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 | May 2020
Click here to read the full newsletter on our website.

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

AACI HEADLINES

Moffitt Appoints Cleveland as New Center Director

John Cleveland, PhD, has been named center director and executive vice president of Moffitt Cancer Center, one of 51 National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the country. Dr. Cleveland joined Moffitt in 2014 as associate center director of basic science. He stepped into the interim center director role in December 2019. Read More

CRI Meeting Moves to Two-Day Virtual Format

Prioritizing the health and safety of meeting attendees, AACI has shifted the 12th Annual AACI CRI Annual Meeting (July 7-8) from an in-person event to a virtual format. Registration is now free for AACI cancer center members and sustaining members. AACI is working to ensure that the online meeting will still deliver the innovative, quality education that its members have enjoyed at prior CRI annual meetings. Read More

AACI Calls on Congressional Leadership to Prioritize Academic Cancer Centers in COVID-19 Legislation

In an April 24 letter, AACI called upon congressional leadership to consider the needs of the cancer center community in any potential fourth COVID-19 supplemental response legislation. Priorities include supplemental appropriations for major research agencies, additional funding for hospitals and health systems, oral chemotherapy parity, requiring insurers to provide a 90-day supply of retail medications,
creating a special enrollment period for HealthCare.gov, increasing funding for state Medicaid programs, and providing assistance for people who have lost employer-sponsored health coverage. Read More

Submit Your Cancer Center News for June

Thank you to the communications professionals who consistently provide AACI with news from their cancer centers — especially during the COVID-19 crisis. The June 2020 issue of AACI Update will be published on Monday, June 1. The deadline to submit your cancer center news is Wednesday, May 27. Please send your cancer center news to aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org.

View Our Submission Guidelines

Submit News

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Kwak Recognized by AIMBE

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Larry Kwak, MD, PhD, vice president and deputy director of City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, was inducted into the 2020 class of American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) Fellows. Dr. Kwak’s latest research is on the first CAR T cell therapy targeting the B cell-activating factor receptor on cancerous cells with the goal of using it in patients who have relapsed after CD19 immunotherapy treatments. Read More

Goldberg Honored for Work in GI Cancers

WVU Cancer Institute

Richard M. Goldberg, MD, retired in December 2019 as director of the WVU Cancer Institute. OncLive®, a multimedia resource focused on providing oncology professionals with patient care information, in conjunction with The Ruesch Center for the Cure of Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancers, honored Dr. Goldberg with a 2020 Luminary Award in GI Cancers for his commitment to the GI cancer community. Read More

Chapman Receives Geriatric Oncology Award

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Andrew Chapman, DO, is being honored with the 2020 B.J. Kennedy Award for Scientific Excellence in Geriatric Oncology from the American...
Society of Clinical Oncology for his leadership and achievement in the field. Dr. Chapman is co-director of the Jefferson Senior Adult Oncology Center and chief of cancer services at Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health. Read More

Chen Elected as ASCO Fellow
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Ronald Chen, MD, MPH, has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (FASCO) in honor of his extraordinary volunteer service, dedication, and commitment to ASCO. The distinction of FASCO is given to those who have carried out efforts that benefit ASCO, the specialty of oncology, and the patients they serve. Dr. Chen is a leading genitourinary radiation oncologist and a renowned health services researcher. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

$9 Million Awarded to Study Extracellular RNA in Colorectal Cancer
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

$5.5 Million Grant Received to Study Health Impact of Youth Vaping
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

$2.8 Million Grant to Help Develop Blood-Based Test for Liver Transplant Candidate Selection
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

$2.5 Million Supports Pancreatic Cancer Research
Siteman Cancer Center

$1.4 Million Grant Supports Radiation Oncology, Radiology Residents
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke Medical Center

Seven-Year Prostate Cancer Project Reaches Drug Discovery Phase
Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

Grant Awarded to Study Physical Aspects of Cancer Cell
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Wang Named Developmental Therapeutics Program Co-Leader
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Xiang-Yang (Shawn) Wang, PhD, has been appointed as the co-leader of the developmental therapeutics research program at VCU Massey Cancer Center. He will serve in this role alongside Steven Grant, MD,
New Surgical Oncology Chief Brings Expertise as Surgeon-Scientist
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Darren Carpizo, MD, PhD, has joined UR Medicine as the new chief of surgical oncology, vice-chair of basic/translational research, and co-leader of the Hallmarks of Cancer research program at Wilmot Cancer Institute. An expert in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, Dr. Carpizo served on the faculty at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey since 2008. Read More

Serody, Basch Named to New Leadership Roles
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

In a realignment of the division of hematology and oncology that will form two divisions from one, Jonathan Serody, MD, has been appointed chief of hematology, and Ethan Basch, MD, chief of oncology. Melba Ribeiro, MPH, will serve both divisions as associate chief for administration. Read More

Poynter, Harki Tapped for Leadership Roles
Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota

Jenny Poynter, MPH, PhD, and Daniel Harki, PhD, have been appointed to the leadership team of Masonic Cancer Center. Dr. Poynter will serve as the cancer center’s first associate director for community outreach and engagement. Dr. Harki will become a co-leader of the center’s Cellular Mechanisms Program. Read More

Diehl Appointed Deputy Director, COO
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

J. Alan Diehl has been appointed deputy director and chief operating officer of the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, a collaboration of Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic, and University Hospitals. This newly created role will provide substantive oversight of the cancer center to pursue its mission to advance cancer research, training, community outreach, and local and national impact. Read More
Brain Tumor Researcher to Lead Efforts to Move Research Discoveries to Patients
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

A leading expert in the search for ways to treat aggressive adult and pediatric brain tumors, Duane A. Mitchell, MD, PhD, will direct the University of Florida’s efforts to speed research discoveries to improve health, as well as UF’s expanded Clinical and Translational Science Award partnership with Florida State University. Read More

Enterprise Director of Breast Oncology Welcomed
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Breast surgeon Kristin L. Brill, MD, has joined Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health as enterprise director of breast oncology. Dr. Brill joins SKCC from Cooper University Health Care, in New Jersey, where she was head of the Division of Breast Surgery and director of the Janet Knowles Breast Cancer Center at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Cancerous Tumors, Surrounding Cells Illuminated by New Imaging Agent
Siteman Cancer Center

Researcher Leads Clinical Trials on COVID-19 Investigational Drug Therapy
VCU Massey Cancer Center

Clinical Trial Examines Potential Treatment for COVID-19
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Novel Approach Identified to Overcome Drug Resistance in Leukemia
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Study Identifies Precision Medicine Therapy for Rare Pediatric Glioma
UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center

Chronic Stress Can Impact Response to Radiation Therapy for Cancer
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Hereditary Prostate Cancer Linked to Family History of Breast, Ovarian Cancer
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Study May Change Treatment Approach for Some Colorectal Cancer Patients
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Physician Leads Changes for Transplant, Cellular Therapy Guidelines
NEW THERAPY COULD BENEFIT UNDERSERVED PATIENTS WITH LUNG, OVARIAN CANCER
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

SUPERIOR PROGRESSION-FREE SURVIVAL ASSOCIATED WITH CONTINUOUS TARGETED THERAPY COMBINATION FOR BRAF-MUTATED MELANOMA
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

CANCER CLINICIANS TACKLE COVID-19
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

CRISPR-BASED 'DISCOVERY ENGINE' FOR NEW CELL THERAPIES TO ADVANCE CANCER TREATMENTS
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

IMMUNOTHERAPY BEFORE SURGERY COULD ADVANCE CARE OF AN AGGRESSIVE FORM OF SKIN CANCER
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

RESEARCHERS PLAN STUDY FOR ADDRESSING SEXUAL CONCERNS IN BREAST CANCER PATIENTS
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

SCIENTISTS SURVEY CAR T-CELL THERAPY LANDSCAPE
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

CANCER OUTCOMES IMPROVED BY EXAMINING PATIENTS' GENES
University of Virginia Cancer Center

CHEMOTHERAPY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR PATIENTS WITH SMALL ERBB2-POSITIVE BREAST CANCERS
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

STUDY TRACKS GENOMICS OF LUNG TUMOR BEHAVIOR
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

NEW YORK IS ONLY STATE TO REDUCE INCOME-BASED DISPARITIES IN SMOKING, STUDY FINDS
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

NO OVERALL SURVIVAL BENEFIT, BUT IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE FOUND WITH TALAZOPARIB IN ADVANCED BRCA-MUTATED BREAST CANCER
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY MOLECULAR PATHWAY THAT CONTROLS IMMUNOSUPPRESSION IN TUMORS
Moffitt Cancer Center

EXPERTS OFFER ADVICE ON MANAGING CANCER CARE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

A group of Fox Chase clinicians shared their expertise in an article that advised physicians on the best approach to take with patients who have been diagnosed or are currently under treatment for cancer during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The article was published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. Read More
A disease-detecting "precision health" toilet can sense multiple signs of illness through automated urine and stool analysis, a new Stanford study reports. The toilet is fitted with technology that can detect a range of disease markers in stool and urine, including those of some cancers, such as colorectal or urologic cancers.  

**Study Examines Ways to Improve Cancer Literacy in Kentucky Students**  
**UK Markey Cancer Center**  
A study led by UK Markey Cancer Center researchers suggests that implementing cancer education curricula in middle and high schools may improve cancer literacy and ultimately help reduce cancer rates. The study included 349 middle and high school students in Kentucky. Students were given a baseline test to determine their cancer literacy, followed by a cancer education presentation and another test. Scores for all individual items increased after the intervention, and the average test scores improved by 30 percent.  

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**  
**Assistant Vice President and Chief of Oncology Nursing Services**  
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center  
**Senior Scientist, Cancer Lipids and Metabolism Research Program**  
Stony Brook Cancer Center  
**Clinical Research Manager - Clinical Operations**  
Cedars-Sinai Cancer  
**Program Manager - Clinical Research Finance**  
Cedars-Sinai Cancer  

**2020 AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS**  
**AACI/AACR Hill Day**  
POSTPONED  
[Learn More](#)  
**12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting**  
NEW VIRTUAL MEETING! DATES UPDATED  
July 7-8, 2020  
[Register Today](#)  
**2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**  
October 11-13, 2020  
Kansas City  
[Save the Date](#)
Cancer Stem Cell Conference
RESCHEDULED
July 12-14, 2021
Cleveland, OH
Learn More

Medical Arts Building
3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 503
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-647-6111

Copyright 2020 | Association of American Cancer Institutes