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News From the Association of American Cancer Institutes | September 2024

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

AACI HEADLINES

[Cancer Center Leaders Elected to AACI Board of Directors](#)



B. Mark Evers, MD, FACS; Kelvin Lee, MD; and Thomas A. Sellers, PhD, MPH, have been elected to the AACI Board of Directors. The new board members will begin their two-year terms in October, during the 2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting in Chicago. They will replace outgoing board members **Marcia Cruz-Correa, MD, PhD; Ruben A. Mesa, MD, FACP; and Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil.**

Pictured, clockwise from top right: Dr. B. Mark Evers, Dr. Kelvin Lee, and Dr. Thomas A. Sellers

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[AACI Announces Recipients of 2024 Awards](#)



AACI congratulates this year's **Cancer Health Equity, Champion for Cures**, and **Distinguished Scientist** award recipients, selected by the AACI Board of Directors. The awards will be presented at 11:00 am central time on **Monday, October 21**, during the **2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting**.

Pictured, clockwise from top right: the late Brigadier General Edith P. Mitchell, MD (Cancer Health Equity), Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center and the Prouty (Champion for Cures), and Paula D. Bos, PhD (Distinguished Scientist)

[Read More](#)

[Registration and Call for Abstracts Open for 2025 CADEX Conference](#)

Registration is now open for the 2025 AACI Catchment Area Data Excellence (CADEX) Conference, **January 29-31**, in Coronado, CA. This three-day event will bring together cancer center catchment area data experts, geospatial statisticians, and representatives from government



and industry to address emerging topics in cancer prevention and control analytics. The AACI CADEx Planning Committee is currently [soliciting abstracts](#) for the meeting. [Read More](#)

[New Members Join CRI Steering Committee](#)



This fall, AACI's Clinical Research Innovation (CRI) will welcome **Margaret Kasner, MD, MSCE**, medical director of cancer clinical trials operations at Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Jefferson, as the new CRI Steering Committee chair-elect. We are also welcoming five newly-elected steering committee members. [Read More](#)

[Reminder: Support Opportunities Available for AACI Events](#)



AACI members are invited to support the **2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting** by purchasing an ad in the digital meeting program. Support opportunities are also available for the **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Summit**. Both events will be held in Chicago this fall. [Read More](#)

NEWS FROM THE CENTERS

AWARDS & HONORS

[Chernoff Named Fellow of Scientific Society](#)

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



Jonathan Chernoff, MD, PhD, cancer center director at Fox Chase Cancer Center, has been named a Fellow of the American Society for Cell Biology. A molecular oncologist and board-certified medical oncologist, Dr. Chernoff joined Fox Chase in 1991. His lab focuses on factors that control cell growth and movement, including oncogenes and anticancer or tumor-suppressor genes. [Read More](#)

[UCLA Earns National Accreditation From Commission on Cancer](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



The UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center has achieved accreditation from the Commission on Cancer, a program of the American College of Surgeons, for its commitment to providing comprehensive, high-quality, and multidisciplinary patient-centered care to individuals affected by cancer. [Read More](#)

[Porteus Named Vice President of the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)



Matthew Porteus, MD, PhD, has been named the vice president of the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy. The society is a nonprofit medical and scientific organization focused on the understanding, development, and application of gene, cell, and nucleic acid therapies. Dr. Porteus will serve in this role for one year, then as president-elect in 2025, and as president in 2026. [Read More](#)

[Breast Cancer Program Earns Fourth National Accreditation](#)

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

The Breast Cancer Program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute has earned reaccreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers for the fourth time in 10 years. [Read More](#)

[Society Welcomes Two More Translational Scholars](#)

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



Huntsman Cancer Institute and the University of Utah are proud to announce the induction of two physician-scientists, **Heloisa Soares, MD, PhD**, and **Skyler Johnson, MD**, as members of The Society of Huntsman Translational Scholars. [Read More](#)

GRANTS & GIFTS

[Senator Moran Announces Federal Investments in KU Cancer Center, Health System](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[More Than \\$17 Million Received From CPRIT](#)

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

[\\$15 Million Award to Support Development of Powerful New Mini Microscope](#)

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

[Study Aims to Improve Bladder Cancer Treatment With High-Dose Intravenous Vitamin C](#)

[The University of Kansas Cancer Center](#)

[\\$3 Million Grant Awarded to Advance Health Equity](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

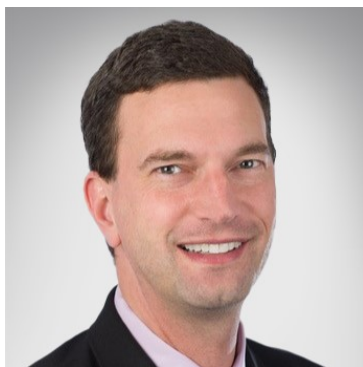
[Grant Supports Epigenetics Research](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

[Rich Appointed Interim Director](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)



Jeremy Rich, MD, MHS, MBA, deputy director of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, has been selected as interim director as a national search starts for a new director. Dr. Rich joined UPMC Hillman in 2021, having previously served as director of the Brain Tumor Institute at the University of California San Diego and chair of the Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at Cleveland Clinic. [Read More](#)

[Ronai Appointed Director of Newly Established Translational Research Institute](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)



Cedars-Sinai has appointed **Ze'ev Ronai, PhD**, as director of a newly established Translational Research Institute, professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and the Jim and Eleanor Randall Department of Surgery as well as the scientific director of the Surgical Melanoma Research Program in the Randall Department of Surgery. [Read More](#)

[Associate Director for Population Sciences Named](#)

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

Christopher Amos, PhD, will serve as UNM Cancer Center's associate director for Population Sciences and director of UNM Health Sciences Center's Data Science Initiative. Dr. Amos will assist in building the cancer center's research programs in cancer population sciences, cancer control, community engagement, behavioral intervention, and cancer health disparities. [Read More](#)



[Colorectal Surgery Executive Medical Director Appointed](#)

[City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



City of Hope Orange County has announced that colorectal surgeon **Alessio Pigazzi, MD, PhD**, has joined the organization as clinical professor of surgery, executive medical director of colorectal surgery, and vice chair of clinical network affairs for the Department of Surgery. Dr. Pigazzi performed the world's first robot-assisted tumor removal for rectal cancer two decades ago at City of Hope. [Read More](#)

[Bleicher Promoted to Chief of New Division of Breast Surgery](#)

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



Richard Bleicher, MD, FACS, a professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology and clinical director of the Breast Service Line, has been promoted to chief of the new Division of Breast Surgery at Fox Chase Cancer Center. [Read More](#)

[Shaffer, Zang Join Cancer Center Leadership](#)

[University of Virginia Cancer Center](#)



Kelly Shaffer, PhD, and **Chongzhi Zang, PhD**, have joined UVA Cancer Center's leadership in newly-created positions. Dr. Shaffer has been appointed a co-lead of the Cancer Prevention and Population Health research program. Dr. Zang is the inaugural director of Computational Genomics. [Read More](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[BRCA1/2: Why Men Should Be Screened for the Breast Cancer Gene](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[FDA Approves Drug Targeting Brain Cancer Gene Mutation](#)

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

[Clinical Trial Uses Personalized Cancer Vaccine to Tackle Aggressive Brain Tumors in Adolescents, Young Adults](#)

[UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Gene Panel for Pediatric Cancers Increases Access to High-Quality Testing](#)

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

[Novel Test Helps Identify Patients at High Risk of Esophageal Cancers](#)

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

[GeneMAP Discovery Platform Will Help Define Functions for Orphan Metabolic Proteins](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Researchers Discover Novel Nanoparticles in Blood With Potential to Transform Cancer Diagnosis](#)

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

[Cannabis Use Tied to Head and Neck Cancer](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Predictive Genetic Score Improves Outcomes by Personalizing Leukemia Therapy](#)

[University of Florida Health Cancer Center](#)

[Epigenetic Change to DNA Associated With Cancer Risk](#)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

[Studies Show How Immunotherapies Collaborate to Boost T Cell Responses in Melanoma](#)

[UPMC Hillman Cancer Center](#)

[A Ketogenic Diet Could Improve the Response to Pancreatic Cancer Therapy](#)

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

[Study: Transplant Possible After Immunotherapy for Advanced Liver Cancer Patients](#)

[Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[CD22-Directed CAR T-cell Therapy for Large B-cell Lymphomas](#)

[Stanford Cancer Institute](#)

[Study Reveals New Insights Into Multiple Myeloma Progression](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[Facts & Faith Fridays: NIH Director Dr. Monica Bertagnolli](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



On **Friday, September 20** at 3:00 pm eastern time, hear firsthand from **Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD**, director of National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Bertagnolli will share updates regarding her new role and 2024 priorities for the NIH. Each month, VCU Massey invites national experts and community leaders to participate in conversations around science and religion. [*Register Today*](#)

[ACS Announces up to \\$8 Million in Awards and Grants to Help Fund Early-Stage Researchers](#)

[American Cancer Society](#)



The American Cancer Society (ACS) has announced the creation of the Catalyst awards to grant up to \$8 million to early-stage investigators and post-doctoral fellowships in the U.S. The Catalyst awards are meant to "catalyze" researchers with high scoring, but not yet funded, research projects recently submitted either to ACS or the National Cancer Institute. [*Learn More and Apply*](#)

[Researchers Develop an Enhanced Communication Framework for Use in the Cancer Clinic](#)

[University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center](#)

Doctors are frequently tasked with breaking negative news to patients who have been diagnosed with cancer. Researchers from the University of Michigan and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have proposed an enhanced model of communication focusing not only on what is said in the clinic but also nonverbal communication of the doctor and how doctors in turn interpret patients' nonverbal cues. [*Read More*](#)

[Phase I Clinical Trial Program Launched](#)

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

Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center has launched the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation Center for Experimental Therapeutics, a Phase I clinical trial program that will provide its patients the opportunity to enroll in early phase clinical trials targeting a wide range of malignancies. The program's first trial, which includes a novel therapy targeting a mutation commonly found in pancreatic and colorectal cancers, enrolled its first patient in August. [*Read More*](#)

[Markey Launches Partnership With VA Health Care](#)

[UK Markey Cancer Center](#)

The Lexington VA Health Care System is now affiliated with the UK Markey Cancer Center. The partnership will provide Kentucky veterans with expanded access to specialized cancer care, including clinical trials and advanced technology available only at NCI-Designated Cancer Centers. [*Read More*](#)

[Survey Reveals Cancer Care Needs for Patients in Rural and Frontier Areas](#)

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

A survey conducted by Huntsman Cancer Institute researchers reveals that residents of frontier areas of the Mountain West face significant



barriers to health care. The Community Health Assessment Survey is the first of its kind to focus solely on patients in rural counties and frontier areas. [Read More](#)

[UNM Opens Ovarian Cancer Clinical Trial Using HIPEC Surgery](#)

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

A new clinical trial at the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center is applying hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC), a proven surgical technique used in digestive cancers, to ovarian cancer. [Read More](#)

[Radiation Oncology, Imaging Center to Open](#)

[USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)



USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of Keck Medicine of USC, will open a Newport Beach location offering the latest advancements in radiation therapy and diagnostic imaging. The treatment center, which will open in early 2025, will feature cutting-edge cancer technologies, providing new therapeutic options and optimizing patient outcomes. [Read More](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Administrative Fellow](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Director, Biostatistics Shared Resource](#)

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

[Cancer Biology Faculty Positions](#)

[Wilmot Cancer Institute, UR Medicine](#)

[CRS Senior Director, Clinical Trial Startup & Amendments](#)

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

[Executive Director of Ambulatory Services - Oncology & Infusion Services](#)

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

[Executive Director of Operations](#)

[VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[Cancer Metabolism and Redox Biology Tenure Pathway Faculty](#)

[The University of Vermont Cancer Center](#)

[Associate Director of Population Health and Cancer Control](#)

[Clinical Research Nurse II](#)

[Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University](#)

[Executive Director of Oncology Services and Cell and Gene Therapy](#)

[UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Facts & Faith Fridays: NIH Director Dr. Monica Bertagnoli](#)

[Hosted by VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[September 20, 2024](#)

[Online Event](#)

[Inaugural Conference for West Coast Alliance to Promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(WeCAPD\)](#)

[Hosted by Cedars-Sinai Cancer](#)

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[September 20, 2024](#)

[Sofitel Los Angeles](#)

[Los Angeles, CA](#)

[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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