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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | April 2023
Click here to read the full newsletter on our website.

AACI HEADLINES

Inaugural DEI Summit Held in San Diego
In partnership with the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Center DEI Network, AACI supported the inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Summit. The two-day event, held March 10 and 11, convened cancer center leaders, researchers, and administrators to share insights on how institutions are enhancing DEI efforts, and to address barriers that centers face in carrying out these initiatives. Robert A. Winn, MD, AACI president-elect and director of VCU Massey Cancer Center, shared remarks at the event. Read More

AACI Hosts Spring GR Forum at Huntsman Cancer Institute
On March 20, AACI held its annual spring Government Relations (GR) Forum at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) in Salt Lake City. The meeting gave AACI government relations representatives and sustaining members an opportunity to gather and tour the Huntsman Cancer Institute and hear from a variety of speakers on cancer-related public policy. Read More

New Corporate Roundtable Member: Eagle Pharmaceuticals
AACI welcomes Eagle Pharmaceuticals to its Corporate Roundtable. Eagle is a specialty pharmaceutical company working to advance safe and efficient injectable treatments for patients across oncology, critical care, and orphan diseases. The AACI Corporate Roundtable provides a forum for AACI cancer centers to address topics of mutual interest with their pharmaceutical industry colleagues. Learn More
Nominations Open for 2023 Cancer Health Equity Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2023 AACI Cancer Health Equity Award. The award was created in 2021 to recognize an individual or group who demonstrates exceptional leadership in promoting health equity, mitigating cancer disparities, and advocating for diversity and inclusion at their cancer center. The nomination period will close on Wednesday, May 31. Read More

Recommend a Patient Advocate for a Hill Day Scholarship

This year, AACI is partnering with AACR to offer scholarships of up to $1,000 to enable patient advocates to attend Hill Day on May 18 and share their perspectives during congressional meetings. Nominations are due Friday, April 7. Up to 10 scholarship recipients will be selected, and the cancer center representative submitting the application will be notified of their nominee’s status by April 21, 2023. Read More

Promote Your Cancer Center With a CRI Meeting Program Ad

AACI invites you to promote your cancer center by purchasing an ad in the 15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting program book. Your cancer center’s program ad may highlight a conference or a new initiative, or celebrate the success of the center’s clinical trials office. Artwork should be submitted to Communications and External Relations Manager Emily Stimmel by Wednesday, May 3 for inclusion in the event program. Read More

NCI Releases National Cancer Plan

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has announced the release of the National Cancer Plan, a long-term, ambitious framework to end cancer as we know it. The plan was developed to coordinate a national response to achieving the goals of the Cancer Moonshot and deliver better cancer outcomes to all people. Read More

Vitalief: We Are Your Solution

Vitalief is a Functional Service Provider (FSP) offering robust solutions to research and clinical trial organizations that are founded in a future-ready, flexible, people-first culture to deliver greater value for client organizations and our employees.

Visit us at the 15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting! Stop by our exhibit booth to learn how we are addressing the healthcare human capital epidemic with innovative resource, advisory, and managed services. Check Out Our Website
National Cancer Clinical Leadership Role for UH Researcher

*University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa*

University of Hawai‘i Cancer Center researcher **Stephanie Si Lim, MD**, was selected as a member of AACI’s Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) Steering Committee. The committee seeks to identify roadblocks in cancer care, ensure quality of services, provide faculty career development, and disseminate information across cancer centers. [Read More]

McAllister Receives Award for Pancreatic Tumor Microbiome Research

*The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

**Florencia McAllister, MD**, has been awarded the 2023 Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship from the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology. Her pioneering research on the intra-tumoral bacteria detected in long-term pancreatic cancer survivors led to the discovery of a gut-tumor axis and the use of fecal microbial transplants to improve therapy outcomes. [Read More]

Nussbaum Named to NCI Surgeon-Scientist Program Cohort

*Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center*

**Daniel Nussbaum, MD**, is one of 12 surgeons selected for the National Cancer Institute 2023 Early-Stage Surgeon Scientist Program. This pilot program builds surgeon-scientist cohorts that will be trained together for up to three years. Dr. Nussbaum has also received a Duke Physician-Scientist Strong Start Award for his research on pancreatic cancer metastasis to the liver. [Read More]
Salloum Selected to Lead NCI Action Group

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

The National Cancer Institute’s Consortium for Cancer Implementation Science has selected Ramzi Salloum, PhD, to chair its Learning Healthcare Systems as Natural Laboratories action group. The group focuses on facilitating implementation research that advances the study and understanding of learning health care systems as natural laboratories for improving health care quality, equity, and patient outcomes. Read More

Gao Receives AAPM Early-Career Scientist Award

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Hao Gao, PhD, associate professor and director of physics research in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, is a recipient of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine’s (AAPM) John S. Laughlin Early-Career Scientist Award. Read More

Goyal Named ACS Researcher of the Year

Stanford Cancer Institute

Lipika Goyal, MD, was honored as the American Cancer Society’s (ACS) Researcher of the Year, which recognizes investigators who have benefited from an ACS extramural grant and made remarkable advances in cancer research. She has also recently been appointed director of Stanford Cancer Institute’s Gastrointestinal Oncology program. Read More

The American Cancer Society, Winship Partner to Accelerate Cancer Research in Georgia
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

$3.3 Million Grant Aims to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening in Rural Indiana
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Receive $1 Million Grant to Create Platform That Could Assist in Development of New Drugs
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

ACS Funding Received for Research, Education Programs
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

American Cancer Society Supports Promising UVA Research
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Hollings Surgeon Awarded NCI Grant to Increase Number of Surgeon-Scientists
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Govindarajan Named Chief of Hematology and Oncology Division
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Rangaswamy Govindarajan, MD, hematologist and oncologist at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, has been appointed chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. Read More

Curseen Named Director of Palliative Medicine Program
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Kimberly A. Curseen, MD, has been named director of the Palliative Medicine Program at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. Dr. Curseen joined Emory in 2015 and has led Winship’s Supportive Oncology Clinic since that time. Read More

Hematology/Oncology Expert Joins Roswell Park in Vice Chair Role
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Peter Maslak, MD, has been named vice chair of clinical affairs and technical director of the Clinical Flow Cytometry Laboratory at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. He joins Roswell Park from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Read More
Swieckicki Named Associate Medical Director for Oncology Clinical Trials Support Unit
University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Paul Swieckicki, MD, is the inaugural associate medical director for the Oncology Clinical Trials Support Unit (O-CTSU) at the Rogel Cancer Center. Clinical Trials Support Units (CTSUs) are business units that partner with investigators and their teams to ensure efficient activation and execution of clinical trials at Michigan Medicine. Read More

Moffitt Names Three New Research Leaders
Moffitt Cancer Center

Moffitt Cancer Center has named three new research leaders. Damon Vidrine, Dr.PH, MS, has been named chair of the Department of Health Outcomes and Behavior; Gina DeNicola, PhD, has been named the leader of the newly established Metabolism Program; and Matthew Schabath, PhD, has been named co-leader of the Cancer Epidemiology Program. Read More

Osterman Named Associate Vice President for Research Informatics
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Travis Osterman, DO, MS, director of cancer clinical informatics at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, has been appointed to a new role as associate vice president for research informatics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Read More

New Leadership Appointments Announced
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Kathrin Plath, PhD, and Hanna Mikkola, MD, have been named director and co-director of the Epigenomics, RNA & Gene Regulation Research Program. William Lowry, PhD, has been named co-director of the Office of Cancer Training & Education. The appointments became effective April 1. Read More

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Troubling Disparities Found in Esophageal Cancer Outcomes
University of Virginia Cancer Center
Wheeler Leads Study to Improve Risk-Based Cancer Screening for HPV
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Clinical Trial Could Help Men Avoid Surgery to Remove Prostate
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Investigators Find Disparities in Mesothelioma Survival Due to Social Determinants, Limited Access
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

Paid Sick Leave Means More People Get Screened for Cancer
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Clinical Trials Add Beta Blocker to Arsenal Against Esophageal Cancer
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Program Shows Promise in Reducing Financial Burden of Cancer Care
UK Markey Cancer Center

Study Finds Education and Navigation Increased Cancer Genetic Counseling, Testing
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Alternative Bladder Cancer Treatment Emerges Amid Worldwide Shortage of Standard of Care BCG
Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa

Possible Treatment Strategy Identified for Bone Marrow Failure Syndrome
Siteman Cancer Center

Study Reveals New Understanding of How Androgen Therapy Affects Breast Tissue
Cedars-Sinai Cancer

New Anti-Cancer Compound Takes Major Step Towards Clinical Development
Stony Brook Cancer Center

Small Molecule Developed to Stimulate Natural Killer Cells Against Neuroblastoma
Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Oncolytic Virus Treatment Produces Promising Results in Patients With Triple-Negative Breast Cancer
Moffitt Cancer Center

Researchers Identify White Blood Cells Called Neutrophils as Major Culprits in Treatment Resistance of Pancreatic Cancer
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System
Study of Prostate Cancer in Men of African Descent Finds New Risk Factors for the Disease
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Two Mutations Team Up to Cloak a Deadly Brain Cancer From the Immune System, Study Suggests
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

A New Combination Therapy Regimen Shows Promising Results for Prostate Cancer
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Study Shows Potential for New Radiopharmaceutical Cancer Treatment
UK Markey Cancer Center

Biomarkers Show Promise for Identifying Early Risk of Pancreatic Cancer
Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Fat Burning-Linked Molecule Promising Target for Most Common Childhood Brain Cancer
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

New Study on Mutation Linked to Leukemia Could Help Identify Patients Most at Risk
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Finds Differences in Microbes in Breast Tumors From Women of Different Races
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Big Data and AI Meet Cancer Research
University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Immunotherapy Before Surgery Significantly Improves Outcomes of Patients With Melanoma
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Two-Pronged Immunotherapy Eliminates Metastatic Breast Cancer in Mice
Siteman Cancer Center

New Data Show Therapies May Activate Lymph Nodes to Produce Tumor-Tackling T Cells
UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Shows How Cancer Gene Tricks Immune Cells
Stanford Cancer Institute

Cancer Center Uses Art to Reach Underserved Communities
The University of Kansas Cancer Center
Sometimes the best way to reach a community is through art. That’s the idea behind The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s new mural being painted by artist Vania Soto on the side of the Guadalupe Centers Middle School in Kansas City, Missouri. The mural is a portrait of four cancer survivors and co-survivors, all from underserved populations, beneath which are painted the words “Clinical Research Needs Representation.”

**Jill Biden Commends Unique Collaborative Approach at LCRC**

*Louisiana Cancer Research Center*

After First Lady Jill Biden toured the Louisiana Cancer Research Center, with Center Director Joe W. Ramos, PhD, United States Senator Bill Cassidy, Dr. Laura Cassidy, and U.S. Representative Troy Carter, she told a room packed with researchers and policymakers how impressed she was with the work of LCRC’s member institutions and its statewide partner researchers.

**A New Chapter for DEIJ at Rogel**

*University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center*

Diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice are crucial to Rogel Cancer Center’s mission, from Community Outreach and Engagement programs addressing health care disparities to hiring processes and leadership development.

**Need for Clinical Trial Support Stressed at Cancer Forum**

*Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center*

Cathy Eng, MD, stressed the need for more patient participation and better funding for clinical trials to improve colorectal cancer treatment and outcomes during the White House Cancer Moonshot Colorectal Cancer Forum in March. She was one of four panelists who discussed efforts to improve treatment outcomes during the event.

**Victory is Sweet in Super Bowl Challenge**

*The University of Kansas Cancer Center*

Leading up to the Super Bowl between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles, Roy Jensen, MD, KU Cancer Center director and
AACI immediate past president, challenged Andrew Chapman, DO, director of Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health, to a friendly wager. As a result, Dr. Jensen is enjoying Philly cheesesteaks and snacks, and Dr. Chapman will be sporting a Chiefs jersey at AACI's annual meeting in October. Read More

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Clinical Research Coordinator IV**  
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

**Clinical Research Nurse II**  
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

**Clinical Trials Manager**  
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

**Senior Administrator, Quality Management**  
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

**Clinical Research Coordinator**  
Moffitt Cancer Center

**Multiple Positions Available**  
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

**Assistant Director of Clinical Research Administration**  
University of Florida Health Cancer Center

**Clinical Study Initiation Analyst**  
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Director, Head & Neck Medical Oncology**  
UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Open-Rank Faculty Position, Thoracic Oncology**  
UCI Chao Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Assistant Director, Clinical Trials Unit (2)**  
UCI Chao Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Basic Science and Population Studies and Disparities (Multiple Positions)**  
Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

**Quality and Education Assistant Director (Remote)**  
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

**Regulatory Affairs Manager (Remote)**  
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine
MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ginny L. Clements Breast Cancer Research Institute Inaugural Symposium
May 5, 2023
University of Arizona Cancer Center
Tucson, AZ

2023 Annual Conference of the Cancer Molecular Therapeutics Research Association (CMTRA)
July 23-27, 2023
Watkins Glen, NY

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2023 AACI/AACR Hill Day
REGISTER TODAY
May 18, 2023
Washington, DC

15th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
REGISTER TODAY
June 26-28, 2023
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL

2023 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
SAVE THE DATE
October 1-3, 2023
Salamander Washington DC (formerly Mandarin Oriental, DC)
Washington, DC

16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
SAVE THE DATE
June 24-26, 2024
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL

2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
SAVE THE DATE
October 20-22, 2024
Loews Chicago Hotel
Chicago, IL

PO Box 7317
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-647-6111

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