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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AACI Announces Three New Board Members

The [Association of American Cancer Institutes](#) (AACI) has elected three new members to its Board of Directors. **Jonathan W. Friedberg, MD, MMSc**; **Primo N. Lara, Jr., MD**; and **Matthew Vander Heiden, MD, PhD**, will begin three-year terms during the [2026 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, October 25-27](#), in Chicago.

Dr. Friedberg is the director of Wilmot Cancer Institute, and the Samuel Durand Professor of Medicine at University of Rochester Medicine. He leads a team of associate directors whose clinical, research, education, and community outreach work helped Wilmot earn National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation in March 2025. Dr. Friedberg currently serves as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, the flagship journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

Dr. Lara serves as director of UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, and as distinguished professor of medicine and executive associate dean for cancer programs at UC Davis School of Medicine. Dr. Lara is an ASCO fellow and was named a 2025 Giant of Cancer Care by OncoLive. He chairs the University of California Cancer Consortium, serves as group chair of the SWOG Cancer Research Network, and led the AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Program Committee in 2023.

Dr. Vander Heiden is director of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, the Lester Wolfe Chair in Molecular Biology, and a professor in the Department of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is also an instructor of medicine at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School and a member of the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT. He was recently named editor-in-chief of *Cancer Discovery*, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

Drs. Friedberg, Lara, and Vander Heiden will replace outgoing board members **Raymond N. DuBois, MD, PhD**, and **Yolanda (Yoli) Sanchez, PhD**. AACI extends its deep gratitude to Drs. DuBois and Sanchez for their commitment and valuable contributions to the AACI board.

Dr. DuBois is the director of Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina. His work as a physician-scientist has increased understanding of the role of inflammation in the progression of colon

cancer and other gastrointestinal malignancies. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, AACR, the American Gastroenterology Association, and the Royal College of Physicians. He also serves as chair of the Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Board of Directors and as vice chair of the Stand Up to Cancer Foundation.

As director and CEO of the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Sanchez is the first Hispanic/Latine woman to lead an NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Sanchez is an international expert in DNA damage response pathways, whose work focuses on oncology targets and drug development for clinical trials. She is a member of the Understanding Access to Cancer Care Steering Committee, which supports the [presidential initiative](#) of AACI President **Joann B. Sweasy, PhD**.

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The [Association of American Cancer Institutes](#) (AACI) represents over 100 premier academic and freestanding cancer centers in the United States and Canada. AACI is accelerating progress against cancer by enhancing the impact of academic cancer centers and promoting cancer health equity.