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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | September 2022

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

AACI HEADLINES

[AACI Welcomes New Member Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center](#)



Last month AACI welcomed the [Houston Methodist Dr. Mary and Ron Neal Cancer Center](#) as its 105th member. The center serves eight counties in Southeast Texas and is led by [Jenny Chang, MD](#). The center recently announced a [\\$25 million philanthropic gift](#) from Dr. Mary and Ron Neal; the funding will further bolster current efforts to create impactful research, training, and outreach efforts for the communities that the center serves. [Read More](#)

[Annual Meeting Spotlight: From Chemical Weapons to Chemotherapy](#)



By the end of World War I, the use of chemical weapons had resulted in over 1,000,000 casualties on both sides. Through a series of events these weapons set in motion discoveries that led to the development of chemotherapy. [Matthew Naylor, PhD](#), will describe these discoveries and their impact on modern cancer treatment during the opening keynote at the [2022 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#). [Read More](#)

[AACI Shares Policy Recommendations for Diversity in Clinical Trials](#)

AACI recently engaged in several conversations with representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about the Biden administration's efforts to increase clinical trial diversity. AACI's CRI

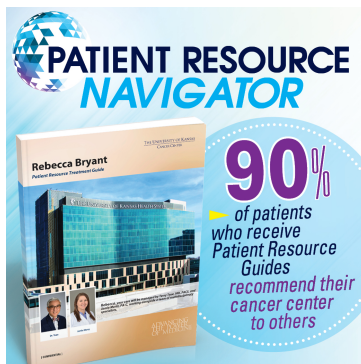
Steering Committee and Board of Directors developed recommendations related to clinical research infrastructure at community research sites; financial toxicity for patients; education among patients and physicians; enrollment criteria for clinical trials; and funding for clinical research. [Read More](#)

[AACI Congratulates New NCI Director](#)



AACI commends the Biden administration on its appointment of surgical oncologist **Monica Bertagnolli, MD**, as the director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In addition to being the first woman to serve in the role, Dr. Bertagnolli is the first woman to hold the title of chief of surgical oncology at AACI member center Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Bertagnolli is also a longtime advocate of increasing diversity in cancer research as it applies to physicians, researchers, and patients enrolled in clinical trials. [Read More](#)

[Visit Patient Resource in Kansas City](#)



Patient Resource is proud to support the upcoming 2022 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, **October 2-4** in Kansas City. Please stop by our booth to learn more about how you can empower your patients while increasing your market share. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[NCI Names Fong Outstanding Investigator](#)

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



The National Cancer Institute (NCI) recently awarded **Larry Fong, MD**, leader of the Cancer Immunotherapy Program, an Outstanding Investigator Award (R35). These awards support investigators with outstanding records of productivity in cancer research. Dr. Fong's project will use single-cell approaches to explore response and resistance to immunotherapy. [Read More](#)

[Calvi is ASBMR President-Elect](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

Laura Calvi, MD, a leader at the Wilmot Cancer Institute and the University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Medicine, has been voted president-elect of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR). [Read More](#)



GRANTS & GIFTS

[NCI Comprehensive Designation Renewed](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[\\$9.5 Million Grant Received to Study Esophageal Cancer](#)

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

[UVA Receives \\$5.75 Million Gift to Battle Rare Blood Cancers](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

[Liver Cancer Risk and Prevention Study Funded](#)

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

[\\$5.3 Million Grant Supports Research Into Lung Cancer Recurrence](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[\\$5 Million Gift Dedicated to Oral Cancer Research](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

[Intricate Interplay](#)

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

[Tailgate Gala Raises More Than \\$2 Million](#)

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

[\\$1.9 Million Grant to Fund Study of Protein Associated With Cancer Development](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Researcher to Lead Study on Antibiotic Resistance in Fresh Vegetables](#)

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

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Fagan Joins Leadership Team](#)

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

Pebbles Fagan, PhD, MPH, a leading expert on tobacco-related health disparities and co-founder of the National Cancer Institute's Tobacco Research Network on Disparities, has assumed the role of associate director for Cancer Prevention and Control for the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. [*Read More*](#)



[Darr Named Associate Director of Administration](#)

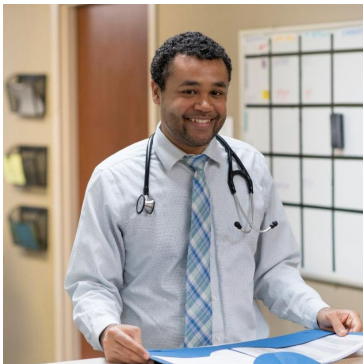
[Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center](#)



Following a national search, **David Darr** has been named associate director of administration and senior director for research strategy and operations for Duke Cancer Institute (DCI). As part of this role, Darr will serve as the direct administrator for DCI's Cancer Center Support Grant. [Read More](#)

[Family Doctor Appointed Head of DEI](#)

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



Family medicine doctor **Nicholas Shungu, MD**, focuses on reducing health disparities, patient by patient, day by day, in his practice. Now, he'll get to expand his reach as the newly appointed associate director for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[George to Lead DEI Efforts](#)

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



Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center has named **Sophia George, PhD**, the inaugural associate director of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). In addition to this new role, she will continue her extramurally funded research on the study of breast and gynecologic cancers in women from the African diaspora and Africa. [Read More](#)

[Senior Director of Data Science Named](#)

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

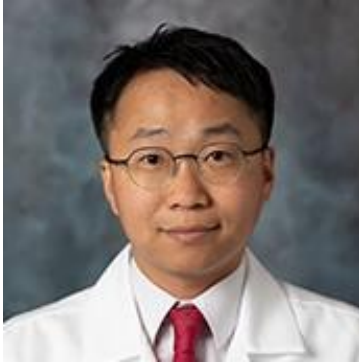
Aik Choon Tan, PhD, has been appointed senior director of data science at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) and will also serve as a member of the research executive committee and research leadership council within the comprehensive cancer center at HCI. Dr. Tan will begin

October 1. He joins Huntsman from Moffitt Cancer Center. [Read More](#)



[Epidemiology, Biomarker, and Clinical Outcome Researcher to Direct Liver Cancer Program](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)



Ju Dong Yang, MD, a liver cancer clinician-researcher who studies epidemiology, health disparities and outcomes, and biomarkers both nationally and globally, has been appointed medical director of the Liver Cancer Program at Cedars-Sinai Cancer. [Read More](#)

[In With the New](#)

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



New technologies and treatment approaches brought **Lara McKean Basté, MD**, to colorectal surgery and to the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. Originally wanting to be a cardiac surgeon, McKean Basté says that the diversity of diseases in the lower intestine drew her to the practice. And UNM's mission to serve everyone in the state drew her to New Mexico. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Link Found Between Genetic Mutations and Cancer Treatment Resistance](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Neuroscientists Create Computer Models of Individual Brain Cells](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Study Reveals Need for Matching Targeted Therapies With EGFR Subtypes](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Study Shows Hope, Options for Older Patients With Liver Cancer](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[In a World Full of 3D Models, Researchers Build a New One for](#)

[Leukemia](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[Cancer-Busting Broccoli Sprout Pills? It's a Thing.](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Clinical Trial Sets Stage for New Paradigm in Kidney Cancer Treatment](#)

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

[AI Can Recognize Thyroid Nodules That Are Very Unlikely to Be Cancerous](#)

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)

[Giving Immunotherapy Cells Resilience](#)

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

[Novel Drug Shows Promising Efficacy for Patients With Multiple Myeloma](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[Synthetic 'Forever Chemical' Linked to Liver Cancer](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Brain Tumor Study Highlights Differences Among Hispanics](#)

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

[Prompt Recognition, Treatment Found Effective for Lung Disease in Patients Who Received New Drug for Advanced Cancer](#)

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

[Markers of Chemotherapy Resistance in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Identified](#)

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

[Mental Illness Elevated Among Hodgkin Lymphoma Patients](#)

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

[Researchers Discover Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts Induce Drug Sensitivity](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

[Study Offers Insights Into How Pancreatic Cancer Develops](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[Patient Activation Creates More Equitable Interactions With Physicians](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Tarlatamab Shows Efficacy Against Metastatic Small Cell Lung Cancer in Phase I Study](#)

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

[Using Big Data to Better Understand Cancerous Mutations](#)

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)

[Betamethasone Could Improve Outcomes for Prostate Cancer Radiation Therapy](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Study Finds Many Cancer Patients Have No Antibodies to Measles or Mumps](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Targeted Cancer Drug During Pregnancy](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[New Combination Therapy Reverses Resistance in Treating Certain Non-Small Cell Lung Cancers](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[New Technology Aims Toward Earlier Detection of Hepatocellular Carcinoma](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Pralsetinib Achieves Tissue-Agnostic Benefits for Patients With RET Gene Fusions](#)

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

[Scientists Identify Novel Molecular Biomarkers in Cells That Spread a Deadly Form of Breast Cancer](#)

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

[AI Tools Predict DNA Regulatory Role and 3D Structure](#)

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

OTHER NEWS

[Lack of Diversity Seen in Cancer Center Leadership](#)

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)



In an interview with *HemOnc Today*, AACI President **Caryn Lerman, PhD**, said, "There's an awareness of limited diversity at the highest levels of leadership, such as cancer center directors, but we didn't know as much about the level of diversity among emerging leaders, such as associate directors of cancer centers, deputy directors and even program leaders." Dr. Lerman is director of USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. [*Read More*](#)

[Cancer Activist, AACI 2021 Keynote Speaker Scroggins Dies](#)

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)

AACI was saddened to learn that **Mary "Dicey" Jackson Scroggins** passed away on August 1. In her keynote at the 2021 AACI CRI Annual Meeting, she advocated for eliminating health disparities in cancer clinical trials. The news of her death came just a few weeks before her 26th ovarian cancer survivorship anniversary. In January 2021, Dicey was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and later underwent a bone marrow transplant. [*Read More*](#)



[Allison Institute Announces Formation of Scientific Advisory Board](#)

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

The James P. Allison Institute at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center today announced the establishment of its scientific advisory board to provide strategic guidance and evaluation of its research portfolio and programs. The 11-person advisory board, which brings together global leaders in immunotherapy and immunobiology, held its inaugural meeting in August. [*Read More*](#)

[New Pediatric Tumor Identifications Could Help Predict Chemo Response](#)

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



After a decade of researching inequities in clinical trials with a team of researchers and physicians in cancer digital health, **Hala Borno, MD**, introduced Trial Library, a new, tech-enabled approach that prioritizes the need for diverse and underrepresented patient groups. [*Read More*](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Director of Operations, Biospecimen Repository Core Facility](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Research Assistant, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine](#)

[Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University](#)

[Grants Administrator I](#)

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

[Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Manager, Clinical Research Operations](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Assistant Director, Biospecimen Core Lab](#)

[Louisiana Cancer Research Center](#)

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

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

[Chief, Section of Hematology & Medical Oncology and Deputy Director of the Tulane Cancer Center](#)

[Louisiana Cancer Research Center](#)

[Scientific Writer 2](#)

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

[Senior Director, Finance - Cancer Center](#)

[Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Administrative Director of Clinical Trials](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

[Clinical Research Supervisor](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

[Multiple Faculty Positions](#)

[University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[2022 Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Conference: Discovery to Mainstream Oncology](#)

[National Institutes of Health](#)

[Bethesda, MD](#)

[September 15, 2022](#)

[Spotlight on Stomach Cancer Symposium](#)

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

[Durham, NC](#)

[September 17, 2022](#)

[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

[2022 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 2-4, 2022](#)

[InterContinental at the Plaza](#)

[Kansas City, MO](#)

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

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[November 8-9, 2022](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

2023 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

October 1-3, 2023

Washington, DC



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