



AACI

Association of  
American  
Cancer Institutes



## Working Together to Find a Cure

REPORT 2019



# Contents

- 1 A Message From AACI
- 2 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting
- 5 Conflict of Interest Task Force
- 6 CAR T Initiative
- 7 Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative
- 8 Clinical Research Innovation
- 10 Public Policy and Advocacy
- 13 Hill Day
- 14 Corporate Roundtable
- 15 Supporters
- 16 New Leadership
- 17 New Members
- 18 2019 Committees
- 20 2019 Members

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*On the cover, clockwise from upper left, L – R: Drs. Roy Jensen and Douglas Lowy; Tricia Bentz and Sandy Annis; Dr. Susan Hong and Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL); Clinical Research Innovation annual meeting attendees.*

*Photo credits: Randy Belice (Clinical Research Innovation annual meeting); Logan Blankenship (Joorabchi – page 6); Derek Parks (Hill Day); Nikolai Roster (AACI/CCAF annual meeting); Peter Stahl, 2008/CSHL (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory – page 17)*

*Report design: Tara Taylor*

# A Message From AACI



**Roy A. Jensen, MD**

*President, AACI*

*Director, The University of Kansas Cancer Center*



**Jennifer W. Pegher, MA**

*Executive Director, AACI*

**A**s we move into a new decade, AACI is reflecting on a year of significant achievements while forging a path for the future.

In 2019 AACI grew its membership, established a Conflict of Interest Task Force, awarded patient advocate scholarships for its annual Hill Day, and hosted its first CAR T therapy symposium. It also increased the publication frequency of the *Update* newsletter and *Commentary* editorial series and continued to engage members through innovative programming.

Looking ahead to 2020, the association will prioritize the following objectives:

- A strong federal investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), including an increase to the NCI payroll
- The elimination of HPV-related cancers through vaccination and screening, particularly among high-risk groups
- A ban on sales of all flavored vaping and tobacco products
- Oral chemotherapy parity
- Health equity across diverse demographic groups

Beyond 2020, AACI has taken steps to ensure a bright future for the association and its members. To chart AACI's course for the next three to five years, the AACI Board of Directors convened a purpose workshop where participants defined the role of the association and solidified a common vision.

Rest assured, AACI's mission will not change. AACI will continue to empower the nation's leading academic cancer centers, providing a unifying platform for five key areas: best practices, education, public policy, advocacy, and collaboration.

In the coming year, AACI leadership will work together to articulate goals, develop strategies, and measure success in the areas where AACI excels to best serve its 100 members.

AACI extends its appreciation to the cancer centers, corporate roundtable, and sustaining members that work to accelerate progress against cancer. Thanks to your continued support, AACI is poised to enter the new decade stronger than ever.

# AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting



**I**nspiring patient advocates delivered messages of hope and perseverance to an influential audience of cancer center leaders at the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Keynote speaker **Devon Still**, a former professional football player, opened the meeting with a moving talk about his experiences caring for his daughter, who underwent successful cancer treatment. Also speaking on behalf of patients were **Patricia Wiley**, founder of On the Wings of Angels, a cancer awareness foundation; **Dr. Alan Balch**, chief executive director of the

Patient Advocate Foundation; and **Sydney Joorabchi**, whose cancer was treated with CAR T-cell therapy. Their stories, and those of other patient advocates, are featured throughout this report.

The annual meeting, October 20–22, convened more than 430 AACI cancer center directors and executive-level administrators with industry and government health agencies to develop solutions to common challenges and share best practices.

During an overview of AACI's work in 2019, Executive Director **Jennifer W. Pegher** acknowledged program and activity support from AbbVie, Amgen, Astellas, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Complion, Florence, Forte—Now an Advarra Company, Foundation Medicine, Genentech, Genomic Health, Gilead, Huron Consulting Group, Janssen Research & Development, Kite, Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Takeda Oncology, and Varian Medical Systems.

The AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Program Committee, chaired by **Dr. Michael B. Kastan**, executive director of the Duke Cancer Institute, assembled the roster of speakers. Panel discussion topics included artificial intelligence and Big Data, cancer center workforce training, clinical trial eligibility criteria, alternative revenue streams and payment models, tumor metastasis, and community outreach and engagement.

In the NCI Director's Report, a regular component of the annual meeting, Acting Director **Dr. Douglas R. Lowy**, announced an expansion of the Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) award period from five to seven years for qualifying centers.



*At top, Dr. Michael Kastan, chair, 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Program Committee.*

*At bottom, L-R: Drs. Gordon Ginder, Shreya Kanodia, and Dina Halme.*



# Devon Still

## PATIENT ADVOCATE



Following Dr. Lowy, **Dr. Henry P. Ciolino**, director of NCI's Office of Cancer Centers, provided details of the CCSG extension, including the requirement that a center have stable leadership and at least 15 years of CCSG funding.

The meeting also featured the unveiling of AACI's Public Policy Resource Library, presented by AACI President **Dr. Roy A. Jensen**, director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center. The library is Dr. Jensen's presidential initiative.

The resource library is a "one-stop shop" for legislation, news and journal articles, fact sheets, and more, designed to help AACI members address legislative priorities at the state level, Dr. Jensen reported.

AACI surveyed government relations staff at member cancer centers in November 2018 to determine legislative priorities. Topping the list were state funding for cancer research, elimination of HPV-related cancers, and tobacco control, including Tobacco 21 laws, tobacco taxes, and legislation related to vaping, e-cigarettes, and flavored tobacco.

In July, AACI issued a call to action for member cancer centers to submit content related to legislative priorities, followed by engagement with AACI sustaining members. Throughout the year, AACI staff worked with a student team from Carnegie Mellon University to design a beta version of the library.

## Helping Families Face Cancer's Financial Toll

As numbers go, it's big. And it's especially significant for Devon Still, the keynote speaker at AACI's 2019 annual meeting.

"It's been 167,119,209 seconds since my life changed forever; since I heard that my daughter had Stage IV cancer," Still said. "No one day is the same, no one month, no one year, no sneeze, no fever, no cough. Nothing is ever the same because you always wonder if that cancer is coming back, if that is your last day with your child."

Fortunately, the story continues for Still, a former professional football player, and his nine-year-old daughter, Leah. And it's a story that he is repeating to help other families whose children have cancer.

In 2014, Leah was diagnosed with Stage IV neuroblastoma. Doctors gave her a 50/50 chance of survival and she entered a clinical trial that included weeks of intensive chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgery, and additional experimental treatments. But Leah's battle was far from over. Scans found that the neuroblastoma cells were still spreading throughout her body.

A second clinical trial, this one using an antibody treatment to find and destroy cancer cells, produced positive results. Still got the good news in a phone call that came while he was driving in the car with his wife and daughter. "I looked over at my wife, and I looked back at my daughter. She had the biggest smile on her face and she said, 'Dad, did I beat up cancer?' And I said, 'You did!'"

But there were more obstacles ahead, including stem cell transplants due to nerve damage in Leah's liver from chemotherapy. "My daughter bent a lot but she didn't break," Still said during his talk.

Spending so much time in the hospital opened Still's eyes to the financial struggles confronting many families facing cancer. While sitting with his daughter one day doing arts and crafts to help pass the time, Still noticed another girl, about nine years old, sitting by herself coloring, with an IV stand next to her.

"I told Leah we should go sit with her because she was all alone," Still recounted. After about five minutes, the girl started opening up, telling Still that her mother had to leave her at the hospital to go to work so they could have a house to go home to when they weren't in the hospital.

"When I heard that it broke my heart, because I knew that pain of having to leave your child in the hospital to pay the bills because I had to go back to play in the NFL. I didn't want to be 500 miles away, watching my daughter change through FaceTime."

Today, the Still Strong Foundation has raised more than \$2 million to help parents spend less time worrying about non-medical bills, like mortgages and utilities, and more time supporting their child. The foundation currently serves families at four hospitals—three in the Philadelphia area, where Still grew up, and another in Houston, Texas—and is hoping to expand to other parts of the country.

Still closed his talk with a guiding principle for his foundation: "What can we do to help a family get to the point where a scientist or researcher can come up with a new treatment to help this family?"

## Distinguished Scientist

The 2019 AACI Distinguished Scientist Award was presented to **Dr. Douglas R. Lowy**, who played a key role in enabling the development of vaccines for human papillomavirus (HPV). Dr. Lowy was also recognized for his long-term research on the molecular biology of tumor viruses and growth regulation and investigation of oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes and their signaling pathways.

Dr. Lowy has been the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) principal deputy director since 2010, helping to lead NCI's key scientific initiatives. He also served twice as acting director, from 2015-2017, and in 2019.

In presenting the award, AACI president and director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, Dr. Roy Jensen, remarked, "Not only do we honor Doug for his scientific accomplishments, but also for his commitment to the cancer centers."



At top, L-R: Dr. Eric Fearon, director, University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center, talks with Rogel colleagues Julie Brabbs and Dr. Beth Lawlor.

At bottom, L-R: Dr. Cornelia Ulrich, director, Huntsman Cancer Institute; AACI Executive Director Jennifer Pegher; Brynn Huntsman; Peter Huntsman; AACI President Dr. Roy Jensen; AACI Vice President/President-elect Dr. Karen Knudsen; AACI Immediate Past President Dr. Stanton Gerson.



Dr. Roy Jensen presents the Distinguished Scientist Award to Dr. Douglas R. Lowy.

Dr. Lowy accepted the award after delivering a talk titled, "Preventing Cancer by HPV Vaccination." His current research examines the DLC1 tumor suppressor, which encodes a Rho-GAP that is down-regulated in a wide variety of cancers, leading to the high Rho activity seen in many advanced cancers. This work has identified important scaffold functions for DLC1, including protein-protein interactions that contribute to the regulation of its activity and its role as a tumor suppressor, and identified kinases that activate and inactivate the functions of DLC1 and the mechanisms by which they do so. Dr. Lowy also continues to conduct research on HPV.



## Champion for Cures

**Peter and Brynn Huntsman** accepted the 2019 AACI Champion for Cures Award on behalf of the **Jon M. and Karen Huntsman Family**. The Huntsman family has donated or inspired donations totaling \$1.4 billion to cancer, beginning with a \$10 million gift to cancer research in 1993 and the \$100 million gift in 1995 that formally established and named the Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah.

“Jon M. Huntsman had a saying: ‘Cancer moves fast, and we have to move faster,’” remarked **Dr. Cornelia Ulrich**, executive director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center at HCI. “I can tell you that this sentiment is embedded in the culture of HCI, where every square inch of our campus—nearly one million square feet today—is dedicated to relieving the suffering of cancer patients.”

Dr. Ulrich also highlighted the Huntsman family’s impact in encouraging others to join them in investing in cancer research—they established Huntsman Cancer Foundation to provide philanthropic support from the community to HCI and the foundation now enjoys the support of more than one million individuals and organizations.

In accepting the award, Peter Huntsman, chairman and CEO of Huntsman Cancer Foundation, graciously shifted the spotlight: “Far beyond the greatest technology that exists in our cancer centers, it is the personal stories of your work that makes the greatest impact,” Huntsman said. “We have the opportunity to affect one of the most noble causes—the health and well-being of our communities. I can think of no greater calling.”



*Peter Huntsman, chairman and CEO, Huntsman Cancer Foundation, speaks at the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting.*

## AACI Conflict of Interest Task Force Aims to Build Patient Trust

In the July AACI *Commentary*, Conflict of Interest (COI) Task Force Co-Chairs, **Drs. Karen E. Knudsen and Leonidas C. Platanias**, shared recommendations of the task force aimed at standardizing cancer center policies and formulating best practices in COI oversight.

The task force acknowledged that academia has a major stake in drug development, and some conflicts of interest are inevitable. Therefore, AACI believes that “disclose and manage” should be a guiding principle in COI oversight. The COI Task Force reviewed policies at AACI cancer centers and established basic guidelines to ensure that all conflicts are fully disclosed, maintaining patients’ trust and allowing groundbreaking research to flourish at academic cancer centers.

To avoid a potential conflict, the task force recommended that cancer center leadership, such as the cancer center director, review and approve all disclosures for faculty and staff under their purview.

The task force further recommended that cancer center leadership, faculty, and staff disclose all COI, including public speaking engagements, webinars, and other educational activities, even if the educational event is not an accredited continuing medical education course.

In addition, the task force called for disclosure of all dollar amounts related to such activities when applicable and regardless of an artificial money limit.

Other key recommendations included disclosing all affiliations with foreign institutions and laboratories, financial or otherwise, and extending disclosures to at least immediate family members, including spouses, children, parents, and siblings.

The work of the task force will continue in 2020.

## Patricia Wiley

PATIENT  
ADVOCATE



Patricia Wiley has advocated on behalf of cancer patients for 20 years, from organizing bone marrow and blood drives in minority communities to her current leadership of On the Wings of Angels, a cancer awareness foundation created to honor her daughter who successfully fought pediatric cancer.

Wiley also serves on AACI’s Conflict of Interest (COI) Task Force, which convened in 2019 in response to mounting concerns about the complex relationships between academic medicine, private industry, and foreign entities.

During a panel discussion on COI at the 2019 AACI annual meeting, Wiley emphasized the need for public trust in the cancer research enterprise.

“Many patients say if they found out that their oncologist was withholding information about a financial conflict that they would walk away from that oncologist and seek treatment elsewhere,” she said.

In describing her work, Wiley emphasized that cancer patients lack the knowledge that cancer researchers and professional caregivers have.

“I take the time to explain the role of pharmaceutical companies and the oncologist. Cancer centers could help with that,” she said. “When patients get that information packet the day they’re diagnosed, it could include something that says, ‘This is what a clinical trial is and this is the role of pharma within clinical trials and cancer research.’ That would help minimize patients’ feelings of being surprised or frightened by the process.”

# CAR T Initiative

In the first year of AACI's CAR T Initiative, steering committee members addressed issues pertinent to the expanding field including reimbursement, cellular therapy clinical research, the manufacture and administration of CAR T therapy at academic cancer centers, barriers to care, and advocacy efforts with governmental entities such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). With input from the initiative's administrative barriers working group, AACI submitted three letters of comment to CMS regarding the National Coverage Determination and the Fiscal Year 2020 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System Proposal.

## Symposium Spotlight

On October 21, AACI held its first-ever CAR T Symposium. The three-hour session convened more than 80 researchers, clinicians, patient advocates and industry representatives. The symposium, held in conjunction with the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, featured two panel discussions: "Navigating the Health System to Establish and Administer a CAR T Program," moderated by **Clint L. Divine**, of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, and "Exploring the Value and Cost-Effectiveness of CAR T-Cell Therapy," moderated by **Dr. Matthew H. Carabasi**, of Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health.

Attendees also heard from CAR T Steering Committee Chair **Dr. Joseph McGuirk**, of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, who provided insights into the future research landscape around cellular therapies.

# Sydney Joorabchi

## PATIENT ADVOCATE



## CAR T Therapy a Successful Treatment Option

Sydney Joorabchi learned she had cancer in 2012, at age 13. Initially diagnosed with mononucleosis, she spent six months suffering with extreme fatigue, hair and weight loss, fever, and muscle and bone pain. Finally, a severe leg cramp signaled for a second opinion.

"That marked the beginning of a whole new part of my life," she said. Joorabchi told her cancer story at the start of a three-hour CAR T symposium during AACI's 2019 annual meeting in Washington, DC.

A doctor in her hometown of Wichita, Kansas, thought her illness might be thyroid related and ordered a series of tests. That night—a Friday, the Joorabchi family's traditional pizza and movie night—her mom got the phone call that they'd been expecting, the news was bad.

Joorabchi had been diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia and she was to go to the hospital right away. Just hours earlier, Joorabchi had been contemplating what it would be like to have to take medication for a thyroid condition, now she had to figure out what it was going to be like trying to beat cancer.

Treatment was complicated by the fact that, as a Jehovah's Witness, Joorabchi could not accept blood transfusions. Nevertheless, she reached remission at age 16 and finished high school, earning a degree in surgical technology and landing a job in a hospital. "I took great enjoyment out of caring for others and it was quite refreshing to learn what it was like to be a caregiver rather than a patient," she said.

Toward the end of her job orientation period, however, cancer symptoms returned. A bone marrow biopsy showed that the leukemia was back. "I was devastated. I thought I was done with cancer," Joorabchi said. "Options for treatment that both honored my beliefs and worked for me were next to none." Fortunately, her oncologist found that The University of Kansas Medical Center was accepting patients for CAR T therapy.

Joorabchi told her work managers of her diagnosis and that she would have to quit her job, considering that it previously took her three years to go into remission. "I'm really glad now that they didn't let me quit," she said.

After a round of chemotherapy, Joorabchi waited two weeks before undergoing five hours of T-cell extraction. The T cells were then shipped to a manufacturing company to be reengineered to attack her cancer cells, a process that lasted about five weeks. Finally, the day arrived for CAR T cell infusion—a 15-minute procedure, as opposed to multiple hours with other infusions. Joorabchi experienced few side effects. "Because I was responding so well to treatment I was allowed to leave seven days after treatment," she recalled. "That was remarkable because the first time I was treated it was four weeks before I was able to go home."

Outpatient monitoring at The University of Kansas Cancer Center occurred every day for the first two weeks then every three days. On day 30, Joorabchi underwent another bone marrow biopsy. The results showed that she was in remission.

"Because it was a treatment of ease and felt too good to be true, at times I tricked myself into thinking that it wasn't working. The struggle was all I knew. But here I am today, sharing my story that it worked for me."



# Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative

More than 75 members of the AACI Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) convened for the 7th Annual PCLI Meeting in October.

The program focused on strategic initiatives supporting health research activities for sexual and gender minorities, presented by **Dr. Karen Parker**, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office; and a data summary of the impact of care for patients who experience financial toxicities, presented by **Dr. Alan Balch**, CEO of the Patient Advocate Foundation.

## PCLI Welcomes New Steering Committee Chair

AACI welcomed **Dr. Claire Verschraegen**, director and professor, Division of Medical Oncology, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute, as the new PCLI steering committee chair. Dr. Verschraegen began a three-year term in October. She succeeded **Dr. Randall Holcombe**, director of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. AACI thanks Dr. Holcombe for his leadership of the steering committee.

AACI also thanks the following outgoing steering committee members for their time and commitment in guiding the initiative: **Dr. Carolyn Britten**, Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina; **Dr. Craig Bunnell**, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School; and **Dr. Dan Mulkerin**, University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center.

## Dr. Alan Balch

PATIENT  
ADVOCATE



Dr. Alan Balch, chief executive officer of the Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF), delved into cancer's financial burden on families during a presentation at the 7th Annual AACI Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative Meeting.

PAF offers services to primarily low-income insured patients in five major areas: case management; financial aid; patient education and empowerment; data and survey initiatives; and co-pay relief.

Dr. Balch characterized PAF as “precision charity”—a play on precision medicine—that aims to deliver “the right help to the right patient at the right time.”

Highlighting a survey of patients who used PAF services in 2017 and faced a range of illnesses and treatments, Dr. Balch reported that 76 percent of breast cancer patients, and 65 percent of patients with other cancers, said they had experienced a financial hardship due to the cost of medical care in the previous year.

Patients also identified specific health care costs related to treatment that contributed most to their financial hardship. Topping the list for breast cancer patients were specialist office visits, radiology, and loss of income due to work disruption. For patients with other cancers, the top three were oral prescription drugs, specialist office visits, and lab tests, followed closely by travel costs and loss of income.

“It’s not just the medical costs for patients that drive their financial hardship,” Dr. Balch said. “A lot of it is transportation, work disruption, caregiver burden. That speaks to the importance of talking about not just medical costs but also other issues that drive costs for patients. We think of them as ‘indirect’ costs, but they’re not indirect for patients.”

## 2019 PCLI Webinars

### Development and Implementation of a Telemedicine Program at an NCI-Designated Cancer Center

**Andrew Chapman, DO, FACP**  
**Adam Binder, MD**  
**Ana María López, MD, MPH, MACP**

*Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health*

### Hereditary Cancer Programs Part 1

**Marie Wood, MD**  
**Wendy McKinnon, MS**  
*University of Vermont Cancer Center*

### Hereditary Cancer Programs Part 2

**Joanne Jeter, MD**  
**Heather Hampel, MS, LGC**  
*The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute*



*Peter O'Connor, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health, participates in an interactive session at the PCLI annual meeting.*

# Clinical Research Innovation



Under the leadership of Steering Committee Chair Dr. Carrie Lee, AACI's Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) continued to refine its strategic goals, with a focus on establishing and disseminating best practices through benchmarking data, key working groups, and member communications.



At top, Simmy Thompson-Lucas, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

At middle, L-R: Melissa Nashawati, Marie Malikowski, and Moshe Kelsen talk about conducting multicenter trials.

At bottom, L-R: Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute colleagues Joanne Mancini, Jaclyn Ventimiglia, and Lindsay Casetta display their poster.

To address one goal of the CRI strategic plan, AACI developed a benchmarking survey that allows cancer centers to compare performance in key areas including financial support of the clinical trials office, clinical trial volume, and staff workload. CRI shared data with survey participants in July. CRI leadership will concentrate on publishing the survey results for a wider audience in 2020.

CRI's Shared Investigator Platform (SIP) Task Force identified common challenges in implementing the SIP and developed realistic expectations for clinical trials sites, which were shared in an AACI *Commentary*.

The Regulatory File Management Working Group issued recommendations for adopting an electronic document management system. These were also highlighted in a *Commentary* and in a webinar that presented case studies of two different approaches to eRegulatory systems.

## 11th Annual Meeting

The 11th Annual AACI CRI Meeting attracted record-breaking attendance. More than 430 clinical research office leaders, medical directors, cancer center administrators, patient advocates, and representatives from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and industry convened in Chicago for the three-day meeting.

Program topics included multicenter trials, recruiting and enrolling patients from diverse populations, making the business case for a compassionate use program, clinical trial finance management, and preparing for the NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG). An interactive keynote presentation by Raquel Jex Forsgren, founder of Front-Line Resilience Health and Living Yoga Therapy, provided tools for managing stress and building resilience to combat "compassion fatigue."

Prior to the meeting, AACI issued a call for abstracts addressing seven areas of interest: Regulatory, Training & Quality Assurance, Finance/CCSG/PRMS, Trial Recruitment & Disparities Research, Trial Start-up, Clinical Research Operations, and Investigator-Initiated Trials. Authors shared their findings in breakout poster sessions.

Exhibitors and supporters collaborated with AACI to create a meeting environment conducive to learning, networking, and the program's guiding theme: innovation. Between sessions and poster discussions, CRI attendees connected with 13 exhibitors—the highest number in the meeting's history—that have demonstrated their commitment to working with academic cancer centers to help solve operational challenges.

## CRI by the Numbers



**431**  
11th annual  
meeting  
attendees



**66**  
Abstracts  
submitted



**64**  
Posters  
presented



**13**  
11th annual  
meeting  
exhibitors



# JulieAnn Villa and Tomma Hargraves

## PATIENT ADVOCATES

### New Members Join CRI Steering Committee

**Dr. Theresa Werner**, medical director of the clinical trials office at Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, took the reins as chair of the CRI Steering Committee in October 2019. She was preceded by **Dr. Carrie Lee**, medical director of the clinical protocol office at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The committee also welcomed three new members:

- **Dr. Bhanu Pappu**, vice president of research operations and strategy at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
- **Dr. Jessica Rhee**, medical director of the clinical trials office at University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- **Michael Sainz**, research operations director in the Office of Clinical Research at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center

The steering committee appreciates the efforts of the following members, whose terms ended in 2019: **Theresa Cummings**, administrator of clinical research operations at the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center; **Ashley Baker Lee**, senior vice president of research operations at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center; and **Kristie Moffett**, senior director of clinical research at Moffitt Cancer Center.



**JulieAnn Villa** credits being an endurance athlete with “saving her butt.” An avid runner and cyclist, Villa believes that being attuned to her body led to her early diagnosis with colorectal cancer in 2010. A later diagnosis of osteosarcoma presented more challenges, but it didn’t throw her off course. Although doctors at Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center of Northwestern University removed her fibula during treatment—and grafted bone from her leg to repair her cancer-ravaged jawbone—she continues to run half marathons and complete triathlons.

Villa sees parallels between cancer treatment and training for a marathon, since both emphasize healthy habits and goal-oriented action. This mindset led Villa, a trained research scientist and former science teacher, to return to graduate school to study health communication. She has combined her communication skills and science background with her experiences as a cancer survivor to engage patients and, to a wider audience, as a storyteller at the Moth story slam series in Chicago and at the CRI meeting.

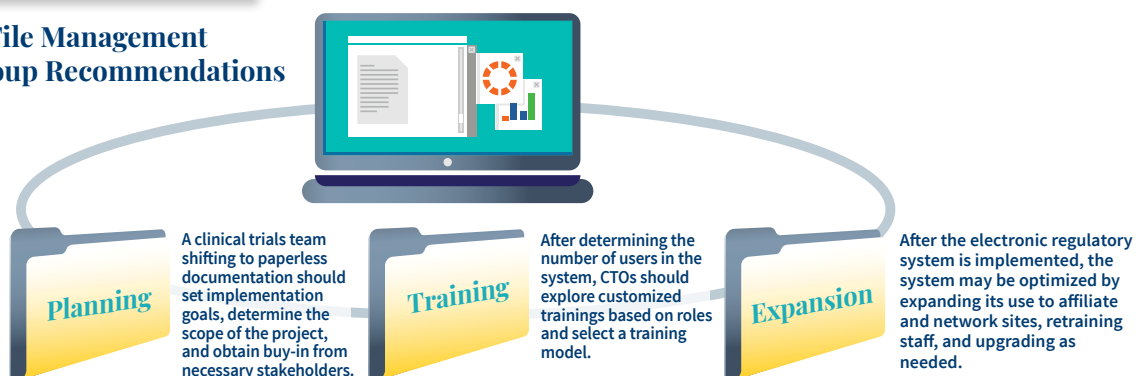
**Tomma Hargraves** was diagnosed with Stage 3B non-small cell lung cancer in November 2006. She was stunned: she had no symptoms except for a small lump in her neck, which turned out to be a cancerous lymph node.

At the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hargraves participated in a nine-month clinical trial that attacked her cancer through a combination of chemotherapy, radiation, and a targeted oral therapy drug. Though the treatment was aggressive, Hargraves told CRI meeting attendees that she has learned to “fear the tumor, not the trial.”

After being in remission for three years, Hargraves learned she has the EGFR mutation — and also discovered that her cancer had metastasized to her brain. She went through additional chemotherapy, radiation, and a craniotomy to remove scar tissue.

Since those treatments, Hargraves has remained what she describes as a “well-controlled survivor.” After retiring from her 42-year career as a speech-language pathologist, she now volunteers as a patient lay navigator in the thoracic oncology clinic at Lineberger Cancer Center. She is also involved in the Lung Cancer Initiative of North Carolina, which provides statewide support to patients with lung cancer.

### Regulatory File Management Working Group Recommendations



# Public Policy and Advocacy



*At top: Hill Day attendees gather outside the Rayburn House Office Building.*

*At middle: AACI Executive Director Jennifer Pegher participates in a meeting of government relations leaders from AACI cancer centers.*

*At bottom: Ann Levine, outgoing chair of AACI's Government Relations Forum Steering Committee, passes the gavel to incoming chair John DeMuro.*

In 2019, AACI continued to advocate for stable, predictable funding increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

AACI also continued hosting monthly update calls to discuss policy priorities among cancer centers, including state funding for cancer research, eliminating HPV-related cancers, comprehensive tobacco reform, oral chemotherapy parity, and coverage of routine care for clinical trials.

## Government Relations Forum

AACI held a Government Relations (GR) Forum meeting at The Jackson Laboratory (The JAX) in June. The meeting brought together AACI cancer center government relations colleagues to discuss state and federal issues impacting cancer centers, learn about the activities of sustaining members, and tour The JAX campus.

The GR Forum also gathered in October during the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, where Steering Committee Chair **Anne L. Levine**, vice president of external affairs at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, passed

the gavel to **John DeMuro**, federal legislative affairs director for Moffitt Cancer Center.

The steering committee also welcomed three new members:

- **Catherine Liao**, associate vice president of government relations at Duke Cancer Institute, Duke Medical Center
- **Peter Mackler**, executive director of healthcare policy and advocacy at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Kent Springfield**, assistant vice president of research and government relations at the University of Colorado Cancer Center

The steering committee extends its appreciation to Levine and the following members, whose terms ended in 2019: **Ashlee Bright**, director of communications and public affairs at Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah; **Robert Clark**, chief government affairs officer at the Comprehensive Cancer Center, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; **Ross Frommer**, vice president for government and community affairs and associate dean at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center; and **Kathryn Kuhn**, vice president of government and community relations at the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center.



## Increasing the Success Rate for NCI Grants

Grant applications to the NCI have increased by approximately 50 percent since 2013, outpacing available funding. The increase in requests for cancer research funding is ten-fold greater than that of other arms of the NIH. The high demand indicates that there are many ambitious researchers across the United States — but only a fraction of this research is adequately funded. These funding discrepancies are more than a decade in the making: in 2007, 20 percent of NCI applications were funded, while in 2017, that number dropped to 12 percent. By contrast, the success rate for research funding across the NIH is 19 percent.

In August, AACI sent a letter to House and Senate appropriators and congressional leadership underscoring the boom in grant proposals and stressing the need for more support from Congress. AACI leaders met with key appropriations staff members to discuss the problem. A pot of funding—\$212.5 million—was included in the final Fiscal Year 2020 spending package to help address the payroll issue.

## Congressional Briefings

AACI hosted a briefing in March titled “Breaking Down Barriers to a Cure,” to address patient access to breakthroughs in the rapidly advancing field of CAR T therapy.

AACI president, **Dr. Roy A. Jensen**, moderated a panel featuring **Ross A. Frommer**, vice president and associate dean at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center Office of Government and Community Affairs; **Dr. Kunle Odunsi**, deputy director of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center; and **S. Elizabeth “Sam” Sharf**, clinical director of the Bone Marrow Transplant & Cellular Therapy Program at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

During the briefing, **Dimas Padilla**, a three-time survivor of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, described his experiences as a participant in a CAR T clinical trial at Moffitt Cancer Center. “Funding for research is so important because cell therapy saves lives,” said Padilla. “I wouldn’t be here without it.”

Along with the American Association for Cancer Research, Biden Cancer Initiative, Moffitt Cancer Center, and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, AACI also co-hosted “Let’s End HPV-related Cancers” in June. Organizers urged Congress and other stakeholders to make measurable progress toward eliminating HPV-related cancers. To date, nearly 100 leading health organizations—including more than half of AACI’s member cancer centers—have endorsed the call to action.

In October, AACI partnered with One Voice Against Cancer to host “Cancer Research: Challenges, Progress and the Role of Cancer Registries.” AACI board member **Dr. Randall F. Holcombe** participated alongside panelists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

*“Funding for research is so important because cell therapy saves lives. I wouldn’t be here without it.”*

— **Dimas Padilla**, CAR T clinical trial participant at Moffitt Cancer Center



At top, Peter Mackler (left) and Dr. Steven Artandi meet with Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA).

At bottom, L-R: Congressional briefing panelists Dr. Roy Jensen, Ross Frommer, Dr. Kunle Odunsi, Dimas Padilla, and Sam Sharf.

# Public Policy and Advocacy



## Public Policy Resource Library

The AACI Public Policy Resource Library will enable cancer centers and partners in the cancer advocacy community to share talking points and legislation enacted across the U.S. to foster collaboration, promote cancer prevention, and spur the development of sound public health policy at the state and local level.

By providing a platform to share carefully-vetted information on topics including state funding programs for cancer research, efforts to curb HPV-related cancers, and tobacco control, AACI aims to improve the lives of Americans through lowered cancer incidence and mortality.

The library is a product of the AACI Presidential Initiative, spearheaded by **Dr. Roy A. Jensen**.

“The AACI Public Policy Resource Library represents one tool for leveraging cancer centers’ collective ability to generate good public policy,” Dr. Jensen said. “For a range of issues, cancer centers can push for legislation that leads to a healthier society.”

Explore the AACI Public Policy Resource Library at [aaci-library.org](http://aaci-library.org).

## Letters to Congress

### “Surprise” Medical Billing Legislation

In a letter to Chairman Lamar Alexander and Ranking Member Patty Murray of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), AACI requested that at least one tertiary care academic cancer center be included in all health plans with co-pays and co-insurance commensurate with other network providers to guarantee patient access to sub-specialty care.

### Increasing the NCI Payline

Letters requesting an NCI payline increase from 8 to 15 percent were sent to the Senate and House chairs and ranking members of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittees.

### Tobacco 21

AACI submitted a letter to Senators Mitch McConnell and Tim Kaine applauding their bipartisan legislation to federally raise the purchase age of tobacco to 21 and requesting that revised legislation further restrict flavored vaping products — a key catalyst for vaping among young people. The federal tobacco age was raised to 21 via the Fiscal Year 2020 budget bill signed in December.

### The CLINICAL TREATMENT Act

AACI mobilized cancer centers to write their representatives to support The CLINICAL TREATMENT Act, which would help patients insured through Medicaid receive coverage of routine medical costs when participating in clinical trials.



## Hill Day

For the 12th year, AACI co-hosted its annual Hill Day with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in April.

Ninety-one participants, including cancer center directors, researchers, oncologists, survivors, and other advocates, representing 37 cancer centers and 24 states, attended meetings with legislators and staff on Capitol Hill. The group gathered to present a unified voice in support of stable funding increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Recipients of AACI's new Hill Day scholarships were among the patient advocates who shared their unique and compelling stories with their respective members of congress. Representing the states of Florida, Kansas, New Jersey, and Ohio, these advocates helped highlight the far-reaching impact of cancer and underscore the importance of continued funding for the NIH and the NCI.



Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-NJ) met with patient advocate Chiara D'Agostino.

## Dr. Joanna Fuchs & Marty Griffin

### PATIENT ADVOCATES



### Hill Day Shines Spotlight on Patient Advocates

The 2019 Hill Day kicked off with stories from cancer survivors Dr. Joanna Fuchs (above left) and Pittsburgh radio personality Marty Griffin (above right).

Dr. Fuchs—a cardiologist and the wife of Dr. Charles Fuchs, director of Yale Cancer Center—was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2006. Cancer ran in the family: Dr. Fuchs had been told about her niece's diagnosis shortly before her husband, a leading colon cancer expert, broke the news of her own diagnosis. A young mother of three children, she was plagued by worry: Would she see her kids grow up? And who would proofread her husband's grants?

Griffin also confronted fears about the future after his diagnosis with HPV-related throat cancer in 2018. He had felt a lump while shaving and asked his friend, a physician, to look at his throat.

Like Dr. Fuchs, Griffin is a parent of three and worried about his children's future. A long-time Pittsburgh radio personality, he had recently launched a new marketing and branding company with the backing of venture capitalists. He decided to use the new platform to share his cancer journey and continued to broadcast throughout his treatment at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. In his remarks, Griffin credited Drs. Robert Ferris and Dan Zandberg, both of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, with saving his life.



Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA), third from right, meets with UPMC Hillman Cancer Center advocates.

# Corporate Roundtable

abbvie

AMGEN®

astellas

Bristol-Myers Squibb

Genentech  
A Member of the Roche Group

janssen Oncology  
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF Johnson & Johnson

Kite  
A GILEAD Company

Lilly

MERCK

Pfizer

Takeda  
ONCOLOGY

AACI has engaged with industry representatives through the AACI Corporate Roundtable since 2012.

The roundtable meets twice a year with AACI leadership to discuss topics of mutual interest. Three new members joined the roundtable this year—AbbVie, Kite, and Pfizer. AACI looks forward to this group continuing to grow in 2020.

At the Corporate Roundtable meeting in July, held during the AACI Clinical Research Innovation annual meeting, CRI Steering Committee chair-elect **Dr. Theresa L. Werner** provided an update on the AACI Shared Investigator Platform Task Force, convened in cooperation with Cognizant.

Other topics of discussion included:

- Confidentiality disclosure agreements
- Investigational drug service practices
- Remote monitoring and use of timelines for data entry
- Telemedicine utilization for enrollment and monitoring follow-up

At the roundtable gathering in October, during AACI's general annual meeting in Washington, DC, HPV vaccination and oral chemotherapy parity were identified as top areas of potential collaboration between AACI member centers and the pharmaceutical industry.

Medicare coverage analysis, first explored in 2017, was revisited in 2019, especially regarding multicenter trials and targeting screening procedures to promote compliance and consistency in billing sponsors or payors. Other discussion points included the digital technology gap in research, sharing information around legislative policy initiatives, and new community outreach and engagement guidelines in NCI's Cancer Center Support Grant.

AACI thanks 2019 Corporate Roundtable members for their support and commitment: AbbVie, Amgen, Astellas, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Genentech, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Kite, Lilly, Merck, Pfizer, and Takeda Oncology.



*Clockwise, from upper left, L-R: Don Arnette (AbbVie); Nathan Sanburn (Eli Lilly and Company); Kate Burroughs (AACI); Jacqueline Cole (Eli Lilly and Company); Dr. Craig Tändler (Janssen Oncology); Dr. Tara Lin (The University of Kansas Cancer Center); René Smith (Janssen Oncology).*

# Supporters

AACI works throughout the year to help cancer centers keep pace with the changing landscape in science, technology, and health care.

In part, this is accomplished by gathering and sharing best practices and providing a forum for members to explore opportunities for collaboration and to address common challenges. Key to success in this mission is the dedicated support of external supporters.

The AACI/CCAF annual meeting and the annual meeting of AACI's Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) are prime opportunities for supporters to interact with AACI members and representatives from other cancer research-related organizations. Exhibitors can promote their products and services to meeting attendees, including cancer center directors, executive administrators, and clinical leaders.

## AACI received support in 2019 for its events, programs, and other activities from:

- Astellas
- Complion
- Essex
- Florence
- Forte—Now an Advarra Company
- Foundation Medicine
- Genentech
- Genomic Health
- Gilead
- Huron
- Merck
- Novartis
- Pfizer
- Varian Medical Systems
- WCG Velos



## Exhibitors at the 2019 CRI Annual Meeting

- Advarra
- Aerotek
- ASCO Research Community Forum
- Cognizant
- Complion
- DEEP 6 AI
- Florence
- Forte
- HealthMyne
- Huron
- mint medical
- PFS Clinical
- WCG Velos

## Exhibitors at the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

- Agilent Technologies, iLab Operations Software
- Caris Life Sciences
- Cejka Search
- Complion
- DEEP 6 AI
- ECG Management Consultants
- Florence
- Forte—Now an Advarra Company
- Huron
- Idea Elan
- Gilead
- Merck
- Patient Resource LLC
- Pfizer
- Precision Imaging Metrics
- Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
- WCG Velos

AACI appreciates the vital assistance these companies provide with fulfilling the association's mission to reduce the burden of cancer by enhancing the impact of the leading academic cancer centers.

## Sustaining Members

One of the key ways AACI fulfills its mission is by linking the nation's leading cancer centers to a variety of stakeholders who, collaboratively, enhance their impact on cancer care, research, and public policy. Sustaining membership in AACI is open to like-minded cancer organizations and patient advocacy groups that share a common goal of decreasing the national cancer burden.

By partnering with AACI centers, sustaining members make cancer a national priority and contribute to public education by supporting cancer centers' outreach efforts in their local communities. Sustaining members are invited to participate in AACI sponsored meetings, webinars, and special projects.

AACI is grateful to its 2019 sustaining members: the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Cancer Society, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Society for Radiation Oncology, and the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer.

**AACR** American Association for Cancer Research  
FINDING CURES TOGETHER™



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



# New Leadership

## Three Cancer Center Directors Elected to AACI Board

In 2019 Drs. Carlos L. Arteaga, S. Gail Eckhardt, and Caryn Lerman were elected by their peers to serve on AACI's Board of Directors. Their three-year terms began in October, during the 2019 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting.



**Dr. Arteaga** was appointed director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center in 2017. He served as the 2014-2015 president of the American Association for Cancer Research. He has more than 350 publications in the areas of signaling by growth factor receptors and oncogenes in breast tumor cells, development of targeted therapies and biomarkers of drug action and resistance, and investigator-initiated clinical trials in breast cancer.



**Dr. Eckhardt** is the inaugural director of the LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes of the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. She has held leadership roles at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. She has conducted numerous Phase I and II clinical trials and has published over 200 manuscripts. Her area of interest is in the preclinical and early clinical development of combinations of molecularly targeted compounds, with a laboratory focus on colorectal cancer.



**Dr. Lerman** was appointed director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in March 2019. She served as deputy director of the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania. An elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, she is internationally recognized for her cancer prevention research that bridges the fields of genomics, pharmacology, and population science.

### WITH APPRECIATION

AACI thanks outgoing board members **Drs. Dario C. Altieri, Benjamin G. Neel, and Eduardo Sotomayor** for their service on the AACI board. Dr. Altieri was instrumental in advancing AACI programming for basic science centers. Dr. Neel was a staunch advocate of increasing the NCI payline, for which AACI has weighed in with Congress. Dr. Sotomayor played a key role in engaging new supporters for AACI meetings. AACI's Board of Directors consists of directors of North America's leading cancer centers, who provide expert guidance to the association.



*Dr. Altieri, president and chief executive officer, The Wistar Institute*



*Dr. Neel, director, Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center, NYU Langone*



*Dr. Sotomayor, director, GW Cancer Center*

# New Members

Forming North America's cancer research infrastructure, AACI cancer centers translate promising research findings into new interventions to prevent and treat cancer.



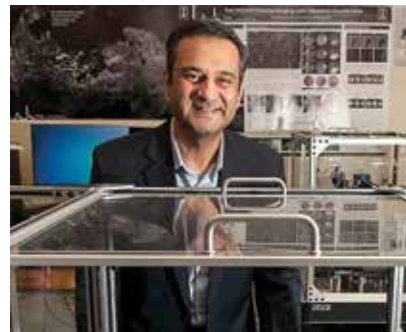
AACI welcomed two new members in 2019: the **Cancer Center at Illinois** and **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center**.

*Pictured above: The Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, home to the Cancer Center at Illinois (top); and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center (bottom).*

## Cancer Center at Illinois

The mission of Cancer Center at Illinois (CCIL) is to promote and translate engineering and scientific innovations to enable cancer-free lives. **Dr. Rohit Bhargava** (right) is director of the center, which applies the historic strengths of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in basic science and engineering to cancer.

Supported by decades of infrastructure investments and world-class educational programs, the CCIL is the hub of a highly integrated research ecosystem that aims to develop next-generation technologies to improve cancer care. It is comprised of two complementary, multidisciplinary basic cancer research programs:



Cancer Measurement Technology and Data Science, and Discovery Platforms Bridging the Engineering-Biology Continuum.

The cancer center is part of a university-wide focus on interdisciplinary health research, which also includes the launch of the engineering-based Carle Illinois College of Medicine.

## Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center

AACI marked a major milestone with the addition of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) Cancer Center, one of seven National Cancer Institute-designated basic laboratory cancer centers and AACI's 100th member.

Directed by **Dr. David Tuveson**, (right) CSHL Cancer Center is committed to exploring the fundamental biology of human cancer. Research at the center covers a broad range of cancer types, including breast, prostate, leukemia, brain, pancreatic, sarcoma, lung, and melanoma.

Three scientific programs provide focus in Gene Regulation & Cell Proliferation; Signal Transduction; and Cancer Genetics.



The CSHL Cancer Center has nine shared resources that facilitate cancer research with state-of-the-art technology and integral services. With the support of world-class staff, these core facilities ensure that cancer center researchers have all the necessary tools to make breakthrough discoveries.

# 2019 Committees

## Annual Meeting Program

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**Chair: Michael B. Kastan, MD, PhD**

Duke Cancer Institute  
Duke University Medical Center

**Eric R. Fearon, MD, PhD**

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

**Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH**

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

**Roy A. Jensen, MD**

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

**Kimberly F. Kerstann, PhD**

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

**Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD**

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

**Wendy Law, PhD**

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**Steven D. Leach, MD**

Dartmouth College  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center

**Robert F. Mitchell**

University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart  
Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Jennifer W. Pegher, MA**

Association of American Cancer Institutes

**Leonidas C. Platanias, MD, PhD**

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of  
Northwestern University

**Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD, FACS**

The Ohio State University Comprehensive  
Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove  
Research Institute

**Cheryl L. Willman, MD**

University of New Mexico  
Comprehensive Cancer Center

## CAR T

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**Chair: Joseph McGuirk, DO**

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

**Richard P. Bondi**

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

**Lihua Elizabeth Budde, MD, PhD**

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Matthew H. Carabasi, MD**

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

**Clint L. Divine, MBA, MSM**

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

**Helen Heslop, MD**

Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center  
at Baylor College of Medicine

**Brian T. Hill, MD, PhD**

Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

**Frederick L. Locke, MD**

Moffitt Cancer Center

**Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, FRCOG, FACOG**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Sheila Ouwerson, MPA**

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of Iowa

**Miguel-Angel Perales, MD**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

**David L. Porter, MD**

Abramson Cancer Center of the  
University of Pennsylvania

**Sam Sharf, RN, BSN, NE-BC, CHTC**

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Joseph Uberti, MD, PhD**

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute  
Wayne State University

## Clinical Research Innovation

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**Chair: Carrie Lee, MD, MPH**

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Tricia Adrales Bentz, MHA, CCRP**

Hollings Cancer Center  
Medical University of South Carolina

**Theresa Cummings, RN, MS, CCRP**

University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart  
Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Stefan C. Grant, MD, JD, MBA**

Wake Forest Baptist  
Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Janie Hofacker, RN, BSN, MS**

Association of American Cancer Institutes

**Collette M. Houston**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

**Ashley Baker Lee, CCRP**

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Tara L. Lin, MD**

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

**Kristie Moffett, MHA**

Moffitt Cancer Center

**Melissa Anne Nashawati, MPA**

Mays Cancer Center, UT Health San Antonio

**Helen Peck, RN, MA, OCN, CCRP**

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of Miami Health System

**Theresa Werner, MD**

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

**Alex Zafirovski, MBA**

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of  
Northwestern University

## Finance and Investment

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**Chair: Jeff A. Walker, MBA**

City of Hope National Medical Center

**Julian Bell, MHA, CPA**

The Ohio State University Comprehensive  
Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove  
Research Institute

**John A. Kolosky**

Moffitt Cancer Center

**Ray Lynch, MBA**

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

**Gregory A. McDonald, CPA**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

## Government Relations

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**Chair: Anne L. Levine, MD, MBA**

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Harvard Medical School

**Ashlee Bright, MPA**

Huntsman Cancer Institute  
University of Utah

**Robert R. Clark, MS, FACHE**

Comprehensive Cancer Center  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

**Jack Cline**

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

**John DeMuro**

Moffitt Cancer Center

**Ross A. Frommer, JD**

Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center

**Orly Isaacson**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



**Kathryn A. Kuhn**

Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center

**Jennifer Evans Stacey, Esq.**

The Wistar Institute

**Network Care****Chair: Stanton L. Gerson, MD**

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Louis Harrison, MD, FASTRO**

Moffitt Cancer Center

**Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA**

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Laura Hutchins, MD**

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

**Patrick J. Loehrer, Sr., MD**

Indiana University

Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center

**Daniel T. Mulkerin, MD**

University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center

**Thomas Purcell, MD, PhD, MBA**

University of Colorado Cancer Center

**Lois Teston, MD**

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

**George J. Weiner, MD**

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Iowa

**Louis M. Weiner, MD**

Georgetown Lombardi

Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Nominating****Chair: Candace S. Johnson, PhD**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD, FACS**

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute

**Immediate Past President:****Stanton L. Gerson, MD**

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative****Chair: Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA**

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Craig Bunnell, MD, MPH, MBA**

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Harvard Medical School

**Andrew E. Chapman, DO, FACP**

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

**David Gaffney, MD**

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

**Richard M. Goldberg, MD, FACP, FASCO**

WVU Cancer Institute

**Ruben A. Mesa, MD**

UT Health San Antonio Cancer Center

**Edith P. Mitchell, MD, FACP, FCPP**

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

**Daniel T. Mulkerin, MD**

University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center

**Claire Verschraegen, MS, MD, FACP**

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute

**Srinivasan Vijayakumar, MD**

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

**Task Forces and Working Groups****Regulatory File Management Working Group****Alexandra Annis, CCRP**

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

**Wendy Bloomer, PhD, CCRP**

Duke Cancer Institute

Duke University Medical Center

**Kyusun Cha, CCRC**

UCSF Helen Diller Family

Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Deidre Cleary, RN, BSN, CCRC**

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

**Megan Farmer, MS**

Wake Forest Baptist

Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Ginny Keeling, MS**

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

**Erin Lynch, CCRP**

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center

**Sarah Osipowicz, MSED, CCRP**

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

**Cary Passaglia, CCRP**

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

**Helen Peck, RN, MA, OCN, CCRP**

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Miami Health System

**Kathleen Rodger**

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

**Conflict of Interest Task Force****Co-chair: Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD**

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

**Co-chair: Leonidas C. Platanias, MD, PhD**

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

**Robert L. Ferris, MD, PhD, FACS**

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

**Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA**

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Candace S. Johnson, PhD**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Pamela Munster, MD**

UCSF Helen Diller Family

Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Patricia M. Wiley**

On the Wings of Angels

Pediatric Cancer Foundation

**Shared Investigator Platform Task Force****Chair: Theresa L. Werner, MD**

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

**Hobs Apell**

University of Kansas Cancer Center

**Tricia Bentz, MHA, CCRP**

Hollings Cancer Center

Medical University of South Carolina

**Cheryl Byers, MHA, CIP, CHRC**

Moffitt Cancer Center

**Nicholas Cimaglia**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

**Theresa Cummings RN, MS, CCRP**

University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart

Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Stefan Grant, MD, JD, MBA**

Wake Forest Baptist

Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Jessica Moehle, CCRP**

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

# 2019 Members

## UNITED STATES

### Alabama

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**O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham**  
Birmingham, Alabama

### Arizona

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**Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Arizona**  
Scottsdale, Arizona

**The University of Arizona Cancer Center**  
Tucson, Arizona

### Arkansas

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**UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

### California

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**City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Duarte, California

**Loma Linda University Cancer Center**  
Loma Linda, California

**Salk Institute Cancer Center**  
La Jolla, California

**Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**  
Los Angeles, California

**Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute**  
La Jolla, California

**Stanford Cancer Institute**  
Palo Alto, California

**UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Sacramento, California

**UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center**  
La Jolla, California

**UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Orange, California

**UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Los Angeles, California

**UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
San Francisco, California

**USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Los Angeles, California

### Colorado

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**University of Colorado Cancer Center**  
Aurora, Colorado

### Connecticut

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**Yale Cancer Center  
Yale School of Medicine**  
New Haven, Connecticut

### District of Columbia

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**Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Washington, District of Columbia

**GW Cancer Center**  
Washington, District of Columbia

### Florida

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**Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Florida**  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Moffitt Cancer Center**  
Tampa, Florida

**Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of Miami Health System**  
Miami, Florida

**University of Florida Health Cancer Center**  
Gainesville, Florida

### Georgia

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**Georgia Cancer Center, Augusta University**  
Augusta, Georgia

**Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University**  
Atlanta, Georgia

### Hawai'i

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**University of Hawai'i Cancer Center  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

### Illinois

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**Cancer Center at Illinois**  
Urbana, Illinois

**Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center  
Loyola University Medical Center**  
Maywood, Illinois

**Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University**  
Chicago, Illinois

**The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Chicago, Illinois

**University of Illinois Cancer Center**  
Chicago, Illinois

### Indiana

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**Indiana University  
Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center**  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**Purdue University Center for Cancer Research**  
West Lafayette, Indiana

### Iowa

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**Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of Iowa**  
Iowa City, Iowa

### Kansas

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**The University of Kansas Cancer Center**  
Kansas City, Kansas

### Kentucky

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**UK Markey Cancer Center**  
Lexington, Kentucky

**UofL James Graham Brown Cancer Center**  
Louisville, Kentucky

### Louisiana

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**Feist-Weiller Cancer Center  
LSU Health Shreveport**  
Shreveport, Louisiana

**Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium of New Orleans**  
New Orleans, Louisiana

#### CONSORTIUM MEMBERS:

**Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center**

**Tulane Cancer Center**

### Maine

---

**The Jackson Laboratory Cancer Center**  
Bar Harbor, Maine

### Maryland

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**Murtha Cancer Center at  
Walter Reed Bethesda**  
Bethesda, Maryland

**Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University**  
Baltimore, Maryland

**University of Maryland  
Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Baltimore, Maryland

### Massachusetts

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**Boston University Cancer Center**  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Harvard Medical School**  
Boston, Massachusetts

### Michigan

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**Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute  
Wayne State University**  
Detroit, Michigan

**University of Michigan  
Rogel Cancer Center**  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

### Minnesota

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**Masonic Cancer Center  
University of Minnesota**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Mayo Clinic Cancer Center**  
Rochester, Minnesota



## Mississippi

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**UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute**  
Jackson, Mississippi

## Missouri

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**Siteman Cancer Center**  
St. Louis, Missouri

## Nebraska

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**Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center**  
Omaha, Nebraska

## New Hampshire

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**Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center**  
Lebanon, New Hampshire

## New Jersey

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**Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey**  
New Brunswick, New Jersey

## New Mexico

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**University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

## New York

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**Albert Einstein Cancer Center**  
**Albert Einstein College of Medicine**  
Bronx, New York

**Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center**  
Cold Spring Harbor, New York

**Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
**Columbia University Irving Medical Center**  
New York, New York

**Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center**  
**NYU Langone**  
New York, New York

**Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**  
New York, New York

**Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Buffalo, New York

**Stony Brook Cancer Center**  
Stony Brook, New York

**The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Mount Sinai Health System**  
New York, New York

**Upstate Cancer Center**  
**SUNY Upstate Medical University**  
Syracuse, New York

**Wilmot Cancer Institute**  
**UR Medicine**  
Rochester, New York

## North Carolina

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**Duke Cancer Institute**  
**Duke University Medical Center**  
Durham, North Carolina

**UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

## Ohio

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**Case Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center**  
Cleveland, Ohio

**The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute**  
Columbus, Ohio

**University of Cincinnati Cancer Institute**  
Cincinnati, Ohio

## Oklahoma

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**Stephenson Cancer Center**  
**University of Oklahoma**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

## Oregon

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**OHSU Knight Cancer Institute**  
Portland, Oregon

## Pennsylvania

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**Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Fox Chase Cancer Center**  
**Temple Health**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Penn State Cancer Institute**  
Hershey, Pennsylvania

**Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**The Wistar Institute**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**UPMC Hillman Cancer Center**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## South Carolina

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**Hollings Cancer Center**  
**Medical University of South Carolina**  
Charleston, South Carolina

## Tennessee

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**Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
**St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**  
Memphis, Tennessee

**Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center**  
Nashville, Tennessee

## Texas

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**Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine**  
Houston, Texas

**LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes**  
**The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School**  
Austin, Texas

**Mays Cancer Center**  
**UT Health San Antonio**  
San Antonio, Texas

**Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
**UT Southwestern Medical Center**  
Dallas, Texas

**The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**  
Houston, Texas

**University of Texas Medical Branch Cancer Center**  
Galveston, Texas

## Utah

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**Huntsman Cancer Institute**  
**University of Utah**  
Salt Lake City, Utah

## Vermont

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**The University of Vermont Cancer Center**  
Burlington, Vermont

## Virginia

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**University of Virginia Cancer Center**  
Charlottesville, Virginia

**VCU Massey Cancer Center**  
Richmond, Virginia

## Washington

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**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**  
Seattle, Washington

## West Virginia

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**WVU Cancer Institute**  
Morgantown, West Virginia

## Wisconsin

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**Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center**  
Madison, Wisconsin

## CANADA

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### British Columbia

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**BC Cancer**  
Vancouver, British Columbia

### Ontario

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**Princess Margaret Cancer Centre**  
**University Health Network**  
Toronto, Ontario



Medical Arts Building  
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