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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | July 2020
Click here to read the full newsletter on our website.

Awards & Honors | Grants & Gifts | Leadership Transitions | Research Highlights | Other News & COVID-19

AACI HEADLINES

Lerman Elected Vice President; Three Other Cancer Center Leaders to Join AACI Board of Directors

AACI members have elected Caryn Lerman, PhD, as vice president/president-elect of the association. Cornelia Ulrich, MS, PhD, and Robert Winn, MD, have been elected as new board members, and Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH, has been appointed to fill the remainder of Dr. Lerman’s term as a regular board member. Drs. Ulrich and Winn will replace outgoing board members Gerold Bepler, MD, PhD, and Timothy L. Ratliff, PhD. Read More

AACI Welcomes Two New New Cancer Center Members

Last month AACI welcomed University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC) and Cancer Center at Brown University to its membership roster, bringing the association’s total number of members to 102. The cancer centers are directed by Marcia Cruz-Correa, MD, PhD, and Wafik S. El-Deiry, MD, PhD, FACP, respectively. Read More

Virtual CRI Meeting Highlights COVID-19 Challenges

There is still time to register for the 12th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation Meeting, next Tuesday and Wednesday, July 7-8. Although the meeting will be virtual due to safety concerns amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it will still provide an innovative and quality educational experience that aligns with AACI’s strategic goal of stimulating cancer center interactions to maximize resources by creating opportunities for peer-to-peer networking and collaboration. Read More
**AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Shifts to Virtual Format**

To prioritize the health and well-being of AACI meeting attendees, supporters, and cancer center patients, AACI’s Board of Directors and the 2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Program Committee have decided not to move forward with an in-person meeting in Kansas City. Instead, the annual meeting will take place Monday and Tuesday, **October 12-13** in a virtual format. [Read More]

**Write Your Member of Congress to Protect J-1, F-1, and H-1B Visa Holders**

AACI encourages you to write your representatives in Washington to express concern about two recent presidential proclamations that suspend visa processing for individuals from China and for certain categories of high-skilled, non-immigrant visas from around the world. Prohibiting the entry of valued STEM students, postdoctoral associates, scientists, and researchers does not address our nation’s public health needs or stimulate economic recovery. [Read More]

**Join AACI for a PCLI Webinar on July 22**

The AACI Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) will host "Implementation of Germline Testing for Prostate Cancer" at 1:00 pm eastern time on Wednesday, July 22. The webinar will highlight a recent consensus statement regarding guidelines for genetic prostate cancer testing and implications for clinical practice. [Read More]

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**NEWS FROM THE CENTERS**

**AWARDS & HONORS**

**Le Beau Receives 2020 AACR-Margaret Foti Award**

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) has named Michelle M. Le Beau, PhD, director of the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center and a former AACI president, as the recipient of the 2020 AACR-Margaret Foti Award for Leadership and Extraordinary Achievements in Cancer Research. [Read More]

**Moffitt Leader Named to National Cancer Advisory Board**

Moffitt Cancer Center

Susan Vadaparampil, PhD, MPH, associate center director of community outreach, engagement and equity at Moffitt Cancer Center, has been selected to serve on the National Cancer Advisory Board. [Read More]
Melanoma Research Foundation Honors Aplin With Humanitarian Award
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Andrew E. Aplin, PhD, has been recognized with the Melanoma Research Foundation Humanitarian Award. His research focuses on better understanding the mechanisms that cause aberrant cell growth and invasion in subsets of melanoma and identify novel therapeutic targets. Read More

Fang Appointed Associate Editor of Psychology Journal
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center researcher Carolyn Y. Fang, PhD, has been appointed to serve as an associate editor for the journal Health Psychology. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

Siteman Earns Highest NCI Rating
Siteman Cancer Center

$3.62 Million CDC Grant for Colorectal Cancer Screenings, Early Detection
WVU Cancer Institute

Researchers Awarded $2.8 Million Cancer Systems Immunology Grant
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Cortez Named to Research Leadership Role
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

David Cortez, PhD, has been named associate director for basic science research at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. He is an expert in the field of DNA damage response and repair and made seminal discoveries...
Cancer Scientist Appointed to Senior Advisor Position
Cancer Center at Illinois

Benita S. Katzenellenbogen, PhD, has been appointed senior advisor to the director of the Cancer Center at Illinois (CCIL), Rohit Bhargava, PhD. She will counsel strategic, cancer-focused directions of CCIL research programs and educational activities, in addition to aiding in the growth of cancer researchers at the University of Illinois.

Robinson to Lead Clinical Trials Program
UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

William Russel "Rusty" Robinson, MD, has joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Center and Research Institute as a professor in gynecologic oncology and hematology/oncology and head of its cancer clinical trials program.

New Clinical Science Research Leaders Named
Moffitt Cancer Center

Eric B. Haura, MD, and Nikhil Khushalani, MD, have been named to new leadership positions in Moffitt Cancer Center’s clinical science research division.

Study Shows Sedentary Behavior Independently Predicts Cancer Mortality
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

UCSF, St. Jude Identify Key Culprit Driving Treatment Resistance in Deadly Immune Disorder
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Partnership to Test for Anti-Cancer Activity
UK Markey Cancer Center

A Moving Target in Small Cell Lung Tumors Identified
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Findings on DNA Damage Repair Published
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Focused Ultrasound Shows Promise Against Deadliest Brain Tumor
University of Virginia Cancer Center
Researchers Find Medication Most Effective Quitting Method for Cancer Survivors Who Smoke
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Some Types of Prostate Cancer May Not Be as Aggressive as Originally Thought
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Strategy Suggested for Controlling Graft vs. Host Disease in BMT Recipients
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study: Many Colon Cancer Patients Not Receiving Standard of Care Therapy
UK Markey Cancer Center

Targeted Therapy Shows Promise in Patients With Early-Stage, Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Better Outcomes, Lower Cost Shown in First-Ever Oncology Hospital-at-Home Evaluation
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Study Shows Better Option for Treatment of Inoperable Anal Cancer
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Loss of Lipid-Regulating Gene Fuels Prostate Cancer Spread
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

No Higher Risk of Breast Cancer Seen for Women Who Don't Have BRCA Mutation But Have Relatives Who Do
Stanford Cancer Institute

Deleting an Inhibitory Gene in Natural Killer Cells Found to Boost Anti-Tumor Activity
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Lab-on-a-Chip Detects Breast Cancer Metastasis Earlier
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Mixed Progress in Efforts to Reduce Low Value Breast Cancer Surgery
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

The Right Dose for the Right Patient: Reducing Toxic Effects From Chemotherapy
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Tumors Disrupt the Immune System Throughout the Body
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

A Promising New Candidate for Overcoming Multiple Myeloma Treatment Resistance
Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

Building a Better Protein Trap
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center
Researchers Identify Key Immune Checkpoint Protein That Operates Within T Cells
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Blood Test for Metastatic Prostate Cancer Could Suggest Better Treatment Options
Siteman Cancer Center

Scientists Engineer One Protein to Fight Cancer and Regenerate Neurons
Stanford Cancer Institute

Study Shows New Way of Identifying Tumor Response to Immunotherapy
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Guidance Issued on Genetic Testing for Prostate Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

UAMS Joins Study of Test to Predict Response to Ovarian Cancer Drugs
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Diet, Gut Microbes Affect Chemotherapy Outcomes
University of Virginia Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

Roswell Park Community Mourns Colegio
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park staff and patients are mourning a devastating loss. Oscar Colegio, MD, PhD, the Lawrence P. & Joan Castellani Family Endowed Chair in Dermatology, died unexpectedly last month. He was 47. Dr. Colegio relocated to Buffalo when he was recruited to head Roswell Park’s dermatology program in 2018. He had previously served as associate professor of Dermatology, Pathology, and Surgery at Yale University. Read More

Duke Marks Passing of Spector
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Flags were lowered to half-staff across Duke University for Neil Spector, MD, a nationally recognized physician-scientist, translational research leader, and oncology mentor who passed away on June 14. He was 63. Read More

MD Anderson, Philips Collaborate on Personalized Oncology Treatments
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Royal Philips are collaborating to provide
Bone Marrow Transplant Program to Become Newest Department at Fox Chase

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

The Fox Chase-Temple University Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant Program will soon become the newest department at Fox Chase. It will be chaired by Henry Chi Hang Fung, MD, FACP, FRCPE.

Researchers Hit the Streets to Increase Cervical Cancer Screening Rates for Women in Jail

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

For many medical researchers, studying and combating disease means going to work in exam rooms, offices and laboratories. For Megha Ramaswamy, PhD, MPH, it means going to jails and hitting the streets.

Telehealth Genitourinary Cancer Genetics Program Launched

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

To help identify people who have inherited genes for genitourinary cancers, UCLA Health and the Department of Urology at UCLA have created a new telehealth cancer genetics program that will provide rapid access to high-quality genetic counseling and testing.

New Diagnostic Center Speeds Up Cancer Diagnosis, Provides Immediate Access

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

A new center at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute gives patients direct, expedited access to diagnostic testing for cancer.

Health Care Leader Named Chair of Board of Directors

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Health care leader Glenn D. Steele Jr., MD, PhD, has been elected the new board chair of City of Hope, effective June 1. He joined the board in January 2016. Dr. Steele is former chairman of xG Health Solutions and former president and chief executive officer of Geisinger Health System. He also held leadership positions at the University of Chicago.
Samuel Oschin Cancer Center Opens New Facility

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

The team tasked with designing the new Samuel Oschin Cancer Center at Cedars-Sinai had one overarching goal: creating a safe, soothing patient environment. The new facility includes easily navigated "neighborhoods" – designated areas in the unit where patients with a particular cancer type occupy the same waiting room and clinical exam area. Read More

Extremely Rapid Experimental COVID-19 Test Developed to Accelerate Diagnostic Turnaround

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Rebecca Martin, PhD, and two of her students have developed an extremely rapid experimental molecular diagnostic assay that decreases the amount of time required to diagnose COVID-19. Read More

COVID-19 and Cancer Expose Society’s Health Care Gaps

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Disease hits Black and brown people harder. Same for Indigenous people, individuals in rural areas, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and others who are medically underserved. It’s true for cancer, for cardiovascular disease, and diabetes, and in these times, for COVID-19. Read More

Once a Coronavirus Vaccine Exists, Mailable Patch Could Deliver It to Millions

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Someday, hundreds of millions of vaccinations against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 could show up in people’s mailboxes and be applied as simply as slapping on a Band-Aid. That’s the vision of Guizhi "Julian" Zhu, PhD. Read More

To Help West Virginia Reopen Safely, Researchers Develop New COVID-19 Tests

WVU Cancer Institute
COVID-19 tests are in short supply. The companies that make the necessary chemicals—called reagents—can't keep up with demand. But researchers at West Virginia University are developing new tests on their own to identify who has COVID-19 now and who had it in the past but recovered. Read More

What Happens When Cancer Patients Get COVID-19?
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

The findings of the first large observational study of nearly 1,000 patients with cancer who contracted COVID-19—gleaned from over 100 institutions participating in the international COVID-19 & Cancer Consortium, or CCC19, patient registry—underscore how deadly the new coronavirus can be for patients with active cancer and other underlying health conditions. Read More

 JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical Trials Management System Product Support Manager
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center

 AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
NEW VIRTUAL MEETING! DATES UPDATED
July 7-8, 2020

Register Today

2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
NEW VIRTUAL MEETING! DATES UPDATED
October 12-13, 2020

Learn More

 MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artificial Intelligence in Oncology Symposium
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center
VIRTUAL MEETING!
October 19-20, 2020

Learn More

Medical Arts Building
3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 503
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
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