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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | June 2021

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AACI HEADLINES

[Lerman Takes the Reins as AACI President](#)



Caryn Lerman, PhD, is the new president of AACI. Dr. Lerman is the director of University of Southern California (USC) Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles and the associate dean for cancer programs and the H. Leslie and Elaine S. Hoffman Professor in Cancer Research at Keck School of Medicine of USC. Dr. Lerman will begin her two-year term four months early due to **Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD**, stepping down to become the new chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society. [Read More](#)

[Willman Named Director of Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Cheryl L. Willman, MD, has been named executive director of Mayo Clinic Cancer Programs and director of Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center. In her new role, Dr. Willman will lead the expansion and strategic development of Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center sites in the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Willman will join Mayo Clinic from University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she has served as director and CEO for 20 years. [Read More](#)

[CRI Meeting Abstract Winners Announced](#)

The AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Steering Committee, with the assistance of peer reviewers from CRI committees, have selected three abstracts from 62 submissions for formal presentation at the **13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting, July 13-15**. Winning abstract authors represent **University of Cincinnati Cancer Center, University of Florida Health Cancer Center**, and **Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center**. [Read More](#)

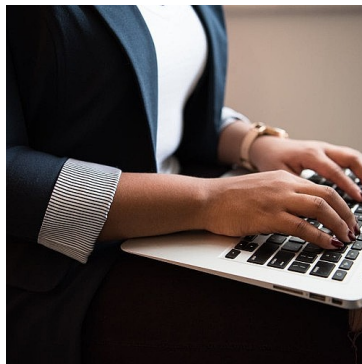


Register Today for the 2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting



Registration is now open for the **2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**, which will take place **October 19-21** in a virtual format. This three-day event convenes AACI cancer center members with national cancer research and advocacy groups, industry, and government health agencies to develop solutions to common challenges. Continuing Medical Education (CME) is jointly provided by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and AACI. [Read More](#)

Write Your Representatives to Support the PREVENT HPV Cancers Act



On March 4—International HPV Awareness Day—Representative **Kathy Castor (D-FL)** introduced the **PREVENT HPV Cancers Act (H.R. 1550)**, which AACI has endorsed. We encourage cancer centers to reach out to their congressional delegations with our customizable advocacy letter to request that they co-sponsor and support the bill. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

DCI Nurse Receives National Recognition

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center



Jessica Jin, RN, BSN, BMTCN, a clinical nurse III, is the 2021 Blood and Marrow Transplant Certified Nurse of the Year. The annual award by the Oncology Nursing Society recognizes a nurse who has made significant contributions to blood and marrow transplant nursing. [Read More](#)

Chief Pharmacy Officer Earns Career Honor From Professional Society

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center



Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center congratulates its chief pharmacy officer, **Lijian “Leo” Cai, PharmD**, who will receive the 2021 Donald E. Francke Medal from the American Society of Health System Pharmacists in recognition of his long record of significant professional achievements. [Read More](#)

Rutgers Leader Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Deputy Director **Eileen White, PhD**, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. She is among 120 members elected this year in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. [Read More](#)

Team Science Award Recognizes Pediatric Cancer Researchers

Stanford Cancer Institute

Eight Stanford Medicine scientists are among a group of pediatric cancer researchers being honored with the 2021 Team Science Award from the American Association for Cancer Research. [Read More](#)

Daly Receives NCCN Award

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health



Mary B. Daly, MD, PhD, FACP, professor in the Department of Clinical Genetics and director of the Risk Assessment Program at Fox Chase Cancer Center, recently received the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's (NCCN) Rodger Winn Award. [Read More](#)

Mitchell Honored With Minorities in Cancer Research Lectureship

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health



The American Association for Cancer Research has recognized **Edith P. Mitchell, MD**, with the 2021 Minorities in Cancer Research-Jane Cooke Wright Lectureship. Dr. Mitchell is the associate director for diversity affairs and director of the Center to Eliminate Disparities at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

\$17.5 Million in CPRIT Grants Awarded for Cancer Research

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

\$9 Million Contract Awarded for New Jersey State Cancer Registry

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

CPRIT Renews Funding for Training Program Focused on Education and Research

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

Study to Examine Exosomes in Ovarian Cancer

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

Stony Brook Receives Funding Boost to Fight Cancer

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

Foundation Gives \$1.8 Million to Myeloma Center

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

\$1.6 Million Awarded for IBC Research Project

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

Seeking to Expand Targeted Therapy for Lung Cancer

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

McElfish Named Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement

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

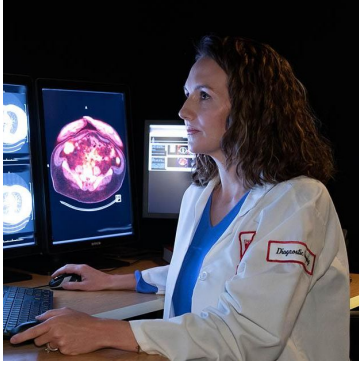


Pearl McElfish, PhD, MBA, has been named associate director of community outreach and engagement at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. [Read More](#)

Site Director For Radiology Appointed

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

Fox Chase Cancer Center announces the appointment of **Jordan Anaokar, MD**, as the new site director for radiology. She specializes in over a dozen different kinds of cancer with a treatment focus on gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and thoracic imaging, and has been director of the Fox Chase Diagnostic Imaging Protocol Lab since 2020. [Read More](#)



Rodriguez is First Chief Diversity and Equity Officer for Faculty

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center



Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announces the promotion of **Elisa M. Rodriguez, PhD, MS**, to chief diversity and equity officer for faculty. The new role provides expanded opportunities for Dr. Rodriguez to apply her deep-rooted commitment to improving the lives of people from underserved communities. [Read More](#)

Head of Cardio-Oncology Clinic Named

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute

Brandon Lennep, MD, a University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) assistant professor of cardiology, has been named to head the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute's (CCRI) Cardio-Oncology Clinic. The clinic provides on-site services to CCRI's largest outpatient site. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Increased Risk of Mortality Found for Arizona Hispanic, Native American Kidney Cancer Patients

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

New AI-Based Tool Can Find Rare Cell Populations in Large Single-Cell Datasets

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

New Insights Into Androgens' Action Could Boost Battle Against Prostate Cancer

University of Virginia Cancer Center

Breast Microbiome-Immune Interactions May Influence Breast Cancer

Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

Sugary Drinks Linked to Increased Risk of Colorectal Cancer in Women Under 50

Siteman Cancer Center

Frailty in Cancer Patients, Young and Old, is Linked to Inflammation

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

Studies Connect Mammary Hormone to Breast Cancer Progression, Uncover Potential for Novel Targeted Therapies

VCU Massey Cancer Center

Personalized Cancer Vaccine Shows Potential Benefit Against Multiple Tumor Types

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai

Research Team Takes Gene Mutation Detection in Blood to the Next Level

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Study Suggests Path to Blocking Common Genetic Driver of Lung Cancer

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Targeting Abnormal Cell Metabolism Shows Promise Against Pediatric Brain Tumors

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Changes in Approach to Cervical Cancer Examined Following Publication of Trial Results

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

A Calculator That Predicts Risk of Lung Cancer Underperforms in Diverse Populations

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

Triple-Negative Breast Cancer More Deadly for African American Women

Siteman Cancer Center

Bisphosphonates in Breast Cancer

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Researchers Discover an Entirely New Kind of Biomolecule

Stanford Cancer Institute

Researchers Discover First Immune Stimulating Long Noncoding RNA Involved in Body's Response to Cancer

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Fluorescent Dye Helps Guide Pediatric Liver Tumor Resection

Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

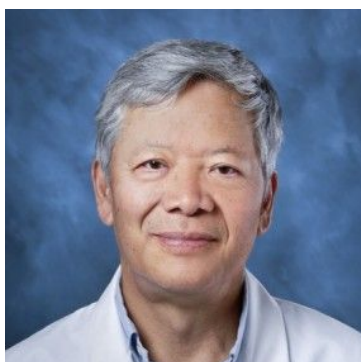
No Level of Smoke Exposure is Safe

VCU Massey Cancer Center

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

Distinguished Scientist, Mentor, and Uro-Oncology Research Pioneer Dies at 80

Cedars-Sinai Cancer



Leland W. Chung, PhD, who served as director of the Urologic Oncology Research Program at Cedars-Sinai Cancer for 12 years, died May 10 of kidney cancer. He was 80. [Read More](#)

Internship Program Aims to Boost Diversity in Cancer Care Workforce

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

The University of Rochester has been selected by the American Society of Clinical Oncology as one of five host schools to participate in the inaugural Oncology Summer Internship (OSI) program for medical students from populations underrepresented in medicine. [Read More](#)

Researchers Develop Direct-Acting Antiviral to Treat COVID-19

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

An international team of scientists from City of Hope and the Menzies Health Institute Queensland at Griffith University have developed an experimental direct-acting antiviral therapy to treat COVID-19. [Read More](#)

Massive Negative Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Screenings Quantified

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)



Nearly 10 million cancer screenings in the U.S. failed to happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new study. Researchers, including the first author on the study, **Ronald Chen, MD, MPH**, are calling for public attention to this problem to prevent cancer deaths. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Education Outreach & Communications Manager

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

Clinical Research Coordinator

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

Clinical Research Support Laboratory Project Manager

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

Regulatory Project Manager

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

Senior Regulatory Project Manager

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

Conflict of Interest Specialist

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

Pre-IND and IND Project Manager

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

Associate Director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

[Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah](#)

Research Administrator IV - Grants and Contracts

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS



2021 AACI/AACR Hill Day

VIRTUAL EVENT

June 9, 2021

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

VIRTUAL

AACI Association of American Cancer Institutes

AACR American Association for Cancer Research



13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

VIRTUAL EVENT | REGISTER TODAY

July 13-15, 2021

13th Annual AACI CRI Meeting
JULY 13-15, 2021



2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

VIRTUAL EVENT | REGISTER TODAY

October 19-21, 2021



Medical Arts Building
3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 503
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