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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | April 2021

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

AACI HEADLINES

[AACI Launches Cancer Health Disparities Podcast](#)



A new podcast from AACI aims to expand the dialogue about cancer health disparities and to identify strategies to mitigate them. [Accelerating Equity: Cancer Care for All](#) is hosted by AACI President **Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD**. Her first guest was **Norman E. Sharpless, MD**, director of the National Cancer Institute. [Read More](#)

[AACI Issues Statement Condemning Racism, Violence](#)

Prompted by a recent mass shooting targeting Asian-American women, AACI issued a formal [statement](#) urging the cancer community, policymakers, and other stakeholders to address racism, discrimination, and gun violence as public health crises. In the statement, the association highlighted the responsibility of its Board of Directors, staff, and cancer center leaders to improve health outcomes for all people — not just as they relate to cancer, but in all facets of public health. [Read More](#)

[2021 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 2021 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 **October 19-21** in a virtual format. The meeting was previously scheduled for October 17-19. [Read More](#)

[Register Today for the 2021 AACI/AACR Virtual Hill Day](#)

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2021 AACI/AACR Hill Day, scheduled for **Wednesday, June 9**. The virtual advocacy day will consist of video and conference call meetings organized by Soapbox, a firm that specializes in coordinating advocacy days. Hill Day is open to all AACI and AACR members who wish to participate. [Read More](#)



Cancer Care at Network Sites Survey Results Published



In a survey of the status of care across cancer center networks, AACI has found that many opportunities exist for such networks to increase patient satisfaction and outcomes and decrease treatment delays and risks. A [report](#) based on the survey's findings has been published by the Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. AACI Past President **Stanton L. Gerson, MD**, is the lead author. [Read More](#)

Promote Your Cancer Center With a CRI Meeting Program Ad



AACI invites you to promote your cancer center by purchasing an ad in the 13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting program. Slated to be held virtually **July 13-15**, the 2021 CRI meeting is expected to draw more than 700 clinical research office leaders, medical directors, cancer center administrators, and representatives from the National Cancer Institute and industry to discuss issues related to the conduct of cancer clinical trials at academic cancer centers. [Read More](#)

Write Your Representatives to Support the TREAT Act



The [Temporary Reciprocity to Ensure Access to Treatment \(TREAT\) Act \(S. 168/H.R. 708\)](#) is a critical, bipartisan piece of legislation that will allow any licensed health care provider in good standing to render services—including telehealth visits—in all states for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. AACI is asking cancer centers to reach out to their congressional delegations to urge them to co-sponsor and support the TREAT Act with a [customizable advocacy letter](#). [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

American Psychosocial Oncology Society Recognizes Work With Cancer Survivors

The University of Arizona Cancer Center



Outstanding professional dedication to the needs of cancer survivors and their caregivers has earned a lifetime achievement award for **Terry Badger, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAPOS, FAAN**, from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society. [Read More](#)

National Organization for Rare Disorders Honors Sicklick

[UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center](#)



Jason Sicklick, MD, FACS, a surgical oncologist at Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health, was recently announced as an award honoree by the National Organization for Rare Disorders. [Read More](#)

Yoshida Honored for Increasing Colorectal Cancer Screenings

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)



Cynthia M. Yoshida, MD, is one of six winners of a national award recognizing health care providers and institutions for their work to increase colorectal cancer screening rates. Dr. Yoshida is medical lead of UVA Cancer Center's Colorectal Cancer Screening Program. [Read More](#)

Carpten Elected Fellow of AACR Academy

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

John D. Carpten, PhD, founding chair for the Department of Translational Genomics in the Keck School of Medicine of USC, has been named to the 2021 class of fellows of the American Association for Cancer Research's AACR Academy. [Read More](#)

Miaskowski Honored as Champion of Supportive Care Science

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

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Cancer Act, the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Prevention honors **Christine Miaskowski, RN, PhD, FAAN**, as a champion and changemaker of cancer prevention, early detection, and symptom science. [Read More](#)



Greco Named New Councilor for Association for Academic Surgery

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Stephanie Greco, MD, assistant professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, was recently named a new councilor for the Association for Academic Surgery. [Read More](#)

Hampel Named to Leadership Position for National Society of Genetic Counselors

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



Heather Hampel, MS, LGC, has been elected secretary/treasurer-elect for the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC). Her two-year term began in January 2021. Founded in 1971, the NSGC is the only professional organization that promotes the professional interests of genetic counselors. [Read More](#)

System of Excellence Recognition for Hidden Scar Breast Cancer Surgery

UK Markey Cancer Center

UK HealthCare, home to the UK Markey Cancer Center, has officially been recognized as a System of Excellence for Hidden Scar breast cancer surgery, the highest level of Hidden Scar designation. [Read More](#)

Researcher Gets Early Career Award

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Ichiko Kinjyo, MD, PhD, was recently named a 2021 recipient of the Liz Tilberis Early Career Award. She was recognized for her work with **Sarah Adams, MD**, in exploring how a combination of a PARP-inhibitor and immunomodulation via immune checkpoint blockade can improve ovarian cancer treatment. [Read More](#)



Nursing Team Honored With Achievement Award

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



A nursing team at Fox Chase Cancer Center has been honored as a recipient of the 2021 I AM Patient Safety award from the Patient Safety Authority. The third floor surgical nursing team was recognized for reaching the significant milestone of one year with no patient falls on their three south unit. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

Researchers Receive \$6 Million to Explore New Pancreatic Cancer Therapies

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

\$4.2 Million Awarded for Breast Cancer Chemoprevention Study

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

\$1.47 Million Awarded to Study DNA Damage Regulation

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Researchers Receive PCF Challenge Award

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Tackett Named Deputy Director

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Center



Cancer researcher **Alan Tackett, PhD**, has been named deputy director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). He previously served as associate director of basic research for the UAMS Cancer Institute. [Read More](#)

New Director of Neuro-Oncology Named

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey has named **Michael E. Salacz, MD**, as director of its neuro-oncology program. He joins Rutgers from the University of Kansas Medical Center, where he directed the brain and spine tumor program. [Read More](#)

Community Outreach and Engagement Team Expands

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center



Tomi Akinyemiju, PhD, MS, has been named Duke Cancer Institute's new associate director of community outreach and engagement. Before joining Duke in 2019 she was assistant dean for inclusive excellence at Markey Cancer Center at the University of Kentucky. [Read More](#)

Hawley to Oversee Education, Training Programs

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center



The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center has named **Sarah Hawley, PhD, MPH**, associate director for training, education and career development. She will lead the center's efforts to coordinate and enhance robust resources that support faculty, trainees, and students interested in cancer research. [Read More](#)

Associate Director for Mentoring and Career Development Announced

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine



In January, breast oncologist **Ruth O'Regan, MD**, officially joined the University of Rochester Medical Center from the University of Wisconsin. Now she will have significant involvement with Wilmot Cancer Institute, serving as associate director for mentoring and career development. [Read More](#)

New Leadership Appointments

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

The Lurie Cancer Center announces several new leadership appointments, effective April 1, 2021: Marcelo Bonini, PhD, associate director for education and training; **Devalingam Mahalingam, MBBCh BAO**, director of the clinical trials office; and **Priya Kumthekar, MD**, co-chair of the scientific review committee. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Cracking the Case of a Deadly Type of Kidney Cancer

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Study Finds Lower Costs, Better Outcomes in Prostate Cancer Therapy

The University of Vermont Cancer Center

Novel Drug Combo Shows Promise Against Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Cancer Tricks Immune Cells, Immunotherapy Can Take Advantage

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Researchers Illuminate Potential Precursors of Blood Cancers

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Response to Cancer Immunotherapy May Be Affected by Genes We Carry From Birth

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Studies Support Updated USPSTF Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines

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

Cancer Immunotherapy Approach Targets Common Genetic Alteration

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Collagen Plays Protective Role During Pancreatic Cancer Development

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Earlier Colonoscopies Reduce Subsequent Cancer Risk by Half

Stanford Cancer Institute

A Measure of Cleanliness

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Marine Natural Product Discovered Off Florida Coast Could Help Fight Cancer

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Abundance of Iron Drives Cell Death, Could Be Key to Novel Neuroblastoma Treatments

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Cancer Patients Most Worried About Finances Have Worse Outcomes

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Current Liver Cancer Screenings May Leave African Americans at Greater Risk

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

New Barrett's Esophagus Monitoring Method Could Aid in Easier, More Precise Prognoses

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Proteomics Analysis Identifies Potential Drug Targets for Aggressive Human Cancers

Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Researchers Study Role of Zinc in Cancer

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Study Incorporates Genetics, Smoking History to Identify High-Risk Smokers for Lung Cancer Screening

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Fecal Transplant Boosts Cancer Immunotherapy

Fundamental Proteins That Guide Embryo Development Are Co-Opted by Cancer

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

High Tumor Mutation Burden Predicts Immunotherapy Response in Some Cancers

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Multisystem Failure Regarding Frailty Necessitates Multisystem Intervention

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Promising Role for Whole Genome Sequencing in Guiding Blood Cancer Treatment

Siteman Cancer Center

Stopping Mutant KRAS Could Enhance Therapies for Pancreatic Cancer

Stony Brook Cancer Center

New Biomarker of Response to Checkpoint Inhibitors Identified

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Therapy Sneaks Into Hard Layer of Pancreatic Cancer Tumor, Destroys From Within

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Vital Player Identified in Graft-Versus-Host Disease and Organ Transplant Rejection

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Forty-Three Percent of Melanoma Patients Have Chronic Complications From Immunotherapies

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

First Lady Jill Biden Visits Massey to Discuss Cancer Disparities, Community Engaged Research

VCU Massey Cancer Center



Jill Biden, EdD, the First Lady of the United States, met with scientists, doctors, and community leaders at Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center to learn how they are working together to address cancer disparities. She toured several Massey labs and learned about the cutting-edge cancer research being conducted. [Read More](#)

Virtual Human Intervention Allows for Colorectal Cancer Screening at Home

University of Florida Health Cancer Center

A new University of Florida Health intervention gives patients who qualify access to colorectal cancer screening information and tests from the comfort of their own homes. Two recent UF studies examine new ways to effectively reach patients with a new communication tool using a virtual health assistant. [Read More](#)

Cancer Research Pioneer Jose Baselga Dies at 61

American Association for Cancer Research



José Baselga, MD, PhD, who was a major force in the development of molecularly targeted therapies, died March 21 at age 61 from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. He was a past president of the American Association for Cancer Research, former chief medical officer of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and executive vice president for R&D oncology at AstraZeneca. [Read More](#)

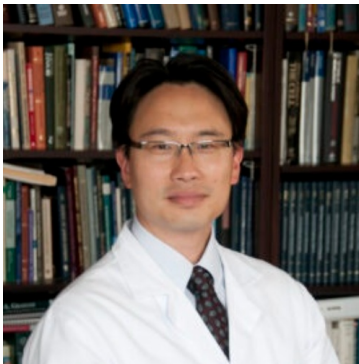
Program Develops Cancer Education Curriculum for Appalachian Schools

UK Markey Cancer Center

After conducting a study to assess the need for cancer education materials in Appalachian Kentucky, members of UK Markey Cancer Center's Appalachian Career Training in Oncology program worked with faculty from the UK College of Education to create a three-part cancer education curriculum for middle and high school teachers in the region. [Read More](#)

Brain Tumor Center Established

Siteman Cancer Center



Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and Barnes-Jewish Hospital have established the Brain Tumor Center. The multidisciplinary practice of physicians and scientists will provide leading-edge, patient-centric care for brain tumor patients while developing transformative basic, translational, and clinical research on new therapies. **Albert H. Kim, MD, PhD**, is inaugural director. [Read More](#)

Reimagining Palliative Care Learning During a Pandemic

Stanford Cancer Institute

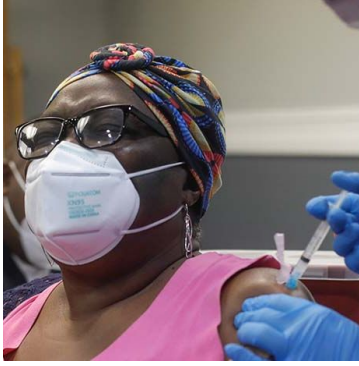


Kavitha Ramchandran, MD, and her team have drawn on their knowledge of both online and in-person environments to develop a virtual palliative medicine clerkship to provide Stanford medical students the training they need during the pandemic. [Read More](#)

Community Engagement in HIV Trials Guides Equity for COVID-19 Vaccine Studies

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Last spring, as COVID-19 began to tear through American cities and was disproportionately affecting communities of color, a Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center scientist pivoted to the vital work of engaging these same communities in trials of coronavirus vaccines. [Read More](#)



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical Research Coordinator

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Program Director, Hematology and Therapeutics

The University of Cancer Center

Quality Assurance Specialist

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Research Nurse

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Senior Director, Clinical Trials Office

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Director, Ambulatory Planning

Siteman Cancer Center

Principal Research Administrator - Program Manager

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Medical Director, Cancer Clinical Trials Office

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Program Co-Leader, Cancer Biology

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Program Co-Leader, Cancer Prevention & Control

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Program Co-Leader, Developmental Therapeutics

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Research Scientists, Cancer Prevention and Control, Health Equity and Lifestyle Programs

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Clinical Research Nurse

Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Clinical Research Coordinator II

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University

Director, Clinical Research

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Director, Ginny L. Clements Breast Cancer Research Institute

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Cancer Center Bioinformatics Faculty

Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute

Cancer Clinical Research Coordinator 2

Stanford Cancer Institute

Cancer Center Research Operations Administrator

Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

Clinical Research Coordinator I

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Research Technician

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Administrative Specialist, Research to Cancer Center Director

Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute

Associate Director Administration, Cancer Center

Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute

Associate Director, Clinical Research Operations

Stanford Cancer Institute

Director of Cancer Immune Monitoring Core/Assistant Professor (Research Track)

Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Regulatory Startup Project Coordinator

Moffitt Cancer Center

Associate Director for Administration

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Center

Post Doctoral Position in Hematological Malignancies

Siteman Cancer Center

Senior Scientist Position in Hematological Immunotherapeutics

Siteman Cancer Center

Associate Director for Population Sciences

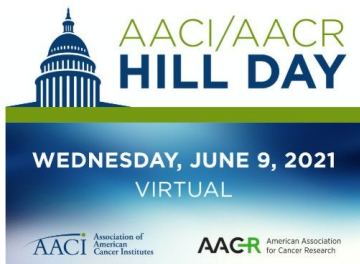
Penn State Cancer Institute

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2021 AACI/AACR Hill Day

VIRTUAL EVENT | REGISTER TODAY

June 9, 2021



13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

VIRTUAL EVENT | REGISTER TODAY

July 13-15, 2021



2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

VIRTUAL EVENT | NEW DATES

October 19-21, 2021

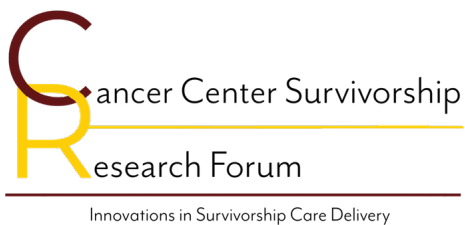
MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Timing for Transplantation Consultation Guidelines: Implications to Your Practice

National Marrow Donor Program/Be the Match

April 15, 2021

WEBINAR



Cancer Center Survivorship Research Forum

VIRTUAL EVENT

Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota

April 15-16, 2021



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