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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | January 2024

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Call for Abstracts: 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

SAVE THE DATE

16TH ANNUAL
AACI CRI
MEETING

June 24-26, 2024

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL

The AACI CRI Steering Committee is currently [soliciting abstracts](#) for the [16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#). This year's meeting theme will focus on compassion and collaboration through clinical trials. The purpose of the abstracts is to inform meeting attendees about clinical trials office challenges and solutions implemented at AACI cancer centers. [Read More](#)

[LDDW Keynote: Dr. Edith Mitchell](#)



For over 50 years, **Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCPP, FRCP (London)**, has blazed trails in diverse fields, from being the first female physician to achieve the rank of Brigadier General in the United States Air Force to leading diversity programs and serving as enterprise vice president for cancer disparities at Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health. Dr. Mitchell will deliver the opening keynote at 8:00 am central time on **Monday, March 12**, during the [2024 Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop \(LDDW\)](#). [Read More](#)

[Bipartisan Knock Out Cancer Act Aims to Transform Cancer Research Landscape](#)

Representatives **Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)**, co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus, and **Debbie Dingell (D-MI)**, have jointly introduced the [Knock Out Cancer Act](#) (KO Cancer Act) in the 118th Congress. This bipartisan legislation seeks to revolutionize cancer research funding by allocating a



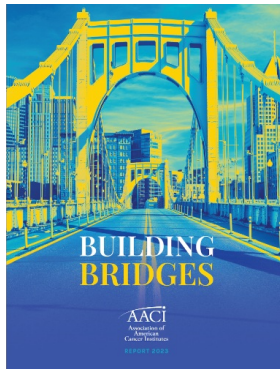
25 percent increase to the National Cancer Institute's budget for the fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

Pictured, left to right: Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick and Debbie Dingell [Read More](#)

[AACI Endorses CONNECT for Health Act](#)

The [Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies \(CONNECT\) for Health Act](#) (H.R. 4189/S.2016) was initially introduced in 2016. Reintroduced in 2023, the comprehensive, bicameral, and widely supported bill aims to expand the telehealth services covered by Medicare and to maintain and bolster the progress made during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read More](#)

[AACI Publishes 2023 Annual Report](#)



Affectionately deemed “the city of bridges,” Pittsburgh is home to nearly 450 bridges, connecting the city’s diverse neighborhoods across three major rivers. Though AACI is headquartered in Pittsburgh, that is not the only reason we chose “building bridges” as the theme of the 2023 annual report. It’s also an apt summary of AACI’s work throughout the year, in which the association served as a central hub linking cancer centers with government agencies, pharmaceutical and tech companies, cancer advocacy organizations, and—most importantly—each other. [Read the Report](#)

[Support AACI With An Ad in Our Newsletter](#)

AACI invites you to promote your cancer center or business by purchasing an ad in the *AACUpdate*. 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 several packages. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[El-Deiry Elected Chair of WIN Consortium](#)

[Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University](#)



The Worldwide Innovative Network (WIN) Consortium in precision cancer medicine and Brown University have announced the election of **Wafik El-Deiry, MD, PhD, FACP**, director of the Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University, as chair of the WIN Consortium. [Read More](#)

[Uzzo Receives Mentorship Award](#)

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



Robert Uzzo, MD, MBA, FACS, president and CEO of Fox Chase Cancer Center, was recently recognized with the Society of Urologic Oncology's Joseph A. Smith Jr. Mentorship Award. [Read More](#)

[Oncologist Receives Clinical Investigator Leadership Award](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)



Sherise Rogers, MD, has received the inaugural Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials: Clinical Investigator Leadership Award from Conquer Cancer, the American Society of Clinical Oncology Foundation, funded by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation. The award is named for AACI President **Robert A. Winn, MD**, director of VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Hayes Receives Breast Cancer Research Award](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



Daniel F. Hayes, MD, received the Brinker Award for Clinical Research from Susan G. Komen. The award recognizes physician-scientists for their work to improve breast cancer patient outcomes. Dr. Hayes has created and conducted validation studies for tumor biomarker tests, which predict prognosis, chemotherapy response, recurrence, and treatment side effects. [Read More](#)

[Bhardwaj, Merad Named Academy of Immuno-Oncology Fellows](#)

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



Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, and **Miriam Merad, MD, PhD**, were inducted as fellows of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology, Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC), at the SITC Annual Meeting in November. They were honored as scientists who have launched the field of cancer immunotherapy and who are advancing the field and the next generation of immuno-oncologists. [Read More](#)

[Small Elected ASCO President](#)

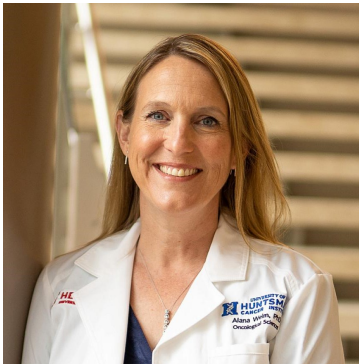
[UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has elected **Eric J. Small, MD, FASCO**, to serve as its president for the term beginning in June 2025. Dr. Small is deputy director and chief scientific officer of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Investigator Receives Award for Metastatic Breast Cancer Research](#)

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



Alana Welm, PhD, senior director of basic science at Huntsman Cancer Institute and professor of oncological sciences at the University of Utah, received the 2023 American Association for Cancer Research Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research. [Read More](#)

[Cukierman Named to Pancreatic Cancer Research Chair](#)

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



Edna "Eti" Cukierman, PhD, co-leader of the Cancer Signaling and Microenvironment Research Program and co-director of The Marvin and Concetta Greenberg Pancreatic Cancer Institute at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been appointed to the newly created Marvin & Concetta Greenberg Chair in Pancreatic Cancer Research. [Read More](#)

[OSU Scientists Elected to the National Academy of Inventors](#)

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



The National Academy of Inventors has elected **Krystof Bankiewicz, MD, PhD**, and **Michael Tweedle, PhD** (pictured), to its 2023 class of Fellows. Dr. Tweedle is a member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at OSUCCC - James. [Read More](#)

[Scientists Receive \\$9.1 Million to Improve Early Detection Methods for Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Receive \\$7 Million to Improve Outcomes for High-Risk Blood Cancer Patients](#)

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

[Culinary Stars Raise \\$6.2 Million for Cancer Research](#)

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

[Researchers Receive \\$3.4 Million Grant to Detect High-Risk Oral Pre-Cancers](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[New Cancer Research Consortium Melds Scientific Disciplines](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Summer Research Programs for Students, Teachers Expanded With New Grants Totaling \\$3 Million](#)

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

[\\$1.5 Million Grant Funds Mobile Mammography Unit](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Al Achkar is New Associate Center Director for Education](#)

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



Karmanos Cancer Institute welcomes **Morhaf Al Achkar, MD, PhD, MSCR, FAAFP**, as the associate center director for education. Dr. Al Achkar brings over 10 years of professional experience to his new role, along with valuable personal experience as a seven-year stage IV lung cancer survivor. [*Read More*](#)

[Hawkins Appointed Deputy Director](#)

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



William Hawkins, MD, joined MUSC Hollings Cancer Center on January 1, in the newly created role of deputy director, where he will focus on strengthening translational research, increasing clinical trials across South Carolina. [*Read More*](#)

[Buckley Appointed Co-Leader of Cell Response and Regulation Program](#)

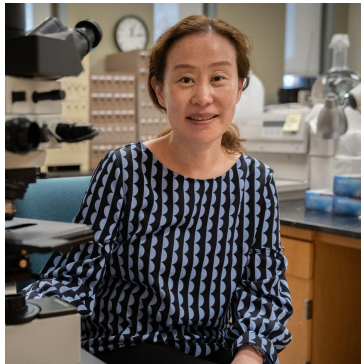
[Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah](#)



Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah has appointed **Shannon Buckley, PhD**, as co-leader of the Cell Response and Regulation Program. The program concentrates on cellular mechanisms of cancer biology and how healthy cells transform into cancer. [Read More](#)

[Director Named for Biorepository and Tissue Analysis Shared Resource](#)

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



Angela J. Yoon, DDS, has been appointed director of the MUSC Hollings Cancer Center Biorepository and Tissue Analysis Shared Resource, overseeing a growing collection of cancer-associated biospecimens that allow researchers to translate biological discoveries into prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. [Read More](#)

[New Leader for Breast Cancer Program, Translational Research Integration](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



Aditya Bardia, MD, has joined the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the UCLA Health Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center where he will assume several leadership roles including director of translational research integration and co-director of the Breast Cancer Disease Site Group for the cancer center. [Read More](#)

[Ely Joins Thoracic Oncology Program](#)

[GW Cancer Center](#)

Sora Ely, MD, has joined the GW Cancer Center and the GW Medical Faculty Associates as a thoracic surgeon. She treats benign and malignant pathologies of the chest and foregut.

Note: This story originally appeared in the December AACI Update with an incorrect link. [Read More](#)



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Scar Tissue Holds Hints About Pancreatic Cancer Outcome](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Pancreatic Cancer Discovery Opens the Door for New Clinical Trial](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[New Strategy for Protecting Bones From Cancer Treatment](#)

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

[Research Into Targeted Treatments, Better Prediction Models in Breast Cancer Funded](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Colorectal Cancer Mapping Reveals a Path to Improved Immunotherapy](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Country of Birth a Factor in Stomach Cancer](#)

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

[Nivolumab Associated With Higher Progression-Free Survival in Pediatric Advanced-Stage Hodgkin Lymphoma](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[AI Helps Experts Distinguish Between Two Rare Blood Cancers](#)

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

[Researchers Find Link Between Folic Acid and Blood Cell Production](#)

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

[Maintaining Levels of Two Key Proteins Could Be Key to Protecting the Liver From Cancerous Cells](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Real World Data Show Impact of Immunotherapy in Populations Underrepresented in Clinical Trials](#)

[Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Liquid Biopsy Predicts Immunotherapy Response in Patients With Advanced Lung Cancer](#)

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

[Studies Uncover Effects of Pre-Conception Smoking and Racial Disparities in Pediatric Leukemias](#)

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

[Administered Earlier, Cilta-Cel CAR T Produces Deep, Durable Responses in Multiple Myeloma Patients](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Hodgkin Lymphoma Prognosis, Biology Tracked With Circulating Tumor DNA](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Clinical Trial Shows Efficacy for Atezolizumab Combined with Carboplatin](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

OTHER NEWS

[UNM Starts \\$61 Million Expansion](#)

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



Photo credit: Kata Sasvari

The UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, led by **Yolanda Sanchez, PhD**, has broken ground on a \$61 million clinic building addition. The expansion will make room for advanced radiation treatment machines, theranostic treatment rooms, interventional radiology procedures, and cellular therapies. Dr. Sanchez is a member of AACI's Board of Directors. [*Read More*](#)

[Unique Summer Trainee Program Launched](#)

[Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University](#)



The Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University, the American Cancer Society (ACS), and Morehouse School of Medicine have joined to support an extended cancer research internship experience at Brown. The summer program originated via an ACS-Fostering Innovation Award granted to **Wafik S. El-Deiry, MD, PhD, FACP**, director of the cancer center. [*Read More*](#)

[Novel Community Engagement, Research Effort in Head and Neck Cancer Launches](#)

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

The Duke University School of Medicine Department of Head and Neck Surgery & Communication Sciences recently launched Project CHECKERS (**C**ommunity **H**ead and **N**eck **C**ancer **K**nowledge, **E**ngagement, **R**esearch and **S**creening), a Duke Cancer Institute-funded pilot project to bring head and neck cancer resources and education to the community. [*Read More*](#)

[Assistant Professor, Early Drug Development](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Associate Director of Clinical Translational Research](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

[Senior Director, Clinical Trial Operations](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Vice President, Clinical Research](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

[Research Technician I-II](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Administrative Director](#)

[Louisiana Cancer Research Center](#)

[Chief, Division of Breast Medical Oncology](#)

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

[Multiple Faculty Openings](#)

[University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

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

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Chair, Department of Surgical Oncology](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Oncology Clinicians and Scientists](#)

[Dartmouth Cancer Center](#)

AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

[AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[March 12-13, 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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