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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | January 2025

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AACI HEADLINES

[AACI Mourns Passing of Dr. Ken Cowan](#)



AACI mourns the loss of **Ken Cowan, MD, PhD**, who passed away on Sunday, December 15. A former member of AACI's Board of Directors, Dr. Cowan led the NCI-Designated Cancer Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) for more than 20 years. Joining UNMC in 1999 as director of what was then called the Eppley Cancer Center and the Eppley Institute for Cancer Research, Dr. Cowan stepped down in 2023 but remained a full-time faculty member and clinician. The center changed its name in 2017 to the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Abstract Winners Announced for 2025 CADEx Conference](#)

The AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence (CADEx) Conference Planning Committee has selected three abstracts from 46 submissions for formal presentation at the **2025 CADEx Conference, January 29-31**. Winning abstract authors represent **Dartmouth Cancer Center; Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health; O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; Louisiana Cancer Research Center; and Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah**. The three winning abstracts will be presented individually on **Thursday, January 30**. [Read More](#)

[Call for Abstracts: 17th Annual AACI CRI Meeting](#)

The AACI **Clinical Research Innovation (CRI)** Steering Committee is currently **soliciting abstracts** for the **17th Annual AACI CRI Meeting, June 23-25**, at Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL. This year's meeting will center on fostering inclusive practices and expanding community impact. The purpose of the abstracts is to inform attendees about challenges and solutions implemented at AACI cancer centers, showcasing advancements across key areas in clinical research and operational excellence. [Read More](#)



[Making the Most of EHRs to Support Cancer-Related Outreach and Research](#)



Electronic health records (EHRs) are critical for health care facilities, as they store demographic information, medical histories, diagnoses, immunization records, and radiology and laboratory test results. During "Making the Most of Electronic Health Record Systems to Support Cancer-Related Outreach and Research," panelists will share how they are using EHR data to improve outcomes for patients. The session will be held at 10:15 am Pacific time on **Friday, January 31**, as part of the **2025 Catchment Area Data Excellence (CADEX) Conference** in Coronado, CA. [Read More](#)

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

AACI invites you to promote your cancer center or company by purchasing an ad in the *AACI Update*. Your ad may highlight a conference, new initiative, or product of interest to AACI members. Ad space can be purchased monthly or in packages for several months at a time. [Read More](#)

[AACI Expands Social Media Footprint in 2025](#)



AACI is expanding its social media footprint, with new accounts on [Bluesky](#) and [Threads](#). These are in addition to AACI's existing accounts on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#). [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Nimer Named Mentor of the Year by the American Society of Hematology](#)

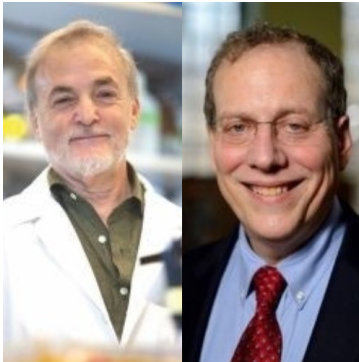
[Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami](#)

Stephen D. Nimer, MD, director of Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, is known for guiding other researchers to create a collaborative environment that drives scientific discovery and quality patient care. He was recently recognized for these qualities by the American Society of Hematology (ASH), which awarded him its Mentor Award for 2024. [Read More](#)



[Baylin, Feinberg Win Harvey Prize](#)

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



Stephen Baylin, MD, and **Andrew Feinberg, MD**, were awarded the 2022–2023 Harvey Prize in the field of Science and Technology by the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. Drs. Baylin and Feinberg, along with Peter Jones, PhD, of the Van Andel Institute, were honored for their pioneering research in epigenetics. [Read More](#)

[Villano, Williams Named Fellows of the American College of Surgeons](#)

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



Fox Chase Cancer Center's **Anthony M. Villano, MD, FACS** (pictured at right), and **Austin D. Williams, MD, MSED, FACS** (left), were named fellows of the American College of Surgeons during a convocation before the organization's recent Clinical Congress in San Francisco. [Read More](#)

[Wagenblast Honored by LLS for Advancing Research in Childhood Leukemia](#)

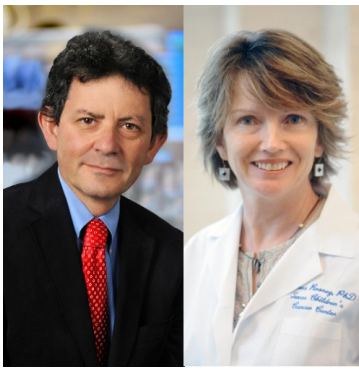
[The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai](#)



The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) has honored **Elvin Wagenblast, PhD**, with the 2024 LLS-CDP Special Fellow Achievement Award. Dr. Wagenblast was recognized for his groundbreaking work using cutting-edge genetic tools to uncover the origins and mechanisms of childhood leukemia. [Read More](#)

[Brenner, Rooney Named National Academy of Inventors Fellows](#)

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



Malcolm Brenner, MD, PhD, and Cliona Rooney, PhD, have been named fellows of the National Academy of Inventors. Dr. Brenner's primary research is in the use of gene transfer to augment the immune response to human tumors. Dr. Rooney's research focuses on the use of virus-specific T cells for the treatment of viral diseases and malignancies. [Read More](#)

[Curtis Honored for Achievements in Breast Cancer Research](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



Stanford Cancer Institute member **Christina Curtis, PhD, MSc**, is the recipient of the 2024 American Association for Cancer Research Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research and the Susan G. Komen Brinker Award for Scientific Distinction in Basic Science. She is the first person to receive both awards in the same year. [Read More](#)

[Colditz Receives Inaugural Award From Susan G. Komen](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)



Graham A. Colditz, MD, DrPH, associate director of prevention and control at Siteman Cancer Center, has been awarded Susan G. Komen's inaugural Brinker Award for Scientific Distinction in Population Science. He was recognized for his "pivotal advances in implementation science, health services research, epidemiology, and evidence-based interventions to enhance breast cancer outcomes." [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[\\$10.8 Million Grant Supports Cutting-Edge Leukemia Research](#)

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

[Smoking-Cessation Interventions for Black Adults Evaluated in Five-State Study](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[\\$9 Million Grant Secured to Establish Cancer Control Equity Research Center](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Awarded Over \\$4 Million in Grants From the Washington Research Foundation](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[\\$2.3 Million Award to Develop Antibody Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer](#)

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

[Heavy Metal Gut: a \\$1.9 Million Study](#)

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

[\\$1.5 Million Pledge for Cancer Care, Patient Services, Orthopedics](#)

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

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

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

[Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma](#)



Doris Benbrook, PhD, has been named associate director for translational research at OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center. In the role, Dr. Benbrook will oversee planning and initiatives designed to facilitate the translation of ideas from basic science discovery to clinical trials. [*Read More*](#)

[Strom Named Community Outreach and Engagement Director](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)



Carla Strom, MLA, has been appointed administrative director for community outreach and engagement at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. She was recruited from Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she served as director of the Office of Cancer Health Equity and assistant director for community outreach and engagement. [*Read More*](#)

[Scientist Appointed to Create Center of Excellence for Structural Cell Biology](#)

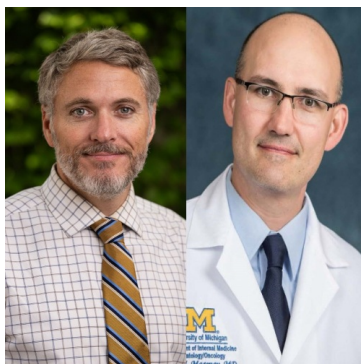
[Comprehensive Cancer Center St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)



Georgios Skiniotis, PhD, has been appointed to develop and lead the newly created Center of Excellence for Structural Cell Biology. The center will advance understanding of cell biology from the atomic scale to the micron scale, including the implementation of emerging capabilities in cryogenic electron tomography and volume electron microscopy imaging. [*Read More*](#)

[Two New Clinical Research Leaders Named](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)



The University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center has named **Kyle Cuneo, MD** (pictured, left), its new associate director for clinical research. In addition, a new position of assistant director for clinical research will be filled by **John Magenau, MD** (right). [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[Study Activation Unit Showcases Work at AACI CRI Meeting](#)

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

[Common Food Poison Toxin Speeds Colon Cancer Spread, Researchers Find](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

[Experts Steer Development of Stem Cells to Regenerate and Repair Organs](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[Study Highlights Brain-Preserving Radiation Technique for Rare Cancer](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

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

[Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center](#) **CORRECTION:** *This story's source was misidentified in the December 2024 AACI Update.*

[Resistance Training Can Reduce Fatigue, Pain in Multiple Myeloma Patients](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Study Discovers Vehicle for Heart Cell Damage From Chemotherapy](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Americans Uninformed About and Under-Vaccinated for HPV](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Genetic Code Deploys Cancer Mafia, New Targeted Drug Gives Offer They Can't Refuse](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[How Race Impacts Patient Response to Cancer Immunotherapy](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

[Study Explores Use of Nanoparticles to Improve Cancer Therapy](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

[Study: Higher West African Ancestry May Contribute to Worse Breast Cancer Outcomes](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Preclinical Research May Help Patients Overcome Resistance to CAR T Cell Therapy](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Trial Identifies Better Treatment for Grade 2 Gliomas](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

[Could Venetoclax Improve Outcomes of CAR T for Patients With Resistant B-Cell Lymphomas?](#)

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University](#)

OTHER NEWS

[LGBTQI+ Climate Survey](#)

[GW Cancer Center](#)

If you are a health care professional in practice or a health care professional student, please consider taking the [LGBTQI+ Climate Survey](#) to help validate a new scale for research (existing scales are more than 10 years old). Please share with colleagues via email but NOT on social media. Participants who provide their email address will receive the study results. [Complete the Survey](#)

[A Partnership to Expand Lung Cancer Screenings in Rural Virginia, West Virginia](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)

UVA Cancer Center, Appalachian Community Cancer Alliance, and Buchanan General Hospital have teamed up to make getting screened for lung cancer easier in rural Virginia and West Virginia. The newly formed Rural Appalachian Lung Cancer Screening Initiative was convened and facilitated by the Association of Cancer Care Centers. [Read More](#)

[Ohio State Completes First Gene Therapy for Hemophilia B](#)

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

[Institute](#)

Recently, a team at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – The James completed its first gene therapy for a patient with hemophilia B, the first at an adult medical center in Ohio. Madison Gregory, IV, 53, from Toledo, was infused with the gene therapy for his hemophilia B in October 2024. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Senior Compliance Program Manager](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Associate Director for Education and Training](#)

[Rutgers Cancer Institute](#)

[Cancer Biology Faculty](#)

[Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center](#)

[Assistant Director, Clinical Trials Operations](#)

[Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine](#)

[Clinical Trials Program Director Epic Research](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Open Rank Faculty Position in Cancer Cell Therapy](#)

[Fred Hutch Cancer Center](#)

[Financial Analyst](#)

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

[Tenure Track Faculty Positions, Health Promotion Research Center](#)

[Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma](#)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[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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