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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | February 2021

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Ronai Named Director of Sanford Burnham Prebys' Cancer Center](#)



Renowned cancer researcher **Ze'ev Ronai, PhD**, has been named director of Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute's National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Center. Dr. Ronai's research in cancer biology has focused on the rewiring of signal transduction pathways, which has led to novel scientific paradigms and formed the basis for clinical trials to treat malignancies. As director, Dr. Ronai will play a central role in coordinating basic science across the research programs to translate scientific findings into new approaches for cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. [Read More](#)

[Pioneering Clinical Investigator Simone Dies](#)



Joseph V. Simone, MD, a pioneering clinical investigator and institutional leader in pediatric oncology, died January 21 at the age of 85, according to the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Among his many leadership roles, Dr. Simone served as president of the Association of American Cancer Institutes (1992-1993), and served on the boards of directors for ASCO and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). [Read More](#)

[Rustgi Joins AACI Board of Directors](#)

Anil K. Rustgi, MD, has joined AACI's Board of Directors. Dr. Rustgi was named director of Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University Irving Medical Center in 2019. He is also Irving Professor of Medicine; associate dean of oncology; and chief of cancer services. He was appointed to complete the term of **Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH**, director of Yale Cancer Center and physician-in-chief of Smilow Cancer Hospital, Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Fuchs was named



senior vice president and global head of product development for oncology and hematology at Roche and Genentech. [Read More](#)

AACI Applauds Biden/Harris Inauguration, Readies for Renewed Federal Focus on Cancer



AACI congratulated **President Joe Biden** and **Vice President Kamala Harris** on their inauguration and pledged its strong support of their efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic and promote cancer research, treatment, and prevention. The association formed a strong bond with President Biden during his leadership of President Barack Obama's Cancer Moonshot initiative. [Read More](#)

AACI Partners With Federal Vaccine Panel to Promote Cancer Patient Health



AACI is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services as part of its Vaccine Consultation Panel (VCP). Through the VCP, AACI has received periodic updates on the development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and participated in efforts to educate the cancer center community and the general public on the importance of widespread vaccine uptake. [Read More](#)

Save the Date: AACI/AACR Virtual Hill Day



AACI will jointly host its annual Hill Day with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) on **Wednesday, June 9**. The event will be held virtually for the second year. All faculty and staff of AACI cancer centers are invited to spend the day advocating for cancer research funding. [Read More](#)

13th Annual CRI Meeting Moves to Virtual Format; Abstract Submissions Now Open

The **13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting** will be held virtually **July 13-15**. The three-day online meeting will deliver the innovative, quality education that AACI members have enjoyed at prior CRI annual meetings. The CRI Steering Committee is currently soliciting abstracts for the meeting, which will focus on adapting cancer clinical research for 2021 and beyond. [Read More](#)



Champion for Cures Nominations Due February 8

AACI cancer center directors are invited to [submit nominations](#) for the 2021 **Champion for Cures Award** by **Monday, February 8**. Selected by the AACI Board of Directors, the awardee will have gained distinction through their visionary approach to promoting our shared goal of a future without cancer. Through their transformational philanthropy, the cancer center can focus beyond immediate needs to multiply its impact on patient health, research, and the surrounding community. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Chen Named Rowley Professor in Cancer Research

[The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Jing Chen, PhD, an international leader in cancer metabolism, was recently named the first Janet Davison Rowley Professor in Cancer Research. Dr. Chen also serves as inaugural director of the newly established Cancer Metabolic Research Center. [Read More](#)

Baumann Named to Four Cancer Advisory Committees

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)



Brian C. Baumann, MD, a radiation oncologist, has been chosen to serve on four national cancer advisory committees: National Association for Proton Therapy Physician Advisory Committee; National Cancer Institute Bladder Cancer Task Force; NRG Oncology Genitourinary Committee; and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology Committee. [Read More](#)

Cancer Center Members Named to National Breast Cancer Clinical Trials Task Force

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

Jamie Wagner, DO, FACOS, FACS, and **Shane Stecklein, MD, PhD**, have been appointed to the Breast Oncology Local Disease Task Force of the National Cancer Institute Breast Cancer Steering Committee. Their three-year terms began January 1. [Read More](#)

V Foundation Awards Two Huntsman Researchers

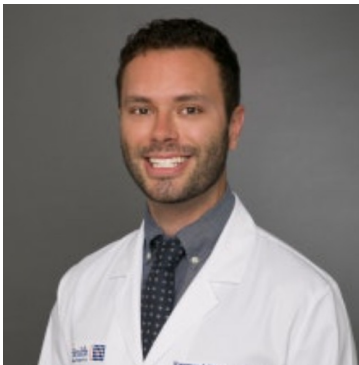
Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah



Two researchers at Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah have received awards from the V Foundation for Cancer Research. **Charles R. Rogers, PhD, MPH, MS**, was awarded the 2020 V Scholar Grant, and **Jennifer Doherty, PhD, MS**, received the 2020 Robin Roberts Cancer Thrivership Research Award. [Read More](#)

Abstract Named 2020 Best of ASTRO

University of Florida Health Cancer Center



The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Best of ASTRO Program Committee has selected an abstract by **Raymond Mailhot Vega, MD, MPH**, as a 2020 Best of ASTRO abstract. [Read More](#)

Swartz Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center



Melody Swartz, PhD, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Medicine. She was honored for "pioneering contributions" to the fields of lymphatic physiology, cancer research, and immunotherapy. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

Grant Aims to Apply Artificial Intelligence to Oral Cancer Treatment

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Cancer Metastasis is Target of New Research Initiative

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Brain Tumor Expert Appointed as New Deputy Director of Research

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center recently announced the appointment of **Jeremy Rich, MD, MHS, MBA**, as deputy director of research. Dr. Rich



will also serve as the Pittsburgh Foundation Chair in Personalized Cancer Therapy and a professor of neurology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. [Read More](#)

Greenup Appointed Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology

Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine



Rachel Adams Greenup, MD, MPH, FACS, has been appointed as associate professor of surgery (oncology) and section chief of breast surgery for the Department of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine. She joins Yale from Duke University. [Read More](#)

Sekeres Named New Physician Liaison in Hematology

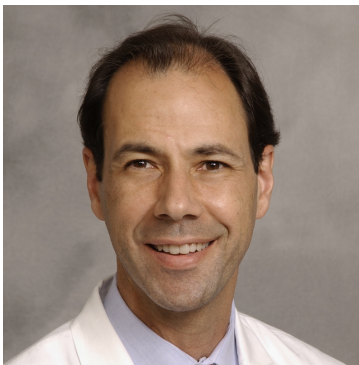
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System



Mikkael Sekeres, MD, MS, has joined the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center team as the new physician liaison in hematology and chief of the Division of Hematology in the Department of Medicine. [Read More](#)

D'Amico Named AATS Medical Director

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center



Thomas A. D'Amico, MD, chief of General Thoracic Surgery and director of the Thoracic Oncology program at Duke Cancer Institute, has been appointed to a two-year term as medical director of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS). [Read More](#)

Associate Director of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement Named

Stanford Cancer Institute

Alyce Adams, PhD, has been named the inaugural associate director of Stanford Cancer Institute's Office of Cancer Health Equity and



Community Engagement. Her research focuses primarily on the determinants of suboptimal use of health care services among older adults with chronic conditions; racial differences in medication adherence; and the impact of health policy changes on access to quality care. [Read More](#)

Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Nursing and Patient Services Named

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Fox Chase Cancer Center announces the recruitment of **Anna Liza Rodriguez, MSN, MHA, RN, OCN®, NEA-BC**, as chief nursing officer and vice president of nursing and patient services. She served for nearly five years as associate nursing officer at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center before joining Fox Chase. [Read More](#)

Rogers Named Director of Kentucky Cancer Program

UK Markey Cancer Center



UK Markey Cancer Center has announced the appointment of **Mindy Rogers** as director of the Kentucky Cancer Program – East, which is housed within the cancer center. [Read More](#)

City of Hope Taps First Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center



Angela L. Talton has joined City of Hope's executive leadership team as senior vice president and chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer. [Read More](#)

New Chief of Hematology and Oncology Announced

Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Craig Lockhart, MD, has been recruited as the new chief of the Division of Hematology & Oncology at the Medical University of South Carolina



and will serve as associate director for clinical science at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center, effective April 1. Dr. Lockhart currently holds several roles at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Davis to Lead Health Data Science and AI

University of Colorado Cancer Center

Sean Davis, MD, PhD, who currently serves as a senior associate scientist at the National Cancer Institute, will serve as the new associate director for informatics and data science at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Chief of Blood Cancer Pathology Service Named

Duke Cancer Center, Duke University Medical Center



Ken H. Young, MD, PhD, is the new chief of the Hematopathology Division and Duke Cancer Institute Blood Cancer Pathology Service. He directs a lab focused on the mechanisms of tumor progression and novel therapeutic strategies in lymphoma, myeloma, and leukemia. Dr. Young joined Duke in 2019 from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Kim to Direct Women's Cancer Program

Cedars-Sinai Cancer



Internationally prominent gynecologic oncologist **Kenneth H. Kim, MD**, recently was selected to direct the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Cedars-Sinai Cancer. He also serves as chair of the cancer center's Committee for Oversight of Training and Education. [Read More](#)

Helmke is New Chief Operating Officer

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Fox Chase Cancer Center announces the addition of **Joel Helmke, MSHP, FACHE**, to its senior leadership team as chief operating officer. Before joining Fox Chase, Helmke served nearly five years as senior vice president of clinical operations at City of Hope National Medical Center. [Read More](#)

Hinrichs Named to Build Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Programs

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



Christian Hinrichs, MD, has been named chief of the Section of Cancer Immunotherapy and co-director of the Cancer Immunology and Metabolism Center of Excellence. Dr. Hinrichs was recruited from the National Cancer Institute where he served as a tenured senior investigator in the Genitourinary Malignancies Branch. [Read More](#)

New Director for Cell Therapy Laboratory Announced

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center has announced that **Yen-Michael Hsu, MD, PhD**, will serve as the new director of the Immunologic Monitoring and Cellular Therapeutics Laboratory. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Gut Microbe May Promote Breast Cancers

[Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University](#)

Proteogenomics Offers Insight to Treating Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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

Gene Sequencing Used to Quantify Risk of Skin Cancer Long Before Damage is Visible

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Aggressive Breast Cancers in Black Patients Related to Immune Factors

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Machine Learning Potential to Predict Cancer Therapy-Related Cardiac Risk Shown

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Unique Review of National Data Aims to Better Understand Geographic Factors Affecting HPV Vaccination Rates

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

Older Minority Cancer Patients Have Worse Surgical Outcomes Compared to White Patients With Similar Socioeconomic Factors

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

Researchers Create Comprehensive Multiomic Resource for Head and Neck Cancers

[Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University](#)

Understanding Kava's Role as a Cancer Suppressant

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

Unusual Colon Discovery Explains Racial Disparities in Colorectal Cancer

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

Inflammation From Androgen Deprivation Therapy May Cause Fatigue in Prostate Cancer Patients

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

Mediterranean Diet May Decrease Risk of Prostate Cancer Progression for Men on Active Surveillance

[The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)

Key Pathway for Activated T Cells Might Be Targeted to Fight GVHD

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

Investigational Combo Therapy Shows Benefit for TP53 Mutant MDS and Acute Myeloid Leukemia Patients

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

Study Shows Kentucky Endometrial Cancer Patients Have Higher Rates of DACH1 Mutation

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

Youth Using E-cigarettes Three Times as Likely to Become Daily Cigarette Smokers

[UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center](#)

Arthritis Drug May Treat Immunotherapy-Related Heart Complication

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

'Biological Clock' an Unexpected and Novel Target for Prostate Cancer

[Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health](#)

Findings Could Reduce Treatment-Related Complication for Blood Cancer Patients

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

Study Defines Small-Cell Lung Cancer Subtypes and Distinct Therapeutic Vulnerabilities for Each Type

[The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)

Study Explains Why Patients With Cancer Spread to the Liver Have Worse Outcomes

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

Study Reveals How Improved Type of Light Therapy Kills Precancerous Cells

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Triggering Tumor Antiviral Immune Response in Triple Negative Breast Cancer

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

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

Tobacco Treatment Training Program Earns Elite Accreditation

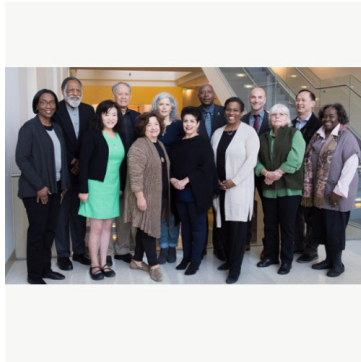
[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

The University of Kansas Tobacco Treatment Specialist training program has been accredited by the Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs, joining just 23 other such accredited programs in the world. **Babalola Faseru, MD, MPH**, helps lead the program. [Read More](#)



Community Advisory Board: Champions for Health Equity

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



Over the past 15 years, the cancer center's Community Advisory Board (CAB) has become one of UCSF's most instrumental community outreach groups for improving health equity. In a Q&A, CAB Chair **Arnold Perkins** and **Kim Rhoads, MD, MS, MPH**, discuss why CABs are critical to the work of NCI cancer centers and the communities they serve. [Read More](#)

Fourth Affiliate Joins Siteman Cancer Network

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

The Siteman Cancer Network, an affiliation between Siteman Cancer Center and regional medical centers, has added a fourth member, the network's second in Illinois. Carterville-based SIH Cancer Institute has joined the network, which aims to improve the health of people and communities through cancer prevention, research, and access to specialized treatment, when necessary, at Siteman in St. Louis. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Chief, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology

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

Vanderbilt-Incyte Research Scholars Program

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

Clinical Research Coordinator IV

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

Senior Analyst Programmer OnCore Support Team

[Wilmot Cancer Center, UR Medicine](#)

Senior Business Process Analyst

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

Senior Vice President for External Affairs

[Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

AACR Cancer Disparities Research Fellowships

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 9, 2021

[American Association for Cancer Research](#)

Lustgarten Foundation-AACR Career Development Awards for Pancreatic Cancer Research

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 11, 2021

American Association for Cancer Research

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS



**AACI/AACR
HILL DAY**

SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021
VIRTUAL

AACI Association of American Cancer Institutes **AACR** American Association for Cancer Research

AACI/AACR Hill Day

SAVE THE DATE | VIRTUAL MEETING

June 9, 2021

SAVE THE DATE



AACI CRI
Clinical Research Innovation
13TH ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 13-15, 2021

13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

SAVE THE DATE | VIRTUAL MEETING

July 13-15, 2021



AACI ANNUAL MEETING **CCAF MEETING**
KANSAS CITY 2021

October 17 - 19, 2021
InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza

2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

October 17-19, 2021

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cancer Disparities Symposium

VIRTUAL MEETING

March 4, 2021

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Medical Arts Building
3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 503

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