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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | November 2023

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Mesecar Named Director of Purdue Institute for Cancer Research](#)



Andrew Mesecar, PhD, distinguished professor of biochemistry and the Walther Professor in Cancer Structural Biology, has been named assistant vice president for research and director of the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research after serving since August 2022 as interim director. Dr. Mesecar was chosen for the position after a nationwide search and his new role became effective September 1. [Read More](#)

[Internationally-Recognized Thoracic Oncologist Named Executive Director of UMGCCC](#)



Taofeek K. Owonikoko, MD, PhD, has been appointed executive director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCCC). Dr. Owonikoko will also take on several faculty appointments at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, University of Maryland Medical Center, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. He will begin his tenure in January 2024, taking over from **Kevin J. Cullen, MD**, who is stepping down as director after 20 years. [Read More](#)

[Save the Date: AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop](#)

AACI will hold its 2024 [Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop](#) (LDDW) **March 11-13**, at Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in



AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop

Rosemont, IL. LDDW began as a component of the Leadership Diversity and Development Initiative (LDDI), the presidential initiative of AACI Immediate Past President **Caryn Lerman, PhD**, director of USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[AACI Joins Cancer Advocacy Organizations on Capitol Hill](#)



AACI prioritizes engagement with key issues that impact our nation's cancer centers. Throughout October, AACI participated in meetings and advocacy events in Washington, DC, partnering with the [Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association](#), [One Voice Against Cancer](#), and [United for Medical Research](#).

Pictured, top to bottom: Representative Steve Womack and Senator Shelley Moore Capito. Photo credit: Ollie Mae Nicholl for UMR. [Read More](#)

[Paid Advertisement: Astound Research](#)



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NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Merad Elected to National Academy of Medicine](#)

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



Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, an immunologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine in recognition of her pioneering contributions to the fields of immunology and cell biology. [Read More](#)

[Emory Immunology Prize Established in Honor of Max Cooper](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)



The newly established \$100,000 Emory Max Cooper Prize in Immunology celebrates the groundbreaking contributions of **Max D. Cooper, MD**, a member of the Cancer Immunology Research Program at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, whose research and discoveries have changed our understanding of the adaptive immune system, including its impact on cancer. [Read More](#)

[Ford Recognized as Top Diversity Leader](#)

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



Marvella Ford, PhD, has been recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of 2023's Top Diversity Leaders. Dr. Ford is associate director of Population Science and Community Outreach and Engagement for MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Jagannath Receives International Myeloma Society Award](#)

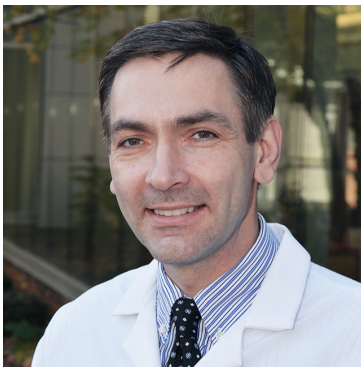
[The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai](#)



Sundar Jagannath, MD, has been honored with the Waldenström Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Myeloma Society in recognition of his contributions to research and clinical advances in multiple myeloma. [Read More](#)

[Atsaturv Inaugural Holder of Oncology Professorship](#)

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



Igor Atsaturov, MD, PhD, co-director of The Marvin and Concetta Greenberg Pancreatic Cancer Institute at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been appointed inaugural holder of the Paul F. Engstrom Professorship in Oncology. [Read More](#)

[Sawyer Awarded BioFlorida Entrepreneur of the Year](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)



BioFlorida Inc., a statewide association linking more than 8,600 of Florida's research organizations and establishments in the biopharma, MedTech, digital health and health systems, has named **W. Gregory Sawyer, PhD**, Moffitt Cancer Center's chief bioengineering officer, its Entrepreneur of the Year. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Earns NCI Merit Award](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[\\$38.7 Million Federal Grant Will Launch Program for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Health](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[\\$20 Million Awarded to Put Science Behind Tobacco Product Regulation](#)

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

[\\$19 Million Awarded to Research Tobacco Regulation in Appalachia, Inform FDA](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Neuro-Oncologist Receives Nearly \\$12 Million for Immunotherapy Research](#)

[Stanford Cancer Center](#)

[\\$10.9 Million SPORE Grant Supports Pancreatic Cancer Research](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[\\$10.9 Million to Establish UH Pacific Center for Genome Research](#)

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

[\\$10.4 Million Received to Develop Treatment Strategies to Overcome Drug Resistance in Lung Cancer](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

[Two NCI Grants Will Support Studies of Acute Myeloid Leukemia](#)

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

[\\$4.6 Million Awarded to Advance Liquid Biopsy Test for Early Lung Cancer Detection](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Will Be PIs on a New Epidemiological Study of Asian Americans](#)

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

[Team Receives Award From The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[New Clinical Trial Tests Innovative Ways to Preserve Muscle Mass During Metastatic Prostate Cancer](#)

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

[\\$2.4 Million Grant to Foster Next Generation of Translational Scientists](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[Researcher Receives \\$2.2 Million Grant for Metastatic Breast Cancer Study](#)

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

[Shaping the Future of Cancer Care Through Student Training Health Collaborative](#)

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

[Walker Foundation Pledges \\$1 Million for Radiation Oncology Center](#)

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

[IU Cancer Center Receives Training Grant for Cancer Drug Discovery](#)

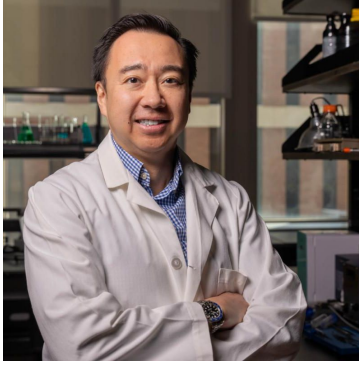
[Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Kidney Cancer Physician-Scientist to Lead Precision Oncology Effort](#)

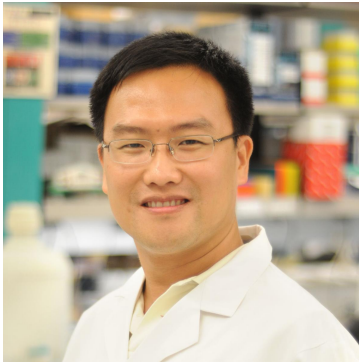
[Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina](#)

MUSC Hollings Cancer Center has recruited **Thai Ho, MD, PhD**, to lead the development of the Precision Oncology Program and a precision oncology tumor board. Dr. Ho treats patients with genitourinary cancers and runs a lab focused on researching a mutation in the gene SETD2 that occurs in kidney cancer. [*Read More*](#)



Breast Center Director Named

Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine



Xiang "Shawn" Zhang, PhD, has been named director of the Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center at Baylor College of Medicine after serving as interim director since March 2022. Dr. Zhang is a professor of molecular and cellular biology and a McNair Scholar at Baylor. [Read More](#)

Cancer Biology Researcher to Chair Dermatology Department

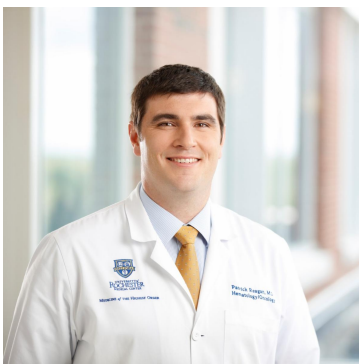
University of Virginia Cancer Center



The University of Virginia School of Medicine has named **Lu Q. Le, MD, PhD**, a cancer biology researcher, to chair its Department of Dermatology. He will begin January 29, 2024. Dr. Le joins UVA from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. [Read More](#)

Reagan Named Director of BMT and Cellular Therapies Program

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine



Patrick M. Reagan, MD, associate professor of medicine, has been named director of the Blood & Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapies program at Wilmot Cancer Institute. Since Wilmot's BMT program started in 1989, it has performed more than 4,400 transplants. [Read More](#)

Interim Associate Director for Cancer Workforce Equity Named

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

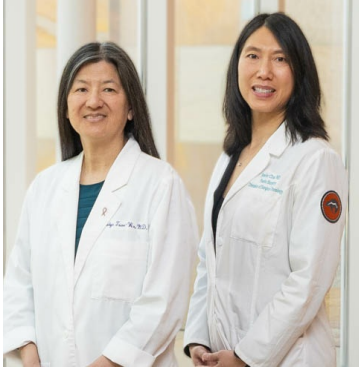
Simon Craddock Lee, PhD, MPH, chair and Sosland Family Professor



in Preventive Medicine in the Department of Population Health, has been named interim associate director for Cancer Workforce Equity at The University of Kansas Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Breast Reconstructive Surgeons Work as a Team to Help Patients Reclaim What They Lost](#)

[University of New Mexico Cancer Center](#)



For **Gladys Tsao-Wu, MD**, and **Jennifer Chan, MD**, reconstruction is as much about helping patients recover emotionally as it is about physical restoration. After more than a decade working together in private practice, the duo has joined UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center to help breast cancer survivors reclaim what cancer took from them. [Read More](#)

[Gynecological Oncologist Joins GWU](#)

[GW Cancer Center](#)



Jennifer Vaz, MD, has joined the GW University Cancer Center and the GW Medical Faculty Associates as a gynecological oncologist. She specializes in malignant and benign tumors of the pelvis, including ovarian, uterine, cervical, and vulvar/vaginal malignancies. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Tumor-Destroying Sound Waves Receive FDA Approval for Liver Treatment in Humans](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Lung Cancer Cells Covertly Thrive in Brain Under Guise of Protection](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Rapid, Comprehensive Blood Test Licensed to Agilent](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Discover New Role of RNA Modification in Lung Cancer Cell Growth](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

[UIC Joins National Trial of Blood Test for Multi-Cancer Screening](#)

[University of Illinois Cancer Center](#)

[An Updated Look at Prostate Cancer Disparities](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Genetics Help Explain Mortality Risk From Second Cancer Among Childhood Cancer Survivors](#)

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

[Novel Molecule Disrupts Several Molecular Pathways That Lead to Cancer Growth](#)

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

[Research Reveals What Potentially Causes a Leukemia to Become More Aggressive](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Black, Hispanic Women More Likely Than White Women to Get Routine Mammograms](#)

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

[Drug-Filled Nanocapsule Helps Make Immunotherapy More Effective in Mice](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[New Resource Developed to Aid Cancer Surveillance at Cancer Centers](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Report Protein Mutation Creates Super T Cells With Potential to Fight Off Cancer and Infections](#)

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

[UF Health Expands Research Programs to Enhance Discoveries](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

[For Some Prostate Cancer Patients, PSMA PET May Be Better for Initial Staging of Disease](#)

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

OTHER NEWS

[Reminder: Register Today for PCLI Survivorship Webinar](#)

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)

The AACI Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI) will host "A Practical Approach to Building a Survivorship Program" at 1:00 pm eastern time on Tuesday, November 14. Panelists will review the core aspects of a survivorship program and considerations for sustainability.

Pictured, clockwise from top right: Webinar panelists Dr. Julie Vose, Dr. Laura Tenner, and Rachael Schmidt [Read More](#)



[Register for CADA Conference by December 3](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center will present the **1st Annual Catchment Area Data (CADA) Conference: Beyond Definition, December 7-9**, in Richmond, VA. The conference is open to AACI members and all eligible staff, faculty, students, and post-doc trainees from cancer centers who provide education, resources, and support within their defined catchment area. Registration closes **Sunday, December 3**. [*Read More*](#)

[Free Online Tool Helps Prostate Cancer Patients Save on Out-of-Pocket Drug Costs](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

A free online tool could save some prostate cancer patients more than \$9,000 in out-of-pocket drug costs. Researchers from the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center found that the Medicare Part D Plan Finder, funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, can identify significant savings for patients taking abiraterone or enzalutamide for advanced prostate cancer. [*Read More*](#)

[Program Evolves Into New Department of Indigenous Cancer Health](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



A program launched at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center three years ago to advance health equity and access by strengthening connections between cancer researchers and Indigenous communities has grown into a broad-based team of Indigenous experts with an expanded scope and purpose. [*Read More*](#)

[Comprehensive Head and Neck Tumor Center Established](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and Barnes-Jewish Hospital have established a comprehensive Head & Neck Tumor Center at Siteman Cancer Center. Among the first of its kind in the country, the center emphasizes individualized, patient-centered care with complementary research programs. [*Read More*](#)

[Coalition Unites Three Cancer Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities](#)

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

The Philadelphia Communities Conquering Cancer (PC3) coalition consists of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health; Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania; and Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health. A conference held this summer brought together key stakeholders to create a city-wide research roadmap for the three cancer centers to tackle cancer disparities in Philadelphia. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Brief Behavioral Therapy for Cancer-Related Insomnia \(BBT-CI\) Interventionists](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[Healthy Eating Education Learning \(HEAL\) Interventionists](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

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

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)

[Education Program Manager](#)

[Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine](#)

[Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor, Cancer Epidemiology](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[Research Assistant Professor](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

[Associate Director, Basic and Translational Research](#)

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)

[Physician-in-Chief](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

MEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[1st Annual Catchment Area Data Conference: Beyond Definition](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[December 7-9, 2023](#)

[Richmond, VA](#)

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

[AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[March 11-13, 2024](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

[2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[May 16, 2024](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

[16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[June 24-26, 2024](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

[2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[October 20-22, 2024](#)

[Loews Chicago Hotel](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

[17th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[June 23-25, 2025](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

[2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[October 19-21, 2025](#)

[Salamander Washington DC](#)



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