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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | May 2022

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

AACI HEADLINES

[AACI Welcomes Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT](#)



This month AACI welcomes the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT to its membership. Directed by **Matthew Vander Heiden, MD, PhD**, the Koch Institute focuses on five strategic areas: nanotechnology-based drugs, detection and monitoring, metastasis, precision medicine, and immunology and immunotherapy. With the addition of the Koch Institute, AACI counts all 71 NCI-Designated Cancer Centers among its 104 members. [Read More](#)

[CRI Keynote Spotlight: Monique Phillips](#)



Monique Phillips, PMP, will deliver the keynote presentation at the 14th Annual AACI CRI Meeting. Phillips is the People & Business Resource Groups lead of the Black Organization for Leadership and Development at Bristol Myers Squibb. She will be joined by **Kimberly Richardson**, a patient advocate and ovarian cancer survivor. Phillips and Richardson will discuss implicit bias, straightforward patient communication, and other topics related to optimizing diversity in clinical trials. [Read More](#)

[Senator Roy Blunt and Representative Donald Payne, Jr., to Receive Cancer Research Ally Award](#)

Senator **Roy Blunt (R-MO)** and Representative **Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ)** will be honored with the Cancer Research Ally Award at the **2022 AACI/AACR Hill Day**, which will be held virtually on Wednesday, June



15. Both will deliver remarks at 12:00 pm eastern time as part of the event's lunchtime programming. [Read More](#)

[Riedell to Lead AACI CAR T Steering Committee](#)



Peter Riedell, MD, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center, is the new chair of AACI's [CAR T Initiative](#) Steering Committee. He succeeds **Joseph McGuirk, DO, FACP**, whose term expired earlier this year. [Read More](#)

[Patient Resource: an Integral Physician Outreach Tool](#)



Influence of *Patient Resource* on referrals

- Over a 3-year period, one cancer center shares a 12% increase of patient referrals year-over-year
- With more than 48,000 patients surveyed, 83% state that the personalized guides influence their positive recommendation of cancer center to friends & family

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

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Jensen Receives Kansas Masonic Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)



Roy A. Jensen, MD, vice chancellor and director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, was awarded the Kansas Masonic Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award. The award has been given to only three other individuals throughout the Kansas Masonic Foundation's 50-year history. Dr. Jensen is AACI's immediate past president. [Read More](#)

Huntsman Recognized for LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality by Human Rights Campaign

Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah



The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has recognized Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah as an LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader, awarding it the highest score possible in the 15th anniversary edition of the Healthcare Equality Index. [Read More](#)

Kyprianou to Receive American Urological Association Award

The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai



Mount Sinai researcher **Natasha Kyprianou, MBBS, PhD**, a leading expert on prostate, bladder, and kidney cancer, has been awarded the Richard D. Williams, MD, Prostate Cancer Research Excellence Award by the Urology Care Foundation, a nonprofit urological health foundation and official foundation of the American Urological Association. Dr. Kyprianou is the first woman to receive this award. [Read More](#)

Fertig Named to the AIMBE College of Fellows

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University



Elana Fertig, PhD, has been elected by her peers as a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), which represents the most accomplished individuals in the fields of medical and biological engineering. The College of Fellows comprises the top two percent of medical and biological engineers in the United States. [Read More](#)

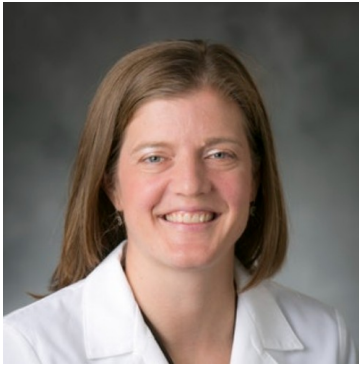
Johns Named First Walther Scholar in Psycho-Oncology

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center



Indiana University School of Medicine has named **Shelley Johns, PsyD, ABPP**, the Walther Scholar in Psycho-Oncology. Dr. Johns is the first person to hold this position, which was established by a \$14 million gift to IU School of Medicine from the Walther Cancer Foundation to create five endowed positions to develop a supportive oncology program encompassing research and patient care. [Read More](#)

Beasley Receives ASCI Young Physician-Scientist Award



Co-leader of the Duke Cancer Institute Melanoma Disease Group **Georgia Beasley, MD, MHSc**, is among 40 recipients nationally of a Young Physician-Scientist Award from the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). [Read More](#)

[SKCC, ACS Partnership Honored With Philanthropy Award](#)

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

The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health (SKCC), along with the American Cancer Society (ACS), has been selected as a Faces of Philanthropy honoree by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[Winn Honored With \\$100 Million Fellowship in His Name](#)

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

[Grant Renewal to Support Clinical and Translational Research](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Break Through Cancer Announces \\$50 Million in Grants to Support Interdisciplinary Research](#)

[Break Through Cancer](#)

[American Cancer Society Funds Research to Benefit Hispanic Cancer Survivors, Caregivers](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Lung Cancer Screening Innovation Receives \\$3.5 Million Grant](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

[\\$3 Million Grant Supports Expansion of Digital Intervention for Skin Self-Examination](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

[Ferrell Lands Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Award](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Foundation Funds First Distinguished Professorship in Neuroendocrine Tumor Research](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Vonderheide Appointed to Second Term as Director](#)

[Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania](#)



Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil, has been appointed to a second five-year term as director of the Abramson Cancer Center. Highlights of his first term include 17 FDA-approved oncology therapies, high-impact basic and translational research discoveries, expansion of radiation oncology services, and development of new methods for live tumor imaging during surgeries. [Read More](#)

[Plimack Appointed Deputy Director at Fox Chase](#)

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



Elizabeth Plimack, MD, MS, chief of the Division of Genitourinary Medical Oncology and professor in the Department of Hematology/Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been appointed deputy director. She will oversee the Clinical and Translational Research Plan as she takes on this newly created role. [Read More](#)

[Cummings Named JEDI Director](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

The UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center has named **Amy L. Cummings, MD**, its new director for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI). Dr. Cummings is a faculty member in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology at UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. [Read More](#)

[Rivera Named Associate Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)



M. Patricia Rivera, MD, has joined the faculty of the University of Rochester Medical Center with several prominent positions, including associate director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Wilmot Cancer Institute. This is the first AD for DEI at Wilmot. She most recently served as professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. [Read More](#)

[Breast Surgical Oncologist Joins Cedars-Sinai Cancer in Tarzana](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

Breast surgical oncologist **Lauren DeStefano, MD**, was recently added to the growing roster of cancer specialists at Cedars-Sinai Cancer in Tarzana. She joins Cedars-Sinai Cancer from the University of Washington's Department of Surgery and the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. [Read More](#)



[Zaslow is New Vice President of Payer Strategies](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)



Evan Zaslow has joined Moffitt Cancer Center as the new vice president of payer strategies, overseeing all aspects of Moffitt's managed care strategy. Before joining Moffitt, Zaslow served as the chief of the Managed Care Support Branch and contracting officer for the Defense Health Agency. [*Read More*](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Vitamin E Can Boost Immunotherapy Responses by Reinvigorating Dendritic Cells](#)

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

[Simple Changes in Care Reduced Heart Exposure During Lung Cancer Radiation Treatment](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Immunotherapy Plus Chemotherapy Before Surgery Improves Lung Cancer Outcomes](#)

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

[Global Cancer Consortium Studies New Option for Diagnosing Lung Cancer](#)

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

[Long-Term Safety of Genetically Modified Immune Effector Cells Shown](#)

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

[Study Reveals Male Sex Hormones Are New Targets for Cancer Immunotherapy](#)

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

[Quest for Better Treatments for Rare Blood Cancer Leads to New Therapies](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Study to Gauge Effectiveness of Menthol E-Cigarettes as a Quit-Smoking Tool](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Cancer Repair Mechanism Could Be Potential Drug Target](#)

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

[Artificial Intelligence Helps Physicians Better Assess Bladder Cancer Treatment Effectiveness](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Stress Receptors Explored as Possible Immune Checkpoint, Suggesting Role for Beta-Blockers in Cancer Treatment](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Targeting Cell Clustering by Gene Deletion Reduces Drug Resistance](#)

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

[Black Patients More Likely to Be Excluded From Pancreatic Cancer Clinical Trials](#)

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

[Living Donation Opens New Doors for Colorectal Cancer Patients in Need of Liver Transplants](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[Study Reports Racial Disparities for Gastrointestinal Surgery](#)

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

[Data-Driven Approach to Help Reduce Drug Costs and Treat Diseases](#)

[WVU Cancer Institute](#)

[NCI-COG Pediatric MATCH Study Shows Benefit of Genetic Screening in Refractory Tumors](#)

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

[Research Reveals Biologically Older Tissue in Patients With Breast Cancer](#)

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

[Prostate Cancer Patients Want Detailed Life Expectancy Information](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Understanding the Mechanics of Breast Cancer Metastasis](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

[Blasting Bladder Cancer](#)

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

[More Than 25 Percent of Virginians Unaware of Lifesaving HPV Vaccine](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)



A study has identified the Virginians least likely to know that there is a potentially lifesaving vaccine available for human papillomavirus (HPV). More than a quarter of respondents to a survey of state residents had not heard of the HPV vaccine. Those least likely to be aware include males, urban residents, and people who reported lower incomes. Those most likely to know of the vaccine include part-time workers, younger people, and those with higher education. [Read More](#)

[Pancreatic Cancer Research Institute Established](#)

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



Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine recently established the Sylvester Pancreatic Cancer Research Institute. **Nipun Merchant, MD**, is the institute's founding director. [Read More](#)

[Samuel Strober, Pioneering Transplantation Immunologist, Dies at 81](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



Samuel Strober, MD, professor of immunology and rheumatology, died in February of multiple myeloma. Focusing on improving transplant recipients' lives, Dr. Strober developed a way to wean some of these patients from a lifelong regimen of drugs that prevent the immune system from attacking and destroying the donated organ. [Read More](#)

[SpaceX Takes Experiment to International Space Station](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

Patsy McDonald, PhD, and **Derek Duckett, PhD**, Moffitt Cancer Center faculty members and founders of CADW Therapeutics, sent a scientific experiment to space in April as a part of Axiom Space's Axiom Mission 1, the first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station. [Read More](#)

[\\$4.7 Million Awarded to Encourage COVID-19 Testing in Underserved Communities and Schools](#)

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

University of Utah Health scientists are launching SCALE-UP II and SCALE-UP Counts, a pair of initiatives designed to increase COVID-19 testing and vaccination among rural and underserved populations. Combined, the two initiatives are supported by \$4.7 million from the National Institutes of Health. [Read More](#)

[Vaccine Protects Most Cancer Patients From COVID, But Risk Remains Higher for Those With Blood Cancers](#)

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



Using the nation's largest COVID-19 data resource, **Jing Su, PhD**, a researcher at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center found the COVID-19 vaccine protected most cancer patients from getting COVID. However, patients with certain types of cancer have a higher and widely varied risk of breakthrough COVID infections after receiving the vaccine. [Read More](#)

[Study Finds Marshallese in U.S. Mobilized to Address Pandemic Hardships](#)

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



Faced with hardships intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, Marshallese communities in the United States mobilized to help one another. According to a study by University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) researchers, socially vulnerable groups in the U.S. have experienced food insecurity, housing insecurity, inadequate health care, and difficulty paying bills during the pandemic. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Basic Sciences Faculty](#)

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

[Clinical Research RN](#)

[Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University](#)

[Communications Officer - Cancer Center](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Manager - Clinical Trials Office Regulatory](#)

[Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University](#)

[Protocol Review & Monitoring Administrator](#)

[Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)

[Clinical Research Coordinator I](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

[Contracts & Grants Analyst 3](#)

[UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Multiple Positions](#)

[VCU Massey Cancer Center](#)

[Research Quality Assurance Analyst](#)

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

[Senior Clinical Research Coordinator - Sacramento Campus](#)

[UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Associate Director - Cancer Center Administration](#)

[Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute](#)

[Associate/Full Professor - Tenure Track Associate Director of Clinical Research](#)

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

[Clinical Research Database Coordinator](#)

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Human Subject Compliance Director](#)

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

[Director of Clinical Research Operations](#)

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

[Endowed Professorship in Oncology Nursing](#)

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

[Faculty Positions - Population Studies and Disparities Research](#)

[Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University](#)

[Fellows Program - Independent Investigator](#)

[Ellen and Ronald Caplan Cancer Center of The Wistar Institute](#)

[Research Nurse I - Experimental Therapeutics](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

[Study Coordinator II - Clinical Research](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Annual Midwest Tumor Microenvironment Meeting](#)

[University of Kansas Medical Center](#)

[May 23-25, 2022](#)

[LGBTQ+ Cancer Symposium](#)

[Sofitel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills](#)

[June 2-3, 2022](#)

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

[2022 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[June 15, 2022](#)

[14th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[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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