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## News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | February 2024

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

## AACI HEADLINES

### [Simeone Named New Director of UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center](#)



Following an extensive national search, **Diane M. Simeone, MD**, has been appointed director of UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center, effective April 1. Dr. Simeone currently serves as the Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Professor of Surgery, director of the Pancreatic Cancer Center, and the associate director of translational research at Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone. [Read More](#)

### [In Memoriam: Dr. Edith P. Mitchell](#)



Oncologist and researcher, **Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCCP, FRCP (London)**, died January 21. Dr. Mitchell was slated to present a keynote at the 2024 AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop. She shared her expertise at meetings of AACI's Clinical Research Innovation and Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative and as a member of the Leadership Diversity and Development Initiative Steering Committee. At the time of her death, Dr. Mitchell was the enterprise vice president for cancer disparities at Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health. [Read More](#)

### [Register Today for the 2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

**Registration** is now open for AACI's joint **Hill Day** with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), which will take place in Washington, DC, on **Thursday, May 16**. Your participation in Hill Day is critical to sharing our message with our legislators in Washington: that

SAVE THE DATE



May 16, 2024  
Washington, DC

stable, predictable funds are needed to advance cancer research and care at our nation's cancer centers. [Read More](#)

## [Submit an Abstract for the 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

SAVE THE DATE

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
AACI CRI  
MEETING

June 24-26, 2024  
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel  
Rosemont, IL

Abstract submissions are now being accepted for the **16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting, June 24-26**, at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL. This year's meeting theme will focus on compassion and collaboration through clinical trials. Please visit the **2024 Call for Abstracts** page for important dates, templates, and more information. [Read More](#)

## [AACI Collaborates on Initiative to Enhance Patient Access to CAR T Therapy](#)



AACI, the **American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy**, and the **Association of Community Cancer Centers**, recently announced the RECUR initiative, a collaboration aimed at revolutionizing the evaluation process for CAR T therapy. **Peter Riedell, MD**, is the chair of AACI's CAR T Steering Committee. [Read More](#)

## [LDDW Spotlight: Dr. Ted A. James](#)



**Ted A. James, MD, MHCM, FACS**, will present the closing keynote, "Inclusive Team Building: Strategies for Cancer Center Leadership Excellence," at 1:15 pm central time on **Wednesday, March 13**, during the **2024 AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop** in Rosemont, IL. Dr. James is a surgical oncologist and cancer center medical director dedicated to transforming health care by promoting patient-centered care and fostering positive workplace culture. [Read More](#)

## [AACI Award Nominations Due April 1](#)

AACI members are invited to submit nominations for the 2024 **Champion for Cures** and **Cancer Health Equity** awards. The submission deadline for both awards is **Monday, April 1**. The awards will be presented during the **2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting, October 20-22**, at the Loews Chicago Hotel.



Pictured: 2023 AACI Cancer Health Equity Award recipient Dr. Amelie Ramirez and AACI Executive Director Jennifer W. Pegher

[Read More](#)

## NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

### AWARDS & HONORS

#### [Luckenbaugh Elected Chair for Society of Women in Urologic Oncology](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)



The Society of Women in Urologic Oncology (WUO) has named **Amy Luckenbaugh, MD**, to chair its executive board until November 2025. She is the inaugural chair of the WUO, whose core objective is to advance the recruitment, retention, and promotion of women in urologic oncology with the goal of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Society of Urologic Oncology. [Read More](#)

#### [Radiation Oncologist Receives Emerging Investigator Award](#)

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



**Rebecca Shulman, MD**, was recently recognized with the American Society for Radiation Oncology-Breast Cancer Research Foundation Emerging Investigator Award to Build a Diverse Scientific Workforce. Her project, "Combination Therapy with Radiotherapy, Immune Checkpoint Blockade, and Curaxin Enhances Tumor Regression in Metastatic Triple-Negative Breast Cancer," is a collaborative undertaking with **Siddharth Balachandran, PhD**. [Read More](#)

#### [Challen Receives Scholar Achievement Award](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

**Grant Challen, PhD**, a Washington University researcher at Siteman Cancer Center, has received a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Career Development Program Scholar Achievement Award, which will provide funding for two to five years. [Read More](#)



## [Merad Named Fellow of AACR Academy](#)

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



**Miriam Merad, MD, PhD**, was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Academy, for her contributions in elucidating the roles of myeloid cells in inflammation and tumorigenesis and paving the way for the advancement of targeted therapies focusing on myeloid cells in both cancer and inflammatory diseases. [Read More](#)

## [Chang Recognized by the American Urological Association](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)



The American Urological Association has announced that **Sam S. Chang, MD, MBA**, is one of its 2024 award recipients who will be recognized at the organization's annual meeting in May in San Antonio. He has been chosen for the Hugh Hampton Young Award, which is presented annually to an individual for outstanding contributions to the study of genitourinary tract diseases. [Read More](#)

## [Hanks Elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation](#)

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

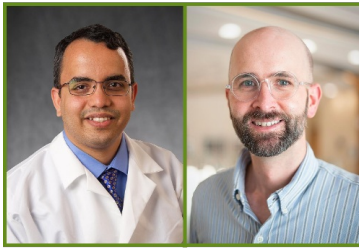


Duke Cancer Institute physician scientist **Brent Hanks, MD, PhD**, has been elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), one of the nation's oldest medical honor societies. The ASCI supports the scientific efforts, educational needs, and clinical aspirations of physician-scientists to improve health. [Read More](#)

## [Researchers Join Translational Scholar Ranks](#)

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

Huntsman Cancer Institute and the University of Utah have named



**Umang Swami, MD, MS**, and **Matthew Covington, MD**, as members of The Society of Huntsman Translational Scholars. This institutional initiative recognizes excellence in translational science and allows researchers to apply fundamental scientific findings to address clinical challenges in patient care. [Read More](#)

## [Pierce Elected AACR Academy Fellow](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



**Lori J. Pierce, MD**, was one of 30 cancer scientists elected to the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) class of Fellows of the AACR Academy. Dr. Pierce is professor of radiation oncology at Michigan Medicine and vice provost for academic and faculty affairs at the University of Michigan. [Read More](#)

## [Thoracic Chair Earns National, Local Accolades](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



In recognition of his dedication toward advancements in lung cancer care as well as his contributions as a valued mentor, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center chair of thoracic surgery, **Sai Yendamuri, MD, MBA, FACS**, has recently been honored with prestigious leadership roles, awards, and grant funding from both local and national organizations. [Read More](#)

## [Jagsi Receives AAWR 2023 Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)



The American Association for Women in Radiology (AAWR) awarded the 2023 AAWR Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award to Winship Cancer Institute researcher **Reshma Jagsi, MD, DPhil**, Lawrence W. Davis professor and chair of radiation oncology at the Emory University School of Medicine. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[WVU Making Investments in Cancer Care, Research With \\$50](#)

## [Million Commitment From State](#)

[WVU Cancer Institute](#)

## [Martin Receives \\$4.6 Million CIRM Grant](#)

[UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [\\$3 Million Grant for Breast Cancer Surgery Technology](#)

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

## [Markey Researcher Awarded \\$2.6 Million to Study New Metastatic Lung Cancer Target](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

## [Researchers Awarded \\$2.23 Million for Myeloma Precursor Study](#)

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

## [Researchers Receive \\$1.5 Million Grant for Melanoma Clinical Trial](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

## [\\$1.2 Million Grant Awarded to Help Break Down Barriers to Cervical Cancer Prevention](#)

[LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Pediatric Cancer Researcher Awarded Grant to Understand Medulloblastoma Relapse](#)

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

### LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

## [New Leadership Roles for Werner, Agarwal](#)

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



Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah rang in the new year with new leadership roles for **Theresa Werner, MD**, and **Neeraj Agarwal, MD, FASCO**. Dr. Werner is the new deputy director of Huntsman Cancer Institute and Dr. Agarwal is the new senior director for clinical research.

[\*Read More\*](#)

## [Surgical Oncologist Named CEO of University of Rochester Medical Center](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

**David Linehan, MD**, is the new CEO of the University Rochester Medical Center (URMC), dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, and senior vice president for health sciences. Prior to this appointment, the surgical oncologist, internationally renowned for his clinical innovation and research into new treatments for pancreatic cancer, guided URMC's Department of Surgery through a period of tremendous growth. [\*Read More\*](#)



## [Gillette Named Associate Director for Training and Education](#)

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



**Jennifer Gillette, PhD**, has been named the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center associate director for training and education. Dr. Gillette is a professor and senior director for research for the UNM Department of Pathology. **Angela Wandinger-Ness, PhD**, formerly held this role through the most recent Cancer Center Support Grant competitive renewal. [Read More](#)

## [Karmanos Cancer Network Appoints New VP](#)

[Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University](#)



Karmanos Cancer Institute has appointed **Doris Ranski-Zazula, RN, MSA**, as the vice president of the Karmanos Cancer Network, part of McLaren Health Care. The network has 15 locations anchored by the Karmanos freestanding cancer hospital headquartered in Detroit. [Read More](#)

## [Mehrotra Named Co-Leader of Cancer Biology and Immunology Research Program](#)

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



**Shikhar Mehrotra, PhD**, will take on the role of co-leader of the cancer biology and immunology research program at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center alongside **Philip Howe, PhD**. As co-leader, Dr. Mehrotra anticipates seeing more collaborative projects that take a holistic view of the mechanisms of cancer growth. [Read More](#)

## [Roswell Park Welcomes New Chief Digital & Information Officer](#)

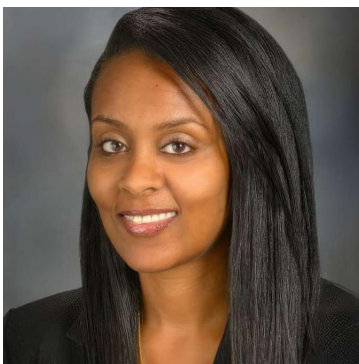
[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Following a national search, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has selected **George T. "Buddy" Hickman** as its new chief digital & information officer. Hickman succeeds **Tom Furlani, PhD**, who retires this month. Hickman comes to Roswell Park with 30 years of experience in health care senior leadership. He was most recently with First Health Advisory, where he served as chief strategy officer. [Read More](#)

## [Teshome Named Chief of Breast Surgery](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



UCLA Health has appointed leading breast surgical oncologist **Mediget Teshome, MD**, as the new chief of breast surgery and director of breast health. Before joining UCLA, Dr. Teshome was an associate professor at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in the department of breast surgical oncology. [Read More](#)

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## [High-Dose Radiotherapy With Chemotherapy Effective in Treating People With Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Natural Compounds From Soy, Other Plants Reduce Breast Cancer Recurrence and Improve Survival, Research Shows](#)

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

## [Survey Finds Link Between Drug/Cannabis Use During Pregnancy and Certain Childhood Cancers](#)

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

## [Could Two Drugs Be Better Than One for Treating Prostate Cancer?](#)

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

## [Study Shows Some Postmenopausal Patients May Safely Omit Radiotherapy for HR+ Breast Cancer](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University](#)

## [A Report From the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

## [Researchers Identify Why Cancer Immunotherapy Can Cause Colitis](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

## [Two Common Biomarkers Predict Heart Risk in Asymptomatic](#)



## [Childhood Cancer Survivors](#)

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

## [A Type of Allergy Medicine Might Help Treat Lung Cancer, Research Suggests](#)

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

## [Research Reveals an Immune Cell That Can Attack Cancer](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Genetic Score Advances Personalized Treatment Strategies With Promising AML Drug](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Community Cancer Care Linked With Poorer Outcomes for Some Head and Neck Cancers](#)

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

## [Metastatic Breast Cancer Treatments Have Aided Decline in Deaths](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

## [Study Finds Novel Mechanism for Making Small Cell Lung Cancer Tumors Vulnerable to Attack by Immune System](#)

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

## [AI Tools See Beyond the Human Eye to Better Diagnose Cancer](#)

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

## [SKCC Researchers Investigate Tumor-Immune Cell Crosstalk in Aggressive Form of Prostate Cancer](#)

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

## [Study Provides Clinician Guidance on Follow-up for Ovarian Cysts](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

## [Method Improves Detection of Potential Therapeutic Tumor Targets in Human Biopsies](#)

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

## [Chronic Inflammation Combined With Poverty Significantly Raises Risk of Dying From Cancer](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Simple Blood Protein Tests Predict Which Lymphoma Patients Are Most Likely to Have Poor CAR T Outcomes](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### OTHER NEWS

## [New in 2024: CARDS Webinar Series](#)

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)

AACI and the Catchment Area Research Data Science (CARDS) listserv community announce a series of webinars dedicated to discussions around cancer center data collection, analysis, and utilization. The CARDS listserv and webinars are aimed at individuals at AACI cancer centers working in community

outreach, biostatistics, and cancer informatics. The first CARDS webinar, "[Unveiling Insights: Using Data to Guide Catchment Area Strategy](#)," will be held **Wednesday, February 21** at 1:00 pm eastern time. [Read More](#)

## [ACS Offers New Navigation Training and Credentialing Program](#)

[American Cancer Society](#)

The American Cancer Society Leadership in Oncology Navigation (ACS LION) is a standardized training and credentialing program that helps patient navigators deliver essential nonclinical support to individuals, caregivers, and families facing cancer. The goal of the program is to help build a standardized professional knowledge base and positively impact oncology patients by expanding access to high-quality navigation programs and services. Standardized training will also help reduce barriers and health disparities among various patient groups. [Read More](#)

## [ASCO Issues Call to Expand Access to Clinical Trials](#)

[American Society of Clinical Oncology](#)

A new [call-to-action](#) published in the journal *Cancer* details practical steps for the oncology research and clinical care communities to expand access to clinical trials and enable patients to participate closer to their homes. The paper, authored by members of an American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Task Force, illuminates the importance of enabling patients to receive trial related testing and care near their homes, rather than requiring patients to travel to major research institutions hours from where they live. [Read More](#)

## [Innovative Treatment Uses Radio Frequency to Target and Reduce Cancerous Tumors](#)

[Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University](#)

Karmanos Cancer Institute has announced that it will be the first provider in the country to offer patients the new FDA-approved TheraBionic P1 device for the treatment of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. The TheraBionic P1 emits low levels of radio-frequency electromagnetic fields that block the growth of tumor cells without affecting healthy tissue. [Read More](#)

## [A Game Changer for Blood Cancer Treatment in New Mexico](#)

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

The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center completed the first allogeneic stem cell transplant in the state. The team also recently completed a haploidentical transplant. Such transplants make treatment possible for many New Mexican patients, who may not find matched donors in the registries of unrelated donors. **Matthew Fero, MD**, leads the stem cell transplantation team. [Read More](#)

## [Central Ohio's First Proton Therapy Center Opens to Treat Children and Adults](#)

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

The OSUCCC – James, in collaboration with Nationwide Children's Hospital, recently celebrated the opening of a \$100 million, 55,000-square-foot Proton Therapy Center, the first treatment facility in central Ohio to offer this highly targeted radiation therapy for treating complex tumors. [Read More](#)

## [Place an Ad in the AACI Newsletter](#)

[Association of American Cancer Institutes](#)

AACI invites you to promote your cancer center or business by purchasing an ad in the AACI Update. Your newsletter ad may highlight a conference or a new initiative. Supporters may include links to their website and any upcoming events. Ads can be purchased monthly or in one of several packages. [Read More](#)

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## [Interdisciplinary Oncology, Multiple Faculty Positions](#)

[LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Director of Cancer Research Development](#)

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

## [Translational Science Laboratory \(TSL\) Core Operations Manager](#)

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

## [Chief People Officer](#)

[Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)

## [Compliance Program Manager, Sr](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

## [Deputy Director](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

## [Assistant Director of Clinical Research \(Project Management\)](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Assistant Director of Clinical Research \(Study Coordination\)](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Program Manager, Strategic Planning and Partnerships \(Hybrid\)](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

## [Project Manager II](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Scientific Director, Multiple Myeloma Program](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

## [Associate Director for Basic Cancer Research](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

## [Associate Director for Translational Research](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

## [Research Data/Informatics Specialist, Senior](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

## [Faculty Scientist](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

## [Physician-in-Chief](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

### AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## [Unveiling Insights: Using Data to Guide Catchment Area Strategy](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[February 21, 2024](#)

[Webinar](#)

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

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[March 12-13, 2024](#)

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

## [2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[May 16, 2024](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

## [16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[June 24-26, 2024](#)

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## [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](#)

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[October 19-21, 2025](#)

[Salamander Washington DC](#)

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