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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | December 2023

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Awards & Honors | Grants & Gifts | Leadership Highlights | Research Highlights | Other News Job Opportunities | Meeting Announcements

AACI HEADLINES

LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center Names Ramos Director



To accelerate the attainment of the first National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Center in Louisiana, LSU Health, LCMC Health, Louisiana Cancer Research Center (LCRC), and Tulane University have aligned and signed an agreement that Joe W. Ramos, PhD, will serve as director of the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center. Read More

Kimmelman Named Director of Perlmutter Cancer Center



Alec Kimmelman, MD, PhD, a renowned researcher and radiation oncologist, has been named director of the Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center. Dr. Kimmelman will also retain his title as the Anita Steckler and Joseph Steckler Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. This appointment is effective immediately. *Read More*

Rathmell Nominated as NCI Director

On November 17, President Joe Biden announced his**nomination** of **W. Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD, MMHC**, to be the next director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). She will be the NCI's 17th director and only the second woman to hold this position. Dr. Rathmell is the Hugh Jackson Professor of Medicine and chair of the Department of Medicine



at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). She joined VUMC in 2015 as director of the Division of Hematology and Oncology. *Read More*

Register Today for AACI's Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop



Registration is now open for AACI's 2024 Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop (LDDW), which will be held March 12-13 at Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel. AACI cancer center directors are encouraged to select one emerging leader from their center to attend. Read More

AACI Participates in HPV, Lung Cancer Advocacy Events



Continuing its engagement with issues that affect the cancer center community, AACI staff attended several events in Washington, DC, last month. Following the Friends of Cancer Research annual meeting on Tuesday, November 14, AACI participated in advocacy events promoting HPV- and lung cancer-related legislation. *Read More*

AACI Announces Additions to Inclusive Excellence Steering Committee



AACI President Robert A. Winn, MD, director of VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, has appointed community advocates Rudene Haynes, JD, and Loriana Hernández-Aldama to the steering committee of his Inclusive Excellence Initiative. Read More

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Learn More

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Kutikov Receives Kidney Cancer Association Award

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Alexander Kutikov, MD, FACS, chair of the Department of Urology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has received the Andrew C. Novick Award from the Kidney Cancer Association. *Read More*

Sparano Receives Chemotherapy Foundation Award

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai



Joseph Sparano, MD, received the Ezra Greenspan Award from The Chemotherapy Foundation for his groundbreaking work in breast cancer and HIV-related malignancies, and his work to address cancer disparities in vulnerable populations. Dr. Sparano is chair of the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Icahn Mount Sinai and deputy director of The Tisch Cancer Institute. Read More

GRANTS & GIFTS

\$13.5 Million Effort Aims to Understand Racial Differences in Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

\$13.3 Million Grant Renewal to Address Cancer Health Disparities

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

\$10.6 Million Grant to Advance Glioblastoma Research With Mathematical Oncology

Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Receive \$7 Million to Improve Outcomes for High-Risk Blood Cancer Patients

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Grant Awarded for Clinical Trial on Experimental AML/MDS Treatment

Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Receive \$2.4 Million to Develop Pancreatic Cancer Treatments

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Blood Cancer Trials Network Will Bring Investigational Therapies to Underserved Communities

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Tools Designed to Improve Treatment for Head and Neck Cancer UK Markey Cancer Center

<u>Leukemia Expert Awarded \$1 Million Grant From Leukemia & Lymphoma Society</u>

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Rocconi Returns Home to Lead Call to Improve Cancer Care

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute



The epic fight against cancer is personal for University of Mississippi alumnus **Rodney Rocconi**, **MD**. He was appointed director of the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute in July, following 16 years in various leadership roles at the University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute. **Read More**

<u>Friedman Named Cancer Center Deputy Director</u>

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center



Debra Friedman, MD, MS, holder of the E. Bronson Ingram Chair in Pediatric Oncology, has been named deputy director of Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. Dr. Friedman serves as associate director for Community Science and Health Outcomes for Vanderbilt-Ingram and served as a research program leader for Vanderbilt-Ingram from 2008-2023. **Read More**

Robinson Named Director of Neuro-Oncology

Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



Giles Robinson, MD, has assumed the role of director for the Department of Oncology's Division of Neuro-Oncology. He has also become co-leader of the Neurobiology and Brain Tumor Program within the St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center. *Read More*

Herrera Appointed Associate Director of DEI

The University of Vermont Cancer Center



Diego Adrianzen Herrera, MD, assistant professor of medicine, has been appointed to serve as associate director of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for the University of Vermont Cancer Center. *Read More*

Researcher Leads New AI for Health Institute

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University



Launched in November under the umbrella of Emory University's Al. Humanity initiative, the Emory Empathetic Al for Health Institute will be led by **Anant Madabhushi**, **PhD**, a member of the Cancer Immunology research program at Winship Cancer Institute.

Read More

Ely Joins Thoracic Oncology Program

GW Cancer Center



For **Gladys Tsao-Wu**, **MD**, and **Jennifer Chan**, **MD**, reconstruction is as much about helping patients recover emotionally as it is about physical restoration. After more than a decade working together in private practice, the duo has joined UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center to help breast cancer survivors reclaim what cancer took from them. *Read More*

Goecks Named Assistant Center Director of Research Informatics

Moffitt Cancer Center



Moffitt Cancer Center has announced **Jeremy Goecks**, **PhD**, as its assistant center director of research informatics. Dr. Goecks will lead adoption of innovative technology platforms and computing standards within the data-related core services, as well as transition research innovations to clinical applications through the Center of Digital Health. **Read More**

Gynecological Oncologist Joins GWU

GW Cancer Center



Jennifer Vaz, MD, has joined the GW University Cancer Center and the GW Medical Faculty Associates as a gynecological oncologist. She specializes in malignant and benign tumors of the pelvis, including ovarian, uterine, cervical, and vulvar/vaginal malignancies. **Read More**

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Potato Starch Supplements Could Be Solution to Bone Marrow Transplant Complications

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Using Human In Vitro Models to Study Prostate Cancer

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Al Model Can Help Predict Survival Outcomes for Patients With Cancer

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Nutrient Found in Beef and Dairy Improves Immune Response to Cancer

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Turning Drug Resistance Against Itself

Stony Brook Cancer Center

<u>Can Gene Expression Predict if a Brain Tumor is Likely to Grow Back?</u>

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Computer Models Fill Critical Knowledge Gaps to Help Reduce Cancer Disparities

Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

<u>Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines Perpetuate Racial Disparities</u> Stanford Cancer Institute

Novel Immunotherapy Approach Shows Promise in Metastatic Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

First-in-Human Trial of New Drug Raises Hopes for Patients With Relapsed Blood Cancer

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

Metabolite Tells Cells Whether to Repair DNA

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

<u>Pathologic Scoring Shows Promise for Assessing Lung Tumor Therapy Response</u>

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

<u>Liver Cancer Rates Increase in Each Successive Generation of Mexican Americans, Study Finds</u>

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

<u>Urban Environmental Exposures Drive Increased Breast Cancer</u> Incidence

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

<u>Scientists Discover Key to Potential Natural Cancer Treatment Potency</u>

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Tumors Can Hijack the Biological Machinery of Brain Plasticity Stanford Cancer Institute

Cancer Blood Tests Jumpstart Diagnoses and Targeted Therapy UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Finds New Genetic Variants Linked to Prostate Cancer USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Provides Valuable Insights Into Drivers of Cancer Risk UK Markey Cancer Center

Oral Pouch Products Do Little to Curb Addictive Nicotine Cravings

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

<u>Disrupting Cancer Cell-Fat Cell Interactions Prevents Metastasis in Ovarian Cancers</u>

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

<u>Hospitals Serving Large Black, Latino Populations Have Fewer</u> Resources for Cancer Care

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

<u>Inclusion of New Risk Factors Improves Prediction of Invasive</u> Breast Cancer

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

<u>Promising Target for CAR T Cells Helps Cancer Trick the Immune System</u>

Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

OTHER NEWS

Northwell Opens \$52 Million Cancer Center, Multispecialty Practice in Queens

Northwell Health Cancer Institute



Northwell Health has opened a suite of medical practices meant to cover a host of conditions and deliver complex, coordinated health care in the heart of Queens. The \$52 million, 70,000-square-foot facility is easily reachable by car, subway, or bus line and anchored by the largest outpatient cancer center in the borough. *Read More*

Worthy to Spearhead Cancer Moonshot Project Geared Toward Black Breast Cancer Patients

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center



The White House Cancer Moonshot program has signaled its support for a new initiative led by TOUCH, to bolster Black women's breast cancer clinical trial participation by 2025. The White House also highlighted a connected program, TOUCH Care, led by **Valarie Worthy, MSN, RN**, that provides nurse navigator services to assist Black breast cancer patients in clinical trials. *Read More*

Statewide Collaboration to Attain NCI Designation Announced LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center

Governor John Bel Edwards has announced a new statewide collaboration among LSU, LCMC Health, Louisiana Cancer Research Center, and Tulane University to accelerate the attainment of the first National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Center in Louisiana. *Read More*

Understanding How Data Impact Cancer Care

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

When Reiko Horst was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer, she knew next to nothing about the disease. To help determine the best treatment plan, her medical oncologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center recommended doing a test called Oncotype DX to help predict Horst's risk of the cancer returning and the benefit of chemotherapy. *Read More*

<u>Jefferson Health Pledges to Share Data to Improve Veteran Health Care</u>

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Jefferson Health is joining the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), alongside 12 other community health care systems, to share data to improve the veteran experience regardless of where veterans receive their health care – inside or outside of the VA. *Read More*

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Vice President, DEI Strategy, Insights, and Innovation

American Cancer Society

Community Health Open Rank Faculty (Cancer Focused)

LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center

Environmental Health Open Rank Faculty (Cancer Focused)

LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center

Director, Regulatory Operations

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

<u>Faculty Position in Cancer Research Focused on Indigenous Populations</u>

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

COE Postdoctoral Fellow

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Annual Catchment Area Data Conference: Beyond Definition

REGISTER BY DECEMBER 3

December 7-9, 2023 Richmond, VA

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop

REGISTER TODAY

March 12-13, 2024

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Rosemont, IL

2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day

SAVE THE DATE

May 16, 2024

Washington, DC

16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

June 24-26, 2024

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Rosemont, IL

2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

October 20-22, 2024

Loews Chicago Hotel
Chicago, IL

17th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

June 23-25, 2025

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Rosemont, IL

2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

October 19-21, 2025

Salamander Washington DC



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