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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | April 2024

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

AACI HEADLINES

[OHSU Knight Cancer Institute Announces Leadership Transition](#)



After serving as director for more than 17 years, **Brian Druker, MD** (left), will take on a new role as the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's chief executive officer. In this newly created position, Dr. Druker will focus on long-term vision and strategic planning, fundraising, and donor engagement, as well as research and clinical growth. Before being recruited to Knight Cancer Institute in 2023, **Tom Sellers, PhD, MPH** (right), the institute's new director, served in key leadership roles at the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center and Moffitt Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Patient Advocate Anne Marie Mercurio to Keynote CRI Meeting](#)



Patient research advocate **Anne Marie Mercurio** will present the opening keynote at 12:00 pm central time on **Monday, June 24**, during the **16th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting** in Rosemont, IL. Mercurio empowers patients to be partners with their physicians and is passionate about patient-centered care. In addition to co-chairing the Patient Advocate Committee at SWOG Cancer Research Network and chairing the Patient Insights Board at Medidata, she serves on advisory boards at several cancer centers. [Read More](#)

[Elevating the Next Generation of Cancer Center Leaders](#)

AACI extends its gratitude to the cancer center colleagues who attended the 2024 **AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop, March 12-13**. The workshop drew nearly 100 attendees from 85 cancer centers, who reflected the diverse pool of talented emerging leaders who are accelerating progress against cancer at AACI's member institutions.



Pictured, left to right: Drs. Yolanda Sanchez, Robert A. Winn (foreground), Elisa Rodriguez, and Joann B. Sweasy. [View more photos.](#)

[Read More](#)

[CARDS Webinar: Communicating Catchment Area Data Using R](#)



Catchment Area Research and Data Science (CARDS) will host a webinar, titled "[Communicating Catchment Area Data Using R](#)," at 1:00 pm eastern time on **Wednesday, April 17**. The webinar will be moderated by **Todd Burus, MAS**, UK Markey Cancer Center and **Christopher McNair, PhD**, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health. Presenters are **Daniel Antonio, MPH**, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University; **Sam Pepper**, The University of Kansas Cancer Center; and **Phil Bowsher**, Posit.

[Read More](#)

[AACI Holds Spring GR Forum, Visits Capitol Hill](#)



On **Tuesday, March 19**, AACI held its annual spring Government Relations (GR) Forum at 101 Constitution in Washington, DC. The meeting gave AACI government relations representatives and sustaining members an opportunity to network and discuss cancer-related public policy topics. AACI leadership, government relations staff, and cancer center members also attended several meetings on Capitol Hill to advocate for cancer research funding. [Read More](#)

[Biden Cancer Moonshot Introduces New Billing Codes for Patient Navigation](#)

In January 2024, the Biden Cancer Moonshot **delivered six codes** to report navigation services for payment. The Cancer Moonshot team recently hosted a Q&A during which several resources were shared with further information on the Principal Illness Navigation (PIN) codes. AACI has compiled highlights of these resources for our cancer center members. [Read More](#)

[CMS Seeks Feedback on Research Data Request and Access Policy Changes](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing **two changes** to the current research data request and access policies. CMS has issued a request for information (RFI) from stakeholders to assist with planning and implementing this policy change. The RFI is open for comment until **May 15, 2024**. [Read More](#)

[Paid Advertisement: Prevent Cancer Foundation](#)

Call for Research Grant and Fellowship Applications

The goal of the Prevent Cancer Foundation's research program is to identify and fund innovative projects with the potential to make substantial contributions to cancer prevention or early detection. The application period opens **Tuesday, April 2**. The deadline to apply is

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



11:59 pm eastern time on **Friday, June 14.**

Read about the [impact of the research program](#) and [awarded researchers](#) to discover projects driving key advancements in the field.

[Learn More and Apply for a \\$100,000 Award](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Sparano Receives Clinical Cancer Research Award](#)

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



Joseph Sparano, MD, deputy director of The Tisch Cancer Institute, was selected as recipient of the 2024 AACR-Joseph H. Burchenal Award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Cancer Research by the American Association for Cancer Research. Dr. Sparano is being recognized for clinical cancer research focused on improving therapeutic options for the treatment of breast cancer and HIV-associated cancers. [Read More](#)

[Tobacco Researcher Honored by American Society of Preventive Oncology](#)

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



Matthew Carpenter, PhD, co-leader of the Cancer Control Research Program at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center, was recently honored with the Joseph W. Cullen Memorial Award by the American Society of Preventive Oncology. [Read More](#)

[Salahudeen Named NCI EIAP Scholar](#)

[University of Illinois Cancer Center](#)

University of Illinois Cancer Center member **Ameen Salahudeen, MD, PhD**, was recently named to the third cohort of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP). Dr. Salahudeen is part of a 25-member cohort in the program designed to support the development of early-stage and new investigators in cancer and cancer health disparities research. [Read More](#)

[Three UCLA Physicians Elected to the Association of American Physicians](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Lillian Gelberg, MD; Roger Lo, MD, PhD; and Jeffrey Saver, MD, have been elected to the Association of American Physicians in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the advancement of basic or translational biomedical research. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[Utah Legislature Allocates \\$75 Million to Vineyard Cancer Research Center](#)

[Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah](#)

[Researcher Tapped for Global Project to Address Cancer Inequities](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University](#)

[Siteman-Led Team Receives \\$25 Million to Study Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[\\$11.48 Million Awarded for Center for Molecular Interactions in Cancer](#)

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

[\\$1.4 Million Grant Secured to Develop Peptide Therapy for Prostate Cancer](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[\\$1 Million Gift Endows New Prostate Cancer Professorship](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University](#)

[Researchers Look at Ways to Target Early Breast Cancer Progression](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Senior Director of Programs to Enhance Diversity Named](#)

[Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah](#)



Gita Suneja, MD, MS, has been named the first senior director of Programs to Enhance Diversity at Huntsman Cancer Institute. Dr. Suneja, a radiation oncologist, is tasked with improving workforce diversity and increasing equitable access to cancer research. [Read More](#)

[Chief Medical Officer, Four New Chiefs Appointed](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Roswell Park's latest slate of promotions includes **Julia Faller, DO**, as chief medical officer. **Aleodor "Doru" Andea, MD, MBA**, is chief of dermatopathology and director of molecular dermatopathology; **Kenan Onel, MD, PhD**, is chief of clinical genomics and founding director of the Center for Precision Oncology; **Jenny Romero, MD**, is chief of head & neck/plastic & reconstructive surgery and general medical oncology; and, **Zhongbo "Jerry" Yang, MD**, is chief of cytopathology. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Study Seeks to Determine if Fallopian Tube Sonograms Can Help Detect Ovarian Cancer at Early Stage](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Combination Urothelial Cancer Treatment Nearly Doubles Patient Survival in International Trial](#)

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

[AI Tools Tackle Soft Tissue Sarcomas, Identify New Treatment Strategies](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Addressing Depression in Cancer Patients From Underserved Communities](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Data Published on AI Models Predicting Patient Response to Immunotherapy](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Psychological Distress Both a Contributor to and Consequence of Cancer Treatment Delay](#)

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

[Adding Ribociclib to Hormone Therapy Reduces the Risk of Breast Cancer Recurrence](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Pioneering Immunotherapy Brain Tumor Study Published](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Genetic Germline Variations Influence Expression of Cancer Cell Genes](#)

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

[Targeted Drug Shows Promising Ability in Treating Rare Head and Neck Cancers](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Updated Genomic Landscape for Pediatric Acute Myeloid Leukemia Enables New Treatment Possibilities](#)

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

[Circulating Tumor DNA Levels Predict Treatment Outcomes](#)

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

[Large-Scale Study Explores Genetic Link Between Colorectal Cancer and Meat Intake](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Advancing Technology to Improve the Therapeutic Effect of Radionuclide Therapy for Cancer](#)

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

[Florida Cancer Innovation Fund Awards to Propel Novel Cancer Research](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

[Less Chemoradiation is Possible for Some Cancer Patients](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Study Shows Early Success of a Novel Drug in Treating a Rare and Chronic Blood Cancer](#)

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

[Diabetes and Liver Cancer Study Suggests New Screening Guidelines](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[New Method to Prevent Prostate Cancer Chemoresistance](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)

[Research Uncovers Potential Pathway for Breast Cancer Treatment](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Cell Therapy Approach Harnesses the Immune System in a Different Way to Stop Cancer](#)

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

[Researchers Find Genetic Variant Contributing to Disparities in Childhood Leukemia Risk](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Academic Performance of Chatbots Evaluated](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

[Study Finds That Non-Hispanic Black Patients With Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer Have Less Favorable Outcomes](#)

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

OTHER NEWS

[Cedars-Sinai Launches Singapore Office](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

In its latest global expansion, Cedars-Sinai International announced the opening of its new global office in Singapore. Cedars-Sinai representatives in Singapore will work with patients and their families seeking care at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, offering access to Cedars-Sinai experts in cardiology, oncology, neurology, and other specialty areas. [Read More](#)



[Siteman-WashU Join NCI Clinical Trials Network for Cancer Screening](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)



Siteman Cancer Center and Washington University School of Medicine have joined a new clinical trials network launched by the National Cancer Institute to investigate emerging technologies for cancer screening. They are among seven inaugural network members that will evaluate a blood test to detect multiple cancers. **Aimee James, PhD, MPH**, co-leads the Siteman-WashU effort. [*Read More*](#)

[Fred Hutch to Lead New Federal Cancer Screening Research Network](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center is at the helm of a new clinical trials consortium, the Cancer Screening Research Network, or CSRN, created by the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, to advance President Joe Biden's Cancer Moonshot by improving early detection of cancers. [*Read More*](#)

[Conference to Introduce Middle Schoolers to STEM, Oncology Career Paths](#)

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



The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center Continuing Umbrella for Research Experience (CURE) program will, for the first time, include middle schoolers. Its first-ever day-long "Empowering Young Minds: Exploring Cancer and STEM Pathways" conference is targeted specifically for seventh- and eighth-graders. Middle schoolers are at a prime age to get interested in science, says **Jennifer Gillette, PhD**. [*Read More*](#)

[Clinical Trials Network Named a Spoke in ARPA-H Hub](#)

[LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center](#)

The Gulf South Clinical Trials Network has been named a spoke in the ARPA-H Customer Experience Hub, one of three regional hubs that comprise ARPANET-H—a nationwide health innovation network—and is dedicated to the needs of people. [*Read More*](#)

[Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor in the Non-Tenure Line \(Research\), Department of Surgery](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Nurse Scientist \(Faculty Position\)](#)

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

[Senior Vice President, Hospital Transformation](#)

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

[Associate Director of Cancer Clinical Affairs/Division Director of Medical Oncology](#)

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)

[Chair, Cancer Medicine](#)

[Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Multiple Faculty Positions - Cancer Population and Community Health Scientists](#)

[Louisiana Cancer Research Center](#)

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

[UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center](#)

[Deputy Director for Administration](#)

[UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center](#)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[CARDS Webinar | Communicating Catchment Area Data Using R](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[April 17, 2024](#)

[Webinar](#)

[2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[May 16, 2024](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

[16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[June 24-26, 2024](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

[The Cancer Prevention Research Conference](#)

[Presented by the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, and Cancer Research UK](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[June 25-27, 2024](#)

[Boston Marriott Copley Place](#)

[Boston, MA](#)

[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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