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## News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | August 2021

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

### AACI HEADLINES

#### [Winn Chosen as AACI President-Elect; Four New Members Join Board](#)



**Robert Winn, MD**, director of VCU Massey Cancer Center, has been elected to serve as vice president/president-elect of AACI's board of directors. **Marcia Cruz-Correa, MD, PhD**; **Ruben Mesa, MD, FACP**; and **Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil**, have been elected as new board members, and **Joann Sweasy, PhD**, has been appointed to fill the remainder of Dr. Winn's term as a regular board member. [Read More](#)

#### [New Cancer Center and Corporate Members Join AACI](#)

Last month AACI welcomed the **Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine** to its roster, bringing its membership number to 103. Directed by **Lewis C. Cantley, PhD**, the Meyer Cancer Center is a matrix cancer center organized by four research focus areas: Cancer Biology; Cancer Genetics & Epigenetics; Experimental Therapeutics; and Cancer Prevention & Control. The association also welcomed **Fulgent Genetics** to the AACI [Corporate Roundtable](#). [Read More](#)



**Judy E. Garber, MD, PhD, FAACR**, chief of the Division of Cancer Genetics and Prevention at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, will receive the AACI [Distinguished Scientist Award](#) on **Wednesday, October 20**, during the [2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#). [Read More](#)



*Patient Resource Navigator* uniquely provides your patients with the education they need – immediately when they need it. The information reinforces each patient’s decision to choose you for their care, while also extending your brand. The comment from Michele Myers, Director of Development for Cancer Programs in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, demonstrates the importance these guides represent, even to your potential donors. Find out how your center can utilize the program to benefit patients and assist with your accreditation requirements. [Learn More](#)

## AACI Executive Director Provides Remarks on ARPA-H

Since President Biden first proposed the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), the health care advocacy community has been eager to learn more. Last month, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) hosted the first of many listening sessions on the proposed creation of ARPA-H. The first session included individuals representing cancer, heart, lung, and blood disorders and environmental health. AACI Executive Director **Jennifer W. Pegher** was one of three participants from the cancer community. [Learn More](#)

## NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

### AWARDS & HONORS

## Libutti Recognized as Healthcare Hero

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Director **Steven K. Libutti, MD, FACS**, has been named by the business journal NJBIZ as a 2021 Healthcare Hero in the healthcare professional category. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, is editor-in-chief emeritus of the Nature Journal *Cancer Gene Therapy*, and holds 11 U.S. patents. [Read More](#)

## Michalski Chosen as President-Elect of American Society for Radiation Oncology

Siteman Cancer Center



**Jeff M. Michalski, MD, MBA** vice chair and director of clinical programs in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, has been elected president-elect of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) board of directors. [Read More](#)

## Bhowmick Honored by the Society of Asian American Scientists in Cancer Research

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

**Neil Bhowmick, PhD**, co-leader of the Cancer Biology Program at Cedars-Sinai Cancer, was one of 10 Indian American scientists honored by the Society of Asian American Scientists in Cancer Research for his contributions to cancer research. [Read More](#)

## Maquat Wins Warren Alpert Foundation Prize

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

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**Lynne E. Maquat, PhD**, founding director of the University of Rochester's Center for RNA Biology, received the Warren Alpert Foundation Prize in recognition of pivotal discoveries in RNA biology. She shares the award with fellow RNA biologist Joan Seitz, PhD, of the Yale School of Medicine. [Read More](#)

## Plimack Appointed Medical Oncology Editor for European Urology Journal

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

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**Elizabeth Plimack, MD, MS**, chief of the Division of Genitourinary Medical Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, was recently appointed medical oncology editor for the journal *European Urology*. [Read More](#)

## Researchers Receive Social and Behavioral Sciences Community Partner Award

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

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Three researchers from the Fox Chase Cancer Prevention and Control Program were recognized by Temple University with the Social & Behavioral Sciences Community Partner Outstanding Supervisor Award. This year's honorees were **Jennifer Barsky Reese, PhD**; **Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH**; and **Suzanne M. Miller, PhD**. [Read More](#)

### GRANTS & GIFTS

## Roswell Park Teams Draw More Than \$34 Million in Grants Supporting New Research

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

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## Greenebaum Earns NCI Designation Renewal

University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

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## Moffitt Receives \$10 Million to Establish Research Center for Rare Blood Cancer

Moffitt Cancer Center

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## Endowed Professorship Named to Honor Carol Fabian

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

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## \$2.3 Million Awarded to Investigate Treatment Options for Advanced Prostate Cancer

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

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## Researcher Gets \$2.26 Million to Uncover Barriers to Offering Targeted Cancer Therapies

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

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## Komen Funds VICC Breast Cancer Initiatives

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

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## Birrer Invested in Westbrook Director's Chair

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

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## Brain Cancer: Hunting What's Left

[University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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### LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

## Singh is New Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

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**Sarabdeep "Sabi" Singh** has been named executive vice president and chief operating officer of Moffitt Cancer Center. Prior to joining Moffitt, Singh served as the chief operating officer of the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics since 2013. [Read More](#)

## Davis Promoted to Vice President for VUMC Cancer Care Network and Strategy

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

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**Nancy Davis, MD**, has been promoted to vice president for cancer care network and strategy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, a new position responsible for developing provider relationships with other health care systems and expanding access to oncology care throughout Tennessee and other states. [Read More](#)

## Cookson Named Urology Division Chief

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

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Urologic surgical oncologist **Michael Cookson, MD, MHA, FACS**, has been appointed chief of the Duke Division of Urology. He will join Duke from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. [Read More](#)



## Colman Appointed Co-Leader of Experimental Therapeutics

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

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Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah has announced the appointment of **Howard Colman, MD, PhD**, as the new co-leader of the Experimental Therapeutics Program. Dr. Colman also directs HCI's Computational Oncology Research Initiative. [Read More](#)

## Leader Tapped for New Liver and Bile Duct Center

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

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**Myron Schwartz, MD**, is director of the new Center of Excellence for Liver and Bile Duct Cancer at Mount Sinai's Tisch Cancer Institute. [Read More](#)

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## A Fermented-Food Diet Increases Microbiome Diversity and Lowers Inflammation, Study Finds

Stanford Cancer Institute

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## Cancer Death Rates Declined More Steeply in States That Expanded Medicaid

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

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## Financial Barriers Fell for Some Cancer Survivors After Affordable Care Act

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

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## Study Uncovers Geographic-Related HPV Vaccination Disparities in Virginia

VCU Massey Cancer Center

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## Factors Needed for Breast Cancer Metastasis Identified

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

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## Beyond CAR T: New Frontiers in Living Cell Therapies

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

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## Therapeutic Eradicates Breast Cancer in Mice

Cancer Center at Illinois

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## Leukemia Treatment Can Bait and Capture Cells in Hiding

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

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## Study Demonstrates the Benefit of Radiosensitizers in Cancer Treatment

UK Markey Cancer Center

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## Cancer Discovery Highlights National Role of UAMS Research Team

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

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## Study Identifies Gut Microbes Associated With Toxicity to Combined Checkpoint Inhibitors in Melanoma

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

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## Assured Resolution

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

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## Dendritic-Cell Vaccines Can Be Paired With Standard Therapy for Breast Cancer

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

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## Gene Expression Control Mechanism Found That May Create Proteins at Distinct Locations

The Wistar Institute

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## Immune System Clock Predicts Illness and Mortality

Stanford Cancer Institute

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## Study: Ibrutinib Effective for Difficult to Treat Forms of Hairy Cell Leukemia

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

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## Cancer Misinformation Common on Social Media

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

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### OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

## Reminder: August 24 PCLI Webinar

Association of American Cancer Institutes

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AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI)** will host **The Role of the Clinical Pharmacist in an Academic Hematology/Oncology Practice** at 2:00 pm eastern time on **Tuesday, August 24**. This webinar will cover the clinical pharmacist (CP) training and supervision requirements along with roles and responsibilities. [Read More](#)

## New Main Facility for Outpatient Care Planned

Siteman Cancer Center

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Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis is planning a nine-story, 659,000-square-foot facility that will provide a central home for nearly all aspects of advanced cancer care for outpatients. **Timothy J. Eberlein, MD**, is director of the Siteman Cancer Center. [Read More](#)



## Fred Hutchinson, Seattle Children's, and UW Medicine Lay Groundwork for Historic Partnership

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

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Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, UW Medicine, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, and Seattle Children's have announced plans to explore restructuring their longtime relationship to accelerate a shared mission of advancing diagnosis, treatment, and pioneering of cures for cancer and other diseases. If finalized and approved, the proposed restructure would establish an adult-focused oncology program and, separately, a pediatric oncology program. [Read More](#)

## Response to COVID-19 Vaccines Varies Widely in Blood Cancer Patients

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

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Mount Sinai researchers found that multiple myeloma patients mount variable and sometimes suboptimal responses after receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. The study points to the need for antibody testing and precautions for these patients after vaccination. [Read More](#)

## Uniting the Black Community to Defeat COVID

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

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**Kim Rhoads, MD, MPH**, director of the Office of Community Engagement at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, founded Umoja Health Partners to unite about 30 organizations combating COVID-19 in Black communities in the Bay Area. She shares why the Umoja approach (the name comes from the Swahili word for "unity" or "oneness") is working. [Read More](#)

## Phage Display-Based Gene Delivery: A Viable Platform Technology for COVID-19 Vaccine Design and Development

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

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Researchers at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and the Center for Theoretical Biological Physics at Rice University, have demonstrated that a technology with favorable biological attributes known as phage display could be a viable platform for the development of new vaccines to protect against COVID-19. [Read More](#)

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

#### Disease Site Group Project Manager

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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#### Postdoctoral Research Associate II

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

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#### Director of Research Marketing and Communications

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

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MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Artificial Intelligence in Oncology Symposium:  
Precision Medicine and Cancer Disparities**

**VIRTUAL EVENT**

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

November 8-9, 2021

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS



**2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**

**VIRTUAL EVENT | REGISTER TODAY**

October 19-21, 2021



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