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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | September 2020

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AACI HEADLINES

[Phil and Penny Knight to Receive AACI Champion for Cures Award](#)



Phil and Penny Knight will receive the 2020 [AACI Champion for Cures Award](#), in recognition of their transformational philanthropy that advances our shared vision of a future without cancer. **Brian Druker, MD**, director of OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, will virtually present the award to the Nike, Inc. co-founder and his wife on **Monday, October 12**, during the [2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#). [Read More](#)

[Annual Meeting Sessions Address Disparities in 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**. Two sessions at this year's meeting will address disparities in cancer care, including the disproportionate cancer burden experienced by people of color and the challenges of delivering cancer care in rural communities. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Mesa Elected Officer of Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Board](#) Mays Cancer Center, UT Health San Antonio



Ruben Mesa, MD, FACP, has been elected an officer on the national board of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Dr. Mesa is director of the Mays Cancer Center, home to UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson, where he holds the Mays Family Foundation Distinguished University Presidential Chair. [Read More](#)

Wandering-Ness Receives PAESMEM

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center



Angela Wandering-Ness, PhD, received the 2020 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in an online ceremony. She is the Victor and Ruby Hansen Surface Endowed Professor in Cancer Cell Biology and Clinical Translation at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Merad Elected to National Academy of Science

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai



Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, was elected to the National Academy of Science in recognition of her transformational contributions to the fields of myeloid cell biology and innate immunity. Dr. Merad is the Mount Sinai Professor in Cancer Immunology and director of the Precision Immunology Institute. [Read More](#)

UF Named New Member of Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium

University of Florida Health Cancer Center



When **Sridharan Gururangan, FRCP**, joined the University of Florida in 2016, he had a big goal for the university: to become a member of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium (PBTC). In July, UF was named one of four new PBTC member institutions. [Read More](#)

Fox Chase Earns HAP Achievement Award

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center earned the Achievement Award from The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) for its outstanding effort to improve health care in the communities it serves. Fox Chase's entry, "Nasogastric Tube Feeding for Radiation-Induced Dysphagia in Patients with Head and Neck

Cancer," was chosen as an Excellence in Care award winner. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

NIH Awards \$11.2 Million for Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation Center

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

\$10.6 Million Grant to Expand National Proteomics Resource

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

\$5.5 Million Grant Received to Study Health Impact of Youth Vaping

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

\$3 Million Grant to Help Develop Early Detection Liver Cancer Test

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

\$2.3 Million Grant Funds New Viral-Based Gene Therapies for Lung Cancer

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

Researcher to Study Cellular Stress Responses Common in Cancer, Aging

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Hwu Named President and CEO

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)



Tumor immunologist **Patrick Hwu, MD**, has been appointed the new president and CEO of Moffitt Cancer Center. He joins Moffitt from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he is the division head of Cancer Medicine. Dr. Hwu begins his new role at Moffitt on November 10. [Read More](#)

Grossman Named Cancer Physician-in-Chief

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Keck Medicine of USC has named oncologist and cancer researcher **Steven Grossman, MD, PhD**, as USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center's cancer physician-in-chief. He will step into the role on September 15. [Read More](#)

O'Malley Returns to Leadership Role

[University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Bert W. O'Malley, Jr., MD, has been appointed as the new president



and chief executive officer of the University of Maryland Medical Center. Dr. O'Malley served in multiple University of Maryland leadership roles from 1999 - 2003 including associate director of the University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Executive Medical Director Named for VICC Cancer Patient Care Center

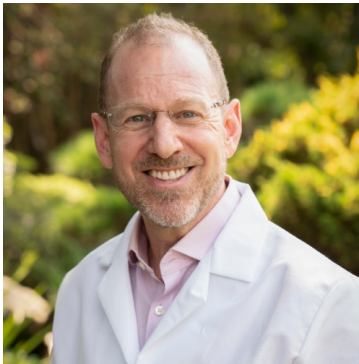
[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)



Laura Goff, MD, MSCI, has been named the executive medical director of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center Cancer Patient Care Center. She will oversee the cancer clinical enterprise in Nashville, including the flagship Henry-Joyce Cancer Clinic, among other responsibilities. [Read More](#)

Brenner Chairs Department Focused on Diabetes and Cancer Metabolism

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Biochemist **Charles Brenner, PhD**, has joined City of Hope to lead the nation's first research department focused on the intersection between cancer and diabetes. He is also the inaugural holder of the Alfred E Mann Family Foundation Chair in Diabetes and Cancer Metabolism. [Read More](#)

Jung Named Chair of Cancer Biology

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Jae Jung, PhD, has been appointed chair of Lerner Research Institute's Department of Cancer Biology where he will lead the department's work in understanding the biological underpinnings of cancer. He will also serve as director of the Cleveland Clinic's new Center for Global and Emerging Pathogens Research. [Read More](#)

Kuhs Named Co-Leader of Markey Cancer Prevention & Control Research Program

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

UK Markey Cancer Center has announced that **Krystle Kuhs, PhD, MPH**, will serve as co-leader of its Cancer Prevention and Control



Research Program. She will co-lead the program with **Jerod Stapleton, PhD**, who joined the university in 2019. [Read More](#)

New Chief of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Stem Cell Transplantation Appointed

Stanford Cancer Institute



Tanja Gruber, MD, PhD, has been appointed division chief of Hematology, Oncology, and Stem Cell Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine in the Division of Pediatrics at the Stanford University School of Medicine, associate director for childhood cancer in the Stanford Cancer Institute, and director of the Bass Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Diseases at Stanford Children's Health. [Read More](#)

Senior Director of Population Sciences Named

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah



Tracy Omega, PhD, has been appointed senior director of population sciences at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) and professor of population sciences at the University of Utah. She began her service at HCI on August 1. [Read More](#)

Davis Named Senior Medical Director for Cancer Care Network and Strategy

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center



Nancy Davis, MD, has been named senior medical director for VICC Cancer Care Network and Strategy, a new leadership position at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center responsible for expanding cancer clinics within and beyond the Middle Tennessee catchment area. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Massey Scientists Join International Effort to Streamline Brain Metastasis Research

Study Suggests New Approach to Improve Radiation Therapy Resistance in Glioblastoma

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Targeting Ultrasound at the Brain for Noninvasive Brain Cancer Diagnosis

Siteman Cancer Center

HDAC6 Can Control Tumor Growth and Halt Metastasis in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

GW Cancer Center

Link Found Between Gut Microbiome, Cancer Treatment Outcomes

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Scientists Look to Common Herb to Stem Progression of Early-Stage Breast Cancer

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Differing Immune-Cell Subsets Underlie Sex Disparities in Glioblastoma

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Models to Accelerate Progress in Preventing Drug Resistance in Lung, Pancreas Cancers

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Link Found Between Minimally Invasive Procedure for Oropharyngeal Cancer and Longer Survival

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Breast Cancer Cells Use Message-Carrying Vesicles to Send Oncogenic Stimuli to Neighboring Normal Cells

The Wistar Institute

Delaying Antiviral Treatment May Boost Immunity in Stem Cell Transplant Recipients

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Immunotherapy-Resistant Cancers Eliminated in Mouse Study

Siteman Cancer Center

Proposed Guidelines for Lung Cancer Screening Would Nearly Double Number of People Who Should Get Tested

Stanford Cancer Institute

Developing a Blood Test for Breast Cancer

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Acidic Niche Keeps Lymphatic System in Check During Immune Response, Researchers Say

Moffitt Cancer Center

Small Change Makes Cancer Vaccine More Effective in Animal Tests

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Targeted Therapy Combination Effective for Patients With Advanced Cholangiocarcinoma and BRAF Mutations

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

New Repository Program Accepts Oral Cancer Drug Donations to Help Patients in Need

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

Patients are now able to donate no-longer-needed oral cancer therapy drugs for the benefit of other cancer patients through new state rules spearheaded by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and OSUCCC – James. [Read More](#)

Huerta Heads Cancer Prevention and Education Program

GW Cancer Center



Elmer E. Huerta, MD, MPH, will serve as the director of the Cancer Preventorium at GW Cancer Center and as professor of medicine at the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences. [Read More](#)

Serology Test May Not Detect Antibodies That Could Confirm Protection Against COVID-19 Reinfection

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Two types of detectable antibody responses in SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) tell very different stories and may indicate ways to enhance public health efforts against the disease, according to researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein receptor binding domain might neutralize virus infection, while the SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein antibody may often only indicate exposure to the virus, not protections against reinfection. [Read More](#)

Systematic Testing of Environmental Surfaces in a Radiation Oncology Clinic Shows No Detectable SARS-CoV2

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



A Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey study shows environmental surface testing at the center's radiation oncology department, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in the state, showed no detectable SARS-CoV2. The work was led by **Imraan Jan, DO** (pictured), and **Bruce G. Haffty, MD**. [Read More](#)

Haring Joins National COVID-19 Native Expert Panel

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Roswell Park's **Rodney Haring, PhD, MSW**, has been named to the COVID-19 Prevention Network Native Expert Panel, formed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. [Read More](#)



Fox Chase in Partnership to Develop COVID Testing Swab

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

Fox Chase Cancer Center has formed a partnership with plastic injection molding company The Rodon Group to develop nasal and oral collection swabs to test for COVID-19. This partnership will provide Temple University Health System with necessary COVID-19 swabs for the next five years. [Read More](#)

Fred Hutch Joins International COVID-19 Vaccine Effort

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center has been named the coordinating center for vaccine clinical trials of the COVID-19 Prevention Network, funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. A team headquartered at Fred Hutch will lead operations across a network of at least five large-scale efficacy trials with over 100 clinical trial sites in the U.S. and abroad. [Read More](#)

Trial of Drug to Fight COVID-19 Launched

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

The University of Kansas Medical Center has announced a trial exploring a drug intended to fight the cytokine storm common in COVID-19. The trial involved a unique partnership between a researcher usually focused on cancer and a researcher usually focused on cystic fibrosis. [Read More](#)

Leveraging Prostate Cancer Research Against COVID-19

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



What is the connection between COVID-19 and cancer? **Arul Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD**, has focused his entire career on cancer, identifying a protein that plays a key role in the development of prostate cancer in 2005. It turns out that same protein may also factor into how coronaviruses replicate. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Melanoma Research Scientist

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

Senior Director, Clinical Operations and Compliance

[University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Cancer Virology Assistant Professor (tenure track)

[Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota](#)

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AACI CCAF ANNUAL MEETING

2020

2020 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING

October 12-13, 2020

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MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artificial Intelligence in Oncology Symposium

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

VIRTUAL MEETING

October 19-20, 2020

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