

AACI CCAF
ANNUAL MEETING
WASHINGTON, DC 2025

October 19-21, 2025
Salamander Washington DC



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN CANCER INSTITUTES
Jointly provided by Partners for Advancing Clinical Education and
Association of American Cancer Institutes

Program Committee

Chair: Ruben A. Mesa, MD, FACP

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Rohit Bhargava, PhD

Cancer Center at Illinois

Roxana S. Dronca, MD

Mayo Clinic
Comprehensive Cancer Center, Florida

Melanie Funes, PhD

UCI Chao Family
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Becky Gibson

Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Max Loveless, MBA

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the
University of Utah

Taofeek K. Owonikoko, MD, PhD, MSCR

University of Maryland
Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jennifer W. Pegher, MA, MBA

Association of American Cancer Institutes

Meeting App and Social Media

The agenda, presentations, exhibitor information, and attendees list are available on the meeting app. To access the app:

- Download “Cvent Events” from your mobile app store.
- Log in with the name and email used during registration.
- You will receive a 6-digit verification code. Enter your code and log in.
- Within the Cvent Events app, search for “2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting” and download the meeting. The meeting app can also be accessed on your desktop at: <https://cvent.me/9MdOnn>.

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Hashtag: [#AACI2025](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AACI2025)

Wireless Network: AACI

Password: AACI2025!

Welcome

Welcome to the 2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting! This three-day meeting offers AACI members an opportunity to network with national cancer research and advocacy groups, industry, and government health agencies to develop solutions to common challenges. Preceding the annual meeting on Saturday, October 18, AACI, American Cancer Society, and the Cancer Center Network partnered to co-host the 2025 Impact Summit, focused on strengthening the future of cancer center leadership and workforce development.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of AACI's Board of Directors, Drs. Diane M. Simeone and Barry P. Sleckman, and congratulate Dr. Cornelia Ulrich, who was elected vice president/president-elect. I'd also like to express AACI's deep appreciation for our outgoing board members, Dr. Caryn Lerman, immediate past president, and Drs. Steven D. Leach and Kunle Odunsi.

We are pleased to recognize Dr. Thomas F. Gajewski with this year's Distinguished Scientist Award, in recognition of his work in developing immunotherapies to treat melanoma and other cancers. We will also present the AACI Champion for Cures Award to the 11 Day Power Play, Inc., which has funded cancer research and wellness programs for patients and caregivers through its annual hockey tournament in Buffalo, NY. The AACI Cancer Health Equity Award will be presented to Dr. John Carpten in recognition of his personal and professional dedication to health equity, representation, and opportunity in medicine and science. In addition, AACI will present the Public Service Award to Senator Katie Britt (R-AL) and Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX) in honor of their steadfast support of the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute (NCI), and cancer centers in their states, amid unprecedented restrictions on federal funding.

This year's meeting program features a keynote by Chris Draft, retired football player, NFL ambassador, and lung cancer advocate. Panel discussions and fireside chats will highlight an array of topics, including global oncology, federal funding challenges, the latest breakthroughs in cancer care, patient engagement, and reducing the financial burden of cancer treatment. As always, AACI's basic science cancer center members will share highlights of research and development at their centers and representatives from the NCI will provide updates on the Cancer Centers Program.

The annual meeting program was jointly formulated by AACI and the Cancer Center Administrators Forum (CCAF). I am thankful for the hard work and expertise of the 2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Program Committee and to Dr. Ruben A. Mesa, who chaired the committee. Thanks also to the AACI staff who helped make this meeting possible.

Sincerely,
Jennifer W. Pegher
Executive Director

Agenda

All sessions will be held in the Grand Ballroom, except where indicated.

Attendees are welcome to visit Renwick to use the Productivity Oasis, supported by Paradigm. Tables, chairs, and charging stations will be available in this space throughout the meeting.

Program subject to change.

Sunday, October 19

1:00 pm **Welcome and AACI Business Meeting**

David M. Gosky

*The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center –
The James*

Dr. Wendy Law

Fred Hutch Cancer Center

Dr. Ruben A. Mesa

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jennifer W. Pegher

Association of American Cancer Institutes

Dr. Robert A. Winn

VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

1:45 pm **Crafting a Strategic Plan for Global Oncology**

Panelists will discuss the progress of the AACI Global Oncology Working Group, which was established following an impactful panel at the 2023 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting. This working group has conducted a series of focus groups to evaluate the current landscape of global oncology partnerships, especially between institutions from North America and low to middle-income countries, with the goal of guiding future efforts by AACI and its member institutions. Panelists will highlight insights gleaned from multiple interviews conducted with key stakeholders, which will serve as a platform for AACI to discuss the challenges and strategic planning opportunities that support global oncology partnerships within and between cancer centers.

Moderator: Dr. Patrick Loehrer

*Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon
Comprehensive Cancer Center*

Dr. Satish Gopal

National Cancer Institute

Dr. Julie Gralow

American Society of Clinical Oncology

Dr. Kunle Odunsi

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. Katherine Van Loon

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

2:45 pm Networking Break

Grand Ballroom Foyer

3:15 pm What's Past is Prologue: Finding Light at the End of the Tunnel

Former, current, and future AACI presidents will share their experiences and collective wisdom to help guide AACI members through today's unique, but familiar, threats to the cancer research enterprise. Tight budgets, staffing cuts, National Cancer Institute mandates, training, and retention are just some of the challenges that cancer centers have overcome time and again. Panelists will provide insights into these issues, with an eye toward positioning centers to take advantage of the current crises and to plan for a more manageable future.

Co-moderator: Dr. Joann B. Sweasy

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Co-moderator: Dr. Robert A. Winn

VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. H. Shelton Earp

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. Roy A. Jensen

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Dr. Michelle Le Beau

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. George Weiner

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Iowa

4:15 pm Break**4:15 pm Deputy Directors Meeting** (closed session)

(Session not CME accredited)

Phillips

4:45 pm ACCA (CCAF) Business Meeting (closed session)

(Session not CME accredited)

Grand Ballroom

6:00 pm AACI President's Reception

Grand Lawn

Agenda

Monday, October 20

7:00 am **Breakfast**
Gallery Ballroom

7:00 am **AACI Cancer Center Directors Breakfast** *(invitation only)*
Supported by LeanTaaS
Phillips

8:30 am **Addressing the Crisis of Rural Cancer Health in Our Nation**

AACI's incoming president, Dr. Joann B. Sweasy, will share plans for her presidential initiative, which aims to address the national crisis in rural cancer health by identifying and addressing critical areas of need.

Dr. Joann B. Sweasy
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

9:00 am **Keynote Presentation**
How the Game Has Changed: Raising Cancer Awareness and the Crucial Catch Initiative

Just as the game of football has changed, the “game” of cancer—awareness, detection, treatment, and survivorship—has evolved too. Former National Football League player Chris Draft, a health advocate with a focus on lung cancer awareness, will talk about Crucial Catch, the NFL's early cancer detection and risk reduction initiative, as well as his own cancer advocacy experience as co-founder of Team Draft, a national campaign that is changing the face of lung cancer. Draft's wife and Team Draft co-founder, Keasha Rutledge, died from lung cancer in 2011.

Chris Draft
The Chris Draft Family Foundation
Team Draft

10:00 am **Facing Federal Challenges**

Attendees will receive an update from Capitol Hill on negotiations, legislative activity, and what to expect in the coming days, as well as insights into the political dynamics driving the impasse, the implications for funding priorities and federal operations, and potential paths forward.

Katie Brown
Office of Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)

Due to the ongoing shutdown, speakers from the federal government may be unable to attend.

10:30 am Forecasting the Future of the Cancer Center Ecosystem

Precipitous drops in federal funding—and significant changes to the public policy landscape—have left cancer center leaders with more questions than answers. Panelists will share their unique perspectives on the intersection of medicine, politics, and media during an informal discussion about the future of the U.S. cancer center ecosystem.

Moderator: Dr. Robert A. Winn
VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Paul Goldberg
The Cancer Letter

Laurie McGinley
Patient Action for Cancer Research (PACR)

11:00 am Break
Supported by The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Cancer Center – The James
Grand Ballroom Foyer

11:15 am AACI Awards Ceremony
2025 AACI Cancer Health Equity Award

Dr. John D. Carpten
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

2025 AACI Champion for Cures Award

The 11 Day Power Play, Inc.
Amy Lesakowski

11:30 am 2025 AACI Distinguished Scientist Award
Rational Development of Immunotherapy for Cancer

Immune checkpoint inhibitors are providing durable clinical responses in about 20 percent of cancer patients with tumors that often express high mutational burdens. But these agents, both single and combination therapies, have minimal effect in low mutational burden cancers, which lack quality intratumoral T cells. Dr. Thomas Gajewski, AACI's 2025 Distinguished Scientist, will discuss current knowledge of precision immune oncology and novel clinical trial approaches under development that show promise in bypassing one or more of the immune suppressive pathways.

Dr. Thomas F. Gajewski
The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Agenda

12:15 pm **Lunch**
Gallery Ballroom

1:15 pm **Networking Dessert**
Gallery Ballroom Foyer

1:45 pm **Beyond the White Coat: Patients, Caregivers, and Communities as Co-Creators of Cancer Care**
Elevating every voice to shape healing, trust, and true partnership

Patients are sometimes overlooked as vital partners for cancer centers, researchers, and caregivers, serving both as sources of inspiration and as effective collaborators. Panelists will talk about the positive impact on quality of life and cancer care being made by patient-led advocacy groups, citizen scientist programs, community advisory boards, and patient and family advisory councils.

Moderator: Desiree Walker
Young Survival Coalition

Dr. Nadine Barrett
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center

Audra DeV Vaughn
Blackout PCA

Justin Pope
Progressive Health Group

2:00 pm **AACI Government Relations Forum**
Marina Room
(Session not CME accredited; pre-registration required)

The Government Relations Forum provides an opportunity for attendees to network and discuss timely public policy topics. The meeting will feature compelling speakers from government, consulting firms, and AACI cancer centers.

2:45 pm **Supporting the Clinical Research Patient Journey: EACT's Tools for Eliminating Financial Burdens**

The Equitable Access to Clinical Trials (EACT) project provides a forum for sharing best practices and fosters collaboration to advance financial neutrality for patients participating in clinical trials. AACI members will learn about tools developed by the EACT project that can help eliminate financial burden among patients enrolled in clinical trials.

Dr. David Gerber
Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center
UT Southwestern Medical Center

3:00 pm Research and Development at Basic Laboratory Cancer Centers

AACI's basic science cancer center members focus on laboratory research and translate their findings to better cancer treatments. Directors from these centers will highlight innovative research discoveries that are accelerating progress against cancer.

Moderator: Dr. David Tuveson

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center

Dr. Timothy Fan

Cancer Center at Illinois

Dr. Paul Lieberman

Ellen and Ronald Caplan Cancer Center of The Wistar Institute

Dr. Charlie Wray

The Jackson Laboratory Cancer Center

4:00 pm Break **Supported by The Ohio State University** **Comprehensive Cancer Center – The James** Grand Ballroom Foyer

4:15 pm Considering the Future of the CCSG

The unprecedented changes to the National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG), particularly the shift away from in-person site visits, have significantly altered the funding landscape for cancer centers. This session features a panel of center directors and administrators with deep experience in the CCSG process, both as reviewers and applicants. They will explore possible mechanisms for securing the restructured grant, including sustaining wider buy-in from parent institutions, leveraging the evolving role of the external advisory board, and developing more effective supplemental materials such as strategic plans and examples of protocols.

Moderator: Julie Schaum

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

B. Mark Evers

UK Markey Cancer Center

Robert Gerlach

Dartmouth Cancer Center

Dr. Ruben Mesa

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. Pavan Reddy

Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

8:00 pm Sip and Socialize Marina Room

Agenda

Tuesday, October 21

7:00 am Breakfast

Gallery Ballroom

8:00 am 2025 AACI Public Service Awards

Senator Katie Britt (R-AL)

Representative Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

8:15 am 13th Annual PCLI Meeting: Protecting Time for Cancer Clinical Research

Protected academic time is essential for faculty physicians engaged in cancer clinical research, yet ensuring this time remains safeguarded amid evolving clinical demands is an ongoing challenge. Panelists will discuss preliminary findings from the AACI Academic Time Survey. They will highlight variations in how academic time is structured and supported across cancer centers and examine how the concept and implementation of protected time has evolved. Discussion will also address why protected time remains critical in today's health care environment.

Moderator: Dr. Karen L. Reckamp

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Dr. S. Gail Eckhardt

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

Dr. Thomas J. George, Jr.

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Dr. Randall F. Holcombe

The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Dr. Claire Verschraegen

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – The James

9:15 am **New Horizons in Care**

A wide variety of diagnostic and treatment advances—many developed at AACI cancer centers—are expanding the likelihood of positive outcomes for more cancer patients. Panelists will highlight the current status of a range of breakthroughs including histotripsy, new approaches in radiation technology, mRNA uses in cancer, theranostics and radioligand therapy, and interventional radiology.

Moderator: Joann B. Sweasy

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Dr. Marc Benayoun

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. Clifford Cho

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

10:15 am **Break**

**Supported by The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Cancer Center – The James**

Grand Ballroom Foyer

10:30 am **Update on the NCI Cancer Centers Program**

A representative from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) will discuss goals for the national cancer research enterprise and provide updates on NCI funding at AACI cancer centers.

Dr. Krzysztof Ptak

National Cancer Institute

Due to the ongoing shutdown, speakers from the federal government may be unable to attend.

11:30 am **NCI Director's Report**

Dr. Douglas R. Lowy

National Cancer Institute

Due to the ongoing shutdown, speakers from the federal government may be unable to attend.

12:30 pm **Closing Remarks**

Continuing Medical Education

Joint Providership Statement

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Partners for Advancing Clinical Education (Partners) and Association of American Cancer Institutes. Partners is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the health care team.

Physician Continuing Education

Partners designates this live activity for a maximum of 12.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Planned Goals and Objectives for the Education

Researchers, physicians, and other health care professionals who attend the meeting should be able to summarize the program content, discuss its application in clinical practice, and convey the information to faculty and staff at their cancer centers. Upon completion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Describe alternatives to on-site cancer care and options for patients seeking clinical trials
 - Discuss research at basic science cancer centers
 - Discuss artificial intelligence and engineering tools in use in oncology that are providing benefit both to patients and cancer centers
 - Discuss the impact of precipitous drops in federal funding on cancer centers and patients
 - Discuss various aspects of compliance with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) guidelines
 - Discuss challenges and opportunities for collaboration between and among academia, government, and the private sector, as they relate to cancer research
 - Discuss diagnostic and treatment advances that are expanding the likelihood of positive outcomes for more cancer patients
 - Cultivate cancer patients both as sources of inspiration and effective collaborators
-

Disclosure Statement

Partners for Advancing Clinical Education (Partners) requires every individual in a position to control educational content to disclose all financial relationships with ineligible companies that have occurred within the past 24 months. Ineligible companies are organizations whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing health care products used by or on patients. All relevant financial relationships are mitigated according to Partners policies.

Continuing Medical Education

Americans With Disabilities Act

Event staff will be glad to assist you with any special needs (i.e., physical, dietary, etc). Please contact Jaime Anderson prior to the live event at jaime@aacr-cancer.org.

Acknowledgment of Financial or Other Support

This activity is supported by Professional Educational Grants and will be disclosed at the meeting.

Attendees may include:

- Leaders of AACR's academic and freestanding cancer research centers, including cancer center directors, executive administrators, and other top scientific and clinical staff
 - Leaders from industry and government agencies as well as those of cancer research and advocacy organizations
 - Medical professionals, including oncologists, pharmacists, radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, nurses, and psychologists
 - Social workers, cancer communication specialists, public health leaders, and faculty members who focus on cancer
-

Awardee Profiles

2025 AACI Distinguished Scientist Award



Thomas F. Gajewski, MD, PhD

*The University of Chicago Medicine
Comprehensive Cancer Center*

Thomas F. Gajewski, MD, PhD, is an internationally recognized leader in the field of cancer immunotherapy, with a special interest in the development of immunotherapies against melanoma and other cancers.

For over 25 years Dr. Gajewski has identified fundamental mechanisms of the anti-tumor immune response and applied that information to novel immunotherapeutic interventions in patients to understand mechanisms of resistance. This iterative cycle has led Dr. Gajewski to make a series of fundamental discoveries, contributing to new drug development in the clinic. A creative and prolific investigator, he has established several key biologic principles that have far-reaching implications for continued clinical advancement.

Dr. Gajewski has published 295 papers, 26 book chapters, and two co-authored books, with an H-index of 113. He serves as an editor for *Cancer Research* and as a founding editor of the *Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer*. Dr. Gajewski is immediate past president of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer and has served on the program committees for the American Society for Clinical Oncology and the American Association for Cancer Research. He chaired the CII study section at the National Institutes of Health, was appointed distinguished professor at The University of Chicago, received the AbbVie Foundation Endowed Professorship in Cancer Immunotherapy and the ACS Plangere Immunotherapy Professorship, and was honored with awards for tumor immunology, immuno-oncology, and melanoma research, among others.

Recent AACI Distinguished Scientist honorees include Drs. Paula D. Bos; Patricia LoRusso; Elizabeth M. Jaffee; Judy E. Garber; William G. Kaelin, Jr.; Douglas R. Lowy; Charles Perou; Carl June; and James Allison.

Awardee Profiles

2025 AACI Champion for Cures Award



The 11 Day Power Play, Inc.

Roswell Park

Comprehensive Cancer Center

On June 22, 2017, 40 men took to the ice at Harbor Center in Buffalo, NY, to set a world record for the longest continuous hockey game. They lived on-site and played hockey nonstop through July 3, raising more than \$1 million for Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. This incredibly successful event was the first of many fundraisers hosted by The 11 Day

Power Play, Inc., a philanthropic organization founded by Mike and Amy Lesakowski in 2016.

Today the organization has contributed more than \$7 million to cancer research and wellness programs at Roswell Park, supporting quality-of-life care for patients and caregivers through The 11 Day Power Play Cancer Resource Center, providing the naming gift for The 11 Day Power Play Immunotherapy Labs, and establishing The 11 Day Power Play Team Science Award to kickstart promising research with lifesaving potential. In addition to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the organization supports Make-A-Wish Western New York, Camp Good Days and Special Times, and the Roswell Park & Oishei Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Program.

The 11 Day Power Play participants encourage thousands of donors each year to make a difference through small gifts. Through a passion for hockey, they are building strong, lasting connections with communities in the Buffalo area and with cancer centers and patients across the country.

The Champion for Cures Award was established in 2018. Past recipients are Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center and the Prouty; Dana Dornsife, Lazarex Cancer Foundation; Pelotonia; Sidney and Caroline Kimmel; Phil and Penny Knight; the Jon M. and Karen Huntsman family; and Richard and Susan Rogel.

Awardee Profiles

2025 Cancer Health Equity Award



John Carpten, PhD

*City of Hope
Comprehensive Cancer Center*

John Carpten, PhD, is the director of City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center and Beckman Research Institute. Dr. Carpten's pioneering work in genome science and health disparities research has transformed cancer care, expanding representation in scientific research and advancing equitable health outcomes through strategic partnerships and

community engagement initiatives. As an individual and team scientist, Dr. Carpten investigated and published the first genome-wide scan for prostate cancer genes, helped develop the African American Hereditary Prostate Cancer study network, and was one of the first to publish on the genomic landscape of myeloma tumors from African American patients.

Under Dr. Carpten's leadership, City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center is consistently ranked among the top cancer centers in the country by U.S. News & World Report. He was appointed by President Joe Biden as chair of the National Cancer Advisory Board in 2022, and he was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine the following year. In 2024, he was named a Top Diversity Leader by *Modern Healthcare Magazine*.

Dr. Carpten is a part of a growing national system at City of Hope that includes a Los Angeles campus, a network of clinical care locations across Southern California, a new cancer center in Orange County, California, as well as a specialty hospital that will soon open in that county, and cancer treatment centers and outpatient facilities in the Atlanta, Chicago, and Phoenix areas.

Under Dr. Carpten's direction, City of Hope conducts more than 700 clinical trials annually, enrolling nearly 6,000 patients. Dr. Carpten's work reflects his deep personal and professional commitment to justice, representation, and opportunity in medicine and science.

The AACI Cancer Health Equity Award was established in 2021. Previous recipients are Drs. Edith P. Mitchell (posthumously), Amelie Ramirez, Electra D. Paskett, and Robert A. Winn.

Keynote Speaker



Chris Draft

*The Chris Draft Family Foundation
Team Draft*

Chris Draft is the founder, president, and CEO of the Chris Draft Family Foundation, co-founder of Team Draft, an NFL ambassador, and a national spokesperson on health-related issues, including asthma and lung cancer.

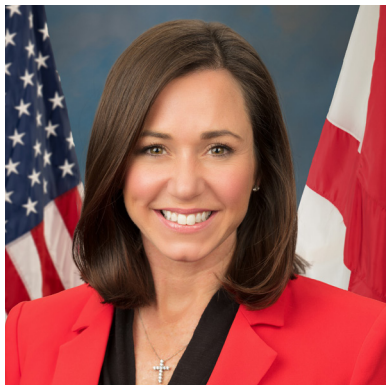
Draft spent 12 years in the NFL, playing for the Chicago Bears, San Francisco

49ers, Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers, St. Louis Rams, Buffalo Bills, and Washington Redskins. Shortly after Draft's NFL retirement in 2010, his partner, Keasha Rutledge, was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. A physically active non-smoker, Rutledge was a picture of good health – her only symptom was shortness of breath.

The Team Draft initiative was launched at Chris and Keasha's wedding in November 2011, just one month before Keasha passed away. On Super Bowl Sunday in 2012, Team Draft launched its National Campaign to Change the Face of Lung Cancer through a video on ESPN.com that captured Keasha's cancer journey and Chris's experiences as her caregiver.

Through lung cancer screening initiatives and sporting events, Draft has built deep relationships with oncologists, patients, caregivers, and survivors at more than 130 cancer centers and uses the Team Draft platform to raise awareness about lung cancer. He believes that more awareness leads to more research, which leads to improved treatments and to better, longer lives for patients with lung cancer. He has also partnered with pharmaceutical companies and cancer organizations, including Genentech, Lilly, American Cancer Society, Livestrong, and LUNGEvity, to promote lung cancer awareness, screening, treatment, and research.

Public Service Award



U.S. Senator Katie Britt (R-AL)

has emerged as a leading advocate for medical research funding, with a particular focus on advancing cancer research and innovation. She has supported increased investments in Alabama's major research institutions, including the UAB O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center. Sen. Britt has introduced bipartisan legislation to increase access to breast cancer screenings. She recently led a letter to the Office of Management and Budget, co-signed by 13 Senate colleagues, urging

the timely release of fiscal year 2025 NIH funds to ensure lifesaving cancer and biomedical research can move forward without disruption. She has also supported increases in NIH funding as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.



U.S. Representative Joaquin Castro (R-TX)

is a cancer survivor who has been treated for neuroendocrine cancer since his 2023 diagnosis. In Congress, he has co-sponsored key cancer-related legislation, including the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act and the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act. Rep. Castro has been a strong advocate for cancer research and health equity, particularly among Latino communities, supporting UT Health San Antonio's

Advancing the Science of Cancer in Latinos conference and securing millions in Community Project Funding grants for the Mays Cancer Center and UT Health San Antonio to expand their research capacity and improve public health.

AACI established the Public Service Award in 2003 to recognize public servants for their support of the NIH, the NCI, and cancer centers in their respective states. The award is presented in years when AACI's annual meeting is held in Washington, DC. Past recipients include Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA), Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH), Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS), Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI), Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL), Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL), and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

Exhibitors

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) and Partners for Advancing Clinical Education (Partners) express appreciation to the following companies for their support of this educational activity by providing exhibit fees:

Adminformatics

Adminformatics, LLC, is a South Carolina-based software company dedicated to helping nonprofits, health care institutions, and educational organizations streamline operations through customized technology solutions. Our flagship platform, Research Logix, simplifies the CCSG process with tools for funding, publication, and investigator data management. Key features include centralized funding with quick Excel/NIH exports, PubMed/NIH Reporter integration, and interactive investigator dashboards. What sets us apart is our commitment to excellent customer service and personalized solutions, ensuring every client's needs are met with tailored, practical support.

Advarra

Advarra breaks the silos that impede clinical research, aligning patients, sites, sponsors, and CROs in a connected ecosystem to accelerate trials. Advarra is number one in research review services, site and sponsor technology, and clinical trial experience software, and is trusted by the top 50 global biopharma sponsors, top 20 CROs, and 50,000 site investigators worldwide. Advarra solutions enable the collaboration, transparency, and speed to optimize trial operations, ensure patient safety and engagement, and reimagine clinical research while improving compliance.

Caris Life Sciences®

Caris Life Sciences is a leading patient-centric, next-generation AI TechBio company and precision medicine pioneer actively developing and delivering innovative solutions to revolutionize health care and improve the human condition. Caris has created the large-scale, multi-modal database and computing capability needed to analyze and unravel the molecular complexity of disease.

Flatiron

Flatiron Health is a leading health tech company with a mission to close the gap between care and research. We accelerate cancer research and improve patient outcomes through innovative data and technology solutions powered by our growing network of cancer care providers -over 280 community oncology practices, 7 academic medical centers and health systems, and ex-U.S. hospitals. These partners contribute to the real-world evidence that has supported over a thousand peer-reviewed publications and over 50 regulatory submissions, accelerating the adoption of new standards of care and expanding access to innovative treatments for patients nationwide. By bridging the gap between research and routine practice, Flatiron's data help ensure that every patient's experience can inform—and improve—the care of future patients.

Exhibitors

Huron

Huron's cancer center team is composed of leaders with 20-plus years of frontline experience in academic-based cancer centers. They rely on their firsthand knowledge of best practices to help improve your center's performance across multiple dimensions, tailoring approaches and solutions to your center's goals, issues, and organizational environment. Our team has worked with over 75 aspiring and established cancer centers, notably assisting institutions in renewing or obtaining their first National Cancer Institute designation award and designing a statewide, multi-institutional organizational structure for conducting clinical trials. We have extensive experience in the clinical research, clinical trials and biotechnology spaces, spurring innovation and advancing knowledge.

IgniteData

IgniteData's market-leading data transfer technology, Archer, is transforming the future of clinical trials, bringing all the benefits of fast, accurate EHR-to-EDC data transfer to sites and sponsors alike.

- Validated and in use by sites and sponsors internationally
- Enterprise-level eSource-to-Sponsor data transfer platform designed for research sites
- System-agnostic – integrates seamlessly with all major EHRs and research systems
- Scalable by design – ideal for multiple studies and multiple sites
- Purpose-built mapping engine matches and normalizes data, providing export-ready data without the effort
- Easy-to-use and loved by researchers: the clinician is always in control
- Rapid eSource-to-Sponsor data transfer – up to 96% faster than manual methods
- Can map and transfer 100% of vital signs and labs data
- Significantly reduces Source Data Verification (SDV) and query resolution time
- Hassle-free implementation and streamlined licensing process

Meet the IgniteData team and visit our booth.

InfoReady

InfoReady's software platform eliminates the workflow challenges associated with promoting opportunities, processing applications, routing and review processes, and sharing results for research at health care organizations and higher education institutions. Our software is simple to configure, easy to use, and provides insights to enhance outcomes. InfoReady is used to manage competition around limited submission grants, internal and seed funding, pilot grants, prizes, fellowships, scholarships, administrative approvals, awards, nominations, and much more.

Exhibitors

LeanTaaS

LeanTaaS is the market leader in providing AI-powered and cloud-based capacity management, staffing, and patient flow software and transformation services for health systems. Partnering with over 1,000 hospitals and centers, our iQueue products for operating rooms, infusion centers, and inpatient units use Lean principles and AI/ML predictive and prescriptive analytics to increase patient access, decrease wait times, reduce health care delivery costs, and improve revenue.

Merck

At Merck, our goal is to translate breakthrough science into innovative oncology medicines to help people with cancer. The potential to bring new hope to people with cancer drives our purpose and our commitment. As part of our focus on cancer, Merck is committed to clinical research with one of the largest development programs in the industry across more than 30 tumor types.

Natera

Natera™ is a global leader in cell-free DNA (cfDNA) testing, dedicated to oncology, women's health, and organ health. Natera offers the industry-leading molecular residual disease (MRD) assay Signatera, with over 1 million tests ordered. Signatera has been validated in over 100 peer-reviewed publications across 30 tumor types, with Medicare coverage across five cancer types and immunotherapy monitoring in all solid tumors.

nCartes, Inc.

nCartes is a transformational EHR-to-EDC cloud software platform. nCartes enables clinical research sites and sponsors to harness electronic health record systems (EHRs) to automate data capture for clinical trials, patient registries, cell manufacturing and more. nCartes sites report time and cost reductions in study data entry of as much as 50% while also materially reducing data entry mistakes and related work associated with source data verification. nCartes is a proud collaborator with the **SWOG Cancer Research Network** whose sites have also experienced considerable success with nCartes on SWOG trials. To learn more, please stop by the nCartes exhibit or contact info@ncoup.com.

Novartis

Novartis is an innovative medicines company. Every day, we work to reimagine medicine to improve and extend people's lives so that patients, health care professionals, and societies are empowered in the face of serious disease. Our medicines reach nearly 300 million people worldwide. Reimagine medicine with us. Connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, X/ Twitter, and Instagram.

Exhibitors

VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center was designated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 1975 and was awarded comprehensive status in 2023. Massey's vision is to be a premier community-focused cancer center leading the nation in cancer health equity research and ensuring optimal health outcomes for all. Massey is committed to developing and testing new cancer therapies through one of the largest clinical trials offerings in Virginia, its Minority/Underserved NCI Community Oncology Research Program and the NCI Cancer Screening Research Network (CSRN) as a coordinating site for the CSRN.

Verily

Verily is an Alphabet company that combines a data-driven, people-first approach to bring the promise of precision health to everyone, every day. Within Verily, the Clinical Studies Platforms organization provides solutions to generate the data and evidence needed to inform critical treatment and care decisions. This function evolved from Project Baseline, a multi-year research initiative, and is composed of leading experts in clinical science, RWD and RWE, technology, and user experience. The team delivers research-ready datasets that bring together a wide variety of different sources of health data to represent the longitudinal health journey of individuals. To do this, Verily focuses on understanding permissions, enabling traceability, and solving for markedly different data integrity and quality.

Our solutions bring together evidence generation, care delivery, and care management in a connected and reinforcing ecosystem built to advance precision health, connecting research participants with studies and offering tools to improve clinical research. This includes **Site CTMS**, formerly SignalPath, a state-of-the-art clinical trial management system (CTMS) that was built by researchers, for researchers, to dramatically improve the ease, quality, efficiency and profitability of trial execution.

Yunu, Inc.

Yunu provides medical research technology and services to life sciences companies and clinical research environments that perform precision imaging assessments. Yunu's aim is to ensure breakthrough therapies are accessible to everyone by unifying medical imaging insights and connecting clinical communities. With thousands of clinical trials relying on the platform each day, Yunu is delivering a new standard of oncology trial management.

Support

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-

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- **LeanTaas**
- **Merck**
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- **nCartes**
- **Novartis**
- **Paradigm**
- **The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – The James**
- **Triomics**
- **VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center**
- **Verily Life Sciences**
- **Yunu, Inc.**



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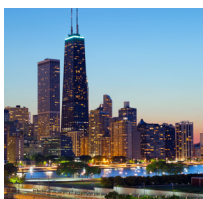
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June 23-25, 2026

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2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

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