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The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) is the only membership association dedicated to academic cancer centers. AACI represents more than 100 premier academic and freestanding cancer centers in the United States and Canada. AACI is accelerating progress against cancer by enhancing the impact of academic cancer centers and promoting cancer health equity. AACI advances the objectives of cancer centers by promoting widespread recognition of the cancer center network, educating policymakers, and fostering partnerships between and among cancer centers and like-minded organizations to improve the overall quality of cancer care.

CLINICAL RESEARCH INNOVATION

AACI's **Clinical Research Innovation** (CRI) provides a network for cancer center clinical research leaders to share best practices. CRI hosts an annual meeting that brings together clinical trials professionals from AACI cancer centers, industry, and government agencies to address common challenges. Member services include access to topic- and role-based listservs and the opportunity to participate in working groups and task forces that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion; staff retention; and the role of clinical trials office medical directors.

PHYSICIAN CLINICAL LEADERSHIP

AACI's **Physician Clinical Leadership Initiative** (PCLI) provides a forum for AACI cancer center physician leaders to promote cancer center clinical and quality care programs. PCLI addresses these interests through an annual meeting and by hosting webinars on a range of topics.

CELLULAR THERAPIES

AACI's **Cellular Therapy Initiative** (CTI) brings together individuals at cancer centers to develop and disseminate resources that will guide them in making CAR T and other cellular therapies more accessible for patients, increase community referrals, and mitigate the financial burden placed on cellular therapy patients.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

AACI's **public policy** activity is guided by the Government Relations (GR) Steering Committee, which coordinates efforts among AACI cancer centers to educate legislators about the positive impact of cancer research on patients and enhances understanding of policy issues pertaining to cancer prevention, treatment, clinical trials, and survivorship.

LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the urgent need for diversity in the oncology leadership pipeline, **Caryn Lerman, PhD**, focused her AACI presidential initiative on leadership development for emerging cancer center leaders from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Lerman and her steering committee published best practices for mentoring and onboarding, and the inaugural **Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop** was held in November 2022, followed by a second workshop in March 2024.



AACI Inclusive Excellence Initiative

AACI President **Robert A. Winn, MD**, director of VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, aims to develop and promote “inclusive excellence” with his AACI **presidential initiative**, by examining methods through which AACI members can foster partnerships with like-minded organizations, government agencies, and other institutions – regionally, nationally, and globally.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

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VCU Massey
Comprehensive Cancer Center

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Community advocate
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Loriana Hernández-Aldama
Community advocate
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Stephenson Cancer Center
University of Oklahoma

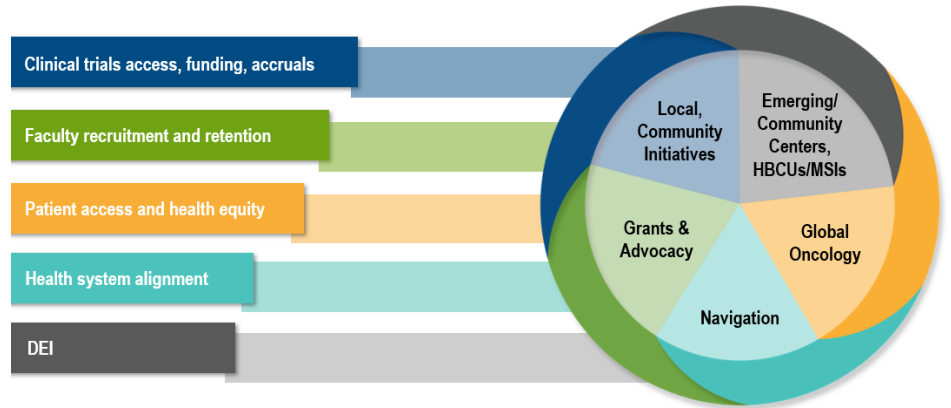
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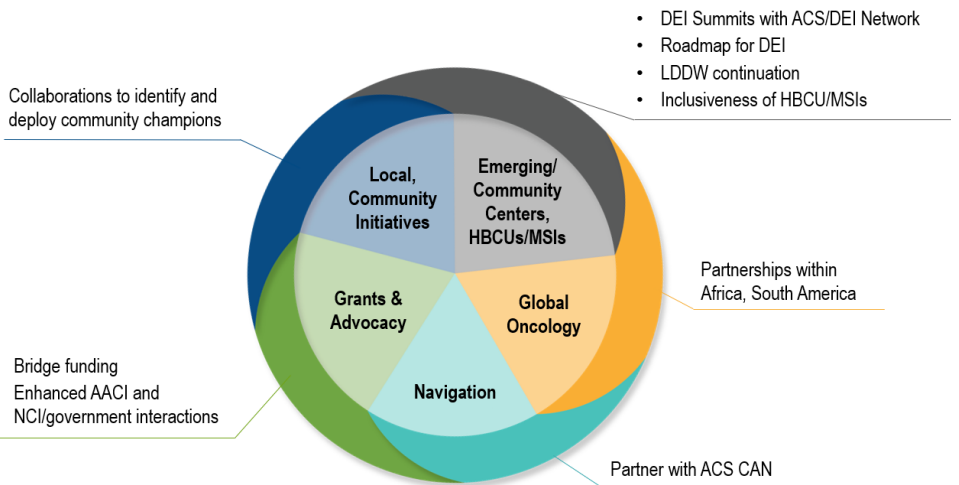
Cornelia Ulrich, MS, PhD
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the
University of Utah

PRIORITIES INFORMED BY CANCER CENTERS



A FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSIVITY

The Inclusive Excellence Initiative focuses on collaborative efforts to create opportunities for research, training and education, and patient navigation. The initiative will also support the continued facilitation of AACI’s Leadership Diversity and Development Workshop (LDDW) and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Summit hosted by AACI in partnership with the Cancer Center DEI Network and the American Cancer Society (ACS).



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