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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | December 2024

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

AACI HEADLINES

[AACI Welcomes New Members to PCLI and CTI Steering Committees](#)



In 2025, the AACI [Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative](#) (PCLI) and [Cellular Therapy Initiative](#) (CTI) will welcome newly-elected steering committee members. Joining PCLI are **Bhavana Bhatnagar, DO**, and **Rachna Shroff, MD, MS, FASCO**. New CTI members are **Michael E. Hurwitz, MD, PhD**; **Barbara Ma, MD, MS**; and **Erin Winters, BSN, RN, BMTCN**. The new members' terms begin on January 1. [Read More](#)

[CADEx Sessions Highlight Geospatial Tools, Measuring Impact on Catchment Area](#)



In the [November AACI Commentary](#), co-authors **Debby Oh, MSc, PhD**, of UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and **Susan T. Vadaparampil, PhD, MPH**, of Moffitt Cancer Center, highlighted two sessions at the [2025 Catchment Area Data Excellence \(CADEx\) Conference](#): “The Spatial Context of Cancer: Leveraging Geospatial Tools for Better Outcomes” and “Measuring Impact on Your Catchment Area: Data Tools and Analytics at Cancer Centers.” [Register for the January 29-31 conference. Read More](#)

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Why Medidata for Academic Research: Medidata has recently expanded its commitment and support to

centers across the country.

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[Why Medidata for Your Academic Clinical Trials?](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

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

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



Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, Ward-Coleman Chair in Cancer Research and director of the Vaccine and Cell Therapy Laboratory at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine for her pioneering work in cancer immunotherapy. [Read More](#)

[Editor-in-Chief of Journal of the American College of Surgeons Appointed](#)

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



Thomas Varghese Jr., MD, MS, MBA, FACS, has been named the new editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American College of Surgeons, effective March 1, 2025. Dr. Varghese currently serves as associate chief medical quality officer at Huntsman Cancer Hospital, chief value officer at Huntsman Cancer Institute, and chief of general thoracic surgery at the University of Utah. [Read More](#)

[Bleicher Appointed Vice Chair of NAPBC](#)

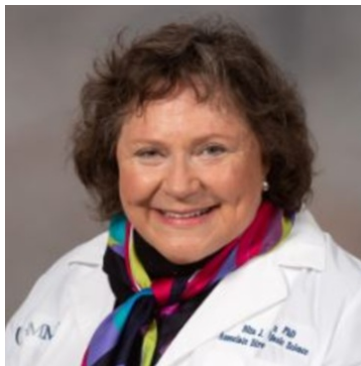
[Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health](#)



Richard J. Bleicher, MD, FACS, chief of the Division of Breast Surgery and clinical director of the Breast Service Line at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been appointed vice chair of the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) and chair of its executive committee. [Read More](#)

[Maihle Receives Mayo Clinic Distinguished Alumni Award](#)

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)



Nita Maihle, PhD, has won a Mayo Clinic Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Maihle is a professor of medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). She is a pioneer in the field of translational cancer research, working to improve cancer detection, prevention, and treatment, particularly in cancers that affect women. [Read More](#)

[Cancer Care Team Wins IASLC Award](#)

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



A team of lung cancer specialists from Fox Chase Cancer Center and Temple Health was recently recognized by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) as the winner of the North American Cancer Care Team Award during this year's annual meeting in San Diego. [Read More](#)

[UNM Reaccredited by Commission on Cancer](#)

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

The University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center has successfully received reaccreditation from the Commission on Cancer (CoC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons. The CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for patients with cancer by setting and raising standards. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[UCLA, Parker Institute Continue Collaboration to Advance Next-Generation Cancer Immunotherapies](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Institute](#)

[\\$75 Million Donation from AbbVie Foundation to Support New Cancer Pavilion](#)

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

[\\$50 Million Gift Received to Revolutionize Pancreatic Cancer Care, Research](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Accelerating the Discovery of New Cancer Therapies Using AI](#)

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

[Winship Leads LLS Team Science Grant Tackling Health Disparities in Lymphoma](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[\\$3.5 Million Gift to Launch Breast and Ovarian Cancer Prevention Program](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[\\$3.1 Million Grant to Study Head and Neck Cancer Incidence in People Living With HIV](#)

[LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center](#)

[New Funding Drives Six Breast Cancer Studies](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Grant Funds Quest to Expand Immunotherapy Efficacy for Colorectal Cancer](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

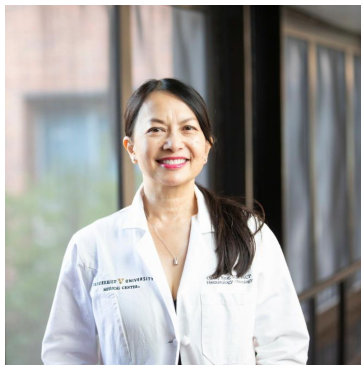
[New NCI Award Recognizes the Importance of Scientific Community](#)

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

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Eng Named Associate Director of Strategic Relations and Research Partnerships](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)



Cathy Eng, MD, has been named associate director of Strategic Relations and Research Partnerships for Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. It is an expanded role for Dr. Eng, who has served as director for Strategic Relations and is an internationally known expert on colorectal cancer and early-onset cancers. [*Read More*](#)

[Hitchcock Named Associate Director for Access and Opportunities](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)



UF Health radiation oncologist **Kate Hitchcock, MD, PhD**, has been named associate director for Access and Opportunities at the UF Health Cancer Center. In this role, she will use her expertise in leading clinical trials to help the center train the next generation of cancer researchers, preparing them to lead advancements in the field. [*Read More*](#)

[Konopleva Joins Break Through Cancer TeamLab in Fight Against Acute Myelogenous Leukemia](#)

[Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Marina Konopleva, MD, PhD, director of the Leukemia Program and co-director of the Blood Cancer Institute at Montefiore Einstein



Comprehensive Cancer Center, has joined forces with Break Through Cancer, a collaborative medical research foundation. Dr. Konopleva will play a pivotal role in the Eradicating Minimal Residual Disease in Acute Myelogenous Leukemia TeamLab. [Read More](#)

[Heath Appointed Associate Director for Clinical and Translational Research](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)



Jessica Heath, MD, associate professor of pediatrics and vice chair of research for the Department of Pediatrics, has been appointed associate director for Clinical and Translational Research at the University of Vermont Cancer Center. Dr. Heath's laboratory research program focuses on high-risk pediatric leukemia. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[How Hypoxia Helps Cancer Spread](#)

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

[Research Shows Success in National Smoking Assessment Program](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Suicide Rates for Young Male Cancer Survivors Triple in Recent Years](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[New Treatment Target Discovered for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Study Shows AI Accuracy in Screening Patients for Clinical Trial Portfolio](#)

[University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center](#)

[KU Leads National Trial Testing Vaccine for Colon Cancer in People With Lynch Syndrome](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[High-Dose IV Vitamin C Plus Chemotherapy Doubles Survival in Advanced Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa](#)

[Vaccine Shows Promise Against Aggressive Breast Cancer](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[Clinical Trial Points Toward Promising Therapy for Most Aggressive Type of Breast Cancer](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Uncover Why Some Leukemia Cells May Resist Treatment](#)

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

[Engineered Receptors Help the Immune System Home in on Cancer](#)

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

[Clinical Trial Results Show Low-Intensity Therapy Can Achieve Positive Outcomes for Certain Pediatric Leukemia Subtypes](#)

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

[Immune Cell Discovery Offers New Potential for Cancer Immunotherapy](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[Study Finds Common Breast Cancer Treatments May Speed Aging Process](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Survey: Dangerous Gap in Knowledge About Pancreatic Cancer Among Adults Under Age 50](#)

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

[Cell Therapy Fights Lethal Childhood Brain Cancer in Clinical Trial](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Experts to Showcase Hematology Research at ASH Annual Meeting](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[In 10 Seconds, AI Model Detects Cancerous Brain Tumor Often Missed During Surgery](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Traumatic Childhood Events May Increase Risk for Long-Term Health Effects in Breast Cancer Survivors](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[This AI Tool Helps Neurosurgeons Find Sneaky Cancer Cells](#)

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

OTHER NEWS

[New Grant Opportunities to Support Studies on Liquid Biopsy in Primary Brain Tumors, CNS Metastasis Research](#)

[Brain Tumor Funders' Collaborative](#)

The Brain Tumor Funders' Collaborative has announced two \$500,000 research grants for multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary research projects focusing on liquid biopsy for primary brain tumors. In addition, the Metastatic Brain Tumor Collaborative also recently announced a \$50,000 research grant to fund high-risk,

high-impact CNS Metastasis Research. [Read More](#)

[Community Partnerships Built to Address Health Equity](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

Cedars-Sinai is expanding its long-standing commitment to local nonprofits through grantmaking and shared learning opportunities, as a way to promote greater health equity in the areas of homelessness and housing, access to care, and other community response categories. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Associate Director for Administration](#)

[Salk Institute Cancer Center](#)

[Manager, Administration and Operations](#)

[Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center](#)

[Senior Administrator, Oncology](#)

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

[Director of Research Administration](#)

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[CARDS Webinar | Exploring U.S. Neighborhood-Level Cancer Risk Factor Datasets](#)

[WEBINAR](#)

[December 4, 2024](#)

[Equitable Access to Clinical Trials \(EACT\) Webinar for Trial Site Staff](#)

[Presented by Oncology Nursing Society and LUNgevity Foundation](#)

[WEBINAR](#)

[December 11, 2024](#)

[Frontiers Symposium on Transformation in Cancer Care Delivery](#)

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

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[February 17-19, 2025](#)

[Marriott Downtown City Creek](#)

[Salt Lake City, UT](#)

2025 AACI MEETINGS

[2025 AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence \(CADEx\) Conference Acquisition, Analysis, Action](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[January 29-31, 2025](#)

[Coronado Island Marriott Resort & Spa](#)

[Coronado, CA](#)

[2025 AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[March 11-12, 2025](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

[2025 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[May 22, 2025](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

[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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Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-647-6111

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