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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | October 2022

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Three Cancer Center Leaders Selected for AACI Board](#)



Cancer center directors **Steven D. Leach, MD**; **Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD**; and **Sarah Thayer, MD, PhD**, have been elected as new members of the AACI Board of Directors. Drs. Leach, Odunsi, and Thayer represent Dartmouth Cancer Center; the University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center; and Feist-Weiller Cancer Center, LSU Health Shreveport, respectively. They replace outgoing board members **Carlos Arteaga, MD**; **S. Gail Eckhardt, MD, FASCO**; and **Anil K. Rustgi, MD**. [Read More](#)

[AACI Welcomes Northwell Health Cancer Institute as Newest Member](#)



AACI has added Northwell Health Cancer Institute to its membership roster. Directed by **Richard Barakat, MD**, the cancer institute is part of Northwell Health. Treating over 16,600 new cancer patients each year, the Northwell Health system includes 21 hospitals, nine ambulatory oncology centers, and roughly 400 physicians caring for patients with cancer. The cancer institute is located on the north shore of Long Island, in Lake Success, NY. [Read More](#)

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

This fall, AACI welcomed new members to its [Clinical Research Innovation \(CRI\)](#) and [Government Relations \(GR\)](#) Forum steering committees. The new members formally assumed their duties during the 2022 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting. AACI is also seeking nominations for new members to join the [Physician](#)

[Cancer Center Colleagues Gather in Kansas City for the 2022 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)



AACI's first in-person annual meeting since 2019 attracted over 400 participants, including leaders from 91 cancer centers, for three-and-a-half days of networking, presentations, and panel discussions in Kansas City. Program topics ranged from the Cancer Moonshot and National Cancer Institute funding, to cancer center leadership development, the future of the oncology workforce, clinical trial operations, drug development, and breakthrough research at basic science centers. [Read More](#)

[President Biden Highlights Cancer Moonshot Progress at Boston Event](#)

On Monday, September 12, AACI Executive Director **Jennifer W. Pegher** attended an event at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, where **President Joe Biden** shared progress updates on the Cancer Moonshot 2.0. Held on the 60th anniversary of President Kennedy's famous Moonshot speech, the event also included President Biden's announcement of his intention to appoint **Dr. Renee Wegrzyn** as the inaugural director of the **Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)**. [Read More](#)

[AACI Supports NCI Annual Plan & Budget Proposal for FY 2024](#)

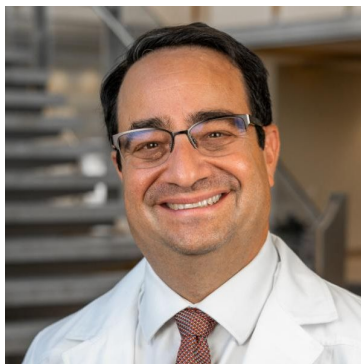
AACI commends the National Cancer Institute (NCI) on the release of its **Annual Plan & Budget Proposal** for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and its request for \$9.988 billion in funding – a significant increase over previous years. Priorities include increasing the R01 payline, expanding and modernizing cancer clinical trials, building on the success of the Cancer Moonshot and the 21st Century Cures Act, advancing health equity, and fostering a diverse cancer research workforce. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Tward Named Inaugural Holder of Endowed Tward Named Inaugural Holder of Endowed Chair in Genitourinary Malignancies in Genitourinary Malignancies](#)

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



The inaugural Vincent P. and Janet Mancini Presidential Endowed Chair is **Jonathan Tward, MD, PhD**. Dr. Tward serves as the lead physician on several operational committees and working groups within the Department of Radiation Oncology. He is a recognized authority in prostate, bladder, and penile cancer treatments. [Read More](#)

[Blood and Marrow Transplant Nursing Team Receives National Award](#)

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

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit has received national recognition for exceptional patient care and professional nursing practice from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses by being named a 2022 recipient of the Silver Beacon Award for Excellence. [Read More](#)

[Breast Cancer Program Earns National Reaccreditation](#)

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

The breast cancer program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute has earned reaccreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC). The breast cancer program first received accreditation from NAPBC in 2011. [Read More](#)

[Nuclear Medicine Garners National Recognition](#)

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

The Society of Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging has designated the Division of Nuclear Medicine and Radiotheranostics at Duke Health as a Comprehensive Radiopharmaceutical Therapy Center of Excellence. The division is currently one of only 14 centers in the U.S. to receive this recognition. [Read More](#)

[UChicago Medicine Oncologists to Lead Committees for National Cooperative Clinical Trials Group](#)

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



University of Chicago Medicine oncologists **Wendy Stock, MD**, and **Peter H. O'Donnell, MD**, have been chosen to lead committees of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, a clinical trials network sponsored by the National Cancer Institute that promotes collaboration among approximately 10,000 cancer specialists across the U.S. and Canada. [Read More](#)

[Lung Cancer Hero Credits Team for National Award](#)

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)



When **Pierre de Delva, MD**, director of thoracic oncology and program director of thoracic surgery residency, flew to Chicago to accept a Lung Cancer Hero award, he was honored and humbled, but said he didn't act alone. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[NIH Initiative to Systematically Investigate and Establish Function of Every Human](#)

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

[\\$78 Million Gift to Establish New Precision Oncology Institute](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Lung Cancer Detection Program Lands Grant Renewal](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[\\$10 Million Grant Received to Study Lung Metastasis in Breast Cancer](#)

[Montefiore Einstein Cancer Center](#)

[Grant Supports Research to Study Gastric Cancer Origins](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Understanding Oral Health in HPV-Related Oropharyngeal Cancer in People With HIV](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[ACS Awards \\$2.1 Million to Support Cancer Research and Tackle Inequities](#)

[Montefiore Einstein Cancer Center](#)

[Hollings Works To Expand Cancer Screenings in Underserved Communities](#)

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

[V Foundation Awards Three Huntsman Researchers](#)

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

[Grant Awarded to Explore Therapeutic Approaches to KRAS Mutant Lung Tumors](#)

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

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Ferrone Named Chair of Department of Surgery](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)



Cedars-Sinai has appointed **Cristina R. Ferrone, MD**, as chair of the Department of Surgery. Currently a professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School and director of the Office of Clinical Careers for Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Dr. Ferrone will assume her new position in January 2023. [Read More](#)

[Mayes Appointed Associate Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

The Stanford Cancer Institute has named **Terrance Mayes, EdD**, the inaugural associate director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Dr. Mayes has served Stanford Medicine as associate dean for Equity and Strategic Initiatives and executive director of the Commission on Justice and Equity. [Read More](#)



[Tiro Named Associate Director of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences](#)

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



Jasmin A. Tiro, PhD, MPH, has joined the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center as the new associate director of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences. She was formerly professor of population and data sciences at Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center. [*Read More*](#)

[Jagsi Named Chair of Radiation Oncology](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)



Reshma Jagsi, MD, DPhil, will join Emory School of Medicine and Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University as chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, effective November 7. [*Read More*](#)

[New Leaders Appointed in Key Areas of Clinical Operations, Administration](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has tapped three accomplished health care executives to oversee key clinical and operational areas. **Ronald Andro, MS, BSN**, was promoted to chief clinical operations officer, **Catherine Cowan, RN, MSN**, has joined Roswell Park as vice president of payer relations, and **John Kuhns** has been appointed as senior executive director of ambulatory services. [*Read More*](#)

[Oliver Joins Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology](#)

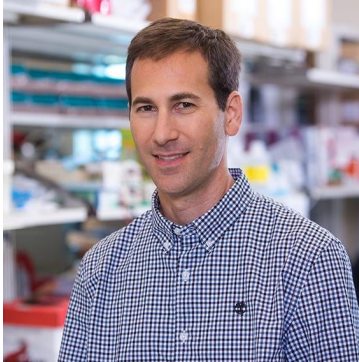
[Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center](#)



Trudy G. Oliver, PhD, has joined the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology. She was recruited from Huntsman Cancer Institute through the Duke Science & Technology initiative in partnership with Duke Cancer Institute. Her research focuses on subtypes of lung cancer, specifically squamous and small cell lung cancer. [Read More](#)

[Welford Named Tumor Biology Research Program Co-Leader](#)

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



Scott M. Welford, PhD, is the new Tumor Biology Research Program co-leader at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. He will lead the program with **Wael El-Rifai, MD, PhD**. [Read More](#)

[Chang to Lead Department of Radiation Oncology](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



Daniel Chang, MD, was named chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Michigan Medicine. Dr. Chang will be the third chair in the department's 38-year history. He replaces **Theodore S. Lawrence, MD, PhD**, who served as department chair since 1997. [Read More](#)

[Pharmacology Researcher to Lead Cancer Diversity, Inclusion Program](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)



James Turkson, PhD, professor in the Division of Medical Oncology in the Department of Medicine at Cedars-Sinai, is uniquely positioned for a new role developed at Cedars-Sinai Cancer: director for Diversity, Inclusion and Strategy. [Read More](#)

[Virus Researcher to Chair Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)



The University of Virginia School of Medicine has recruited **Mariano A. Garcia-Blanco, MD, PhD**, an internationally recognized expert in virology and RNA biology, to lead its Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology. Dr. Garcia-Blanco joins UVA from the University of Texas Medical Branch. [Read More](#)

[New Chief of Blood Disorders Named](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)



Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and RWJBarnabas Health have appointed **Matthew Matasar, MD, MS**, as chief of blood disorders. In this role, he will oversee the sections of hematologic malignancies; transplant and cell therapy; and benign hematology. [Read More](#)

[New Cancer Control Co-Leader Brings Cancer Screening Focus](#)

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



Ashish Deshmukh, PhD, is the new co-leader of the cancer control program at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center and an associate professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences. Dr. Deshmukh focuses on human papillomavirus and the cancers it can cause. He joins co-leader Matthew Carpenter, PhD, who focuses on tobacco control and behavioral medicine. [Read More](#)

[Roswell Park Creates New Role Focused on Community Engagement and Social Responsibility](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



After nearly three decades of service-focused work in the fields of education, government, education, and nursing, **Ellen Grant, PhD, LCSW-R**, is returning to health care, joining Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in the newly created role of executive director for corporate social responsibility and community education. [Read More](#)

[Singh Named Director of UAMS Baptist Health Cancer Center](#)

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



Sunny R. K. Singh, MD, has joined the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute as director of the UAMS Baptist Health Cancer Center. The satellite cancer center is jointly operated by the Rockefeller Cancer Institute and Baptist Health. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Advanced Melanoma Survival Improves Significantly When Immunotherapy is Given Before Targeted Therapy](#)

[Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Full Genetic Architecture of RAS Cancer Gene Mutations in Human Tumors Uncovered](#)

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

[The Obesity Paradox in Lung Cancer Diagnosis May Differ by Race](#)

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

[Stress Granules May Drive Obesity-Associated Pancreatic Cancer](#)

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

[ADAURA Trial Results Provide New Hope for Patients With Early-Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer](#)

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

[Cost of Cancer Care Impacts Health of Low-Income Survivors](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Looking Beyond DNA to Understand How We Stop Tumors](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Organ-Development Discovery to Boost Battle Against Cancer](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

[Molecular 'Musical Chairs'](#)

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

[Encouraging Immunotherapy Option Reported for Relapsed Myeloma Patients](#)

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

[Researcher Finds a Diet High in 'Good' Fats Better for Head and Neck Cancer Patients](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Simple Blood Test Predicts Neurotoxic Complications of CAR T Cell Therapy](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Discover New Drug Target for Inflammatory Bowel Disease](#)

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

[A Promising Approach to Mitigate Major Complications of Leukemia Treatment](#)

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

[Potential Biomarker Identified to Distinguish Two Aggressive Types of Brain Tumors in Children](#)

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

[Researchers Discover How Pancreatic Cancer Cells Manage to Survive in Poor Nutritional Environments](#)

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

[Study Shows Promising Pre-Clinical Results in Killing Cancer Cells Resistant to Current KRAS-Targeted Treatments](#)

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

[Breakthrough Brings Potential Glioblastoma Drug Into Focus](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Study: Molecular Tumor Boards Improve Outcomes for Patients With Advanced Cancer](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Incarceration Associated With Higher Cancer Mortality, Study Shows](#)

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

[Mathematics Enable Scientists to Understand Organization Within a Cell's Nucleus](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

OTHER NEWS

[Lynda Carter Altman Helping Fund Research at City of Hope and TGen](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



The City of Hope Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), has announced a partnership with actress, singer-songwriter, and advocate Lynda Carter Altman to accelerate diagnostics and treatments, including precision medicine approaches, for a deadly and difficult-to-treat form of blood cancer. She is providing a philanthropic gift to support this work, which honors her late husband of 37 years, Robert Altman. [*Read More*](#)

[National Navigation Roundtable Supplement Highlights Importance of Patient Navigation](#)

[Fox Chase Cancer, Temple Health](#)

In a recently published supplement, the American Cancer Society's National Navigation Roundtable, which is co-chaired by a Fox Chase Cancer Center researcher, provided an extensive update on the state of patient navigation and its role in oncology care. The supplement features 13 articles covering such topics as professional standards, the successful implementation of patient navigation in cancer care, and the roles of patient navigators during COVID-19. [Read More](#)

[Proclamation From Governor Recognizes Highest NCI Designation](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)



Kansas Governor Laura Kelly proclaimed September "Comprehensive Cancer Centers Awareness Month" in recognition of The University of Kansas Cancer Center becoming designated as a "Comprehensive" cancer center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). AACI Immediate Past President **Roy A. Jensen, MD**, is the center's director. [Read More](#)

[Siteman to Collaborate With University of Missouri on Cancer Research](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

Cancer research will get a boost in Missouri through a new collaboration between Siteman Cancer Center and University of Missouri Health Care's Ellis Fischel Cancer Center in Columbia. The aim is to improve cancer care throughout Missouri. Siteman is based at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. [Read More](#)

[Putting It All Together](#)

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



Colleen McCormick, MD, has a broad range of interests that include biochemistry, politics, and economics, but found a love for surgery. The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center's research mission and its robust clinical trials program made a great fit for Dr. McCormick's expanding interests. "Gynecologic oncology fit perfectly with what I wanted to do," she said. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[DEIA Program Manager](#)

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

[Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement](#)

[O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham](#)

[Project Planner II](#)

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

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Cardio-Oncology in the Era of Precision Medicine](#)

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

[JB Duke Hotel](#)
[Durham, NC](#)
[October 14, 2022](#)

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

[AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Initiative Workshop](#)

[November 8-9, 2022](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

[2023 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[October 1-3, 2023](#)

[Salamander Washington DC \(formerly Mandarin Oriental, DC\)](#)

[Washington, DC](#)



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