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**Smith Center for Healing and the Arts Announces New Leadership Team**

[Smith Center for Healing and the Arts](http://www.mmsend58.com/link.cfm?r=dxsA049vAxewIqFkqP0KOQ~~&pe=8ae9SIvoXOu45umqAVtK9Xlkp_ieSrFgu93_sd9J0oclHSE1KUnKzXys0SotDY0gALr-Je-iitk3n3D4DiRz8Q~~" \t "_blank) is proud to announce the appointment of Jennifer Bires as its new Executive Director and Julia Rowland as its first Senior Strategic Advisor.

Founded by the late Barbara Smith Coleman in 1996, Smith Center operates at the forefront of integrative cancer care in Washington, DC. Smith Center houses the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, named for the late Joan Hisaoka, and is widely regarded as the foremost healing arts gallery in the nation's capital.  Shanti Norris, Smith Center's Founding Executive Director, recently retired after 21 years of gifted leadership.

Jennifer Bires, LCSW, OSW-C comes to Smith Center with exceptional experience as an oncology social worker. She helped create the cancer support program at George Washington University Medical Center, where she is highly regarded for her clinical, management and community outreach expertise. Under her leadership, GW expanded patient and family cancer support services, increased access to care for Medicaid recipients and created the first multidisciplinary oncology palliative care outpatient clinic. She has also served as a key partner with Smith Center where she initiated and co-led the young adults group and facilitated a general cancer support group for survivors.  Jennifer received the 2017 Oncology Social Worker of the Year Award from the National Association of Oncology Social Workers.

"Jennifer brings exceptional skills and experiences to her new leadership position.  She also has intimate knowledge of the DC and regional cancer survivorship landscape and deep appreciation for the Smith Center's unique art and healing approach to this important work," commented Jackie Ogg, chair of Smith Center's Board.

"I am honored to follow in Shanti's footsteps and take on this leadershipposition at Smith Center which has been such a pivotal organization in providing healing services to people impacted by cancer in DC and beyond. Their mission strongly aligns with my life's passion of supporting those affected by cancer and offering impactful experiences in an effort to decrease distress and increase overall wellness. I'm looking forward to contributing to an already exceptional organization and working with the Board, Julia Rowland and their all-star team," said Jennifer Bires.

As Senior Strategic Advisor, Julia Rowland, Ph.D. will work with Jennifer in helping set the strategic direction for Smith Center. Julia comes to Smith Center after a distinguished career, most recently as Director of the Office of Cancer Survivorship at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Julia created the first cancer survivorship program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and served as Associate Professor and Director of Psycho-Oncology Research at Georgetown University's School of Medicine. Since its founding, Julia has been a close partner with Smith Center, staffing its cancer retreats, providing workshops, and offering educational lectures.

"Dr. Rowland was a friend of Barbara Smith Coleman. She has played a formative role in the national cancer survivorship movement and is one of the leading psycho-oncology researchers in the United States," said Michael Lerner, Ph.D., Smith Center Board Chair Emeritus, who co-founded Smith Center with Barbara Smith Coleman.  "We are deeply fortunate to have her wisdom and experience as we chart the path forward for Smith Center."

"After 18 years at the federal level championing research to improve the care and support of our growing population of survivors, I am excited by the opportunity to bring this science 'back home' to those living with, through and beyond cancer. And I can think of no better 'home' for doing so than Smith Center. I believe that expanding capacity in the community to provide effective, survivorship-enhancing resources and programs that focus on the whole person is the next frontier in cancer care and health. With its strong legacy and healing mission, outstanding staff, thoughtful board, and deep roots in the D.C community, Smith Center is poised to launch us into that new frontier. I feel especially privileged to build on Shanti Norris' visionary and heartfelt leadership, and to join Jennifer in this effort," commented Dr. Rowland.

In speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors, Jackie Ogg shared, "The search process has shown the incredible respect applicants and partners have for the unique work of the Smith Center; their deep appreciation for the leadership of Shanti Norris and the expertise of the entire staff; and a level of genuine excitement around the potential to build on the foundation of the past 21 years to create even more impact. We are thrilled that two talented, experienced, and extraordinary leaders will be bringing their gifts to the Smith Center and make this their next professional homes."

There will be a welcoming reception for Jennifer and Julia at Smith Center in the fall.