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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | February 2021
Click here to read the full newsletter on our website.

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

AACI HEADLINES

Ronai Named Director of Sanford Burnham Prebys' Cancer Center

Renowned cancer researcher Ze'ev Ronai, PhD, has been named director of Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute's National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Center. Dr. Ronai's research in cancer biology has focused on the rewiring of signal transduction pathways, which has led to novel scientific paradigms and formed the basis for clinical trials to treat malignancies. As director, Dr. Ronai will play a central role in coordinating basic science across the research programs to translate scientific findings into new approaches for cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Read More

Pioneering Clinical Investigator Simone Dies

Joseph V. Simone, MD, a pioneering clinical investigator and institutional leader in pediatric oncology, died January 21 at the age of 85, according to the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Among his many leadership roles, Dr. Simone served as president of the Association of American Cancer Institutes (1992-1993), and served on the boards of directors for ASCO and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). Read More

Rustgi Joins AACI Board of Directors

Anil K. Rustgi, MD, has joined AACI's Board of Directors. Dr. Rustgi was named director of Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University Irving Medical Center in 2019. He is also Irving Professor of Medicine; associate dean of oncology; and chief of cancer services. He was appointed to complete the term of Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH, director of Yale Cancer Center and physician-in-chief of Smilow Cancer Hospital, Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Fuchs was named
AACI Applauds Biden/Harris Inauguration, Readies for Renewed Federal Focus on Cancer

AACI congratulated President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on their inauguration and pledged its strong support of their efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic and promote cancer research, treatment, and prevention. The association formed a strong bond with President Biden during his leadership of President Barack Obama’s Cancer Moonshot initiative. Read More

AACI Partners With Federal Vaccine Panel to Promote Cancer Patient Health

AACI is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services as part of its Vaccine Consultation Panel (VCP). Through the VCP, AACI has received periodic updates on the development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and participated in efforts to educate the cancer center community and the general public on the importance of widespread vaccine uptake. Read More

Save the Date: AACI/AACR Virtual Hill Day

AACI will jointly host its annual Hill Day with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) on Wednesday, June 9. The event will be held virtually for the second year. All faculty and staff of AACI cancer centers are invited to spend the day advocating for cancer research funding. Read More

13th Annual CRI Meeting Moves to Virtual Format; Abstract Submissions Now Open

The 13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting will be held virtually July 13-15. The three-day online meeting will deliver the innovative, quality education that AACI members have enjoyed at prior CRI annual meetings. The CRI Steering Committee is currently soliciting abstracts for the meeting, which will focus on adapting cancer clinical research for 2021 and beyond. Read More
Champion for Cures Nominations Due February 8

AACI cancer center directors are invited to submit nominations for the 2021 Champion for Cures Award by **Monday, February 8**. Selected by the AACI Board of Directors, the awardee will have gained distinction through their visionary approach to promoting our shared goal of a future without cancer. Through their transformational philanthropy, the cancer center can focus beyond immediate needs to multiply its impact on patient health, research, and the surrounding community. *Read More*

**NEWS FROM THE CENTERS**

**AWARDS & HONORS**

**Chen Named Rowley Professor in Cancer Research**

*The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center*

*Jing Chen, PhD*, an international leader in cancer metabolism, was recently named the first Janet Davison Rowley Professor in Cancer Research. Dr. Chen also serves as inaugural director of the newly established Cancer Metabolic Research Center. *Read More*

**Baumann Named to Four Cancer Advisory Committees**

*Siteman Cancer Center*

*Brian C. Baumann, MD*, a radiation oncologist, has been chosen to serve on four national cancer advisory committees: National Association for Proton Therapy Physician Advisory Committee; National Cancer Institute Bladder Cancer Task Force; NRG Oncology Genitourinary Committee; and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology Committee. *Read More*

**Cancer Center Members Named to National Breast Cancer Clinical Trials Task Force**

*The University of Kansas Cancer Center*

*Jamie Wagner, DO, FACOS, FACS*, and *Shane Stecklein, MD, PhD*, have been appointed to the Breast Oncology Local Disease Task Force of the National Cancer Institute Breast Cancer Steering Committee. Their three-year terms began January 1. *Read More*
V Foundation Awards Two Huntsman Researchers

Two researchers at Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah have received awards from the V Foundation for Cancer Research. **Charles R. Rogers, PhD, MPH, MS**, was awarded the 2020 V Scholar Grant, and **Jennifer Doherty, PhD, MS**, received the 2020 Robin Roberts Cancer Thrivership Research Award. [Read More]

Abstract Named 2020 Best of ASTRO

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Best of ASTRO Program Committee has selected an abstract by **Raymond Mailhot Vega, MD, MPH**, as a 2020 Best of ASTRO abstract. [Read More]

Swartz Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

**Melody Swartz, PhD**, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Medicine. She was honored for "pioneering contributions" to the fields of lymphatic physiology, cancer research, and immunotherapy. [Read More]

**GRANTS & GIFTS**

Grant Aims to Apply Artificial Intelligence to Oral Cancer Treatment

**Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center**

Cancer Metastasis is Target of New Research Initiative

**UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**

**LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS**

Brain Tumor Expert Appointed as New Deputy Director of Research

**UPMC Hillman Cancer Center**

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center recently announced the appointment of **Jeremy Rich, MD, MHS, MBA**, as deputy director of research. Dr. Rich
Greenup Appointed Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Rachel Adams Greenup, MD, MPH, FACS, has been appointed as associate professor of surgery (oncology) and section chief of breast surgery for the Department of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine. She joins Yale from Duke University. Read More

Sekeres Named New Physician Liaison in Hematology
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

Mikkael Sekeres, MD, MS, has joined the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center team as the new physician liaison in hematology and chief of the Division of Hematology in the Department of Medicine. Read More

D’Amico Named AATS Medical Director
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Thomas A. D’Amico, MD, chief of General Thoracic Surgery and director of the Thoracic Oncology program at Duke Cancer Institute, has been appointed to a two-year term as medical director of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS). Read More

Associate Director of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement Named
Stanford Cancer Institute

Alyce Adams, PhD, has been named the inaugural associate director of Stanford Cancer Institute’s Office of Cancer Health Equity and
Community Engagement. Her research focuses primarily on the determinants of suboptimal use of health care services among older adults with chronic conditions; racial differences in medication adherence; and the impact of health policy changes on access to quality care. Read More

Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Nursing and Patient Services Named
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center announces the recruitment of Anna Liza Rodriguez, MSN, MHA, RN, OCN®, NEA-BC, as chief nursing officer and vice president of nursing and patient services. She served for nearly five years as associate nursing officer at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center before joining Fox Chase. Read More

Rogers Named Director of Kentucky Cancer Program
UK Markey Cancer Center

UK Markey Cancer Center has announced the appointment of Mindy Rogers as director of the Kentucky Cancer Program – East, which is housed within the cancer center. Read More

City of Hope Taps First Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Angela L. Talton has joined City of Hope’s executive leadership team as senior vice president and chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer. Read More

New Chief of Hematology and Oncology Announced
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Craig Lockhart, MD, has been recruited as the new chief of the Division of Hematology & Oncology at the Medical University of South Carolina.
and will serve as associate director for clinical science at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center, effective April 1. Dr. Lockhart currently holds several roles at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.  

**Davis to Lead Health Data Science and AI**  
*University of Colorado Cancer Center*  

Sean Davis, MD, PhD, who currently serves as a senior associate scientist at the National Cancer Institute, will serve as the new associate director for informatics and data science at the University of Colorado Cancer Center.  

**Chief of Blood Cancer Pathology Service Named**  
*Duke Cancer Center, Duke University Medical Center*  

Ken H. Young, MD, PhD, is the new chief of the Hematopathology Division and Duke Cancer Institute Blood Cancer Pathology Service. He directs a lab focused on the mechanisms of tumor progression and novel therapeutic strategies in lymphoma, myeloma, and leukemia. Dr. Young joined Duke in 2019 from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.  

**Kim to Direct Women's Cancer Program**  
*Cedars-Sinai Cancer*  

Internationally prominent gynecologic oncologist Kenneth H. Kim, MD, recently was selected to direct the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Cedars-Sinai Cancer. He also serves as chair of the cancer center’s Committee for Oversight of Training and Education.  

**Helmke is New Chief Operating Officer**  
*Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health*  

Fox Chase Cancer Center announces the addition of Joel Helmke, MSHP, FACHE, to its senior leadership team as chief operating officer. Before joining Fox Chase, Helmke served nearly five years as senior vice president of clinical operations at City of Hope National Medical Center.
Hinrichs Named to Build Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Programs

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Christian Hinrichs, MD, has been named chief of the Section of Cancer Immunotherapy and co-director of the Cancer Immunology and Metabolism Center of Excellence. Dr. Hinrichs was recruited from the National Cancer Institute where he served as a tenured senior investigator in the Genitourinary Malignancies Branch. Read More

New Director for Cell Therapy Laboratory Announced

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center has announced that Yen-Michael Hsu, MD, PhD, will serve as the new director of the Immunologic Monitoring and Cellular Therapeutics Laboratory. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Gut Microbe May Promote Breast Cancers

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Proteogenomics Offers Insight to Treating Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Gene Sequencing Used to Quantify Risk of Skin Cancer Long Before Damage is Visible

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Aggressive Breast Cancers in Black Patients Related to Immune Factors

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Machine Learning Potential to Predict Cancer Therapy-Related Cardiac Risk Shown

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Unique Review of National Data Aims to Better Understand Geographic Factors Affecting HPV Vaccination Rates

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Older Minority Cancer Patients Have Worse Surgical Outcomes Compared to White Patients With Similar Socioeconomic Factors

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

Researchers Create Comprehensive Multiomic Resource for Head and Neck Cancers

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Understanding Kava's Role as a Cancer Suppressant

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Unusual Colon Discovery Explains Racial Disparities in Colorectal Cancer

University of Virginia Cancer Center
Inflammation From Androgen Deprivation Therapy May Cause Fatigue in Prostate Cancer Patients
Moffitt Cancer Center

Mediterranean Diet May Decrease Risk of Prostate Cancer Progression for Men on Active Surveillance
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Key Pathway for Activated T Cells Might Be Targeted to Fight GVHD
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Investigational Combo Therapy Shows Benefit for TP53 Mutant MDS and Acute Myeloid Leukemia Patients
Moffitt Cancer Center

Study Shows Kentucky Endometrial Cancer Patients Have Higher Rates of DACH1 Mutation
UK Markey Cancer Center

Youth Using E-cigarettes Three Times as Likely to Become Daily Cigarette Smokers
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Arthritis Drug May Treat Immunotherapy-Related Heart Complication
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

'Biological Clock' an Unexpected and Novel Target for Prostate Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Findings Could Reduce Treatment-Related Complication for Blood Cancer Patients
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Defines Small-Cell Lung Cancer Subtypes and Distinct Therapeutic Vulnerabilities for Each Type
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Study Explains Why Patients With Cancer Spread to the Liver Have Worse Outcomes
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Study Reveals How Improved Type of Light Therapy Kills Precancerous Cells
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Triggering Tumor Antiviral Immune Response in Triple Negative Breast Cancer
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

Tobacco Treatment Training Program Earns Elite Accreditation
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

The University of Kansas Tobacco Treatment Specialist training program has been accredited by the Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs, joining just 23 other such accredited programs in the world. Babalola Faseru, MD, MPH, helps lead the program. Read More
Community Advisory Board: Champions for Health Equity
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Over the past 15 years, the cancer center’s Community Advisory Board (CAB) has become one of UCSF’s most instrumental community outreach groups for improving health equity. In a Q&A, CAB Chair Arnold Perkins and Kim Rhoads, MD, MS, MPH, discuss why CABs are critical to the work of NCI cancer centers and the communities they serve. Read More

Fourth Affiliate Joins Siteman Cancer Network
Siteman Cancer Center

The Siteman Cancer Network, an affiliation between Siteman Cancer Center and regional medical centers, has added a fourth member, the network’s second in Illinois. Carterville-based SIH Cancer Institute has joined the network, which aims to improve the health of people and communities through cancer prevention, research, and access to specialized treatment, when necessary, at Siteman in St. Louis. Read More

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Chief, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology
The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Vanderbilt-Incyte Research Scholars Program
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Clinical Research Coordinator IV
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Senior Analyst Programmer OnCore Support Team
Wilmot Cancer Center, UR Medicine

Senior Business Process Analyst
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Senior Vice President for External Affairs
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

AACR Cancer Disparities Research Fellowships
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 9, 2021
American Association for Cancer Research
Lustgarten Foundation-AACR Career Development Awards for Pancreatic Cancer Research
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 11, 2021
American Association for Cancer Research

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AACI/AACR Hill Day
SAVE THE DATE | VIRTUAL MEETING
June 9, 2021

13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
SAVE THE DATE | VIRTUAL MEETING
July 13-15, 2021

2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
SAVE THE DATE
October 17-19, 2021

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cancer Disparities Symposium
VIRTUAL MEETING
March 4, 2021
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Medical Arts Building
3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 503