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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | June 2020

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AACI HEADLINES

[Abstract Winners Selected for CRI Virtual Meeting](#)



The AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Steering Committee, with the assistance of peer reviewers from the CRI community, have selected three abstracts from 77 submissions for formal presentation at the **12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting**, July 7-8. Winning abstract authors represent Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center; University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and Mays Cancer Center, UT Health San Antonio. The three winning abstracts will be presented individually during a virtual session on **Wednesday, July 8**. [Read More](#)

['Generational Humorist' to Deliver CRI Keynote](#)



Meagan Johnson will deliver the keynote presentation, "Zap the Generational Gap," at 1:35 pm eastern time on **Tuesday, July 7** during the 12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting. Johnson, a "generational humorist," challenges audiences to think differently and act decisively when working across generations. Since 1997, she has worked with a variety of organizations and associations to help employees find common ground and build on the unique strengths and values of each generation. [Read More](#)

[AACI and AACR Call for Increased Funding for NIH, NCI in Next COVID-19 Supplemental Package](#)

For a joint virtual day of action on **Friday, June 5**, AACI and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) have drafted a letter for our associations' members to share with their representatives. The letter builds on AACI's previous request for increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in fiscal year (FY) 2021, with additional requests related to COVID-



19. [Read More](#)

[Register Today for CRI's Shared Investigator Platform Webinar](#)

AACI's Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) will host "[Implementing the Shared Investigator Platform](#)" at 2:00 pm eastern on **Thursday, June 18**. Members of AACI's Shared Investigator Platform (SIP) Task Force will share experiences and suggested workflows for the successful implementation of the SIP. For members who may have questions about the utilization of the SIP platform, a representative from Cognizant will address technology solutions and ways centers can move forward with SIP implementation. [Read More](#)

[Recognizing and Preventing Cyber Attacks](#)

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of social engineering attacks across the nonprofit industry. The attacks range from email phishing to ransomware attacks and can cost organizations significant resources. This is especially relevant amid the COVID-19 pandemic, when many individuals are working remotely and defenses may be lowered due to a focus on the health crisis. [Read More](#)

[Submit Your Cancer Center News for July](#)

Thank you to the communications professionals who consistently provide AACI with news from their cancer centers — especially during the COVID-19 crisis. The July 2020 issue of AACI *Update* will be published on **Wednesday, July 1**. The deadline to submit your cancer center news is **Friday, June 26**. Please send your cancer center news to aaciupdate@aaci-cancer.org.

[View Our Submission Guidelines](#)

[Submit News](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Nusse Receives Gairdner International Award](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



Roeland Nusse, PhD, professor of developmental biology, is the recipient of Canada's Gairdner International Award for his work on understanding the role of the Wnt signaling pathway in normal development and in cancer. Nusse plans to donate his award to UNICEF to help provide protective equipment for health care workers caring for children amid the global COVID-19 pandemic. [Read More](#)

[Conaway Elected to National Academy of Sciences](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

Joan Weliky Conaway, PhD, an investigator at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and member of The University of Kansas Cancer



Center's Cancer Biology research program, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences for her distinguished and continuing achievements in original scientific research. [Read More](#)

Rogel Members Elected to National Academy of Sciences

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

Two University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center members were recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences. **Arul Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD**, is a molecular pathologist and physician at the leading edge of translational cancer research and precision oncology. **Janet L. Smith, PhD**, focuses on understanding biological processes through knowledge of the structures of key protein molecules. [Read More](#)

Chiang Honored by ASCO

[Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine](#)



Anne Chiang, MD, PhD, has been named a fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Dr. Chiang is an associate professor of medicine (medical oncology) at Yale Cancer Center and chief network officer and deputy chief medical officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven. [Read More](#)

Editor Named for Cancer Journal

[Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health](#)



Christian Koch, MD, PhD, FACP, MACE, director for the Division of Endocrinology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, was recently named a review editor for *Frontiers in Cancer Endocrinology*, a specialty section in the journal *Frontiers in Endocrinology*. [Read More](#)

Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine Announced by National Academy of Medicine

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

Christopher R. Cogle, MD, a professor of hematology and oncology at the University of Florida, is among the 10 leaders announced by the National Academy of Medicine as 2020 Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine Scholars. Dr. Cogle discovered that adult blood stem cells make blood vessels. He used that discovery to invent and patent new therapeutics for patients with blood cancers and cardiovascular diseases. [Read More](#)



GRANTS & GIFTS

Radiation Oncologist Awarded \$1.86 Million NCI Grant

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

Grant Awarded to Study New Ways to Detect Brain Tumors

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

\$1.6 Million Grant Targets Multiple Myeloma Bone Disease Therapies

[Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center](#)

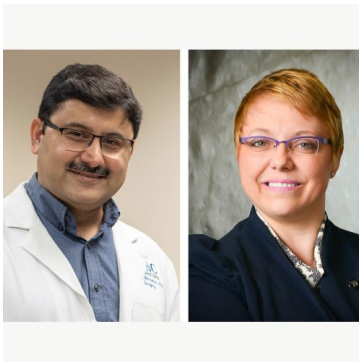
Yin Receives NCI Early Investigator MERIT Award

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

New Leaders to Advance Cancer Immunology

[Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina](#)



Shikhar Mehrotra, PhD, and **Sophie Paczesny, MD, PhD**, have been named co-leaders of the Cancer Immunology program at Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Mehrotra's appointment began March 2. Dr. Paczesny's appointment begins July 1. [Read More](#)

Clinical Care Appointments Announced

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announces the appointment of new leaders in three key areas of clinical care: **Mary Ann Long, RN, MS**, returns as senior vice president of nursing; **Laurie J. Smith, MA**, is the new vice president of clinical research services; and **Timothy Quinn, MD**, has been promoted to chief of critical care. [Read More](#)

Veterinary Oncologist to Lead Research Program

[Cancer Center at Illinois](#)

Timothy M. Fan, DVM, PhD, professor of veterinary oncology, has been appointed as program leader of the Cancer Center at Illinois research program in Cancer Discovery Platforms Across the Engineering-Biology Continuum. Dr. Fan will co-lead this research program with Brendan Harley, ScD, and he is the current president of the Veterinary Cancer Society. [Read More](#)



Hull Joins Markey as Associate Director of Population Science and Community Impact

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)



UK Markey Cancer Center announces that medical sociologist **Pamela Hull, PhD**, will join the center and serve as its associate director of population science and community impact. Dr. Hull's expertise is in the development, testing and dissemination of behavioral interventions to promote cancer prevention behaviors, and she has more than 15 years of experience conducting community-engaged research. [Read More](#)

Virology Expert Appointed Associate Professor

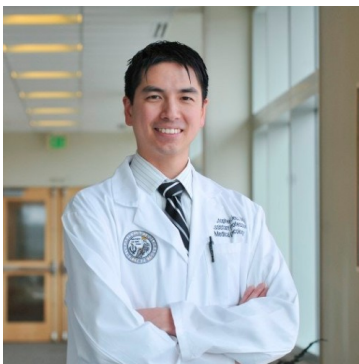
[The Wistar Institute](#)



The Wistar Institute announces the appointment of **Italo Tempera, PhD**, as associate professor in the Gene Expression & Regulation Program of The Wistar Institute Cancer Center. Dr. Tempera is a molecular virologist with special expertise in the study of the Epstein Barr virus and how it regulates expression of its genes in the host cell during infection. [Read More](#)

Lieu Named Associate Director of Clinical Research

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)



The University of Colorado Cancer Center announces that **Christopher Lieu, MD**, is now associate director of clinical research. Dr. Lieu was interim associate director for eight months. For the past nine years Dr. Lieu has been an investigator on numerous CU Cancer Center studies, including taking the lead on early-onset colorectal cancer research. [Read More](#)

Bona Appointed Director of Benign Hematology

[Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine](#)

Yale Cancer Center announces the appointment of **Robert Bona, MD**, as professor of medicine (hematology) and inaugural director of the Benign



Hematology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. He will also join as medical director of Smilow's Hemophilia Treatment Center for the Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Program. [Read More](#)

Pathology Chair, Lymphoma Center Associate Director Named

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

City of Hope announces the hiring of **Stanley Hamilton, MD**, and **Alexey Danilov, MD, PhD**. Dr. Hamilton brings more than four decades of expertise to his new role as chair of the Department of Pathology. Dr. Danilov is now associate director of the Toni Stephenson Lymphoma Center. [Read More](#)

Wistar Appoints Tian as Professor in the Cancer Center, Co-Director of Center for Systems and Computational Biology

[The Wistar Institute](#)



The Wistar Institute announces the appointment of molecular systems biologist **Bin Tian, PhD**, as professor in the cancer center. Dr. Tian focuses on RNA biology and understanding how gene expression is regulated at the post-transcriptional level. His research involves interdisciplinary approaches, including molecular biology, genomics and computational biology, to study RNA biogenesis and metabolism. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Focused Ultrasound Opening Brain to Impossible Treatments

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

Immunotherapy Resistance Mechanism Identified

[Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center](#)

Multicenter Clinical Trial Finds New Blood Test Accurately Detects Over 50 Types of Cancer

[Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center](#)

New Advances Toward Safely Targeting Immune Cells to Pediatric Brain Tumors

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

Anti-Malarial Drug Shows Promise for Brain Cancer Treatment

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

Benefits of eHealth Services Identified

[Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System](#)

Dearth of Research Seen on Impact of Anti-Cancer Drugs on Aquatic Ecosystems

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

Identifying a Sex-Specific Therapeutic Target for Glioblastoma

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Targets for Childhood Brain Tumors Identified

Siteman Cancer Center

Targeted Chemotherapy Shows Promise Against Treatment-Resistant Cancers

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

ARCHES Patient-Reported Outcomes Published

Duke Cancer Center, Duke University Medical Center

Researchers Identify Checkpoint Target for Colorectal Cancer Immunotherapy

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center

New Treatment Extends Lives of People With Most Common Type of Liver Cancer

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Supportive Oncodermatology Interventions Improve Patient Quality of Life

GW Cancer Center

Scientist May Have Found First Test for Detecting Lymph Node Metastasis in Pancreatic Cancer

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Collaboration Aims to Develop Anti-PD-1 Therapy in Rare Cancers

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Researchers Find New Insights Linking Cell Division to Cancer

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

State Cancer Plan Has Robust Input From Vanderbilt-Ingram

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center



Sixteen physicians, researchers, and educators from Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center have collaborated with the Tennessee Cancer Coalition, Tennessee Department of Health, and other statewide partners to create the Tennessee State Cancer Plan 2018-2022. **Jennifer Pietenpol, PhD**, is executive vice president for research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and director of the cancer center. [Read More](#)

Two Doctors Named Top Physicians Under 40 in Pennsylvania

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

The Pennsylvania Medical Society released its list of this year's Top Physicians Under 40. Two Fox Chase Cancer Center doctors were honored: **Sanjay S. Reddy, MD, FACS**, associate professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology, and **Namrata "Neena" Vijayvergia, MD**, assistant chief of gastrointestinal medical oncology in the Department of Hematology/Oncology. [Read More](#)

Industry Partnership Aims to Secure Domestic Pharmaceutical Supply Chain

VCU Massey Cancer Center



To prevent domestic shortages of critical medications, the Medicines for All Institute, based in the Virginia Commonwealth University College of Engineering and led by VCU Massey Cancer Center researcher **B. Frank Gupton, PhD**, has joined forces with pharmaceutical industry leaders to bring manufacturing of vulnerable pharmaceuticals and their ingredients back to the United States. [Read More](#)

Cancer Center Pivots to Protect Patients, Trial Participants Amid Pandemic

The University of Kansas Cancer Center



During the pandemic, cancer patients undergoing treatment or participating in clinical trials at The University of Kansas Cancer Center don't have to worry about whether they can get a test for the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The research arm of KU Cancer Center stepped up to allow patients to opt in to a study that provided the test and also covered its cost. **Roy Jensen, MD**, is director of KU Cancer Center and president of AACI. [Read More](#)

Clinical Trial Urged for Blood Pressure Drug to Prevent Lethal Complication of COVID-19

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Researchers in the Ludwig Center at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center report they have identified a drug treatment that could—if given early enough—potentially reduce the risk of death from the most serious complication of COVID-19. Prazosin, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved alpha blocker that relaxes blood vessels, may specifically target an extreme inflammatory process often referred to as cytokine storm syndrome that disproportionately affects older adults with underlying health conditions, and is associated with disease severity and increased risk of death in COVID-19 infection. [Read More](#)

Immunotherapy Combination to Be Evaluated in Cancer Patients With COVID-19

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

A unique two-drug immunotherapy combination first evaluated at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as an approach for treating some cancers will soon be available to cancer patients with COVID-19 through a clinical trial at Roswell Park. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has authorized clinical researchers at the center to conduct a study assessing the safety and effectiveness of giving both rintatolimod and interferon alfa to cancer patients with COVID-19. [Read More](#)

App Calculates Risk of Delaying Cancer Care During Pandemic

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

A team of data scientists and cancer doctors from the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center and the U-M School of Public Health have developed a free, web-based application—the OncCOVID app—which draws on large, national cancer data sets to help assess the risk from of immediate treatment versus delayed treatment, depending on a patient's individual characteristics, as well as on COVID's impact on their local community. [Read More](#)

Creating a Vaccine Against COVID-19

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

David Peabody, PhD, and Bryce Chackerian, PhD, at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, are creating vaccines from particles that are the opposite of Trojan horses: they look deadly on the outside but are harmless on the inside. The spherical virus-like particles can be engineered to display viral epitopes on their surfaces, inciting the immune system to produce antibodies against the epitope. The technology has been used to create vaccines that target human papillomavirus, malaria, and even metastatic breast cancer cells. [Read More](#)

Researchers Co-Leading 'Pick-the-Winner' Clinical Trial for COVID-19

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

Clinical leaders from the University of Kentucky's Markey Cancer Center, College of Medicine, and College of Pharmacy have launched a clinical trial for experimental therapies to treat patients infected with COVID-19. The trial will investigate the effectiveness of azithromycin, ivermectin, and camostat mesylate —drugs that could inhibit replication of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease. The three will be tested either as stand-alone therapies or in combination with the antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine. [Read More](#)

During COVID-19, Telehealth Reconnects Patients With Health Care Providers

[UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center](#)

Prior to COVID-19, video visits at UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center were used sparingly. UC San Diego Health had completed just 870 telehealth appointments in the preceding three-year period. But days before California issued a stay-at-home ordinance, a plan was put in motion to provide health care providers with the tools and training they needed to convert in-person appointments to video visits. In just four days, 1,000 face-to-face clinic appointments were converted to telehealth visits. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Associate Vice President, Cancer Programs

[Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center](#)

2020 AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS



AACI/AACR Hill Day

POSTPONED

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12th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

NEW VIRTUAL MEETING! DATES UPDATED

July 7-8, 2020

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2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

October 11-13, 2020

Kansas City

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