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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | August 2020

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[Awards & Honors](#) | [Grants & Gifts](#) | [Leadership Transitions](#) | [Research Highlights](#) | [Other News & COVID-19](#)

AACI HEADLINES

[Stewart Returns to Princess Margaret to Lead Cancer Program](#)



Princess Margaret Cancer Centre welcomes back renowned multiple myeloma clinician and researcher, **Keith Stewart, MB, ChB**, from the Mayo Clinic. Effective June 1, Dr. Stewart is the vice president, cancer; director of the Princess Margaret Cancer Program, UHN; and regional vice president, Toronto Central South Regional Cancer Program, Ontario Health. [Read More](#)

[Sweasy Named Director of Arizona Cancer Center](#)



Joann Sweasy, PhD, has been named director of the University of Arizona Cancer Center, and the inaugural holder of the Nancy C. and Craig M. Berge Endowed Chair for the director of the cancer center. Dr. Sweasy joined the cancer center in June 2019 as associate director for basic sciences and served as interim director for the past nine months. [Read More](#)

[DuBois Named to Additional Leadership Role as Director, MUSC Hollings Cancer Center](#)

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) has announced the appointment of MUSC College of Medicine Dean **Raymond N. DuBois, MD, PhD**, to the additional role of director for the MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. Dean DuBois has led the College of Medicine for more than four years. He will assume the added leadership responsibilities effective August 17. [Read More](#)



Chu Named Director of Albert Einstein Cancer Center



Edward Chu, MD, MMS, has been named director of the National Cancer Institute-designated Albert Einstein Cancer Center, effective October 1, 2020. Dr. Chu currently serves as the deputy director of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Register Today for the 2020 AACI/CCAF Virtual Meeting



Registration is now open for the 2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, which will take place **October 12-13** in a virtual format. **Meeting registration is free for AACI cancer center members and sustaining members.** Please visit the [meeting website](#) to register, view the virtual session details, read speaker profiles, and learn about support opportunities. [Read More](#)

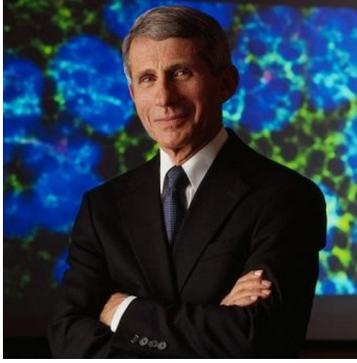
AACI to Honor Kaelin With Distinguished Scientist Award



William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD, will receive AACI's Distinguished Scientist Award on October 12, during the 2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting. AACI is recognizing Dr. Kaelin, a researcher and professor of medicine at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard University Medical School, and Nobel Laureate, for his long-term research on how cells sense and adapt to changing oxygen levels. [Read More](#)

AACI Stands in Support of Dr. Anthony Fauci, Continued COVID-19 Guidance

Last month AACI issued a [press release](#) affirming its strong support of Dr. Anthony Fauci in light of public criticism of his recommendations for stemming the spread of the novel coronavirus. In addition to issuing its own press release, AACI joined over 50 science and public health organizations to express support for Dr. Fauci in [a letter to Vice President Mike Pence](#). [Read More](#)



NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Chief Information Security Officer Named to Federal Advisory Committee

Moffitt Cancer Center



Dave Summitt, chief information security officer at Moffitt Cancer Center, has been selected for the Federal Communication Commission's newly formed federal advisory committee, the Hospital Robocall Protection Group. Summitt will also serve as chairperson for the committee. [Read More](#)

Chen Elected Co-Chair of NCI's Prostate Cancer Task Force

The University of Kansas Cancer Center



Ronald Chen, MD, MPH, has been elected radiation oncology co-chair of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) National Clinical Trials Network Prostate Cancer Task Force. It is overseen by the Genitourinary Cancers Steering Committee, which meets monthly to address the design, prioritization and evaluation of concepts for Phase II and Phase III clinical trials in genitourinary cancers. [Read More](#)

Radiation Oncology Residency Program Receives Accreditation

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

The radiation oncology residency program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has received accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. When efforts to launch the program began in 2017, there was no residency training for radiation oncology in the state, and Arkansas was one of the few states that didn't offer specialty training in radiation oncology. [Read More](#)

Muss Receives ASCO Award for Improving Cancer Care in Older Adults

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

The American Society of Clinical Oncology honored **Hyman B. Muss, MD, FASCO**, with the 2020 Allen S. Lichter Visionary Leader Award for his career-long dedication to improving the care of older patients with cancer. [Read More](#)

Fox Chase Radiation Oncology Residency Program Accredited by ACGME

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



The Radiation Oncology Residency Program at Fox Chase Cancer Center has received accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). **Stephanie E. Weiss, MD, FASTRO**, directs the program. [Read More](#)

Wiggins Honored With NAACCR Muir Award

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center



Chuck Wiggins, PhD, director of the New Mexico Tumor Registry, was recently honored by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries with its Calum S. Muir Memorial Award. The award recognizes substantive and outstanding contributions to the field of cancer surveillance. [Read More](#)

Radiation Oncologists Named ASTRO Fellows

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Two UPMC Hillman Cancer Center radiation oncologists have been designated Fellows of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), the world's largest society for radiation oncology professionals. **Felicia Snead, MD**, and **Sushil Beriwal, MD, MBA**, will receive their FASTRO designation at a virtual awards ceremony on October 27, during ASTRO's 62nd annual meeting. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

Huntsman Receives NCI Designation Renewal

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

NIH SPORE Renewal Awarded for Lung Cancer Research

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

\$6.9 Million Grant Awarded From NIEHS RIVER Program

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

USC Norris Receives \$5 Million for Cancer Drug Discoveries

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

\$3.7 Million NCI Grant to Support Research Exploring Mysterious Link Between Cancer, HIV/AIDS

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Overby Named Director of Clinical Trials Office



Amy Overby has been named director of the clinical trials office at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. Joining Winship from the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center, Overby will lead a team of more than 180 clinical research professionals and manage a portfolio of more than 300 ongoing trials. [Read More](#)

Figlin Named Deputy Director

Cedars-Sinai Cancer



Renal cancer specialist **Robert A. Figlin, MD**, has been named deputy director of Cedars-Sinai Cancer. The Steven Spielberg Family Chair in Hematology-Oncology will oversee all research planning and the administration and development of Cedars-Sinai Cancer. [Read More](#)

Chair of New Machine Learning Department Announced

Moffitt Cancer Center

Issam El Naqa, PhD, joins Moffitt Cancer Center as the founding chair of its new Machine Learning Department. The new department is focused on accelerating scientific discovery in cancer research through the design, development, and clinical translation of state-of-the-art patient-centered machine and deep learning algorithms. [Read More](#)

Community Science and Health Outcomes Associate Director Named

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

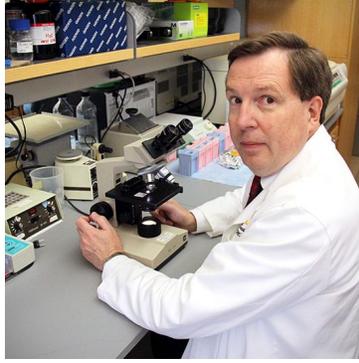


Debra Friedman, MD, MS, is expanding her leadership role in improving cancer outcomes both within and beyond the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center catchment area. She has been named associate director of Community Science and Health Outcomes. [Read More](#)

Clevenger Named Associate Director for Precision Oncology

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Charles Clevenger, MD, PhD, has been named associate director for precision oncology at VCU Massey Cancer Center. His lab has made fundamental insights into novel mechanisms of prolactin receptor signal transduction and is translating these findings into clinical trials. [Read More](#)



Director Named for Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine



Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS, has been appointed director of the Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity for Yale Cancer Center (YCC) and Smilow Cancer Hospital (SCH), as well as chief health equity officer and deputy chief medical officer at SCH, and associate cancer center director for community outreach and engagement at YCC.

[Read More](#)

Molecular and Cellular Oncogenesis Professor Appointed

The Wistar Institute



Chengyu Liang, MD, PhD, has been appointed as professor in the Molecular & Cellular Oncogenesis Program of The Wistar Institute Cancer Center. The Liang laboratory is focused on the mechanisms that regulate fundamental cellular processes such as autophagy, cell death, DNA damage repair, and membrane trafficking in the context of cancer and infectious disease. [Read More](#)

Hoimes Joins Duke Genitourinary Oncology

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center



Christopher Hoimes, DO, PhD, has joined the genitourinary (GU) oncology program at Duke Cancer Institute where he will serve as clinical investigator with a focus on GU cancers, experimental therapeutics, and early phase trials. He was previously director of GU malignancies at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

UAMS Expands With Addition of 12 Oncologists

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

The addition of 12 oncologists will expand services and increase access for patients at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Six of these doctors will treat outpatients at clinics; the remaining six will serve as hospitalists for cancer patients. [Read More](#)

Non-Invasive Blood Test Can Detect Cancer Four Years Before Conventional Diagnosis Methods

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Racial Disparities in Surgery Rates for Esophageal Cancer

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Study Shows Opioid, Sedative, and Antidepressant Use Pre-Surgery Leads to Worse Outcomes

UK Markey Cancer Center

Engineered Immune Cells Recognize, Attack Human and Mouse Solid-Tumor Cancer Cells

Cancer Center at Illinois

Big Data Studies Uncover Disparities in Access, Improve Patient Outcomes

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Largest-Ever Study of Prostate Cancer Genomics in Black Men IDs Potential Therapy Targets

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Researchers Identify Mechanism for Treating Cancer Cells

University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study Sheds Light on How Cancer Spreads in Blood

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Studies Highlight Emerging Treatment Options for Neuroendocrine Tumors

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

A New Way to Target Cancers Using 'Synthetic Lethality'

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Breast Cancer Cells Can Reprogram Immune Cells to Assist in Metastasis

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Excellent Research Results for CAR T Therapy Against Hodgkin Lymphoma

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

IU Physicians, Purdue Scientists Collaborate to Develop Test to Detect Kidney Cancer

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center

Skin Cancer Growth Driven by Subset of Cellular Masterminds

Stanford Cancer Institute

Microbiome Might Reveal Whether Immune Therapy Can Benefit a Patient

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

Probe Developed to Assess Prostate Cancer Aggressiveness

Cancer Center at Illinois

Study of Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer in Young Men Reveals Hotspots of Death in U.S.

Study Provides New Insight on Colorectal Cancer Growth

UK Markey Cancer Center

Boosting Immune Memory Improves Immunotherapy, Lowers Cancer Recurrence in Mice

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Phosphoprotein Biomarkers to Guide Cancer Therapy Identified

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

Portable Device May Change Standard of Care for Skin Cancer

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Study Suggests Method to Starve Pancreatic Cancer Cells

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Gene Responsible for Deadly Glioblastoma Identified

University of Virginia Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

Molecular Imaging Pioneer Dies at 57

Stanford Cancer Institute



Sanjiv Sam Gambhir, MD, PhD, professor and chair of radiology at Stanford School of Medicine and an internationally recognized pioneer in molecular imaging, died July 18 of cancer. He was 57. [Read More](#)

'Scientifically Fearless' Cancer Researcher Dies at 75

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center



Colleagues are mourning the passing of **Zena Werb, PhD**, a giant in the field of cancer biology whose four decades of research at UC San Francisco informed the rise of immunotherapy and other modern approaches to cancer treatment. [Read More](#)

Massey, Wright Center Developing Next-Generation Model for Cancer Research Training Program

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Faculty members at VCU Massey Cancer Center and the VCU C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research are expanding the curriculum for the Cancer and Molecular Medicine PhD program at VCU to better meet the nation's needs for the next generation of cancer scientists. [Read More](#)

Ohio State, IntraOp Announce FLASH Radiotherapy Collaboration

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

IntraOp Medical Corporation has announced delivery of its pre-clinical high dose rate electron beam linear accelerator to OSUCCC – James for the study of FLASH radiotherapy. [Read More](#)

University of Haifa Launches Collaboration With Roswell Park

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Tauber Bioinformatics Research Center at University of Haifa and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center have launched a collaboration that will couple the expertise in cancer, genomics, and biomedical research at Roswell Park and in bioinformatics at University of Haifa. [Read More](#)

Wistar, Cheyney University Forge Strategic Collaboration

The Wistar Institute

The Wistar Institute and Cheyney University of Pennsylvania have launched a strategic collaboration uniting the nation's first independent biomedical research institute and the nation's first historically Black college and university in order to expand life science research education, training, and business development opportunities in Pennsylvania. [Read More](#)

Illinois Governor Signs Proposal to Cover Cancer Clinical Trials for Medicaid Beneficiaries

University of Illinois Cancer Center

Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker has enacted a health care package that includes a proposal requiring the state's Medicaid program to cover routine care costs incurred for an approved clinical trial involving the prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer or any other life-threatening disease, as long as Medicaid would normally cover those same routine care costs for a non-clinical procedure. [Read More](#)

MD Anderson, Sanofi Announce Collaboration

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Sanofi have announced a five-year strategic collaboration to accelerate the development of investigational treatments, including targeted and immune therapies, for patients with cancer. [Read More](#)

City of Hope, TGen Look to Create Personalized Roadmaps for Kidney Cancer Treatment

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Experts at City of Hope and the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) are using one of the world's most comprehensive genomic analysis tools to map out personalized treatment plans for metastatic kidney cancer patients. [Read More](#)

New Data Offer Insights on COVID Treatments for People With Cancer

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Newly released data on treatment outcomes of people with cancer diagnosed with COVID-19 reveal a racial disparity in access to Remdesivir, an antiviral drug that has been shown to shorten hospital stays, and increased mortality associated with dexamethasone, a steroid that has had the opposite effect in the general patient population. [Read More](#)

Nationwide Trends Show Fewer Cancer Patients Seeking Care Since Start of Pandemic

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Research from the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health found significant decreases nationwide in the number of patients being seen for cancer-related care as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed during the few first months of 2020. The most significant decline was seen in encounters related to new cancer incidences, which included screening, initial diagnosis, second opinion, and treatment initiation appointments.

[Read More](#)

ABMT House Calls

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Stem cell transplant patients are highly immune-compromised, so they are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19. That's why, in early March 2020, as the COVID-19 epidemic ramped up, the Duke Adult Blood and Marrow Transplant program leadership team made home care the standard of care for all active hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients. [Read More](#)

Researchers Help Identify Best Practices for Cancer Patient Care During COVID-19

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Fox Chase Cancer Center researchers were part of a national team that published a paper identifying best practices for protecting vulnerable cancer patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. "We're dealing with lung cancer and our lung cancer patients may be more at risk for severe disease due to COVID-19. A lot of the management we do puts them at greater risk after that," said **Sameera Kumar, MD**, one of the authors on the paper. [Read More](#)

Researchers Look to Cancer Studies to Understand Health Care Racial Disparities

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University



At Karmanos Cancer Institute, clinical and scientific researchers are examining factors that have led to the African-American population shouldering the heavy burden of cancer. The COVID-19 pandemic is providing a new lens through which cancer researchers can examine disparities in care. **Hayley Thompson, PhD**, is associate center director for community outreach and engagement. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Professor (or higher levels), Research Center for Health Equity

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Associate Director for Basic Research

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Director, Liver Cancer Research

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Research Program Co-Leader, Cancer Prevention and Control Program

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Administrative Director - Clinical Trials Office

Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone

Director of Administration

Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center

Industry Contract Manager

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Manager, Clinical Research Budget Analysis

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Senior Director for Oncology Science

Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma

Senior Director, Practice Affairs and Administration

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AACI CCAF ANNUAL MEETING 2020

2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING! DATES UPDATED

October 12-13, 2020

[Register Today](#)

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artificial Intelligence in Oncology Symposium

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

VIRTUAL MEETING!

October 19-20, 2020

[Learn More](#)



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