

THE

CANCER LETTER

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Conversation with The Cancer Letter

Wicha to Leave Director's Job at UMich

After 27 years and six NCI cancer center support grants, Max Wicha announced he would step down as director of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“Frankly, my research is really going well now,” Wicha said in a Q&A with The Cancer Letter. “It’s in a very exciting phase in researching cancer stem cells. My lab has grown—and my work is now moving into the clinic, so I’m actually working with our clinical people to do clinical trials targeting cancer stem cells.

“So the idea of five more years, or do I get to really focus on my research now? That was really the deciding factor.

“So it’s time. Again, six core grants is quite a number.”

Wicha’s announcement is part of an unusual exeunt of the three longest-serving directors of NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers.



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Listen to the conversation on [The Cancer Letter website](#).

"Spoiled, Petulant Brat"

BioMarin CEO Fires Off Feisty Emails In Battle Over Access to PARP Inhibitor

By Matthew Bin Han Ong

More than 230,000 people—including [82 Texas state lawmakers](#)—petitioned BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. to provide its investigational drug to ap Austin attorney afflicted with stage IIIC ovarian cancer.

The story was getting massive coverage.

Television networks, newspapers and social media were focusing on the patient’s plight and BioMarin’s reluctance to provide the agent, [BMN-673](#), a PARP inhibitor that stops DNA repair in cancer cells.

Several supporters got hold of the email address of the company’s CEO, Jean-Jacques Bienaimé, and contacted him directly on behalf of 45-year-old Andrea Sloan, the attorney who was trying to get the drug through compassionate use.

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