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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | October 2021

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Annual Meeting Spotlight: The National Cancer Act at 50](#)



The [2021 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 19-21**. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Cancer Act (NCA), one meeting session will examine the last 50 years of progress and potential for the future. [Read More](#)

[AACI Committees Welcome New Members, Invite Nominations](#)

This fall, AACI will welcome new members to its [Clinical Research Innovation](#) (CRI) Steering Committee. The new members will formally assume their duties during the [2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#), held virtually **October 19-21**. AACI is also seeking nominations for new members to join the [Physician Clinical Research](#) (PCLI) Steering Committee. [Read More](#)

[Community Outreach and Engagement Listserv Launched](#)

AACI recently launched a listserv for community outreach and engagement professionals at AACI cancer centers. The purpose of the listserv is to provide a platform for members to ask questions or reach out to others about COE-related topics. [Read More](#)

[Patient Resource Navigator: A System Solution to Guiding Each Patient's Journey](#)

"These guides build bi-directional communication between our providers and their patients. We've seen an increase in patient retention and overall patient satisfaction."

- *Terry T. Tsue, MD, FACS, Vice President and Physician-in-Chief, The University of Kansas Cancer Center; Vice President of Physician Services, The University of Kansas Health System*



For more information, contact [Amy Galey](#). [Learn More](#)

Transforming Cancer Care



Last month, AACI partnered with Mediaplanet on its [Transforming Cancer Care](#) campaign, highlighting the ways in which the health care community is advancing equitable cancer care through innovation and global collaboration. AACI cancer centers and sustaining members are among those featured in this special supplement to the September 23 issue of USA TODAY, which also includes a full-page ad from AACI. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

Winkfield Named to National Cancer Advisory Board

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center



President Joseph Biden has appointed **Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD**, to the 18-member National Cancer Advisory Board, where she will serve a six-year term helping to guide federal initiatives that focus on cancer. [Read More](#)

Rutgers Leader Selected as American Academy of Nursing Fellow

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



Carolyn Hayes, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, chief nursing officer for Oncology Services at RWJBarnabas Health and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, has been selected by the American Academy of Nursing as a 2021 Fellow. [Read More](#)

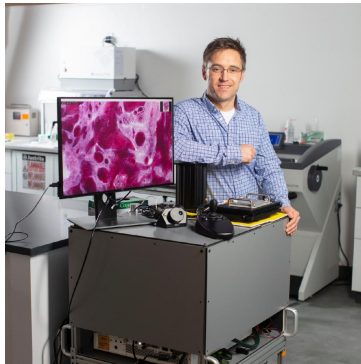
Friese Appointed to National Cancer Advisory Board



President Joseph Biden named **Christopher Friese, PhD, RN**, among seven new members of the National Cancer Advisory Board. Dr. Friese is associate director for cancer control and population sciences at the University of Michigan Health Rogel Cancer Center. He is a national expert in the analyses of claims data to study care quality and has executed large surveys of ambulatory oncology nurses. [Read More](#)

Researcher Makes List of Game Changers

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine



Popular Science magazine has named **Michael Giacomelli, PhD**, a member of the Wilmot Cancer Institute, to its "Brilliant 10" list for 2021. The early-career biomedical engineer, who invented a novel imaging device, joins the magazine's lineup of the most innovative and creative minds of the year. [Read More](#)

Heitman Elected to German Academy

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center



The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina has elected **Joseph Heitman, MD, PhD**, chair of the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at Duke University School of Medicine, and member of Duke Cancer Institute, as one of its members. [Read More](#)

Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence Designations Announced

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health

Fox Chase Cancer Center and the Marvin and Concetta Greenberg Pancreatic Cancer Institute were recently renewed as a Clinical Center of Excellence and named for the first time as an Academic Center of Excellence for Pancreatic Cancer by the National Pancreas Foundation. [Read More](#)

UAMS Wins AAMC Award for Outstanding Community Engagement

UAMS Winthrop T. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) recently bestowed the Spencer Foreman Award for Outstanding Community Engagement on the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). The award is presented annually to an AAMC-member medical school or teaching hospital with a long-standing, major institutional commitment to partnering with the community it serves. [Read More](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

NCI Renews Comprehensive Designation for UNM

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

Baylor Awarded NIH Funding for Clinical Genome Resource

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

Case Receives Merit Extension From NCI

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Grant Awarded for Clinical Trial to Treat Brain Cancer

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

Two New NIH-Funded Centers to Explore Impacts of Genomic Variation in Health, Disease

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

Nearly \$9 Million Awarded for Ovarian Cancer Research

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

\$3 Million Grant to Focus on Understanding, Combating Racial Inequities in Lung Cancer

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

Researcher Receives \$2.5 Million Grant to Develop Lung Cancer Treatment

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

\$2.5 Million Grant to Help Develop Lab-Grown Mini Tumors for Rare Tumors

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Trainee Receives NCI Award

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

Baumann Receives Clinical Investigator Award

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

Funding Renewed for Cancer Disparities Partnership

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Epidemiologist Joins Massey

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)



For the last 17 years, **Emmanuel A. Taylor, MSc, DrPH**, served as health scientist administrator and program director in the Office of the Director of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities at the National Cancer Institute. He now joins Virginia Commonwealth University as a researcher at Massey Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

Schilz Named Interim Executive Director

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

Aaron Schilz, MPA, has been appointed as the interim executive director for the Masonic Cancer Center. He assumes the position previously held by **Seanne Falconer, MBA, FACHE**, who has accepted the role of executive director, administration at the Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health. [Read More](#)

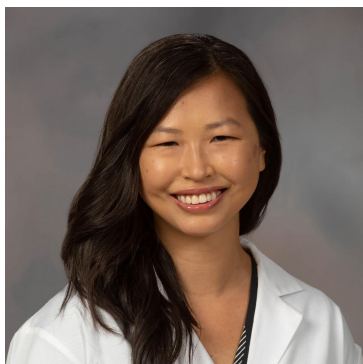
Precision Medicine Pioneer Named Chair of Pathology

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Carl Morrison, MD, DVM, has been promoted to chair of pathology and laboratory medicine. Dr. Morrison, who joined Roswell Park in 2007, remains senior vice president for scientific development and integrative medicine. [Read More](#)

Colorectal Surgeon Joins Cancer Team

UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute



Kelly Brister, MD, a colorectal surgeon, has joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center Interdisciplinary Gastrointestinal Cancer Team. She will provide care to a population with one of the lowest colorectal cancer screening rates in the nation. [Read More](#)

Tempera Appointed Associate Director for Cancer Research Career Enhancement

The Wistar Institute



The Wistar Institute announces the appointment of **Italo Tempera, PhD**, as associate director for cancer research career enhancement at the institute's cancer center. In this role, Dr. Tempera will lead the educational mission of the institute and its cancer center to train scientists and create workforce development programs in the life sciences. [Read More](#)

Brown Center for Immunotherapy Names Inaugural Executive Director

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center



Indiana University School of Medicine has named its first executive director of the Brown Center for Immunotherapy. **Huda Salman, MD, PhD**, will become the center's new leader, effective November 1. She joins IU School of Medicine from Stony Brook Cancer Center, where she directs the CAR T-cell program. [Read More](#)

Neurosurgical Oncologist Joins Lurie

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

Neurosurgical oncologist, **Amy Heimberger, MD**, has joined the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University as the Jean Malnati Miller Professor of Brain Tumor Research and

Molina Named AD for Community Outreach and Engagement

[University of Illinois Cancer Center](#)



Yamilé Molina, PhD, MPH, MS, has been named associate director for community outreach and engagement for the University of Illinois Cancer Center. She takes the helm from **Karriem Watson, DHSc, MS, MPH**, as he transitions to a new leadership role as chief engagement officer for the All of Us research initiative at the National Institutes of Health. [Read More](#)

New Chief of Thoracic and Head and Neck Medical Oncology Named

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)



Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and RWJBarnabas Health welcome **Missak Haigentz, Jr., MD**, as chief of Thoracic and Head and Neck Medical Oncology and clinical director for Oncology Integration. [Read More](#)

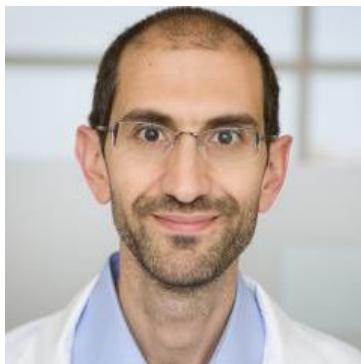
Vaccine Researcher, Immunologist Recruited as Assistant Professors

[The Wistar Institute](#)

The Wistar Institute welcomes **Amelia Escolano, PhD**, and **Nan Zhang, PhD**, as assistant professors. Dr. Escolano's research focuses on the development of novel vaccine approaches against highly mutating viruses. Dr. Zhang studies the role of a group of white blood cells known as macrophages during ovarian cancer metastasis in the abdominal cavity. [Read More](#)

Associate Director for Translational Research Named

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



Emmanuel S. Antonarakis, MD, has joined the University of Minnesota Medical School faculty as associate director for translational research at Masonic Cancer Center. He succeeds **Jill Siegfried, PhD**. Dr. Antonarakis will also serve as director of genitourinary oncology in the Department of Medicine's Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Transplantation of the U of M Medical School. [Read More](#)

Risley Returns to UMMC

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)

Carolann Risley, PhD, MSN, recently returned to the University of Mississippi Medical Center as an associate professor of nursing and member of the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute. She has focused on research into the basis for racial disparities in cervical cancer since she was a UMMC graduate student. [Read More](#)



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Investigators Uncover Cellular Pathway Involved in Cancer Growth

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Lab Finding May Broaden Understanding of How Some Cancers Begin

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Link Between Inflammation and Pancreatic Cancer Development Uncovered

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

National Pilot Project to Increase Diversity in Cancer Treatment Trials

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

New Drug Target Found for Pancreatic Cancer

University of Illinois Cancer Center

Liquid Biopsies May Aid Diagnosis, Treatment of Bladder, Nerve Tumors

Siteman Cancer Center

Phase III Trial Shows First Systemic Therapy for Metastatic Uveal Melanoma to Significantly Improve Overall Survival

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

New Computational Method Opens Window Into Immune Cell Behavior

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Patients Agree in Life to Donate Biological Samples in Death for Cancer Research

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

Unique Aspects of Pancreatic Cancer Proteins Could Lead to Early Detection, New Treatments

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

An Estrogen Receptor That Promotes Cancer Also Causes Drug Resistance

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

New Melanoma Staging System Developed

Cedars-Sinai Cancer

Novel Nanotechnology Found to Enhance Fight Against Colorectal Cancer, Melanoma

The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Study Identifies New Risk Factor for Most Common Childhood Cancer

Study Shows Combination Therapy May Potentially Improve Ovarian Cancer Patient Outcomes

UK Markey Cancer Center

Wilmot Makes Progress on Vexing Liver Cancer

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine

For Cancer Care, Patient Relationship With Primary Care Provider is Crucial

University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

Ribociclib Added to Endocrine Therapy Extends Survival in Postmenopausal Patients With Metastatic Breast Cancer

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Protein-Coding Gene Linked to Tumor Development, Activation of Natural Immune Defense Against Cancer

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Scientists Find a Pair of Proteins Controls Supply Lines That Feed Cancer Cells

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

How to Beat Cancer? Find the Genes That Help It Hide

Stanford Cancer Institute

Video-Based Education: An Alternative to Traditional Genetic Counseling for Men Prior to Prostate Cancer Genetic Testing

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health

OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

UCSF Selected for ASCO Mentor Program

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Under the leadership of **Ana Velázquez Mañana, MD**, fellow in medical oncology, UCSF, was chosen as one of only five institutions nationwide to participate in the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) inaugural Oncology Summer Internship program to increase diversity in the oncology workforce. [Read More](#)

Sharpless, Ciolino Featured in Facebook Live Series

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

National Cancer Institute Director **Ned Sharpless, MD**, and Office of Cancer Centers Director **Henry Ciolino, PhD**, joined **Roy Jensen, MD**, director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, for a special episode of the center's Facebook Live series "Bench to Bedside" on September 29 to discuss the 50th anniversary commemoration of the National Cancer Act, as well as the latest in cancer research, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer research, and the NCI's health equity efforts. [Read More](#)

Cancer Clinical Trials Exclude Too Many Patients: That is Changing

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

A new study by **Joseph Unger, PhD, MS**, of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, showed there was little evidence of enrollment reductions to treatment trials during the entire first year of the pandemic. Rather, it's the eligibility criteria that keeps most cancer patients out of trials. [Read More](#)



Researchers Identify Mechanism Driving COVID-19 Mortality

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

An enzyme with an elusive role in severe inflammation may be a key mechanism driving COVID-19 severity and could provide a new therapeutic target to reduce COVID-19 mortality, according to a study by researchers from the University of Arizona, in collaboration with Stony Brook University and Wake Forest School of Medicine. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Cancer Prevention and Control Faculty

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Budget Analyst

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

Clinical Research Operations Specialist

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

Director of Regulatory Affairs

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

Assistant Manager, Clinical Trials

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

Clinical Research Supervisor

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

Clinical Trials Manager

[Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University](#)

Cancer Center Director

[University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa](#)

Study Coordinator - Cancer Clinical Trials

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

Cancer Clinical Research Coordinator 2 - Radiation Oncology CCSB

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

Cancer Clinical Research Educator

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

Medical Director, Clinical Trials Office

[Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone](#)

Director, Breast Medical Oncology

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)



CURE Distinguished Scholars Seminar: Structure, Trust and Science

WEBEX SEMINAR

NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

Presented by Robert A. Winn, MD

October 14, 2021



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

14th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

July 12-14, 2022

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Rosemont, IL

2021 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

October 2-4, 2022

InterContinental at the Plaza

Kansas City, MO



Medical Arts Building
3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 503
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-647-6111

