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## News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | October 2020

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

### AACI HEADLINES

#### [Annual Meeting Spotlight: Basic Science and Pediatric Cancer Care](#)



The **2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting** will virtually convene AACI cancer center members with national cancer research and advocacy groups, industry, and government health agencies on **October 12-13**. At two meeting sessions, panelists will discuss the application of basic science and pediatric cancer research to the delivery of improved treatments for all cancers. [Read More](#)

#### [AACI to Welcome New Members to CRI and GR Steering Committees](#)

AACI will welcome new members to its **Clinical Research Innovation** (CRI) and **Government Relations** (GR) Forum steering committees. The new members will formally assume their duties during the **2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**, held virtually **October 12-13**. [Read More](#)

#### [AACI Now Accepting Recommendations for PCLI Steering Committee](#)



AACI is seeking recommendations for the **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative** (PCLI) Steering Committee. The PCLI steering committee helps guide the activities of the initiative, identify barriers and challenges where AACI cancer center clinical leaders can share best practices, and identify ways AACI can collaborate with like-minded organizations. [Read More](#)

## Schwarz Elected Officer of Radiation Research Society

Siteman Cancer Center



**Julie K. Schwarz, MD, PhD**, a Washington University professor of radiation oncology at Siteman Cancer Center, has been elected vice president of the Radiation Research Society. She will go on to serve as president beginning in October 2022. [Read More](#)

## Farma Recognized as Master Surgeon Educator

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Fox Chase Cancer Center's **Jeffrey Farma, MD, FACS**, was recently admitted to the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. He is chief of the Division of General Surgery at Fox Chase and co-director of the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Program. [Read More](#)

## 5 For the Fight Announces Inaugural Class of Fellows

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

5 For the Fight, a global movement inviting everyone to give \$5 for the fight against cancer, has announced the inaugural recipients of the 5 For the Fight Cancer Research Fellowship in partnership with Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah. [Read More](#)

## Martin Awarded New Endowed Professorship

University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center



Breast cancer researcher **Stuart S. Martin, PhD**, has been installed as the inaugural Drs. Angela and Harry Brodie Professor in Translational Cancer Research. The endowed professorship honors the late **Angela H. Brodie, PhD**, who, with her husband, **Harry Brodie, PhD**, pioneered the development of aromatase inhibitors. [Read More](#)

## Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center Receives \$126 Million Gift

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System

## \$111 Million NIH Grant Awarded to Prevent and Treat HIV-Associated

## Cancers

[Albert Einstein Cancer Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine](#)

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### 'Exceptional' Score Earned With NCI-Designated Comprehensive Center Renewal

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

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### Tisch Gets Second Consecutive NCI Designation

[The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai](#)

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### Effort to Combat Melanoma Gets \$13 Million Boost

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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### NIH Funds Research on Differences in Glioblastoma Between Males, Females

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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### Ohio State to Study Impact of COVID-19 in First Responders With \$10 Million Grant

[The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute](#)

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### \$5.7 Million Awarded to Study Chemo-Induced Hearing Loss, Toxicities

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

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### \$3.7 Million Awarded to Address Genetic Testing Among Families

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

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### \$3.1 Million Grant Supports Exploration of Immune Response to Cancer Mutations

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

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### Fighting Breast Cancer With Nanotech, Immunotherapy

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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### \$2.9 Million Grant Will Look at Impact of HPV on Head and Neck Cancer

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

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### \$1.9 Million Grant Funds DNA Damage Research

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

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### Grant to Fund Gene Imaging Research

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

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### \$1.1 Million Grant Awarded to Develop Metabolomics Data Analysis Tools

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

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## LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

### Osborne Steps Down as Director

[Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine](#)

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After 15 years in the role, **C. Kent Osborne, MD**, has stepped down as director of the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine. He will stay on at Baylor as founding director of the center. **Helen Heslop, MD, DSc (Hon)**, director of the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy, will serve as interim director. [Read More](#)



## Gruber to Head Center for Precision Medicine

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

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Cancer geneticist **Stephen Gruber, MD, PhD, MPH**, has joined City of Hope as the director of its newly founded Center for Precision Medicine. He will lead a team of more than 14 researchers who will work across the institution to pioneer personalized cancer prevention and treatment plans. [Read More](#)

## Patel Appointed as Caspar Wistar Fellow

The Wistar Institute

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The Wistar Institute has appointed **Ami Patel, PhD**, as a Caspar Wistar Fellow in the Vaccine and Immunotherapy Center. Her research focuses on strategies to combat emerging infectious diseases, including engineering vaccines and immunotherapies against viral and bacterial pathogens. [Read More](#)

## Expert in Early-Phase Cancer Research Tapped to Head Clinical Investigation Team

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

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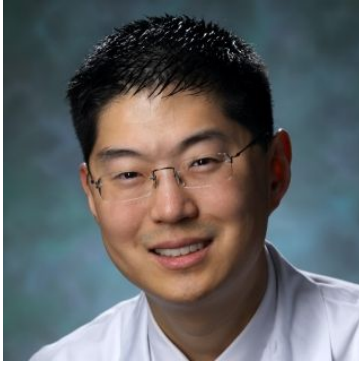
Having dedicated his career to developing better treatments for cancer, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's **Igor Puzanov, MD, MSCI, FACP**, has been promoted to senior vice president of clinical investigation. [Read More](#)

## Lim to Lead Department of Neurosurgery

Stanford Cancer Institute

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**Michael Lim, MD**, has been appointed chair of the Stanford University School of Medicine's Department of Neurosurgery. He joined Stanford



from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Lim succeeds **Gary Steinberg, MD, PhD**, who is stepping down after 25 years as department chair. [Read More](#)

## New Leadership Roles to Focus on Quality and Safety

**Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health**

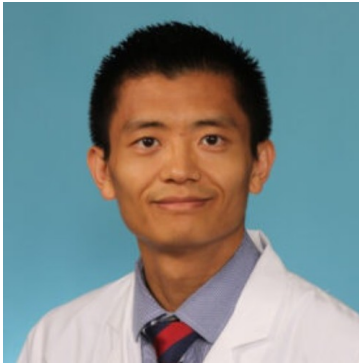
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The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health (SKCC) has announced two leadership roles focused on quality and safety in cancer care. **Mark Hurwitz, MD, FASTRO, FACRO**, is the new SKCC enterprise cancer quality and safety officer and **Valerie Csik, MPH, CPPS**, was appointed director of cancer quality and care transformation. [Read More](#)

## Chief of Gamma Knife Service Named

**Siteman Cancer Center**

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**Jiayi Huang, MD**, has been named chief of the central nervous system/Gamma Knife service at Washington University School of Medicine and Siteman Cancer Center. He had been serving as interim chief since October 2019. [Read More](#)

## Population Health Expert Joins Cancer Center

**The University of Kansas Cancer Center**

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**Elizabeth Calhoun, PhD, MEd**, has been named associate dean for population health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She also joins The University of Kansas Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control research program. [Read More](#)

## Braithwaite Appointed Associate Director for Population Sciences

**University of Florida Health Cancer Center**

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**Dejana Braithwaite, PhD**, has been appointed as associate director for population sciences at the University of Florida Health Cancer Center, starting November 1. Since 2017, she has led the cancer screening group at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)





## Associate Chief Medical Officer for Radiation Oncology Appointed

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine

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**James B. Yu, MD, MHS**, has been promoted to associate chief Medical officer for radiation oncology for Smilow Cancer Hospital and Smilow Cancer Hospital Network. Dr. Yu specializes in treating genitourinary cancers. [Read More](#)

## Department of Medicine Chair Named

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

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**Ruth O'Regan, MD**, chief of Hematology, Medical Oncology and Palliative Care at the University of Wisconsin, has been named the next chair of medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center's School of Medicine and Dentistry. She succeeds **Paul Levy, MD**, who is stepping down after a decade as chair. [Read More](#)

## Prominent Researchers, Physicians Join Faculty

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

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Cedars-Sinai Cancer is continuing to expand its clinical and investigative research staff with the addition of several new faculty scientists who bring a breadth of expertise to cancer patients. **Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD**, is the center's director. [Read More](#)

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## KRAS Inhibitor Sotorasib Appears Safe, Achieves Durable Clinical Benefit in Early Trial

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

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## **Two Million Americans Buy Prescription Drugs Outside the Country**

**University of Florida Health Cancer Center**

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## **VICC Leading First Global Study of MDS/MPN Overlap Syndrome**

**Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center**

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## **Shifting Liver Cancer Cells Away From Migratory State Could Reduce Their Drug Resistance**

**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

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## **Study Highlights Need for Genetic Testing for Patients With Lung Cancer**

**UK Markey Cancer Center**

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## **Study Finds Savings in Blue Cross, Blue Shield Value-Based Primary Care Programs**

**UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**

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## **Study Educates Oncologists on LGBTQ+ Health Concerns**

**Moffitt Cancer Center**

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## **Black People More Likely to Die From Colorectal Cancer Spreading to Liver**

**City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center**

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## **Cancer Cells Take Over Blood Vessels to Spread**

**Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University**

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## **Smoking Associated With Worse Outcomes for Bladder Cancer After Surgery**

**USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center**

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## **To Reduce Colorectal Cancer Disparities Among African Americans, More Intervention Research is Needed**

**Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah**

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## **Scientists Engineer DNA-based Nanotechnology to Stimulate Potent Antitumor Immune Responses in Preclinical Models**

**The Wistar Institute**

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## **Genetic Testing Cost Effective for Newly Diagnosed GIST**

**UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center**

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## **Rubbery Properties Help RNA Nanoparticles Target Tumors Efficiently and Quickly Leave Body**

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

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## **Cancer Discovery Reveals Key Process in Tumor Formation**

**University of Virginia Cancer Center**

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## **Combination Immunotherapy Benefits Subset of Patients With Advanced Prostate Cancer**

**The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**

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## **Deep Look at Immune Cells in Patient Tumors Reveals Insights on Timing for Treatment Combinations**

**Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**

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## **Investigating Disparities in Eye Cancer Treatment**

## Researchers Identify Driver of Further Metastasis in BRAF Inhibitor Resistant Melanoma

Moffitt Cancer Center

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## NCORP Clinical Trial Accrual Goals Exceeded

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

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### OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

## New Initiative Aims to Put Postponed Cancer Screenings 'Back on the Books'

Prevent Center Foundation

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To help encourage routine cancer screenings, especially as patients have postponed or canceled them during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prevent Cancer Foundation has launched a public service announcement campaign, "Back on the Books," to remind people to reschedule their appointments. [Read More](#)

## Winn Part of AACR Congressional Briefing on Cancer Disparities

VCU Massey Cancer Center

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As a member of the steering committee that contributed to the American Association of Cancer Research's inaugural "Cancer Disparities Progress Report," VCU Massey Cancer Center Director **Robert Winn, MD**, recently participated in a virtual congressional briefing on the report's findings. [Read More](#)

## City of Hope, Chimeric to Develop CAR T Cell Therapy

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

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City of Hope has licensed intellectual property relating to its pioneering chlorotoxin chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapy to Chimeric Therapeutics Limited, an Australian biotechnology company. The center has also dosed its first patient in its innovative chlorotoxin CAR T cell therapy trial. [Read More](#)

## Free Genome Sequencing Now Available to All UCSF Patients

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

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UC San Francisco scientists have launched a precision medicine initiative to offer free voluntary whole genome sequencing to all UCSF Health patients. The goal of the initiative, called the UCSF 3D Health Study (for "Data, Discovery, and Diversity") is to build a genomic database that matches the diversity of UCSF Health's patient population. [Read More](#)

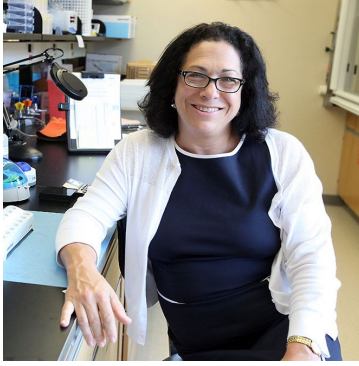
## Innova Therapeutics Receives Rare Pediatric Disease Designation From FDA for Osteosarcoma Treatment

Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Innova Therapeutics Inc., rare pediatric disease designation for IVT-8086 for the treatment of osteosarcoma. MUSC Hollings Cancer Center researcher **Nancy Klauber-DeMore, MD**, was instrumental in the development of the research that led to the therapy. [Read More](#)





## Women Surgeons Earn Their Cut of NIH Funding and Then Some

University of Virginia Cancer Center

Women are underrepresented in the field of academic surgery, but women surgeons are earning a disproportionate share of research grants from the National Institutes of Health, a new study has found. Women comprise 19 percent of surgery faculty at academic health systems, but held 26.4 percent of R01 grants, the researchers found. [Read More](#)

## Clinical Trial Will Examine Short- and Long-Term Outcomes for Patients With COVID-19 and Cancer

VCU Massey Cancer Center

A nationwide clinical trial funded by the National Cancer Institute and now open at VCU Massey Cancer Center will examine the short- and long-term outcomes of patients with COVID-19 and cancer to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of infection. [Read More](#)

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

#### Clinical Trials Manager

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

#### Unit Manager, Experimental Therapeutics Incubator

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

#### Associate Director of Finance, Clinical Trials Office

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

#### Chief, Division of Hematology Oncology

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

#### Clinical Research Regulatory Manager

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa

#### Director, Biostatistics Shared Resource

Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

### AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AACI CCAF  
ANNUAL MEETING

2020

2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING

October 12-13, 2020

Register Today

## Artificial Intelligence in Oncology Symposium

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

October 19-20, 2020

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[Learn More](#)

## 2020 SITC Annual Meeting

Society for the Immunotherapy of Cancer

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

November 9-14, 2020

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[Learn More](#)



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