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

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

## AACI HEADLINES

### [Register for the 16th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

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

June 24-26, 2024

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel  
Rosemont, IL

Registration is open for the **16th Annual AACI Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) Meeting**, which will be held **June 24-26** at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL. The programming for this year's CRI meeting, "Compassion and Collaboration Through Clinical Trials," aims to stimulate cancer center interactions and maximize resources by creating opportunities for peer-to-peer networking and collaboration.

[Read More](#)

### [PCLI Webinar: Not Your Typical Wellness Talk](#)



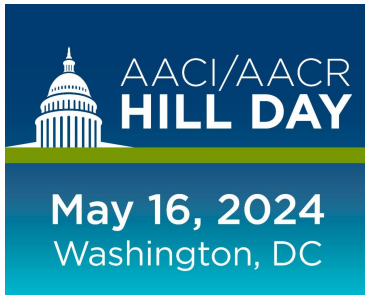
AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI)** will host a free webinar, titled "**Not Your Typical Wellness Talk**," at 3:00 pm eastern time on **Thursday, March 28**. Webinar panelists are **Quan Ly, MD, FACS, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center**; **Sarah Richards, MD, FACP, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine**; and **Steven Wengel, MD, University of Nebraska Medical Center**. [Read More](#)

### [Dr. Karen Winkfield to Deliver Leadership Diversity Keynote](#)

A thought leader in the areas of workforce diversity and health equity, **Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD**, is the executive director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, holds faculty positions at both Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University, and was appointed by President Joe Biden to the National Cancer Advisory Board in 2021. Dr. Winkfield will deliver the opening keynote at 8:00 am central time on **Monday, March 12**, during the **2024 AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop**. [Read More](#)



## [Nominations Open for Cancer Research Ally Award, Hill Day Scholarships](#)



Nominations are being accepted for the annual Cancer Research Ally Award, which will be presented to one Democrat and one Republican member of Congress at a reception before the **2024 AACI/AACR Hill Day**. AACI is also accepting **nominations** for Hill Day scholarship recipients. The scholarships enable patient advocates to attend the event and share their perspectives during congressional meetings. [Read More](#)

## [Ask Your Representatives to Support the Knock Out Cancer Act](#)



Representatives **Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)**, co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus, and **Debbie Dingell (D-MI)**, jointly introduced the **Knock Out (KO) Cancer Act** for the 118th Congress in December 2023. 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. [Write to your legislators](#) today to urge them to support the KO Cancer Act. [Read More](#)

## NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

### AWARDS & HONORS

## [Cancer Research Institute Recognizes Bhardwaj](#)

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



**Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD**, is the recipient of a Cancer Research Institute (CRI)/Oliver R. Grace CLIP grant. Recognition of Dr. Bhardwaj as a Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP) investigator distinguishes her as one of the CRI's most promising scientists. [Read More](#)

## [Cedars-Sinai Radiation Oncology Earns Top Accreditation](#)

The Department of Radiation Oncology at Cedars-Sinai Cancer has earned accreditation from the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Accreditation Program for Excellence. [Read More](#)

## GRANTS & GIFTS

### [UAMS Achieves \\$30 Million Fundraising Goal for NCI Designation](#)

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

### [Behnke Family Commits \\$15 Million to Support Fred Hutch Campaign](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

### [Duke Collaboration Results in Multi-Million Dollar Award to Support Blood Cancer Research](#)

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

### [\\$3.7 Million NIH Grant Will Boost Study of New Cancer Therapy](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

### [\\$1.3 Million Gift From Curing Kids Cancer Endows Cancer Professorship](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

### [\\$1.1 Million Grant Supports Research in Breast Cancer Survivorship Among Black Women](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

### [Nursing Researchers Receive Grant to Increase Clinical Trial Enrollment of Underrepresented Kidney Cancer Patients](#)

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

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

### [Macleod Named Associate Director for Basic Sciences](#)

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



**Kay Macleod, PhD**, has been appointed as the associate director for basic sciences for the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center. The role was previously held for many years by **Geoffrey Greene, PhD**. Dr. Macleod is also a program co-leader of the center's Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer Research Program. [Read More](#)

### [Bloom Named System Director of Cardio-Oncology](#)

[Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone](#)

**Michelle Bloom, MD**, has joined NYU Langone Health as system director of the Cardio-Oncology Program, which provides specialized care to protect patients' heart health throughout cancer treatment and survivorship. Previously, Dr. Bloom served as co-director of the Cardio-Oncology Program at Stony Brook University Hospital. [Read More](#)



## [New Senior Director of Cancer Training and Career Enhancement Appointed](#)

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



Huntsman Cancer Institute recently welcomed **Katharine S. Ullman, PhD**, into a new position of leadership. Dr. Ullman is celebrated for her advocacy in training and mentoring and dedication to learning. [Read More](#)

## [Rutgers Unveils Leadership Enhancements](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey has modified its leadership structure, elevating two associate director functions to deputy director positions. **Andrew M. Evens, DO, MBA, MSc**, is deputy director for clinical services; **Linda Tanzer** is deputy director for administration and planning and chief financial and administrative officer; and **Eileen White, PhD**, will continue in the roles of deputy director and chief scientific officer. [Read More](#)

## [Health Equity Expert Appointed Deputy Director](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)



**Monica L. Baskin, PhD**, has been appointed deputy director of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center where she will expand her efforts aimed at reducing health disparities, advancing the science of community outreach and engagement, and promoting representation in the workforce and clinical trials. [Read More](#)

## [New Chief of Neuro-Oncology and Co-Director of Brain and Spine Tumor Center Named](#)

[Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone](#)

**Alexandra Miller, MD, PhD**, has been named chief of the Neuro-Oncology Program and a co-director of the Brain and Spine Tumor Center at NYU Langone Health's Perlmutter Cancer Center. She joins NYU Langone from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. [Read More](#)



## Wells Named Assistant Director for Community Outreach and Engagement

Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University



**Jessica Wells, PhD, FAAN**, has been named assistant director for community outreach and engagement at Winship Cancer Institute. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and president-elect of the board of the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health. [Read More](#)

## Draetta to Serve as Principal Investigator of CCSG at MD Anderson

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center



**Giulio Draetta, MD, PhD**, will serve as principal investigator (PI) of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Cancer Center Support Grant. Historically, MD Anderson's president served as PI; however, this change addresses the demands of an increasingly complex organization and will optimize the institution's programming and support for the grant. [Read More](#)

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## Research Reveals Extent of Undiagnosed Cancer Cases Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

UK Markey Cancer Center

## Scientists Use Cancer's Strength to Fight Against It

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

## Novel Drug Combination Shows Promise for Advanced HER2-Negative Breast Cancer

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

## Blood Cancer Discovery Identifies High-Risk Patients, Could Improve Outcomes

University of Virginia Cancer Center

## [First-of-Its-Kind Compound Opens New Avenue in Immunotherapy Treatment for Cancers](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Nanodrug May Be a Paradigm Shift for Cancer](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

## [CRISPR-Cas13d Platform Could Lead to Upgrades in Cell Therapies for Cancer](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

## [Stem Cell Researchers Pioneer New Technology to Test Chemotherapies and Other Cancer Drugs for Heart Toxicity](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

## [Study Defines Mechanisms Underlying Promising Precision Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Comprehensive Care Improves Outcomes in Adult Lymphoblastic Leukemia](#)

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

## [Novel Liquid Biopsy of Lymph Fluid Could Guide Precision Treatment for Head and Neck Cancer](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

## [Oldest Patient to Achieve Remission for Leukemia and HIV Successfully Treated](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Researchers Discover Why One Type of Chemotherapy Works Best in Bladder Cancer](#)

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

## [Study Shows Expanded Cancer Gene Testing Feasible, Beneficial for Patients](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

## [Decoding the Genes Behind Dolastatin 10 Paves Way for New Cancer Therapeutics](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

## [Is Lung Cancer Treatment Working? This Chip Can Tell From a Blood Draw](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

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

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Tumor Biology May Underlie Racial Differences in Certain Breast Cancer Outcomes](#)

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

## [Age-Related Changes in Fibroblast Cells Promote Pancreatic Cancer Growth, Spread](#)

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

## [Inosine Induces Stemness Features in CAR T Cells and Enhances Potency](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

## [Study Points to Possible New Therapy for Advanced Kidney Cancer](#)

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

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

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

## [Fatty Acids Rewire Energy Supply Chain in Stomach Cancer Development](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

## [Novel Bispecific Design Improves CAR T-cell Immunotherapy for Childhood Leukemia](#)

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

### OTHER NEWS

## [UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute to Seek National Designation](#)

[UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute](#)



**Rodney Rocconi, MD**, director of the UMMC Cancer Center and Research Institute (CCRI), has been tasked with enhancing CCRI's mission of combating cancer through UMMC's three-part mission of clinical care, research and education. His first order of business: to begin the journey towards National Cancer Institute designation. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Winn Career Development Award Applications Open](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



The Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Award Program (Winn Awards) is designed to increase diversity in clinical trials and transform the clinical research landscape. Applications for one of the Winn Awards' signature programs, the Winn Career Development Award, are being accepted through Monday, May 13. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [New Radiation Therapy Targets Tumors More Precisely](#)

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

UI Health Care is the first medical center in North America—and the second in the world—to cross over into the next phase of MR-Linac technology, offering even more precise real-time targeting of soft tissue tumors with radiation therapy. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Early Detection Project Launches to Arrest Cancer Before It Spreads](#)

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



UC San Francisco is embarking on a bold initiative to catch cancer in its earliest forms and prevent it from progressing. Led by **Margaret Tempero, MD**, the new Cancer Early Detection and Interception initiative aims to detect and halt cancer before it takes root and spreads. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [Spurring Action Against Cervical Cancer](#)

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



During the last days of January, which was Cervical Cancer Awareness month, **Prajakta Adsul, MBBS, PhD, MPH**, headed for Washington, DC, to participate in the inaugural White House Cervical Cancer Forum hosted by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, through the Biden Moonshot Initiative. [\*Read More\*](#)

## [New Digital Tool Aims to Improve Treatment Plans for Pediatric Cancer Patients](#)

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



**Jonathan Constance, PhD**, associate member in the Cell Response and Regulation Program at Huntsman Cancer Institute, is seeking to better understand how medications can be used more safely and effectively in different patient populations, especially pediatric cancer patients. [\*Read More\*](#)

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## [CTO Assistant Director of Research Finance](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



## [Research Technician I-II - Single Cell Genomics - Immunology](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

## [Program Coordinator - HPV Cancer Center Prevention Program](#)

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

## [Cancer Center Administrator](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

## [Health Services Research - Cancer Faculty Position](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

## [Clinical Research Coordinator - Various Positions/Levels](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

## [Operations Research Scientist](#)

[Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

### AACI MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## [AACI Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop](#) March 12-13, 2024

[Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel](#)

[Rosemont, IL](#)

## [PCLI Webinar | Not Your Typical Wellness Talk](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[March 28, 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](#)

## [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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