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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | October 2024

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Ebert to Serve as Dana-Farber President and CEO](#)



Benjamin Levine Ebert, MD, PhD, chair of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Department of Medical Oncology, will serve as president and CEO of Dana-Farber, effective October 1. **Laurie H. Glimcher, MD**, who became the first woman to lead the organization in 2016, will assume the title of president emerita. [Read More](#)

[Annual Meeting Spotlight: The Future of Patient Navigation](#)



Patient navigation has become an essential piece of the health care puzzle in the United States, where it is used to address disparities in the accessibility and affordability of health care. During "Mapping the Future of Patient Navigation," experts will share their perspectives on patient navigation, along with strategies for improving the navigation experience. The session will be held at 9:45 am central time on **Monday, October 21**, during the **2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting** in Chicago. [Read More](#)

[Register Today for October Webinars](#)

Registration is open for three upcoming AACI webinars. The **October 2 CARDS webinar** will explore the use of spatial data to analyze cancer center catchment areas. On **October 3**, AACI will co-host a **webinar with SIRUM** on the topic of repurposing surplus cancer medications. And AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI)** will host a **webinar on October 8** about providing cancer care in underserved rural and urban communities. [Read More](#)

[AACI Steering Committees Seeking Nominations](#)



Nominations are now being accepted for the AACI **Cellular Therapy Initiative (CTI)** and **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative (PCLI)** steering committees. All AACI cancer center members are welcome to submit nominations until **Wednesday, October 30** at 5:00 pm Pacific time. [Read More](#)

[Call for Abstracts: CADEX Conference](#)



Abstract submissions are now being accepted for the **2025 CADEX Conference, January 29-31**, at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort & Spa in Coronado, CA. This year's meeting theme is Acquisition, Analysis, Action. The deadline to submit a completed abstract is 5:00 pm Pacific time on **Monday, November 4**. [Read More](#)

[AACI Participates in Advocacy Events, Endorses Legislation to Improve Clinical Trials](#)



As part of its ongoing engagement with cancer-related public policy, AACI participated in a variety of advocacy events in Washington, DC, in September, reflecting our commitment to advocating on behalf of academic cancer centers.

Pictured, left to right: Jennifer W. Pegher, Dr. Monica M. Bertagnolli, Dr. Matthew Vander Heiden, at a leadership roundtable hosted by United for Medical Research

[Read More](#)

[Paid Advertisement: Yunu](#)



Over 90% of oncology trials require imaging, yet imaging data is lost, mismanaged, and significantly underutilized. Yunu is transforming trial imaging access, accuracy, and efficiency with streamlined workflow and a wide network of engaged researchers. Cancer centers are reducing error rates as high as 50% to less than 2% and clearing assessment backlogs with on-demand outsourced readers. Ready to get started? [Listen to a Panel Discussion From the AACI CRI Meeting](#)

[Tucker Receives Presidential Recognition](#)

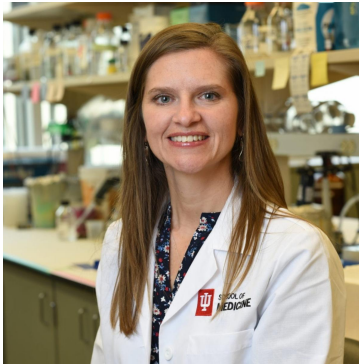
[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)



In recognition of her work to build healthier communities and provide hundreds with power over cancer, **Carolyn M. Tucker, PhD**, has received a 2024 President's Lifetime Achievement Award from the office of President Joe Biden. Dr. Tucker has dedicated her career to creating programs that promote health equity, mental well-being, physical health, and food security in low-income communities in Gainesville and Jacksonville. [Read More](#)

[Fishel Named Scholar in Cancer Research](#)

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



The Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center has named **Melissa L. Fishel, PhD**, the Myles Brand Scholar in Cancer Research. Recognized for her research in pancreatic cancer, Dr. Fishel is a tumor cell biologist working toward new targets and treatments for the often aggressive disease. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[Up to \\$35 Million Awarded to Advance Precision Cancer Imaging and Therapy](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[\\$25 Million Gift to Benefit Patients at New Breast Cancer Center](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Prostate Cancer Program Awarded SPORE Grant](#)

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

[Researchers Awarded \\$6.8 Million to Replicate Lung Cancer Screening Success](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[NCI-Funded Study Takes Aim at Reducing Smoking in Rural Appalachia](#)

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

[Using Mathematical Models and AI to Improve Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment](#)

[Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

[American Cancer Society CEO Announces Transition Plans](#)

[American Cancer Society](#)



Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, has announced her transition from CEO of the American Cancer Society and its advocacy affiliate, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. An interim CEO is expected to be appointed before the end of the year followed by a national search for a new CEO. Dr. Knudsen is a past president of AACI. [Read More](#)

[Inaugural DEI Leadership Team Appointed](#)

[Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine](#)



The Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center of Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital has appointed a trio of physicians and researchers to oversee the center's first Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI): **Eloise Chapman-Davis, MD**, **Minerva Romero Arenas MD, MPH**, and **Monica Guzman, PhD**. [Read More](#)

[Associate Director for Quantitative Data Sciences Named](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center has named **Veera Baladandayuthapani, PhD**, as associate director for quantitative data sciences, a role that recognizes the increasing significance of data-driven and data-intensive endeavors such as Big Data in cancer research. [Read More](#)

[Mammen is New Physician-in-Chief](#)

[Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center](#)

Joshua Mammen, MD, PhD, has small-town roots and wants to ensure that Nebraskans know that the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center is the cancer center for all of Nebraska. Dr. Mammen, who became the center's physician-in-chief on August 1, grew up in Kaplan, Louisiana, population about 5,000. [Read More](#)



Associate Director for Shared Resources Named

Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine



John M. Ashton, PhD, MBA, associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Genetics, has been promoted from assistant director to associate director of shared resources at Wilmot Cancer Institute. He joins six other associate directors on Wilmot's executive leadership team.

[Read More](#)

Harlan-Williams Named Associate Director for Education

The University of Kansas Cancer Center



Lisa Harlan-Williams, PhD, associate professor of Cell Biology and Physiology, has been appointed associate director for education at The University of Kansas Cancer Center. She will oversee cancer-related educational and career development initiatives across a broad spectrum, supporting individuals from high school students through undergraduates, graduates, and medical students, to junior faculty. [Read More](#)

Medical Director of Data and Technology Applications Shared Resource Named

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University



Ravi B. Parikh, MD, MPP, FACP, a physician-scientist and expert in health care artificial intelligence and machine learning, joined Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University on September 1. Dr. Parikh will serve as medical director of the Winship Data and Technology Applications Shared Resource. [Read More](#)

Samudio-Ruiz Named Shared Resources Associate Director

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center



Sabrina Samudio-Ruiz, PhD, assumed the role of shared resources associate director on September 16. She will oversee the development of all eight of the center's shared resources, set the direction for new technological acquisitions, and help procure new equipment to carry out UNM Cancer Center research initiatives. [Read More](#)

[Koestler Appointed Assistant Director for Shared Resources](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)



Devin Koestler, PhD, professor and associate director of research operations in the Department of Biostatistics & Data Science, has been appointed assistant director for shared resources at The University of Kansas Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Researchers Develop Tool for Deciphering Telomeres](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Scientists Uncover Limits of Metabolic Flexibility in a Skin Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Protocol Improves Follow-up for Women at High Risk for Breast Cancer](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Identify Key Markers in Pancreatic Cancer Progression Using a New Analysis Pipeline](#)

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

[Mechanism Predicts Severity of Aggressive Form of Breast Cancer](#)

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

[Disparities Narrowing Among Patients Undergoing Blood Stem Cell Transplant](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Indicators to Improve Multidisciplinary Care of Brain Metastases](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

[Pancreatic Cancer: Study Finds Most Early Staging Inaccurate](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Scientists Identify Genes Linked to Relapse in Most Common Form](#)

[of Childhood Leukemia](#)

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

[Tumor-Induced B Cell Changes Reveal Potential Biomarker for Treatment Response in Triple Negative Breast Cancer](#)

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

[Chemotherapy Before Surgery Helps Patients With Nose and Sinus Cancer Avoid Eye and Bone Removal](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[Multiple Myeloma Risk and Outcomes Associated With Pathogenic Germline Variants in DNA Repair Genes](#)

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

[FDA Approval of New Drug Regimen Helps Reduce Risk of Breast Cancer Recurrence for Patients With Early-Stage Disease](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer](#)

[Study: Molecular Tumor Boards Improve Identification of Cancer-Linked Genes](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Immunotherapy Before and After Lung Cancer Surgery Reduces Death Risk, Disease Recurrence](#)

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

[More Research Confirms the Value of Knowing the Whole Person in Geriatric Oncology](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[Treatment Regimen Doubles Progression-Free Survival in Metastatic Kidney Cancer](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Drug Discovery Enters Clinical Testing, Secures Commercialization Partner](#)

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

[Fever Drives Enhanced Activity, Mitochondrial Damage in Immune Cells](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

OTHER NEWS

[Complimentary Registration, ACCC Membership for AACI Members](#)

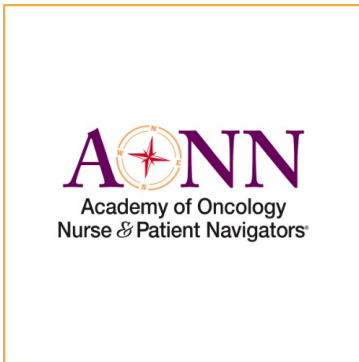
[Association of Cancer Care Centers](#)

In support of our shared goals to advance equitable cancer care, the Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC) is offering AACI members who are not already ACCC members a one-year complimentary ACCC Cancer Program Membership. As an introduction to the organization, ACCC is also offering one complimentary registration per program to its National Oncology Conference in Minneapolis, October 9-11. [*Learn More About ACCC and These Offers*](#)



[Advancing Patient Navigation](#)

[Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators](#)



The Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN+) is the largest national specialty organization dedicated to promoting the role of oncology nurse and patient navigators. AONN+ provides a network for collaboration, leadership, and development of best practices for the improvement of patient access to evidence-based cancer treatment.

[*Learn More About AONN+*](#)

[ACS Medal of Honor Call for Nominations](#)

[American Cancer Society](#)



The American Cancer Society's (ACS) Medal of Honor recognizes a distinguished cancer researcher working in basic, clinical, translational or population science whose work has led to advancement in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or survivorship. The nomination deadline is Thursday, October 31. The awardee must be available to attend the award ceremony in Washington, DC, on Saturday, March 8, 2025. [*Submit a Nomination*](#)

[Siteman Opens New Building](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

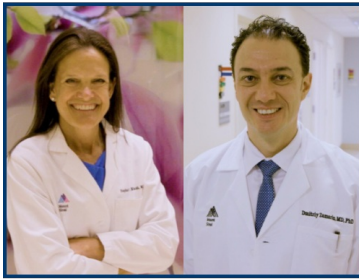


Siteman Cancer Center—based at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis—is opening a new home for outpatient cancer care. The nine-story, 657,250-square-foot building emphasizes multi-disciplinary care, enhances connections to research, and prioritizes the comfort of patients and their family members. [*Read More*](#)

[Center of Excellence for Gynecologic Cancer Opens](#)

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

The Center of Excellence for Gynecologic Cancer, part of The Tisch



Cancer Institute, launched in September 2024. It provides comprehensive services, including advanced gynecologic cancer screening and diagnosis and innovative treatments. The center is led by co-directors **Stephanie V. Blank, MD**, and **Dmitriy Zamarin, MD, PhD**. [Read More](#)

[How a Spike in Cancer Deaths Triggered a Life-Saving Partnership](#)

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

Prostate cancer screenings among Black men have tripled at some San Francisco health providers as part of the San Francisco Cancer Initiative (SF CAN), a UCSF-City of San Francisco project that's paving the way for state-wide changes. The initiative uses data from sources like the Greater Bay Area Cancer Register, housed at UCSF, to create tailored cancer prevention and screening strategies at the neighborhood level. [Read More](#)

[Teen Cancer America Funds Expansion of Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Program](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

With a nearly half-million-dollar grant from the nonprofit Teen Cancer America, the UF Health Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer program—one of four in the state—will add three positions to expand clinical care and support services tailored to the age-specific needs of patients. [Read More](#)

[Chemoprevention Innovator Advances Center's Impact on Early-Stage Trials](#)

[The University of Arizona Cancer Center](#)



In her 25-plus years at the University of Arizona Cancer Center, **Sherry Chow, PhD**, has made an impact far beyond her work with early-phase cancer prevention research trials, improving the lives of her students, post-doctoral fellows, coworkers, and mentees with her calm, capable, compassionate approach to both people and science. [Read More](#)

[Symposium Celebrates Anniversary of Nobel Prize for Discovery That Advanced Understanding of Cancer and Development of New Drugs](#)

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

Fox Chase Cancer Center's Center for Immunology will host its 14th Annual Scientific Symposium on Friday, October 18. The event will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry being awarded for the discovery of ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation. Much of that work was done at Fox Chase. [Read More](#)

[Celebrating 25 Years of World-Class Cancer Research and Care](#)

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

On September 13, 2024, Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah celebrated 25 years of groundbreaking cancer research, education, and patient care. Since opening its doors in 1999, Huntsman has made significant contributions to cancer prevention and treatment, saving lives and expanding its reach to patients from six continents. [Read More](#)



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Assistant Dean and Deputy Director of Administration](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Assistant or Associate Professor, Palliative Care](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Manager Clinical Research, Cancer CTO Regulatory Manager](#)

[Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center](#)

[Chief Financial and Administrative Officer](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute](#)

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

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

[Associate Director - Population Sciences](#)

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

[Cancer Center Director](#)

[Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute](#)

[Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology](#)

[O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham](#)

[Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences](#)

[University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Associate Director of Population Sciences](#)

[Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center](#)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Summit](#) [Connecting Leaders: Strategies for Change](#)

[Presented by AACI in partnership with the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Center DEI Network](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[October 19-20, 2024](#)

[Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

[2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE](#)

[October 20-22, 2024](#)

[Loews Chicago Downtown Hotel](#)

[Chicago, IL](#)

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](#)

[SAVE THE DATE](#)

[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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