

## AACI OFFICERS

### President

**Robert A. Winn, MD**

*VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center*

### Vice President/President-Elect

**Joann B. Sweasy, PhD**

*Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center*

### Immediate Past President

**Caryn Lerman, PhD**

*USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center*

### Treasurer

**David M. Gosky, MA, MBA**

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

### Executive Director

**Jennifer W. Pegher, MA**

*Association of American Cancer Institutes*

## AACI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Edward Chu, MD, MMS

*Montefiore Einstein  
Comprehensive Cancer Center*

### Marcia Cruz-Correa, MD, PhD

*University of Puerto Rico  
Comprehensive Cancer Center*

### Raymond N. DuBois, MD, PhD

*Hollings Cancer Center  
Medical University of South Carolina*

### Steven D. Leach, MD

*Dartmouth Cancer Center  
Dartmouth College  
Dartmouth Health*

### Ruben A. Mesa, MD, FACP

*Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist  
Comprehensive Cancer Center*

### Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, FRCOG, FACOG

*The University of Chicago Medicine  
Comprehensive Cancer Center*

### Yolanda Sanchez, PhD

*University of New Mexico  
Comprehensive Cancer Center*

### Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil

*Abramson Cancer Center of the  
University of Pennsylvania*

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) is the only membership association dedicated to academic cancer centers. AACI represents more than 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. AACI advances the objectives of cancer centers by promoting widespread recognition of the cancer center network, educating policymakers, and fostering partnerships between and among cancer centers and like-minded organizations to improve the overall quality of cancer care.

## CLINICAL RESEARCH INNOVATION

AACI's **Clinical Research Innovation** (CRI) provides a network for cancer center clinical research leaders to share best practices. CRI hosts an annual meeting that brings together clinical trials professionals from AACI cancer centers, industry, and government agencies to address common challenges. Member services include access to topic- and role-based listservs and the opportunity to participate in working groups and task forces that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion; staff retention; and the role of clinical trials office medical directors.

## PHYSICIAN CLINICAL LEADERSHIP

AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative** (PCLI) provides a forum for AACI cancer center physician leaders to promote cancer center clinical and quality care programs. PCLI addresses these interests through an annual meeting and by hosting webinars on a range of topics.

## CELLULAR THERAPIES

The AACI **CAR T Initiative** brings together individuals at AACI member cancer centers to develop and disseminate resources that will guide them in making CAR T therapies more accessible for patients. Through the guidance of the CAR T Steering Committee, the initiative has fostered partnerships with industry and patient advocacy organizations to increase community referrals for CAR T therapy and mitigate the financial burden placed on CAR T therapy patients.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

AACI's **public policy** activity is guided by the Government Relations (GR) Steering Committee, which coordinates efforts among AACI cancer centers to educate legislators about the positive impact of cancer research on patients and enhances understanding of policy issues pertaining to cancer prevention, treatment, clinical trials, and survivorship.

## LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the urgent need for diversity in the oncology leadership pipeline, **Caryn Lerman, PhD**, focused her AACI presidential initiative on leadership development for emerging cancer center leaders from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Lerman and her steering committee published best practices for mentoring and onboarding, and the inaugural **Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop** was held in November 2022, followed by a second workshop in March 2024.



# AACI Inclusive Excellence Initiative

AACI President **Robert A. Winn, MD**, director of VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, aims to develop and promote “inclusive excellence” with his AACI **presidential initiative**, by examining methods through which AACI members can foster partnerships with like-minded organizations, government agencies, and other institutions – regionally, nationally, and globally.

## INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

### Chair

**Robert A. Winn, MD**  
VCU Massey  
Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Wafik S. El-Deiry, MD, PhD, FACP**  
Legorreta Cancer Center at  
Brown University

**Rudene Mercer Haynes, JD**  
Community advocate  
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

**Loriana Hernández-Aldama**  
Community advocate  
ArmorUp for LIFE®

**Robert S. Mannel, MD**  
Stephenson Cancer Center  
University of Oklahoma

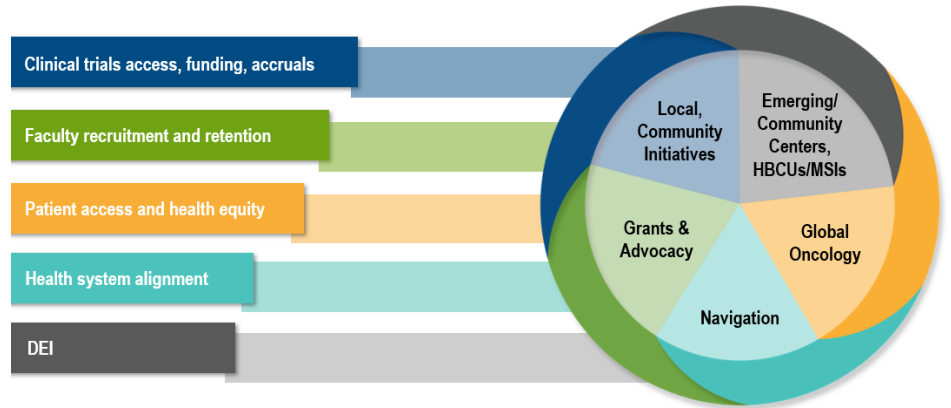
**Stephen D. Nimer, MD**  
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of Miami

**Ze'ev Ronai, PhD**  
Sanford Burnham Prebys  
Medical Discovery Institute

**Joann B. Sweasy, PhD**  
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

**Cornelia Ulrich, MS, PhD**  
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the  
University of Utah

## PRIORITIES INFORMED BY CANCER CENTERS



## A FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSIVITY

The Inclusive Excellence Initiative focuses on collaborative efforts to create opportunities for research, training and education, and patient navigation. The initiative will also support the continued facilitation of AACI’s Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Summit hosted by AACI in partnership with the Cancer Center DEI Network and the American Cancer Society.

CCCIF collaborations to identify and deploy community champions

- Bridge funding
- Enhanced AACI and NCI/government interactions

- DEI Summits with ACS / DEI Network
- Roadmap for DEI
- LDDI Workshop continuation
- Inclusiveness of HBCU/MSIs

Partnerships within Africa, South America

Partner with ACS CAN



Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Medical Arts Building  
3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 503  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

PO Box 7317  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

[www.aaci-cancer.org](http://www.aaci-cancer.org)

[mail@aaci-cancer.org](mailto:mail@aaci-cancer.org)

