



October 20-22, 2024

Loews Chicago Hotel



2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting: Day 3 Overview

Thank you to the participants who joined us for the third and final day of the 2024 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting.

The day opened with a session on maximizing cancer centers' financial and human resources to support clinical research, co-moderated by **Dr. Barry Sleckman**, O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and **Nick Fisher**, Siteman Cancer Center.

Dr. Krzysztof Ptak provided an update on the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Office of Cancer Centers, focusing on the Plan to Enhance Diversity component of the Cancer Center Support Grant and the NCI-Designated Cancer Centers Directors' Retreat. Topics discussed at the retreat included transdisciplinary innovation and establishing national networks to accomplish shared goals.

"Diversity creates stronger cancer science and is a critical step in reducing the burden of cancer for an increasingly diverse America." - NCI

Dr. John Carpten, City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, moderated a discussion that illuminated the historic precedent for today's legal rulings on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs. Rounding out the panel were **Dr. Brian Gonzalez**, Moffitt Cancer Center; **Kevin Williams**, National Institutes of Health (NIH); and AACI President **Dr. Robert A. Winn**, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. They identified strategies for framing messaging and democratizing recruitment, networking opportunities, and career development while complying with legal standards.

"If this is the work that you believe is your life's work, I need for you to dig down, to be resilient, because the hope is that we give up and give in." - Kevin Williams

Closing the day was the NCI Director's Report by **Dr. Kimryn Rathmell**. Dr. Rathmell outlined the framework of the **National Cancer Plan**, provided updates on recent progress in cancer research, and called for cancer centers to communicate the value of their work.

We look forward to seeing you at the **2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting** in Washington, DC! Please mark your calendars for all of **AACI's 2025 events**.

SAVE THE DATES



2025 CADEX Conference

January 29-31, 2025

Coronado Island Marriott Resort & Spa
Coronado, CA



2025 AACI Leadership Diversity
and Development Workshop

March 11-12, 2025

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL



2025 AACI/AACR Hill Day

May 22, 2025

Washington, DC



17th Annual AACI CRI Meeting

June 23-25, 2025

Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL



2025 AACI/CCAF Annual Meeting

The 2025 DEI Summit, hosted by AACI in partnership with the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Center DEI Network, will be held in conjunction with this meeting.

October 19-21, 2025

Salamander Hotel
Washington, DC



Amy Overby, Winship Cancer Center of Emory University



Dr. Krzysztof Ptak, NCI



David M. Gosky, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - The James, and Dr. Neli Ulrich, Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah



Left to right: Dr. John Carpten, City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center; Kevin Williams, NIH; Dr. Brian Gonzalez, Moffitt Cancer Center; Dr. Robert A. Winn, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) express appreciation to the following companies for their support of this educational activity by providing an unrestricted educational grant:

Novartis
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AACI gratefully acknowledges the following organizations for providing program and exhibit support:

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