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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | October 2020
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Awards & Honors | Grants & Gifts | Leadership Highlights | Research Highlights | Other News & COVID-19

AACI HEADLINES

Annual Meeting Spotlight: Basic Science and Pediatric Cancer Care

The 2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting will virtually convene AACI cancer center members with national cancer research and advocacy groups, industry, and government health agencies on October 12-13. At two meeting sessions, panelists will discuss the application of basic science and pediatric cancer research to the delivery of improved treatments for all cancers. Read More

AACI to Welcome New Members to CRI and GR Steering Committees

AACI will welcome new members to its Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) and Government Relations (GR) Forum steering committees. The new members will formally assume their duties during the 2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, held virtually October 12-13. Read More

AACI Now Accepting Recommendations for PCLI Steering Committee

AACI is seeking recommendations for the Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) Steering Committee. The PCLI steering committee helps guide the activities of the initiative, identify barriers and challenges where AACI cancer center clinical leaders can share best practices, and identify ways AACI can collaborate with like-minded organizations. Read More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS
Schwarz Elected Officer of Radiation Research Society
Siteman Cancer Center

Julie K. Schwarz, MD, PhD, a Washington University professor of radiation oncology at Siteman Cancer Center, has been elected vice president of the Radiation Research Society. She will go on to serve as president beginning in October 2022. Read More

Farma Recognized as Master Surgeon Educator
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center’s Jeffrey Farma, MD, FACS, was recently admitted to the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. He is chief of the Division of General Surgery at Fox Chase and co-director of the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Program. Read More

5 For the Fight Announces Inaugural Class of Fellows
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

5 For the Fight, a global movement inviting everyone to give $5 for the fight against cancer, has announced the inaugural recipients of the 5 For the Fight Cancer Research Fellowship in partnership with Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah. Read More

Martin Awarded New Endowed Professorship
University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

Breast cancer researcher Stuart S. Martin, PhD, has been installed as the inaugural Drs. Angela and Harry Brodie Professor in Translational Cancer Research. The endowed professorship honors the late Angela H. Brodie, PhD, who, with her husband, Harry Brodie, PhD, pioneered the development of aromatase inhibitors. Read More

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center Receives $126 Million Gift
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

$111 Million NIH Grant Awarded to Prevent and Treat HIV-Associated
Cancers
Albert Einstein Cancer Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

'Exceptional' Score Earned With NCI-Designated Comprehensive Center Renewal
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Tisch Gets Second Consecutive NCI Designation
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Effort to Combat Melanoma Gets $13 Million Boost
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

NIH Funds Research on Differences in Glioblastoma Between Males, Females
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Ohio State to Study Impact of COVID-19 in First Responders With $10 Million Grant
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

$5.7 Million Awarded to Study Chemo-Induced Hearing Loss, Toxicities
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

$3.7 Million Awarded to Address Genetic Testing Among Families
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

$3.1 Million Grant Supports Exploration of Immune Response to Cancer Mutations
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Fighting Breast Cancer With Nanotech, Immunotherapy
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

$2.9 Million Grant Will Look at Impact of HPV on Head and Neck Cancer
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

$1.9 Million Grant Funds DNA Damage Research
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Grant to Fund Gene Imaging Research
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

$1.1 Million Grant Awarded to Develop Metabolomics Data Analysis Tools
UK Markey Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Osborne Steps Down as Director
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

After 15 years in the role, C. Kent Osborne, MD, has stepped down as director of the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine. He will stay on at Baylor as founding director of the center. Helen Heslop, MD, DSc (Hon), director of the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy, will serve as interim director. Read More
Gruber to Head Center for Precision Medicine
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cancer geneticist Stephen Gruber, MD, PhD, MPH, has joined City of Hope as the director of its newly founded Center for Precision Medicine. He will lead a team of more than 14 researchers who will work across the institution to pioneer personalized cancer prevention and treatment plans. Read More

Patel Appointed as Caspar Wistar Fellow
The Wistar Institute

The Wistar Institute has appointed Ami Patel, PhD, as a Caspar Wistar Fellow in the Vaccine and Immunotherapy Center. Her research focuses on strategies to combat emerging infectious diseases, including engineering vaccines and immunotherapies against viral and bacterial pathogens. Read More

Expert in Early-Phase Cancer Research Tapped to Head Clinical Investigation Team
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Having dedicated his career to developing better treatments for cancer, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Igor Puzanov, MD, MSCI, FACP, has been promoted to senior vice president of clinical investigation. Read More

Lim to Lead Department of Neurosurgery
Stanford Cancer Institute

Michael Lim, MD, has been appointed chair of the Stanford University School of Medicine’s Department of Neurosurgery. He joined Stanford
New Leadership Roles to Focus on Quality and Safety

The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health (SKCC) has announced two leadership roles focused on quality and safety in cancer care. Mark Hurwitz, MD, FASTRO, FACRO, is the new SKCC enterprise cancer quality and safety officer and Valerie Csik, MPH, CPPS, was appointed director of cancer quality and care transformation. Read More

Chief of Gamma Knife Service Named

Jiayi Huang, MD, has been named chief of the central nervous system/Gamma Knife service at Washington University School of Medicine and Siteman Cancer Center. He had been serving as interim chief since October 2019. Read More

Population Health Expert Joins Cancer Center

Elizabeth Calhoun, PhD, MEd, has been named associate dean for population health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She also joins The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s Cancer Prevention and Control research program. Read More

Braithwaite Appointed Associate Director for Population Sciences

Dejana Braithwaite, PhD, has been appointed as associate director for population sciences at the University of Florida Health Cancer Center, starting November 1. Since 2017, she has led the cancer screening group at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Read More
**Associate Chief Medical Officer for Radiation Oncology Appointed**

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

James B. Yu, MD, MHS, has been promoted to associate chief Medical officer for radiation oncology for Smilow Cancer Hospital and Smilow Cancer Hospital Network. Dr. Yu specializes in treating genitourinary cancers. Read More

**Department of Medicine Chair Named**

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Ruth O'Regan, MD, chief of Hematology, Medical Oncology and Palliative Care at the University of Wisconsin, has been named the next chair of medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center’s School of Medicine and Dentistry. She succeeds Paul Levy, MD, who is stepping down after a decade as chair. Read More

**Prominent Researchers, Physicians Join Faculty**

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Cedars-Sinai Cancer is continuing to expand its clinical and investigative research staff with the addition of several new faculty scientists who bring a breadth of expertise to cancer patients. Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD, is the center’s director. Read More

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**KRAS Inhibitor Sotorasib Appears Safe, Achieves Durable Clinical Benefit in Early Trial**

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Two Million Americans Buy Prescription Drugs Outside the Country
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

VICC Leading First Global Study of MDS/MPN Overlap Syndrome
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Shifting Liver Cancer Cells Away From Migratory State Could Reduce Their Drug Resistance
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Study Highlights Need for Genetic Testing for Patients With Lung Cancer
UK Markey Cancer Center

Study Finds Savings in Blue Cross, Blue Shield Value-Based Primary Care Programs
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Study Educates Oncologists on LGBTQ+ Health Concerns
Moffitt Cancer Center

Black People More Likely to Die From Colorectal Cancer Spreading to Liver
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cancer Cells Take Over Blood Vessels to Spread
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Smoking Associated With Worse Outcomes for Bladder Cancer After Surgery
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

To Reduce Colorectal Cancer Disparities Among African Americans, More Intervention Research is Needed
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Scientists Engineer DNA-based Nanotechnology to Stimulate Potent Antitumor Immune Responses in Preclinical Models
The Wistar Institute

Genetic Testing Cost Effective for Newly Diagnosed GIST
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Rubbery Properties Help RNA Nanoparticles Target Tumors Efficiently and Quickly Leave Body
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Cancer Discovery Reveals Key Process in Tumor Formation
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Combination Immunotherapy Benefits Subset of Patients With Advanced Prostate Cancer
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Deep Look at Immune Cells in Patient Tumors Reveals Insights on Timing for Treatment Combinations
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Investigating Disparities in Eye Cancer Treatment
Researchers Identify Driver of Further Metastasis in BRAF Inhibitor Resistant Melanoma

Moffitt Cancer Center

NCORP Clinical Trial Accrual Goals Exceeded

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

New Initiative Aims to Put Postponed Cancer Screenings 'Back on the Books'

Prevent Center Foundation

To help encourage routine cancer screenings, especially as patients have postponed or canceled them during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prevent Cancer Foundation has launched a public service announcement campaign, "Back on the Books," to remind people to reschedule their appointments. Read More

Winn Part of AACR Congressional Briefing on Cancer Disparities

VCU Massey Cancer Center

As a member of the steering committee that contributed to the American Association of Cancer Research's inaugural "Cancer Disparities Progress Report," VCU Massey Cancer Center Director Robert Winn, MD, recently participated in a virtual congressional briefing on the report's findings. Read More

City of Hope, Chimeric to Develop CAR T Cell Therapy

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

City of Hope has licensed intellectual property relating to its pioneering chlorotoxin chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapy to Chimeric Therapeutics Limited, an Australian biotechnology company. The center has also dosed its first patient in its innovative chlorotoxin CAR T cell therapy trial. Read More

Free Genome Sequencing Now Available to All UCSF Patients

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

UC San Francisco scientists have launched a precision medicine initiative to offer free voluntary whole genome sequencing to all UCSF Health patients. The goal of the initiative, called the UCSF 3D Health Study (for "Data, Discovery, and Diversity") is to build a genomic database that matches the diversity of UCSF Health's patient population. Read More

Innova Therapeutics Receives Rare Pediatric Disease Designation From FDA for Osteosarcoma Treatment

Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Innova Therapeutics Inc., rare pediatric disease designation for IVT-8086 for the treatment of osteosarcoma. MUSC Hollings Cancer Center researcher Nancy Klauber-DeMore, MD, was instrumental in the development of the research that led to the therapy. Read More
Women Surgeons Earn Their Cut of NIH Funding and Then Some
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Women are underrepresented in the field of academic surgery, but women surgeons are earning a disproportionate share of research grants from the National Institutes of Health, a new study has found. Women comprise 19 percent of surgery faculty at academic health systems, but held 26.4 percent of R01 grants, the researchers found. Read More

Clinical Trial Will Examine Short- and Long-Term Outcomes for Patients With COVID-19 and Cancer
VCU Massey Cancer Center

A nationwide clinical trial funded by the National Cancer Institute and now open at VCU Massey Cancer Center will examine the short- and long-term outcomes of patients with COVID-19 and cancer to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of infection. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical Trials Manager
Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Unit Manager, Experimental Therapeutics Incubator
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Associate Director of Finance, Clinical Trials Office
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Chief, Division of Hematology Oncology
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Clinical Research Regulatory Manager
Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa

Director, Biostatistics Shared Resource
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
VIRTUAL MEETING
October 12-13, 2020
Register Today