Announcements

Annual Conclave Awards
It was a pleasure to join many of you on Monday evening to celebrate the recent accomplishments of our Cancer Center and Hospital, as well as the individual achievements of our researchers and clinicians. 2017 was an unprecedented year of successes for our Center. We cared for 9,500 new cancer patients and completed over 225,000 office visits. In fact, a Smilow physician cares for 45% of every newly diagnosed patient with cancer in Connecticut. At the same time, patient satisfaction at Smilow ranks among the highest over the last year compared to our peer institutions. And in 2017, we had $125 million in cancer funding to support our research endeavors. In the war against cancer, I can't imagine a Center that is better poised to make a bigger impact in the coming years in cancer research and care and I am excited to work together with you to continue our mission.

Individual awards were presented to recognize outstanding achievement in research and clinical care during 2017. Please join me in congratulating the following:

Ruth McCorkle, PhD, RN, FAAN was presented with the Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award, an award given annually to a Yale Cancer Center member who has impacted the field of oncology both nationally and internationally. Cathy Lyons presented the award to Ruth, affectionately calling her the “Godmother of Oncology Nursing.” Ruth joined Yale Cancer Center and Yale School of Nursing in 1998 and focused her career on psychosocial oncology and quality of life research. She has been continually funded by the NIH for over 40 years and is the author of innumerable publications in her
"Above all, she is a nurse in the noblest sense of the word, and as a nurse she continually mentors the next generation," Cathy said.

The Yale Cancer Center award for Excellence in Clinical Care was presented to Scott Gettinger, MD. Dr. Rogerio Lilenbaum introduced the award and described clinicians with true clinical excellence as showing empathy, compassion, unwavering commitment, and a connection with their patients. Lindsay Marottoli Greenberg and Kristen Marottoli Peck presented Dr. Gettinger with the award on behalf of the Marottoli Family. They first met Dr. Gettinger 10 years ago when their sister, Melissa, was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer at the age of 26. They described their sister’s story and their journey to find her the best care and every option available, and shared their appreciation for Dr. Gettinger when Melissa passed away 5 years ago. "He helped us to feel admiration and pride and find peace knowing we had done everything we could have done for our sister. Scott, we are so proud of you, so thankful, and so honored to be presenting you with this award."
Emily Duffield, APRN and Vanna Dest, APRN received the Ruth McCorkle Advanced Practice Provider Awards presented by Cathy Lyons and Ruth McCorkle. Emily was recognized for her superb clinical skills and mentorship. "With her clinical research background, combined with her exceptional clinical skills, she intervenes early in the care of clinical trial patients to expertly manage their symptoms," Ruth said. Vanna was highlighted as a finalist for the Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award and recognized for the extraordinary contributions she has made and will continue to make to the APP program at Smilow. "Vanna teaches and role models compassion."
Patrick Sung, DPhil received the Yale Cancer Center Basic Science Research Prize for his paper, *Integrated, Step-Wise, MassIsotopomeric Flux Analysis of the TCA Cycle*, published in *Cell Metabolism*. BRCA1-BARD1 promotes RAD51-mediated homologous DNA pairing. Dr. Sung is a Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and a member of the Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program. Joann Sweasy presented the award.

Katerina Politi, PhD and Scott Gettinger, MD received the Yale Cancer Center Clinical Science Research Prize for their paper, *Impaired HLA Class I Antigen Processing and Presentation as a Mechanism of Acquired Resistance to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Lung Cancer*. Dr. Politi is an Associate Professor of Pathology and a member of the Signal Transduction Research Program and Dr. Gettinger is an Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and a member of the Developmental Therapeutics Research Program. Harriet Kluger presented the award.

Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD received the Yale Cancer Center Translational Science Research Prize for his paper, *2-Hydroxyglutarate produced by neomorphic IDH mutations suppresses homologous recombination and induces PARP inhibitor sensitivity*. Dr. Bindra is an Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and a member of the Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program. Roy Herbst presented the award.

James B. Yu, MD, MHS received the Yale Cancer Center Cancer Prevention and Control Research Prize for his paper, *Use of Alternative Medicine for Cancer and Its Impact on Survival*. Dr. Yu is an Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and a member of the Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program. Xiaomei Ma presented the award.

Joseph Contessa, MD, PhD and Valentina Greco, PhD were also recognized for receiving the Class of ’61 Cancer Research Awards for 2016 and 2017 respectively.

As the new year begins, there are important steps you can take to reduce your cancer risk for 2018 and beyond.

Resolution 4: Talk to your doctor about cancer screening.

Read about Smilow's cancer screening program.

As the new year begins, there are important steps you can take to reduce your cancer risk for 2018 and beyond.

Resolution 3: Avoid using tobacco.

Check out the Tobacco Treatment Program at Smilow to help patients quit smoking.
Please join us on Friday, February 2 for a CME Symposium on the Multidisciplinary Management of Pancreatic Cancer at Yale’s West Campus.

Review Agenda >>
Register >>

Notables

The Lion Heart grant committee has awarded three $50,000 grants to support seed funding for breast cancer research to be done in 2018. Congratulations to the following recipients:

Exploiting HR Defects in Breast Cancer with DNA-PK Inhibitor- Based Therapies: Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD

Nutritional Status as Assessed by Skin Carotenoids and Chemotherapy Related Side Effects: Leah Ferrucci, PhD, MPH

Imaging and Targeted Therapy of EGFR-cMET in Triple Negative Breast Cancer: Bernadette Marquez-Nostra, PhD

Erin Hofstatter, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) has been elected as the Faculty Advisory Council representative at Yale School of Medicine for a two-year term for the sections of medical oncology, hematology, and neuro-oncology. Thank you to Terri Parker, MD who just completed her term as our representative.

Amer Zeidan, MBBS, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology) has been selected as the lead developer and speaker for the myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) section in the official Highlights of ASH meetings in San Francisco (Jan 12, 2018), Miami (Jan 19, 2018), and NYC (Jan 26, 2018).

Employee Profile: Claudia Millan

As the new year begins, there are important steps you can take to reduce your cancer risk for 2018 and beyond.

Resolution 2: Exercise regularly.
Listen to Dr. Melinda Irwin discuss the link between physical fitness and cancer.

Resolution 1: Eat a healthy diet.
Check out our nutrition page for original...
Claudia Millan, RN, BSN, never thought she would be an oncology nurse. She watched her mother beat cancer, but lost her aunt to colon cancer and her father to lung cancer. She never thought she would ever be on the other side of the table.

However, she enrolled in nursing school and worked on the Women's Oncology floor at Smilow Cancer Hospital as a student nurse, and again after she graduated, as a registered nurse. In October 2014, Claudia became an outpatient nurse and two and a half years later, an Assistant Patient Services Manager. Now, Claudia oversees patient care at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers in Fairfield and Trumbull.

Through her daily routine of rounds, listening to patient issues and suggestions, and ensuring there is enough staff, she is able to still engage in some direct patient care by helping take care of IVs and infusions on occasion. At times, Claudia is the only direct resource in the center, so it is important to her to have the opportunity to maintain a level of patient-facing care. But while she may not work with patients for the entirety of her day, she realizes she can still impact their care.

"Knowing that I make a difference in the lives of the patients - but in a different way, it keeps me going," she explains. "I lead a group who is outstanding in everything they do - the nurses and PCAs, and our supporting teams: the MDs, APRNs, the lab, and PFA's. We are a close group and every little thing we do is huge to the patient. Everything we do is a little piece of the puzzle that forms a big picture at the end of the day."

Claudia has also spearheaded fundraising for the Closer to Free Ride as another way to give back to her patients. "This (2017) was our third year participating, and we were able to fundraise money that will benefit our patients healthy recipes.

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. Almost 13,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year in the United States. Today, we have many powerful prevention and screening tools, such as HPV vaccination and the Pap smear, and greater awareness of these options can help women take steps to prevent cervical cancer—and potentially save their lives.

Learn more about screening and prevention of cervical cancer.
directly, making me and the team very grateful of what we can do.”

Throughout her nursing career, Claudia has always put patients first, and last fall, she was honored with The DAISY Award® For Extraordinary Nurses. The DAISY Award recognizes nurses who were nominated for an extraordinary act of compassion or a relationship they created with a patient that made a difference. Read Claudia’s spotlight.

Congratulations, Claudia, and thank you for your compassionate care and dedication to your patients.

#OOTBTHANKS

#OOTB: Candra Short

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Candra Short, a Medical Assistant at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Candra heroically sprang into action when one of her colleagues was having a heart attack. Using her medical skills, Candra was able to assess the situation, take the necessary vitals, and escort her coworker to the ER. Thank you, Candra, for your life-saving efforts!

In the latest issue @TheLancetOncol the Precision Medicine Tumor Board at Yale Cancer Center was highlighted. The perspective includes researchers Dr. Sarah Goldberg, @DrRoyHerbstYale and @DanielPetrylak.

Antibodies May Play a Role in EGFR Inhibitor Resistant Patients @DrRoyHerbstYale @YaleCancer #EGFhttp://www.oncologytube.com

Congratulations to Dr. Ruth McCorkle @YaleNursing@YaleCancer who received the lifetime achievement award at tonight's cancer center annual conclave. A pioneer in oncology nursing, clinical care and symptom management! @YNHH@Yale

Read new research just published by YCC scientists Madhav Dhodapkar and Kavita Dhodapkar in the Journal of Clinical Investigation. "Early B-cell changes predict autoimmunity following combination immune-checkpoint blockade"

Our article on the cost-effectiveness of adjuvant brachytherapy in high-intermediate risk endometrial cancer http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/#gyncsm #RadOnc@jmstah1@trevor_bledsoe @jamesbyu@UVMcancercenter @YaleCancer@OncologyAdvance

Learn about genomic sequencing of #tumors for #cancer treatment on .@wnpr at 7:30 with Smilow Cancer Hospital's Dr. Janina Longtine.

TMRW (1/7) at 7:30p ET Steven Gore of @YaleCancer to discuss tumor genetic sequencing & personalized medicine in #cancer w/ Dr. Longtine http://bit.ly/2Cx3ySv on @WNPR

The great thing about being @YaleCancer@YaleMed attending (or resident or medical student) is that this can be your paper writing office (Med school library)

Funding Opportunities

2018 Translational Research Grant
Supports independent investigators conducting high priority pancreatic cancer research that is poised for important translational next steps with a $500,000 grant over two years. Proposed research should aim to identify novel targets and approaches to the treatment of pancreatic cancer or understand and circumvent treatment resistance.

**Application Deadline:** January 15, 2018

Learn More >>

Minority Patient-Derived Xenograft (PDX) Development and Trial Centers (M-PDTCs) (U54)

The main goals for this initiative include: a) Development of racially/ethnically diverse PDX models; b) Development of methods for preclinical testing of single agents and drug combinations; and c) Conducting response studies of PDX models, primarily from racially/ethnically diverse populations, to develop novel therapeutic strategies.

**Application Deadline:** January 18, 2018

Learn More >>

Feasibility and Planning Studies for Development of Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) to Investigate Cancer Health Disparities (P20)

The goals for this FOA include the development of translational research programs focused upon investigating cancer health disparities.

**Application Deadline:** January 18, 2018

Read More >>

Feasibility Studies to Build Collaborative Partnerships in Cancer Research (P20)

Through this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), the National Cancer Institute (NCI) invites P20 planning grant applications for developing collaborative partnership between institutions serving underserved health disparity populations and underrepresented students (ISUPS) and NCI- designated Cancer Centers.

**Application Deadline:** January 29, 2018

Learn More >>

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation is proud to announce the $150,000 Tona Vives Research Award. A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOHLF) is a young, growing

@ymedlib - you can almost hear your predecessors whispering advice and wisdom!

As the new year begins, there are important steps you can take to reduce your #cancer risk for 2018 and beyond. Resolution 3: Avoid using #tobacco

Contact the Tobacco Treatment Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital for help to quit smoking: http://bit.ly/1akN95t

As the new year begins, there are important steps you can take to reduce your #cancer risk. Resolution 2: Exercise regularly. Listen to Melinda Irwin discuss the link between physical fitness & cancer:


Register for our 2018 Pancreas Cancer Symposium on February 2. Free and open to all providers, caregivers, patients and families.

#PancreaticCancer

As the new year begins, there are important steps you can take to reduce your #cancer risk. Resolution 1: Eat a healthy diet Check out our nutrition page for healthy recipes:

http://bit.ly/2C4rGeZ & learn more about cancer prevention:


Tune in to .@wnpr tonight at 7:30 to learn how you can support patients with #cancer through the holiday season and beyond by donating blood .@RedCross
nonprofit that intends to support creative researchers as they pursue bold research that could result in prolonged or saved lives and large contributions to science. Focused on the topic of understanding lung cancer in women, A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation is now accepting applications.

To confirm your eligibility to apply for this funding and receive the online application, please complete the online form.

**Application Deadline:** February 1, 2018

**Utilizing the PLCO Biospecimens Resource to Bridge Gaps in Cancer Etiology and Early Detection Research (U01)**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages the submission of applications that propose to advance research in cancer etiology and early detection biomarkers, utilizing the advantages of the unique biorepository resources of the NCI-sponsored Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer (PLCO) Screening Trial.

**Application Receipt/Submission Date(s):**
February 15, 2018; August 15, 2018, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

[Learn More >>](#)

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - The Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (U01)**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications from multi-disciplinary teams of researchers and clinicians to establish the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (PCDC) to conduct research to improve the detection of early stage pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) and characterization of its precursor lesions.

**Application Deadline:** April 6, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

**Yale and the Liberia Ministry of Health and Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons Opportunity**

Yale and the Liberia Ministry of Health and Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons are seeking INTERNAL MEDICINE AND ITS SUBSPECIALTIES (cardiology, gastroenterology, pulmonary, heme/onc, ID) and lab medicine to serve in Liberia.

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit a copy of their CV to asghar.rastegar@yale.edu along with a one-
SPORE in Lung Cancer Program Awards: Career Development Program
The Career Development Program will provide support of up to $50,000 to promising junior investigators and/or establish investigators who have not previously conducted lung cancer focused research.

Application Due Date:
Letters of intent (LOI) are due no later than 5:00 PM, April 27, 2018

SPORE in Lung Cancer Program Awards: Developmental Research Program
To provide seed money to investigators to support studies with a strong translational component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated into, a full Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer project.

Application Deadline:
Letters of intent (LOI) are due no later than 5:00 PM, April 27, 2018

Recent Publications

Yale Cancer Center Precision Medicine Tumor Board: two patients, one targeted therapy, different outcomes.
Cecchini M, Walther Z, Sklar JL, Bindra RS, Petrylak DP, Eder JP, Goldberg SB.

Provider Perspectives on Use of Medical Marijuana in Children With Cancer.
Early B cell changes predict autoimmunity following combination immune checkpoint blockade.
Read More >>

A patient with oxaliplatin immune-induced syndrome (OIIS) who also developed leucovorin and palonosetron-associated thrombocytopenia.
Curtis SA, Curtis BR, Lee AI, Hendrickson JE, Lacy J, Podoltsev NA.
Read More >>

The Role of Ultrasound in Breast Cancer Screening: The Case for and Against Ultrasound.
Geisel J, Raghu M, Hooley R.
Read More >>

Patients' and Oncologists' Views on Family Involvement in Goals of Care Conversations.
Lin JJ, Smith CB, Feder S, Bickell NA, Schulman-Green D.
Psychooncology. 2018 Jan 5.
Read More >>

Keeping Tumors Out of the MAPK Fitness Zone.
Stern DF.
Read More >>

Electronic cigarettes for adults with tobacco dependence enrolled in a tobacco treatment program: A pilot study.
Baldassarri SR, Bernstein SL, Chupp GL, Slade MD, Fucito LM, Toll BA.
Addict Behav. 2017 Nov 28;80:1-5.
Read More >>

Psychometric evaluation of the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System
(PROMIS) Nicotine Dependence Item Bank for use with electronic cigarettes.
Morean M, Krishnan-Sarin S, Sussman S, Foulds J, Fishbein H, Grana R, O'Malley SS.
Nicotine Tob Res. 2018 Jan 2.
Read More >>

Post-operative radiotherapy is associated with improved survival in esophageal cancer with positive surgical margins.
Gao SJ, Park HS, Corso CD, Rutter CE, Khan SA, Johung KL.
Read More >>

Variants of acinar adenocarcinoma of the prostate mimicking benign conditions.
Humphrey PA.
Mod Pathol. 2018 Jan;31(S1):S64-70.
Read More >>

Salvage Surgery after Radiation Failure in T1/T2 Larynx Cancer: Outcomes following Total versus Conservation Surgery.
Cheraghlou S, Kuo P, Mehra S, Yarbrough WG, Judson BL.
Read More >>

Cross-sectional assessment of ultraviolet radiation-related behaviors among young people after a diagnosis of melanoma or basal cell carcinoma.
Ferrucci LM, Cartmel B, Clare RA, Choy CC, Kershaw T, Leffell DJ, Mayne ST.
Read More >>

The Tumor-like Phenotype of Rheumatoid Synovium: Molecular Profiling and Prospects for Precision Medicine.
You S, Koh JH, Leng L, Kim WU, Bucala R.
Read More >>

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:
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