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## News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | March 2022

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## AACI HEADLINES

### [Park Named New Director of VICC](#)



**Ben Ho Park, MD, PhD**, Cornelius Abernathy Craig Professor of Medicine, and deputy director of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC), has been named the center's new director. Park will begin serving in this role on July 1, when he succeeds longtime VICC director **Jennifer Pietenpol, PhD**, who is assuming a new leadership role with Vanderbilt University Medical Center. [Read More](#)

### [Register Now for PCLI Career Development Webinar](#)



The **AACI Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI)** will host "**Career Development: Making the Transition From Training to Clinician Investigator**" at 1:00 pm eastern time on **Wednesday, March 9**. The panel includes physicians who have achieved success in launching clinical research early in their careers who will provide examples of challenges and solutions as well as early career and transition advice. [Read More](#)

### [Op-Ed: Ending Cancer As We Know It](#)

On February 17, an opinion piece co-authored by AACI President **Caryn Lerman, PhD**, and Vice President/President-elect **Robert A. Winn, MD**, appeared on [TheHill.com](#). In "**Ending Cancer As We Know It**," Drs. Lerman and Winn described the progress made in cancer research since the National Cancer Act was signed into law in 1971. They also called for Congress to invest in cancer research to support President Biden's

renewed commitment to the Cancer Moonshot. [Read More](#)



## [AACI Applauds President Biden's Revamped Moonshot](#)



Last month President Joe Biden announced a relaunch of the White House Cancer Moonshot. To implement the plan, the administration will convene a "cancer cabinet" of government officials with the goal of cutting the cancer death rate in half by 2025.

*Pictured, President Biden and AACI Executive Director Jennifer W. Pegher at the White House, February 2, 2022.*

[Read More](#)

## [Reminder: CRI Abstract Deadline is March 14](#)



The AACI CRI Steering Committee is currently soliciting abstracts for the **14th Annual AACI CRI Meeting**. This year's meeting theme will focus on innovation in cancer clinical research. The deadline to **submit an abstract** is 5:00 pm Pacific time on **Monday, March 14**. [Read More](#)

## [Join AACI to Advocate for Cancer Research Funding](#)

AACI will jointly host its annual **Hill Day** with the **American Association for Cancer Research** (AACR) on **Wednesday, June 15**. All faculty and staff of AACI cancer centers are invited to spend the day advocating for a strong federal investment in biomedical research—and cancer research in particular—through the NIH and the NCI. Registration for the virtual Hill Day will open in April. In the meantime, we encourage AACI members to **contact your legislators** and urge them to pass the FY 2022 budget and fund the NCI at an appropriate level. [Read More](#)

## [Patient Resource Assists With Retaining and Acquiring New Cancer Patients](#)

A graphic for the Patient Resource Navigator. It features a globe icon with the text "PATIENT RESOURCE NAVIGATOR" in bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, a purple banner reads "Increases patient retention". The largest part of the graphic is the number "86%" in a large, blue, sans-serif font, with the text "Built trust and confidence in my treatment team and cancer center" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. At the bottom, in very small text, it says "Patient satisfaction figures from 46428 people surveyed July 2015 - October 30, 2021".

"After implementing Patient Resource Guides, 60 percent of patients who came from other cancer programs for a second opinion selected our center to receive their care." - *Mark S. Roh, MD, Former President of the University of Florida Health Cancer Center Orlando Health (now Orlando Health Cancer Institute)*

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

### [Fleisher Receives Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

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



**Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH**, associate research professor in the Cancer Prevention and Control research program at Fox Chase Cancer Center, was recently recognized with the Lillie D. Shockney Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators. [Read More](#)

### [Chinnaiyan Awarded Sjöberg Prize](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



**Arul M. Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD**, was awarded the 2022 Sjöberg Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which also awards Nobel Prizes. He is being honored for the discovery of recurrent gene fusions in prostate cancer. [Read More](#)

### [Incoming AUA President Continuing Leadership Tradition](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)



When **Edward Messing, MD, FACS**, assumes the American Urological Association (AUA) presidency in May 2022, he will follow in the footsteps of other leaders in the field from the University of Rochester Medical Center. [Read More](#)

### [Cardio-Oncology Recognized for Excellence](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

The Washington University Cardio-Oncology Center at Siteman Cancer Center has been recognized by a leading international group. The center received designation as a Center of Excellence at the highest level, Gold, after a recent review by the International Cardio-Oncology Society. [Read More](#)

### [Immersion Science Program Directors Win Education Award](#)

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

The two leaders of the Immersion Science Program at Fox Chase Cancer Center, which allows students to

explore science in a hands-on way while also providing valuable data to researchers, have received the Elizabeth W. Jones Award for Excellence in Education from the Genetics Society of America. [Read More](#)

## [Researchers Named Young Investigator Award Winners](#)

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

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce four 2021 Young Investigator Award winners selected by the *American Journal of Hematology (AJH)*. The winners were selected among the manuscripts published in *AJH* on the basis of the scientific quality and originality of the work. [Read More](#)

## [Faculty Elected to American Society for Clinical Investigation](#)

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

The American Society for Clinical Investigation has elected two Baylor College of Medicine faculty members to its new class of members. **Katherine King, MD, PhD**, associate professor of pediatrics – infectious diseases, and **Monica Gramatges, MD, PhD**, associate professor of pediatrics – oncology, are among 95 new members. [Read More](#)

## [Hughes Named a Damon Runyon Fellow](#)

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

**Elizabeth R. Hughes, PhD**, a postdoctoral associate in the Duke University School of Medicine's Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, has been named a 2022 Robert Black Fellow by the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. [Read More](#)

## [Seven Researchers Named AAAS Fellows for 2021](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center is home to seven members selected as 2021 fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). These researchers are among 564 scientists, engineers and innovators spanning 24 scientific disciplines, recognized for their scientifically and socially distinguished achievements. [Read More](#)

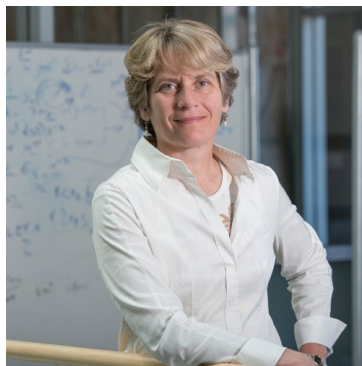
## [Siteman Reaccredited for Radiation Oncology](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) has reaccredited the radiation oncology practice at Siteman Cancer Center. After a comprehensive evaluation by ASTRO, Siteman completed the Accreditation Program for Excellence. [Read More](#)

## [Bertozzi Awarded Wolf Prize in Chemistry](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



**Carolyn Bertozzi, PhD**, has been jointly awarded the 2022 Wolf Prize in Chemistry for creating a new biochemical field of study and contributing to the understanding of the glycocalyx, a network of cellular molecules important to health and disease. [Read More](#)

### GRANTS & GIFTS

## [Largest Publicly Shared Gift for Liver Research Announced](#)

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

## [More Than \\$15.6 Million Received in CPRIT Funding](#)

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

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

### [Thompson to Step Down](#)

[Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)



**Craig B. Thompson, MD**, has announced his intention to step down as president and chief executive officer of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Thompson will continue in his role until the Boards of Trustees and Governing Trustees identify his successor. [Read More](#)

### [Mark Foundation Appoints DuBois Executive Chairman](#)

[Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina](#)



**Raymond N. (Ray) DuBois, MD, PhD**, will join the Mark Foundation for Cancer Research as executive chairman of the board. He will assume his role at the Mark Foundation in addition to his current role as director of MUSC Hollings Cancer Center and Distinguished University Professor at Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). [Read More](#)

### [Pietenpol Named Chief Scientific and Strategy Officer](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)



**Jennifer Pietenpol, PhD**, director of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, is stepping down on June 30 to focus on a combined leadership role for Vanderbilt University Medical Center as chief scientific and strategy officer. [Read More](#)

### [Director Named for Phase I Clinical Trials and Investigational Therapeutics](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey has named **Sanjay Goel, MD, MS**, as director of its Phase I/Investigational Therapeutics Program. He is also a professor of medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. [Read More](#)



## [Opyrchal Named Inaugural Chair in Breast Cancer Discovery](#)

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



**Mateusz Opyrchal, MD, PhD**, is the inaugural Vera Bradley Foundation Chair in Breast Cancer Discovery in the Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research at the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center. He will also co-lead the cancer center's Experimental and Development Therapeutics research program and direct the solid tumor Phase I program. [Read More](#)

## [Associate Director of Women's Cancers Named](#)

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



**Stephanie Blank, MD**, has been named associate director of women's cancers for The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai. In this role, Dr. Blank will be instrumental in encouraging translational research for women's cancers. [Read More](#)

## [Cancer Clinical Trials Office Welcomes New Medical Director](#)

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)



**Marie Wood, MD**, has been named the medical director of the cancer clinical trials office at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. She completed medical school and fellowship training at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and returns to Colorado from the University of Vermont Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

## [Cancer Consortium Announces New Leadership](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

**Mignon Loh, MD**, and **Elizabeth M. Swisher, MD**, have been appointed deputy directors of the Fred Hutch/University of Washington Cancer Consortium. They replace Nancy E. Davidson, MD, who will continue as senior vice president and director of Fred Hutch's clinical research division, president and executive

director of Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, and chief of medical oncology at University of Washington. [Read More](#)

## [Gehrig to Chair Obstetrics and Gynecology](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)



**Paola A. Gehrig, MD**, has been appointed chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. She joins UVA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and serves as principal investigator on a National Cancer Institute grant to study ovarian cancer. [Read More](#)

## [Messersmith Named CMO of Oncology Services](#)

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)



University of Colorado (CU) Cancer Center leader **Wells Messersmith, MD**, has been named chief medical officer of oncology services at UHealth. He will oversee cancer care at all UHealth locations with a focus on expanding advanced treatments and the clinical trials UHealth offers in partnership with the CU Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

## [Nguyen Named Associate Director for DEI](#)

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



**Tung Nguyen, MD**, has been named associate director for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Nguyen will lead the cancer center's ongoing efforts to build and train a workforce that is diverse, inclusive, and equitable. [Read More](#)

## [New Chief Clinical Operating Officer Named](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

**Vince Jensen** has been appointed chief clinical operating officer for City of Hope. He will lead clinical operations on the institution's main campus, as well as throughout its network of care locations in Southern California. [Read More](#)

## [Oncologist Advances Innovative Clinical Trials for Breast Cancer](#)

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

**Nancy Chan, MD**, a medical oncologist who treats people with breast cancer, joined NYU Langone Health's Perlmutter Cancer Center in September 2021 after spending seven years at Rutgers Cancer Institute as the co-leader of breast oncology. [Read More](#)



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### [Drug Combination Trial Shows Promising Results in Treatment of Colorectal Cancer](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

### [With Personalized Medicine, a Shelved Cancer Drug Could Get Another Shot](#)

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

### [Genome Study Finds Unexpected Variation in Fundamental RNA Gene](#)

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

### [New Brain Metastases Guidelines to Improve Care, Patient Survival](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

### [Sequencing Study Unlocks Mystery of Multiple Myeloma](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Immunotherapy Before Liver Cancer Surgery Can Kill Tumor, and Likely Residual Cancer Cells](#)

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

### [Stem Cell Discoveries Hold Potential to Improve Cancer Treatment](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

### [Membranes Help Researchers Capture Tiny, Telltale Vesicles](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

### [Novel Transplant Approach Improves Odds for Leukemia Patients](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

### [Fungal Pathway Leads Researchers to New Treatment Target for Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Research Center](#)

### [Researchers Make New Findings About How to Test Cancer-Fighting Drugs](#)

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

### [Study Explores New Path to Treat Advanced Triple-Negative Breast Cancer](#)

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



## [Immune Cells Leave 'Fingerprints' on Tumors Metastasized to the Brain](#)

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

## [Rural Residents Perceive More Cancer-Related Information Overload Than Urban Residents](#)

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

## [Trametinib is Potential New Standard-of-Care for Recurrent Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Carcinoma](#)

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

### OTHER NEWS & COVID-19

## [Oncologist Shares His Own Cancer Experiences in Podcast](#)

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



When **Abraham Chachoua, MD**, walks into a patient's room, he stays for a while. His patients are an extension of his family, and he loves to tell funny stories about his life and make them laugh. "Being a doctor is more than just prescribing medication," says Dr. Chachoua, who learned this lesson early on. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Clinical Research Center Marks Decade of Investigational Science](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

Ten years ago, the University of Kansas Clinical Research Center opened its doors. The facility looked like a building in a suburban office park, not a place where science could change lives. But looks can be deceiving. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [High Levels of PFAS Found in Anti-Fogging Sprays and Cloths](#)

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

The anti-fogging sprays and cloths many people use to prevent condensation on their eyeglasses when wearing a mask or face shield may contain high levels of per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS), a new Duke University-led study finds. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Study: Antibody Response Varies by Tumor Type and Treatment](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

Dual studies by Cedars-Sinai Cancer researchers have found significant differences in the durability of antibody responses and frequency of breakthrough cases in patients who are undergoing cancer treatments and receive certain COVID-19 vaccinations. They also found that adverse symptoms experienced after vaccination varied by tumor type and treatment. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Prior Treatment With Cancer Drug Likely Renders COVID-19 Vaccine Ineffective](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

People who have been treated with the cancer drug rituximab, or similar drugs, respond poorly or not at all to subsequent COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, according to a study by researchers at Stanford Medicine. In contrast, vaccination immediately prior to such treatments can generate a months-long, durable antibody response, the study found. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Prevalent Even Among Vaccinated](#)

Researchers with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Office of Community Health and Research recently published four articles on a study they conducted that found that many adults in Arkansas receiving the COVID-19 vaccine are doing so despite experiencing some doubts about the shot. [Read More](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### [Clinical Research Auditors](#)

[Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)

### [Cancer Clinical Research - Multiple Openings](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

### [Director - Office of Clinical/Translational Research](#)

[UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#)

### [Supervisor, Research Programs](#)

[Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center](#)

### [Clinical Research Manager - Clinical Protocol & Data Management](#)

[Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University Irving Medical Center](#)

### [Compliance Core Coordinator](#)

[Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University Irving Medical Center](#)

### [Data & Safety Monitoring Committee Administrator](#)

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)

### [Regulatory Specialist](#)

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

### [Associate or Full Professor Breast Oncologist and Associate Director for Clinical & Translational Research](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

### [Cancer Center Support Grant Program Manager](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

### [Clinical Research Coordinator II](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

### [Clinical Research RN](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

### [Executive Director and Associate Director for Administration](#)

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

### [Lab Research Supervisor 1](#)

[UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### [Lung, Melanoma & Immunotherapy Oncologist](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

### [Research Project Manager](#)

[Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina](#)

## [Associate/Full Professor, Population Sciences in the Pacific](#)

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

## [Clinical Research Monitor](#)

[OHSU Knight Cancer Institute](#)

## [Multiple Positions](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

## [Cancer Center Grants and Financial Administrator](#)

[Comprehensive Cancer Center, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)

## [Cancer Center Project Director](#)

[Comprehensive Cancer Center, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)

## [Multiple Positions](#)

[Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System](#)

## [Director, Finance](#)

[Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center](#)

## [Program Coordinator, Training & Research Services](#)

[UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Project Manager, Breast Cancer Prevention](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

## [Senior Clinical Research Coordinator, Breast Cancer Prevention & Survivorship](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

## [Assistant Director, Clinical Trial Data Management](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

## [Assistant Director, Clinical Trial Coordination](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

## [Associate Director, Clinical Research - Medical Oncology](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

## [Associate Director, Clinical Trials Office and Business Operations](#)

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

## [Systems Analyst II, Clinical Trials](#)

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

## [Associate Dean, Research and Clinical Trials](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer Center](#)

## [Cancer Center Director](#)

[UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center](#)

## [Research Project Manager](#)

## MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [Equity by Design in Clinical Research: Cancer Trials](#)

[WEEKLY WEBINAR SERIES | REGISTER TODAY](#)

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

[March 8 - April 14, 2022](#)

### [Annual Midwest Tumor Microenvironment Meeting](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[University of Kansas Medical Center](#)

[May 23-25, 2022](#)

### [LGBTQ+ Cancer Symposium](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[Sofitel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills](#)

[June 2-3, 2022](#)

## AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### [2022 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[SAVE THE DATE | VIRTUAL MEETING](#)

[June 15, 2022](#)

### [14th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[July 12-14, 2022](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

### [2022 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[October 2-4, 2022](#)

[InterContinental at the Plaza](#)

[Kansas City, MO](#)



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