
UK Markey Cancer Center

First Clinical Trial Site for High-Risk Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma
GW Cancer Center

Cancer Clinic Closures Limit Access to Care, Increase Medicare Spending
O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Depression, Anxiety Linked to Opioid Use in Women With Breast Cancer
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Recognizing the Toll of Oral Damage From Graft-Versus-Host Disease After Stem Cell Transplant
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Shows Value of Virtual Reality for Pain Management
Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Drug Combo Heralds Major Shift in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Treatment
Stanford Cancer Institute

Uncovering Secrets of Bone Marrow Cells and How They Differentiate
O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Diabetes Symptoms Could Cause Genomic Instability and Lead to Cancer
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS

Improving Equity in Academic Medicine
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Christina Chapman, MD, studies ways to improve equity in health care systems and the medical workforce to better meet the needs of the population. She served as a discussant on a panel on workplace inequities at the 2019 American Society of Clinical Oncology’s annual meeting in Chicago. Read More
Boehringer Ingelheim, MD Anderson Form Virtual Research and Development Center
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Boehringer Ingelheim and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center have announced a new multi-year partnership to conduct collaborative research to rapidly advance therapies for various types of cancers, including gastrointestinal and lung cancers. The establishment of a joint Virtual Research and Development Center will enable effective data sharing and analysis between the organizations. Read More

Chemical Exposure Web Tool Defines Risks Faced by Millions of California Women
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

A new web tool spells out for the first time the exposures that more than 6.5 million working women in California face that could increase their risk for breast cancer, including industrial solvents, antimicrobials, and phthalates. The tool, which was developed by researchers at UC San Francisco and the California Department of Public Health’s Occupational Health Branch, is part of an ongoing study focused on understanding potential breast cancer risks related to workplace chemical exposures. Read More

New E-Cigarette Laws Could Drive Some Users to Smoke More Cigarettes
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Efforts by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and some cities could limit the availability and appeal of e-cigarettes to young users could drive some existing users to smoke more tobacco cigarettes to get their fix, according to new finding by Duke Health from a survey of 240 young U.S. adults who use both e-cigarettes and traditional tobacco cigarettes. Read More

Fox Chase Launches 'Connected by Cancer' Podcast
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center launched “Connected by Cancer,” a new narrative podcast, on August 20, 2019. The seven-part audio documentary will be updated weekly and is available for free on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other podcasting platforms. Each episode focuses on a different aspect of life at one of the first comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute, including episodes on patients, doctors, researchers, nurses, and volunteers. Read More

Mammography Bus Screens 20,000th Patient
WVU Cancer Institute

The Bonnie’s Bus Mobile Mammography Program began its screenings in 2009 through a donation from Jo and Ben Statler. The bus is named in memory of Jo Statler’s mother, Bonnie Wells Wilson, who spent her life in a remote area of the state that lacked access to mammography services. The Statlers wanted to ensure that other families would not lose family members due to a lack of mammography access. Read More
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<th>JOB OPPORTUNITIES</th>
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| **Administrative Director, Clinical Research Office**
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center |
| **Clinical Research Manager (two positions)**
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| **Executive Vice President**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center |
| **Director of Division Operations**
Moffitt Cancer Center |
| **Division Research Operations Manager**
Moffitt Cancer Center |
| **Manager, Clinical Research Budgeting/Finance**
GW Cancer Center |

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<th>AACI MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS</th>
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| **2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**
October 20-22, 2019
Washington, DC |
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| [Register Today](#) |
| **7th Annual AACI PCLI Meeting**
October 20, 2019
Washington, DC |
| [Learn More](#) |
| [Register Today](#) |
| **2019 CAR T Symposium**
October 21, 2019
Washington, DC |
| [Learn More](#) |
| [Register Today](#) |
| **AACI Government Relations Forum**
October 21, 2019
Washington, DC |
| [Learn More](#) |
MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Learn More