



October 20-22, 2024

Loews Chicago Hotel

2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting: Day 2 Overview

Many thanks to the cancer center leaders and other colleagues who participated in Day 2 of the 2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting.

The program opened with a session on cancer's impact on patients' mental health, moderated by **Loriana Hernández-Aldama**, a cancer survivor, award-winning journalist, and steering committee member for AACI's Inclusive Excellence presidential initiative.

“I felt like I was going to die of a broken heart before cancer ever took me.” - Loriana Hernández-Aldama

Next was a look at the history and future of oncology patient navigation, moderated by the National Patient Advocate Foundation's **Dr. Alan Balch** and featuring **Dr. Harold P. Freeman**, who established the first patient navigation model for patients with cancer, and **Dr. Shanthi Sivendran** of the American Cancer Society.

“People shouldn’t die of cancer because they’re poor or because they’re Black.” – Dr. Harold P. Freeman

AACI honored leading lights in cancer research and care with three award presentations. The late **Dr. Edith P. Mitchell** was recognized with the AACI Cancer Health Equity Award, and the AACI Champion for Cures award was presented to **Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center and the Prouty Dr. Paula Bos** of the VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center received the AACI Distinguished Scientist Award. She then gave an overview of her research which focuses on the identification of tumor-promoting mechanisms by regulatory Treg cells, a subset of CD4 lymphocytes prominently found in tumors and associated with poor prognoses.

Afternoon sessions included a deep dive into academic integrity and public trust in an era of misinformation, and a look at innovation and technology at AACI basic science centers with directors from four NCI-designated Basic Laboratory Cancer Centers: **Dr. Andrew Mesecar**, Purdue University Institute for Cancer Research; **Dr. Reuben Shaw**, Salk Institute Cancer Center; **Dr. David Tuveson**, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center; and **Dr. Matthew Vander Heiden**, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT. A vendor presentation by **Medidata** closed the day.

We look forward to seeing you tomorrow for more inspiring sessions, including reports from the director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), **Dr. W. Kimryn Rathmell**, and **Dr. Krzysztof Ptak**, acting director of NCI's Cancer Centers Program.



Dale Edith Hobbs, daughter of the late Dr. Edith P. Mitchell, accepted the AACI Cancer Health Equity Award on her mother's behalf from Dr. Andrew Chapman, director of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Jefferson.



Dr. Stephen Leach, director of the Dartmouth Cancer Center, presented the AACI Champion for Cures Award to Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center and the Prouty.



Dr. Paula D. Bos received the AACI Distinguished Scientist Award from AACI president and director of the VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Robert A. Winn.

Sip and Socialize With Deep 6 and Yunu

Join us at 8:00 pm in Pullman/The Dining Car for Sip and Socialize, supported by Deep 6 and Yunu.

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