Some email communications may be filtered to your Spam or Junk folder, even if you have subscribed to them. Please mark aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.ccsend.com as a Safe Sender to ensure that AACI emails are delivered to your inbox.

News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | June 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

Abstract Winners Selected for CRI Virtual Meeting

The AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Steering Committee, with the assistance of peer reviewers from the CRI community, have selected three abstracts from 77 submissions for formal presentation at the 12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting, July 7-8. Winning abstract authors represent Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center; University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and Mays Cancer Center, UT Health San Antonio. The three winning abstracts will be presented individually during a virtual session on Wednesday, July 8. Read More

'Generational Humorist' to Deliver CRI Keynote

Meagan Johnson will deliver the keynote presentation, “Zap the Generational Gap,” at 1:35 pm eastern time on Tuesday, July 7 during the 12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting. Johnson, a "generational humorist," challenges audiences to think differently and act decisively when working across generations. Since 1997, she has worked with a variety of organizations and associations to help employees find common ground and build on the unique strengths and values of each generation. Read More

AACI and AACR Call for Increased Funding for NIH, NCI in Next COVID-19 Supplemental Package

For a joint virtual day of action on Friday, June 5, AACI and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) have drafted a letter for our associations' members to share with their representatives. The letter builds on AACI's previous request for increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in fiscal year (FY) 2021, with additional requests related to COVID-
Register Today for CRI's Shared Investigator Platform Webinar

AACI's Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) will host "Implementing the Shared Investigator Platform" at 2:00 pm eastern on Thursday, June 18. Members of AACI's Shared Investigator Platform (SIP) Task Force will share experiences and suggested workflows for the successful implementation of the SIP. For members who may have questions about the utilization of the SIP platform, a representative from Cognizant will address technology solutions and ways centers can move forward with SIP implementation. Read More

Recognizing and Preventing Cyber Attacks

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of social engineering attacks across the nonprofit industry. The attacks range from email phishing to ransomware attacks and can cost organizations significant resources. This is especially relevant amid the COVID-19 pandemic, when many individuals are working remotely and defenses may be lowered due to a focus on the health crisis. Read More

Submit Your Cancer Center News for July

Thank you to the communications professionals who consistently provide AACI with news from their cancer centers — especially during the COVID-19 crisis. The July 2020 issue of AACI Update will be published on Wednesday, July 1. The deadline to submit your cancer center news is Friday, June 26. Please send your cancer center news to aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org.

View Our Submission Guidelines
Submit News

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Nusse Receives Gairdner International Award

Stanford Cancer Institute

Roeland Nusse, PhD, professor of developmental biology, is the recipient of Canada’s Gairdner International Award for his work on understanding the role of the Wnt signaling pathway in normal development and in cancer. Nusse plans to donate his award to UNICEF to help provide protective equipment for health care workers caring for children amid the global COVID-19 pandemic. Read More

Conaway Elected to National Academy of Sciences

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Joan Weliky Conaway, PhD, an investigator at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and member of The University of Kansas Cancer
Rogel Members Elected to National Academy of Sciences
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Two University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center members were recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Arul Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD, is a molecular pathologist and physician at the leading edge of translational cancer research and precision oncology. Janet L. Smith, PhD, focuses on understanding biological processes through knowledge of the structures of key protein molecules.

Chiang Honored by ASCO
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Anne Chiang, MD, PhD, has been named a fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Dr. Chiang is an associate professor of medicine (medical oncology) at Yale Cancer Center and chief network officer and deputy chief medical officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven.

Editor Named for Cancer Journal
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Christian Koch, MD, PhD, FACP, MACE, director for the Division of Endocrinology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, was recently named a review editor for Frontiers in Cancer Endocrinology, a specialty section in the journal Frontiers in Endocrinology.

Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine Announced by National Academy of Medicine
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Christopher R. Cogle, MD, a professor of hematology and oncology at the University of Florida, is among the 10 leaders announced by the National Academy of Medicine as 2020 Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine Scholars. Dr. Cogle discovered that adult blood stem cells make blood vessels. He used that discovery to invent and patent new therapeutics for patients with blood cancers and cardiovascular diseases.
GRANTS & GIFTS

Radiation Oncologist Awarded $1.86 Million NCI Grant
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Grant Awarded to Study New Ways to Detect Brain Tumors
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

$1.6 Million Grant Targets Multiple Myeloma Bone Disease Therapies
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center

Yin Receives NCI Early Investigator MERIT Award
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

New Leaders to Advance Cancer Immunology
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Shikhar Mehrotra, PhD, and Sophie Paczesny, MD, PhD, have been named co-leaders of the Cancer Immunology program at Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Mehrotra’s appointment began March 2. Dr. Paczesny’s appointment begins July 1. Read More

Clinical Care Appointments Announced
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announces the appointment of new leaders in three key areas of clinical care: Mary Ann Long, RN, MS, returns as senior vice president of nursing; Laurie J. Smith, MA, is the new vice president of clinical research services; and Timothy Quinn, MD, has been promoted to chief of critical care. Read More

Veterinary Oncologist to Lead Research Program
Cancer Center at Illinois

Timothy M. Fan, DVM, PhD, professor of veterinary oncology, has been appointed as program leader of the Cancer Center at Illinois research program in Cancer Discovery Platforms Across the Engineering-Biology Continuum. Dr. Fan will co-lead this research program with Brendan Harley, ScD, and he is the current president of the Veterinary Cancer Society. Read More
Hull Joins Markey as Associate Director of Population Science and Community Impact

UK Markey Cancer Center

UK Markey Cancer Center announces that medical sociologist Pamela Hull, PhD, will join the center and serve as its associate director of population science and community impact. Dr. Hull’s expertise is in the development, testing and dissemination of behavioral interventions to promote cancer prevention behaviors, and she has more than 15 years of experience conducting community-engaged research. Read More

Virology Expert Appointed Associate Professor

The Wistar Institute

The Wistar Institute announces the appointment of Italo Tempera, PhD, as associate professor in the Gene Expression & Regulation Program of The Wistar Institute Cancer Center. Dr. Tempera is a molecular virologist with special expertise in the study of the Epstein Barr virus and how it regulates expression of its genes in the host cell during infection. Read More

Lieu Named Associate Director of Clinical Research

University of Colorado Cancer Center

The University of Colorado Cancer Center announces that Christopher Lieu, MD, is now associate director of clinical research. Dr. Lieu was interim associate director for eight months. For the past nine years Dr. Lieu has been an investigator on numerous CU Cancer Center studies, including taking the lead on early-onset colorectal cancer research. Read More

Bona Appointed Director of Benign Hematology

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Yale Cancer Center announces the appointment of Robert Bona, MD, as professor of medicine (hematology) and inaugural director of the Benign
Hematology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. He will also join as medical director of Smilow's Hemophilia Treatment Center for the Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Program. Read More

Pathology Chair, Lymphoma Center Associate Director Named
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

City of Hope announces the hiring of Stanley Hamilton, MD, and Alexey Danilov, MD, PhD. Dr. Hamilton brings more than four decades of expertise to his new role as chair of the Department of Pathology. Dr. Danilov is now associate director of the Toni Stephenson Lymphoma Center. Read More

Wistar Appoints Tian as Professor in the Cancer Center, Co-Director of Center for Systems and Computational Biology
The Wistar Institute

The Wistar Institute announces the appointment of molecular systems biologist Bin Tian, PhD, as professor in the cancer center. Dr. Tian focuses on RNA biology and understanding how gene expression is regulated at the post-transcriptional level. His research involves interdisciplinary approaches, including molecular biology, genomics and computational biology, to study RNA biogenesis and metabolism. Read More

Focused Ultrasound Opening Brain to Impossible Treatments
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Immunotherapy Resistance Mechanism Identified
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Multicenter Clinical Trial Finds New Blood Test Accurately Detects Over 50 Types of Cancer
Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

New Advances Toward Safely Targeting Immune Cells to Pediatric Brain Tumors
Stanford Cancer Institute

Anti-Malarial Drug Shows Promise for Brain Cancer Treatment
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Benefits of eHealth Services Identified
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

Dearth of Research Seen on Impact of Anti-Cancer Drugs on Aquatic Ecosystems
University of Florida Health Cancer Center
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<td>Identifying a Sex-Specific Therapeutic Target for Glioblastoma</td>
<td>Case Comprehensive Cancer Center</td>
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<td>New Targets for Childhood Brain Tumors Identified</td>
<td>Siteman Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Targeted Chemotherapy Shows Promise Against Treatment-Resistant Cancers</td>
<td>Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System</td>
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<td>ARCHES Patient-Reported Outcomes Published</td>
<td>Duke Cancer Center, Duke University Medical Center</td>
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<td>Researchers Identify Checkpoint Target for Colorectal Cancer Immunotherapy</td>
<td>Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center</td>
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<td>New Treatment Extends Lives of People With Most Common Type of Liver Cancer</td>
<td>UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Supportive Oncodermatology Interventions Improve Patient Quality of Life</td>
<td>GW Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Scientist May Have Found First Test for Detecting Lymph Node Metastasis in Pancreatic Cancer</td>
<td>City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Collaboration Aims to Develop Anti-PD-1 Therapy in Rare Cancers</td>
<td>The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Researchers Find New Insights Linking Cell Division to Cancer</td>
<td>Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah</td>
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### OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

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<td>State Cancer Plan Has Robust Input From Vanderbilt-Ingram</td>
<td>Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center</td>
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Sixteen physicians, researchers, and educators from Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center have collaborated with the Tennessee Cancer Coalition, Tennessee Department of Health, and other statewide partners to create the Tennessee State Cancer Plan 2018-2022. Jennifer Pietenpol, PhD, is executive vice president for research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and director of the cancer center. [Read More]

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<tr>
<td>Two Doctors Named Top Physicians Under 40 in Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health</td>
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The Pennsylvania Medical Society released its list of this year’s Top Physicians Under 40. Two Fox Chase Cancer Center doctors were honored: Sanjay S. Reddy, MD, FACS, associate professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology, and Namrata "Neena" Vijayvergia, MD, assistant chief of gastrointestinal medical oncology in the Department of Hematology/Oncology. [Read More]
Industry Partnership Aims to Secure Domestic Pharmaceutical Supply Chain  
VCU Massey Cancer Center

To prevent domestic shortages of critical medications, the Medicines for All Institute, based in the Virginia Commonwealth University College of Engineering and led by VCU Massey Cancer Center researcher B. Frank Gupton, PhD, has joined forces with pharmaceutical industry leaders to bring manufacturing of vulnerable pharmaceuticals and their ingredients back to the United States. Read More

Cancer Center Pivots to Protect Patients, Trial Participants Amid Pandemic  
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

During the pandemic, cancer patients undergoing treatment or participating in clinical trials at The University of Kansas Cancer Center don’t have to worry about whether they can get a test for the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The research arm of KU Cancer Center stepped up to allow patients to opt in to a study that provided the test and also covered its cost. Roy Jensen, MD, is director of KU Cancer Center and president of AACI. Read More

Clinical Trial Urged for Blood Pressure Drug to Prevent Lethal Complication of COVID-19  
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Researchers in the Ludwig Center at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center report they have identified a drug treatment that could—if given early enough—potentially reduce the risk of death from the most serious complication of COVID-19. Prazosin, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved alpha blocker that relaxes blood vessels, may specifically target an extreme inflammatory process often referred to as cytokine storm syndrome that disproportionately affects older adults with underlying health conditions, and is associated with disease severity and increased risk of death in COVID-19 infection. Read More

Immunotherapy Combination to Be Evaluated in Cancer Patients With COVID-19  
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

A unique two-drug immunotherapy combination first evaluated at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as an approach for treating some cancers will soon be available to cancer patients with COVID-19 through a clinical trial at Roswell Park. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has authorized clinical researchers at the center to conduct a study assessing the safety and effectiveness of giving both rintatolimod and interferon alfa to cancer patients with COVID-19. Read More

App Calculates Risk of Delaying Cancer Care During Pandemic  
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

A team of data scientists and cancer doctors from the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center and the U-M School of Public Health have developed a free, web-based application—the OncCOVID app—which draws on large, national cancer data sets to help assess the risk from of immediate treatment versus delayed treatment, depending on a patient’s individual characteristics, as well as on COVID’s impact on their local community. Read More

Creating a Vaccine Against COVID-19  
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center
David Peabody, PhD, and Bryce Chackerian, PhD, at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, are creating vaccines from particles that are the opposite of Trojan horses: they look deadly on the outside but are harmless on the inside. The spherical virus-like particles can be engineered to display viral epitopes on their surfaces, inciting the immune system to produce antibodies against the epitope. The technology has been used to create vaccines that target human papillomavirus, malaria, and even metastatic breast cancer cells. Read More

Researchers Co-Leading 'Pick-the-Winner' Clinical Trial for COVID-19
UK Markey Cancer Center

Clinical leaders from the University of Kentucky’s Markey Cancer Center, College of Medicine, and College of Pharmacy have launched a clinical trial for experimental therapies to treat patients infected with COVID-19. The trial will investigate the effectiveness of azithromycin, ivermectin, and camostat mesylate —drugs that could inhibit replication of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease. The three will be tested either as stand-alone therapies or in combination with the antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine. Read More

During COVID-19, Telehealth Reconnects Patients With Health Care Providers
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Prior to COVID-19, video visits at UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center were used sparingly. UC San Diego Health had completed just 870 telehealth appointments in the preceding three-year period. But days before California issued a stay-at-home ordinance, a plan was put in motion to provide health care providers with the tools and training they needed to convert in-person appointments to video visits. In just four days, 1,000 face-to-face clinic appointments were converted to telehealth visits. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Associate Vice President, Cancer Programs
Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center

2020 AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AACI/AACR Hill Day
POSTPONED

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

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

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