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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | July 2020

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Lerman Elected Vice President; Three Other Cancer Center Leaders to Join AACI Board of Directors](#)

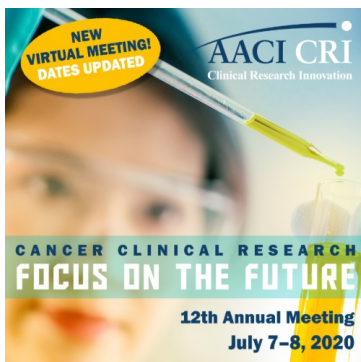


AACI members have elected **Caryn Lerman, PhD**, as vice president/president-elect of the association. **Cornelia Ulrich, MS, PhD**, and **Robert Winn, MD**, have been elected as new board members, and **Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH**, has been appointed to fill the remainder of Dr. Lerman's term as a regular board member. Drs. Ulrich and Winn will replace outgoing board members Gerold Bepler, MD, PhD, and Timothy L. Ratliff, PhD. [Read More](#)

[AACI Welcomes Two New New Cancer Center Members](#)

Last month AACI welcomed **University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC)** and **Cancer Center at Brown University** to its membership roster, bringing the association's total number of members to 102. The cancer centers are directed by **Marcia Cruz-Correa, MD, PhD**, and **Wafik S. El-Deiry, MD, PhD, FACP**, respectively. [Read More](#)

[Virtual CRI Meeting Highlights COVID-19 Challenges](#)



There is still time to register for the **12th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation Meeting**, next Tuesday and Wednesday, **July 7-8**. Although the meeting will be virtual due to safety concerns amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it will still provide an innovative and quality educational experience that aligns with AACI's strategic goal of stimulating cancer center interactions to maximize resources by creating opportunities for peer-to-peer networking and collaboration. [Read More](#)

[AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Shifts to Virtual Format](#)

To prioritize the health and well-being of AACI meeting attendees, supporters, and cancer center patients, AACI's Board of Directors and the 2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting Program Committee have decided not to move forward with an in-person meeting in Kansas City. Instead, the annual meeting will take place Monday and Tuesday, **October 12-13** in a virtual format. [Read More](#)

[Write Your Member of Congress to Protect J-1, F-1, and H-1B Visa Holders](#)

AACI encourages you to [write your representatives in Washington](#) to express concern about two recent presidential proclamations that suspend visa processing for individuals from China and for certain categories of high-skilled, non-immigrant visas from around the world. Prohibiting the entry of valued STEM students, postdoctoral associates, scientists, and researchers does not address our nation's public health needs or stimulate economic recovery. [Read More](#)

[Join AACI for a PCLI Webinar on July 22](#)



The AACI [Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative](#) (PCLI) will host "Implementation of Germline Testing for Prostate Cancer" at 1:00 pm eastern time on Wednesday, July 22. The webinar will highlight a recent consensus statement regarding guidelines for genetic prostate cancer testing and implications for clinical practice. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Le Beau Receives 2020 AACR-Margaret Foti Award](#)

[The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) has named **Michelle M. Le Beau, PhD**, director of the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center and a former AACI president, as the recipient of the 2020 AACR-Margaret Foti Award for Leadership and Extraordinary Achievements in Cancer Research. [Read More](#)

[Moffitt Leader Named to National Cancer Advisory Board](#)

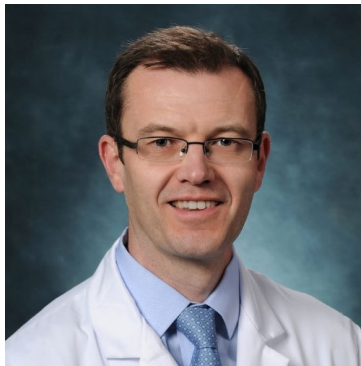
[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

Susan Vadapampil, PhD, MPH, associate center director of community outreach, engagement and equity at Moffitt Cancer Center, has been selected to serve on the National Cancer Advisory Board. [Read More](#)



Melanoma Research Foundation Honors Aplin With Humanitarian Award

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health



Andrew E. Aplin, PhD, has been recognized with the Melanoma Research Foundation Humanitarian Award. His research focuses on better understanding the mechanisms that cause aberrant cell growth and invasion in subsets of melanoma and identify novel therapeutic targets. [Read More](#)

Fang Appointed Associate Editor of Psychology Journal

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Fox Chase Cancer Center researcher **Carolyn Y. Fang, PhD**, has been appointed to serve as an associate editor for the journal *Health Psychology*. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

Siteman Earns Highest NCI Rating

Siteman Cancer Center

\$3.62 Million CDC Grant for Colorectal Cancer Screenings, Early Detection

WVU Cancer Institute

Researchers Awarded \$2.8 Million Cancer Systems Immunology Grant

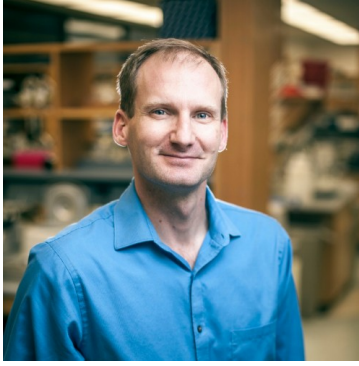
Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Cortez Named to Research Leadership Role

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

David Cortez, PhD, has been named associate director for basic science research at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. He is an expert in the field of DNA damage response and repair and made seminal discoveries



about the mechanisms that maintain genome integrity. [Read More](#)

Cancer Scientist Appointed to Senior Advisor Position

[Cancer Center at Illinois](#)



Benita S. Katzenellenbogen, PhD, has been appointed senior advisor to the director of the Cancer Center at Illinois (CCIL), **Rohit Bhargava, PhD**. She will counsel strategic, cancer-focused directions of CCIL research programs and educational activities, in addition to aiding in the growth of cancer researchers at the University of Illinois. [Read More](#)

Robinson to Lead Clinical Trials Program

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)

William Russel "Rusty" Robinson, MD, has joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Center and Research Institute as a professor in gynecologic oncology and hematology/oncology and head of its cancer clinical trials program. [Read More](#)

New Clinical Science Research Leaders Named

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

Eric B. Haura, MD, and **Nikhil Khushalani, MD**, have been named to new leadership positions in Moffitt Cancer Center's clinical science research division. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Study Shows Sedentary Behavior Independently Predicts Cancer Mortality

[The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)

UCSF, St. Jude Identify Key Culprit Driving Treatment Resistance in Deadly Immune Disorder

[UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Partnership to Test for Anti-Cancer Activity

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

A Moving Target in Small Cell Lung Tumors Identified

[Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah](#)

Findings on DNA Damage Repair Published

[UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute](#)

Focused Ultrasound Shows Promise Against Deadliest Brain Tumor

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

Researchers Find Medication Most Effective Quitting Method for Cancer Survivors Who Smoke

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Some Types of Prostate Cancer May Not Be as Aggressive as Originally Thought

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Strategy Suggested for Controlling Graft vs. Host Disease in BMT Recipients

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Study: Many Colon Cancer Patients Not Receiving Standard of Care Therapy

UK Markey Cancer Center

Targeted Therapy Shows Promise in Patients With Early-Stage, Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

Better Outcomes, Lower Cost Shown in First-Ever Oncology Hospital-at-Home Evaluation

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Study Shows Better Option for Treatment of Inoperable Anal Cancer

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Loss of Lipid-Regulating Gene Fuels Prostate Cancer Spread

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

No Higher Risk of Breast Cancer Seen for Women Who Don't Have BRCA Mutation But Have Relatives Who Do

Stanford Cancer Institute

Deleting an Inhibitory Gene in Natural Killer Cells Found to Boost Anti-Tumor Activity

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Lab-on-a-Chip Detects Breast Cancer Metastasis Earlier

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Mixed Progress in Efforts to Reduce Low Value Breast Cancer Surgery

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

The Right Dose for the Right Patient: Reducing Toxic Effects From Chemotherapy

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center

Tumors Disrupt the Immune System Throughout the Body

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

A Promising New Candidate for Overcoming Multiple Myeloma Treatment Resistance

Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

Building a Better Protein Trap

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Researchers Identify Key Immune Checkpoint Protein That Operates Within T Cells

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

Blood Test for Metastatic Prostate Cancer Could Suggest Better Treatment Options

Siteman Cancer Center

Scientists Engineer One Protein to Fight Cancer and Regenerate Neurons

Stanford Cancer Institute

Study Shows New Way of Identifying Tumor Response to Immunotherapy

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Guidance Issued on Genetic Testing for Prostate Cancer

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

UAMS Joins Study of Test to Predict Response to Ovarian Cancer Drugs

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Diet, Gut Microbes Affect Chemotherapy Outcomes

University of Virginia Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

Roswell Park Community Mourns Colegio

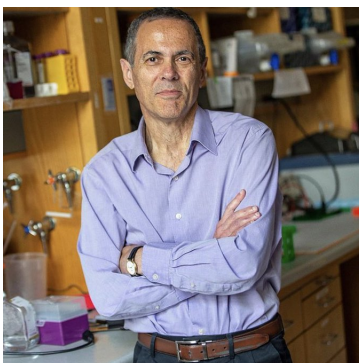
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center



Roswell Park staff and patients are mourning a devastating loss. **Oscar Colegio, MD, PhD**, the Lawrence P. & Joan Castellani Family Endowed Chair in Dermatology, died unexpectedly last month. He was 47. Dr. Colegio relocated to Buffalo when he was recruited to head Roswell Park's dermatology program in 2018. He had previously served as associate professor of Dermatology, Pathology, and Surgery at Yale University. [Read More](#)

Duke Marks Passing of Spector

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center



Flags were lowered to half-staff across Duke University for **Neil Spector, MD**, a nationally recognized physician-scientist, translational research leader, and oncology mentor who passed away on June 14. He was 63. [Read More](#)

MD Anderson, Philips Collaborate on Personalized Oncology Treatments

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Royal Philips are collaborating to provide

oncologists with evidence-based therapy and clinical trial guidance through Philips' oncology informatics solutions and MD Anderson's Precision Oncology Decision Support system. [Read More](#)

Bone Marrow Transplant Program to Become Newest Department at Fox Chase

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



The Fox Chase-Temple University Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant Program will soon become the newest department at Fox Chase. It will be chaired by **Henry Chi Hang Fung, MD, FACP, FRCPE**. [Read More](#)

Researchers Hit the Streets to Increase Cervical Cancer Screening Rates for Women in Jail

The University of Kansas Cancer Center



For many medical researchers, studying and combating disease means going to work in exam rooms, offices and laboratories. For **Megha Ramaswamy, PhD, MPH**, it means going to jails and hitting the streets. [Read More](#)

Telehealth Genitourinary Cancer Genetics Program Launched

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

To help identify people who have inherited genes for genitourinary cancers, UCLA Health and the Department of Urology at UCLA have created a new telehealth cancer genetics program that will provide rapid access to high-quality genetic counseling and testing. [Read More](#)

New Diagnostic Center Speeds Up Cancer Diagnosis, Provides Immediate Access

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

A new center at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute gives patients direct, expedited access to diagnostic testing for cancer. [Read More](#)

Health Care Leader Named Chair of Board of Directors

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Health care leader **Glenn D. Steele Jr., MD, PhD**, has been elected the new board chair of City of Hope, effective June 1. He joined the board in January 2016. Dr. Steele is former chairman of xG Health Solutions and former president and chief executive officer of Geisinger Health System. He also held leadership positions at the University of Chicago. [Read More](#)



Samuel Oschin Cancer Center Opens New Facility

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

The team tasked with designing the new Samuel Oschin Cancer Center at Cedars-Sinai had one overarching goal: creating a safe, soothing patient environment. The new facility includes easily navigated "neighborhoods" – designated areas in the unit where patients with a particular cancer type occupy the same waiting room and clinical exam area. [Read More](#)

Extremely Rapid Experimental COVID-19 Test Developed to Accelerate Diagnostic Turnaround

VCU Massey Cancer Center



Rebecca Martin, PhD, and two of her students have developed an extremely rapid experimental molecular diagnostic assay that decreases the amount of time required to diagnose COVID-19. [Read More](#)

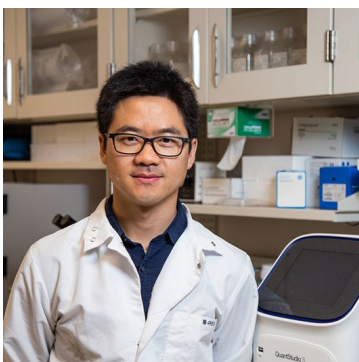
COVID-19 and Cancer Expose Society's Health Care Gaps

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Disease hits Black and brown people harder. Same for Indigenous people, individuals in rural areas, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and others who are medically underserved. It's true for cancer, for cardiovascular disease, and diabetes, and in these times, for COVID-19. [Read More](#)

Once a Coronavirus Vaccine Exists, Mailable Patch Could Deliver It to Millions

VCU Massey Cancer Center



Someday, hundreds of millions of vaccinations against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 could show up in people's mailboxes and be applied as simply as slapping on a Band-Aid. That's the vision of Guizhi "Julian" Zhu, PhD. [Read More](#)

To Help West Virginia Reopen Safely, Researchers Develop New COVID-19 Tests

WVU Cancer Institute

COVID-19 tests are in short supply. The companies that make the necessary chemicals—called reagents—can't keep up with demand. But researchers at West Virginia University are developing new tests on their own to identify who has COVID-19 now and who had it in the past but recovered. [Read More](#)

What Happens When Cancer Patients Get COVID-19?

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

The findings of the first large observational study of nearly 1,000 patients with cancer who contracted COVID-19—gleaned from over 100 institutions participating in the international COVID-19 & Cancer Consortium, or CCC19, patient registry—underscore how deadly the new coronavirus can be for patients with active cancer and other underlying health conditions. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical Trials Management System Product Support Manager

[Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center](#)

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

NEW VIRTUAL MEETING! DATES UPDATED

July 7-8, 2020

[Register Today](#)

2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

NEW VIRTUAL MEETING! DATES UPDATED

October 12-13, 2020

[Learn More](#)

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artificial Intelligence in Oncology Symposium

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

VIRTUAL MEETING!

October 19-20, 2020

[Learn More](#)



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