Announcements

Head & Neck Cancer Screening a Success
Thank you to the entire team of physicians and staff who worked together to ensure the success of the 2014 Free Head & Neck Cancer Screening Program at our St. Raphael and Yale-New Haven campuses. Together over 425 people were screened for head and neck malignancies, and 19 people were referred for follow-up evaluations with the Head & Neck Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Frank Slack Departing Yale
Frank Slack, PhD, Professor of Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology and Co-Leader of our Cancer Genetics and Genomics Research Program, will be leaving Yale on July 1, 2014 for a position at Harvard. This is bittersweet news because although Frank has been a tremendously valued colleague to so many of us at the Cancer Center, he has taken on an exciting opportunity in Boston and I am confident that he will continue to excel in this new role.

Frank plans to transition his lab and his Cancer Genetics and Genomics Research Program leadership responsibilities over the summer, and will continue to interact with many of his Yale collaborators during this time and beyond. We are planning a celebration of Frank’s service to Yale Cancer Center in June and Hilary Prosnitz will be in touch with additional details. I hope you will join me in wishing Frank all the best as he begins this new chapter.

Yale Cancer Center Participation in ASCO
I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the ASCO Annual meeting in Chicago later this month. A full list of Yale Cancer Center’s participation in the meeting will be featured in
the May 23 issue of DirectConnect. If you are attending the meeting, and would like to join Yale Cancer Center's ASCO Twitter Team, please contact Vicky Agnew. In the meantime, here is a list of lead author participation from Yale for your review:

Scott Gettinger
First-line nivolumab (anti-PD-1; BMS-936558, ONO-4538) monotherapy in advanced NSCLC: Safety, efficacy, and correlation of outcomes with PD-L1 status.
Poster Highlights Session

Mario Sznol
Survival, response duration, and activity by BRAF mutation (MT) status of nivolumab (NIVO, anti-PD-1, BMS-936558, ONO-4538) and ipilimumab (IPI) concurrent therapy in advanced melanoma (MEL).
Oral Abstract Session

Joanne Weidhaas
The KRAS-variant and cetuximab response in RTOG 0522.
Oral Abstract Session

Diana English
Evaluation of the diagnostic accuracy of cervical biopsy and determination of associated risk factors for positive margin status in recurrent cervical dysplasia after loop or conization.
General Poster Session

Nina Kadan-Lottick
Prospective assessment of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) in children with standard-risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia (SR ALL): Results of Children's Oncology Group (COG) AALL0932.
General Poster Session

Roxanne Wadia

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

LATEST TWEETS:

@politikaterina: our latest paper on mTORC1 and resistance in EGFR mutant lung cancer @CellReports

@ysph @ysm experts @STMYale and @DrRoyHerbstYale are in DC today urging CT legislators to continue to support @NIH funding. #CancerResearch

New trial @YaleCancer for patients with Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC) #kidneycancer: Study of MPDL3280A bit.ly/1ndZmtJ

Connecticut legislature unanimously passed a bill banning the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.

At this point I would not use
Effect of pre-existing mental health comorbidities (MHC) on stage and timeliness of care of solid tumors in Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System (VACHS).

General Poster Session

Daniel Boffa

Postoperative chemotherapy as effective as preoperative for N2-positive stage III non-small cell lung cancer.

General Poster Session

Erikka Loftfield

Effect of weight loss intervention on inflammatory and metabolic markers in breast cancer survivors: The lifestyle, exercise, and nutrition (LEAN) study.

Oral Abstract Session

Sarah Goldberg

Detection of sensitizing and resistance EGFR mutations from circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) in blood using multiplexed next-generation sequencing in patients with advanced EGFR-mutant lung adenocarcinoma.

General Poster Session

Joanne Weidhaas

The KRAS-variant and treatment response in BATTLE-1.

General Poster Session

Howard Hochster

E7208: A randomized phase II trial of irinotecan and cetuximab (IC) versus IC plus ramucirumab (ICR) in second-line therapy of KRAS wild-type colorectal cancer (CRC).

General Poster Session

Jason Brown

Quantitative assessment of CD3, CD8, and CD20 in tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes and predictive value for response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy in breast cancer.

PD-L1 assays to predict resp. in pts. Need phase III trials to further study anti-PD-1 therapy. Dr. Mario Sznol


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LATEST POSTS:

#TBT The launch of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Information Service at Yale Cancer Center in 1976. Yale Cancer Center operated telephone service for the Information Service up until 2005.

In recognition of National Nurses Week, Yale Cancer Center thanks all of the nearly 400 oncology nurses on staff at Smilow Cancer Hospital and in our 8 Cancer Care Centers throughout Connecticut for the amazing work they do each day to care for our patients. Their
Poster Highlights Session

**Francine Foss**

Responses to romidepsin by line of therapy in patients with relapsed/refractory (R/R) peripheral T-cell lymphoma (PTCL).

General Poster Session

**Daniel Petrylak**

A randomized open-label phase 2a study evaluating the efficacy and safety of radium-223 dichloride (Ra-223) in combination with abiraterone acetate or enzalutamide in patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) and bone metastases.

General Poster Session

**Joseph McLaughlin**


General Poster Session

**Roy Herbst**

A phase II/III randomized trial of two doses of MK-3475 versus docetaxel in previously treated subjects with non-small cell lung cancer.

General Poster Session

**Scott Gettinger**

Updated efficacy and safety of the ALK inhibitor AP26113 in patients (pts) with advanced malignancies, including ALK+ non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

General Poster Session

**Kurt Schalper**

Clinical significance of TILs subtypes in non-small cell lung cancer.

General Poster Session

**Harriet Kluger**

knowledge, compassion, and dedication is unsurpassed. Thank you for everything you do for our patients and their families!

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Immunotherapies are quickly becoming a treatment option for more patients who are benefiting from recent research that harnesses the body's immune system to attack cancer. Dr. Mario Sznol at Yale Cancer Center led the way with a clinical trial for patients with advanced melanoma and renal cell carcinoma last year using anti-PD1 therapies in clinical trials. Now, researchers are looking for biomarkers and searching for ways to identify patients who will respond to these treatments.

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**Closer to Free**

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care
Prognostic and predictive tumor-based biomarkers in patients (pts) with advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC) treated with interferon alpha (IFN) with or without bevacizumab (Bev): Results from CALGB (Alliance) 90206.

Poster Highlights Session

Daniel Yang

Estimating the impact of screening on three decades of cervical cancer incidence.

Poster Highlights Session

Francine Foss

Responses to romidepsin in patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) with tumors and/or folliculotrophic involvement.

General Poster Session

Daniel Petrylak

A phase 2 trial of prostate-specific membrane antigen antibody drug conjugate (PSMA ADC) in taxane-refractory metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC).

Poster Highlights Session

Melinda Irwin

Effect of exercise on weight, body fat, and serum inflammatory biomarkers in breast cancer survivors with aromatase inhibitor arthralgias: The hormones and physical exercise (HOPE) study.

Poster Highlights Session

James Yu


General Poster Session

Edward James

Monitoring changes in circulating tumor DNA in gastrointestinal malignancies using a novel next-generation sequencing

Events

May 9; 7:30pm
Endocrine Tumor Board
NP4-215B
Learn More >>

May 9; 12:00pm
Research in Progress Lecture
Smilow Cancer Hospital, 4-101A

Investigation of Trametinib as a Potential Radio-sensitizer in Melanoma" "Phase II Study of Modified Folfirinox in Advanced Pancreatic Cancer
Melinda Yushak, MD
Learn More >>

May 9; 1:00pm
Hematology/Leukemia Tumor Board
WWW 208
Learn More >>

May 9; 1:00pm
Molecular Virology Research Program
SHM I-116

In Vivo Imaging of Retroviral Spread Xaver Sewald, PhD
Learn More >>

May 9; 1:15pm
Neuro-Oncology Tumor Board
NP4-215B
Learn More >>

May 11; 6:00pm
Yale Cancer Center Answers
Yale Cancer Center Participates in Hill Day
Roy Herbst, MD, PhD and Susan Mayne, PhD traveled to Washington, DC this week with Vicky Agnew, Senior Communications Officer for Yale Cancer Center, to participate in Hill Day with The American Association for Cancer Research, Association of American Cancer Institutes, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and Friends of Cancer Research to meet with Connecticut’s delegation and to remind them of the impact investment in cancer research is making on our patients’ lives and research progress here at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Medical Oncology and Hematology Teaching Prizes
Yale Cancer Center is accepting nominations from current fellows for the David S. Fischer Teaching Award for the best teacher/mentor from both the medical oncology faculty and the hematology faculty, including the medical staff at the West Haven Veterans Administration Hospital. Please consider effectiveness as a teacher and mentor, involvement in clinical conferences and lectures, and "bedside teaching" when choosing your nominations. The awards will be given out at the graduation dinner. Please contact Savannah Woods for a nomination form or for more information. Nominations are due to Savannah by June 1st.

Notables
Cary Gross, MD has been awarded a 3-year grant from the American Cancer Society totaling $592,000 to study cancer disparities. His study will provide a timely assessment of personalized cancer care patterns and their impact on cancer equity, and identify potential leverage points to ensure optimum access to this novel and increasingly important aspect of cancer care.

Second year Radiation Oncology Resident, Brandon R. Mancini, MD has been elected Executive Committee Chair of the Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology (ARRO) for 2014-2015. ARRO is a national organization representing residents in Radiation Oncology in the United States. In this role, he will lead the ARRO Executive Committee in multiple initiatives to improve education and create opportunities for residents, act as a liaison between ARRO and the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) leadership, and serve on several ASTRO committees as a Resident Representative.

Alanna Schepartz, PhD, Milton Harris Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Developmental Therapeutics Program, has been elected into the National Academy of Sciences.

David Schatz, PhD, Professor of Immunobiology and of Biophysics and Biochemistry and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Immunology and Immunotherapy Program, has been elected in to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Roy Herbst, MD, PhD participated in the National Forum on the Future of Health Care at the National Press Club in Washington, DC last week and presented on Research in the Age of Personalized Medicine: Lung Cancer Master Protocol.

Daniel Petrylak, MD presented a poster during the 29th Annual EAU Congress in Stockholm, which was awarded a best poster award during the meeting. A phase 2 trial of prostate specific membrane antigen antibody drug conjugate (PSMA ADC) in taxane-treated metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (MCRPC).

Narendra Wajapeyee, MD has published Cancer Genomics and Proteomics: Methods and Protocols, as part of the Methods in Molecular Biology Book Series.
Vincent DeVita Meets with Fellows
Hosted by Roy Herbst, MD, PhD, Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., MD attended a dinner with the medical oncology and hematology fellows earlier this month to share his perspective on progress in cancer care and treatment over the last 50 years, and in his own area of expertise, Hodgkin's Disease.

Closer to Free
Funding and Award Opportunities

**Hartwell Postdoctoral Fellowship**
The Hartwell Foundation has provided a two-year fellowship for a postdoctoral trainee at Yale School of Medicine who is conducting research to benefit children.

**Eligibility:**
- Applicants must be postdoctoral fellows/associates with an M.D. or Ph.D. degree.
- They must be U.S. citizens.
- The proposed research must benefit children, particularly in the U.S., and the project should involve early-stage, innovative, high-risk biomedical research that has the potential to be transformative.
- The project should not yet have qualified for significant outside funding.

**Key features of the fellowship include:**
- $50,000 per year for 2 years
• Start date between July 1 and November 1, 2014
• Funds may be used for salary, health insurance, and travel to scientific meetings, but not for supplies, equipment, other fringe benefits, or overhead.

Application Deadline: May 19, 2014

Contact: geraldine.emerling@yale.edu

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation
We are pleased to announce that grant guidelines and applications are now open for submission in the following categories:

'A' Awards
NEW in 2014, the award amount has increased to $150,000 per year for three years! Designed for early career scientists with an original project who can demonstrate outstanding mentorship and have a strong future commitment to pediatric cancer investigation. This award totals $450,000 over three years and is open to MD, MD/PhD and PhD candidates.

Application Deadline: May 23, 2014

Reach Awards
Our Reach Awards are designed to move hypothesis-driven research toward the clinic. The goal of this award is to support selected "late translational" studies needed to ultimately initiate a clinical trial. A successful application will identify an unmet clinical need relevant to the care of pediatric cancer patients and describe how the proposed project will allow for the pre-clinical research to be translated to the clinic while keeping broader clinical testing and implementation in view. Maximum of $250,000 in total costs awarded over two years.

Application Deadline: May 30, 2014

Lung Cancer Research Foundation Grants
Support research on innovate strategies for better treatments, screening, and prevention of all cancers of the lung. These awards are designed to provide critical seed support for cutting-edge scientific research on all lung cancers and will support projects with a focus on basic science, translational research, clinical research, supportive care, and quality of care/outcomes. Up to $50,000 for 1 year.

Application Deadline: June 16, 2014

Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program
Era of Hope Scholar Award
Independent, non-mentored investigators within 6 years

Board
NP4-215B
Learn More >>

May 19; 5:30pm
Yale Cancer Center Thoracic Oncology Program
NP4-101B

Lung Cancer Support Group
Linda David, RN & Irene Scanlon, LCSW

Learn More >>

May 20; 8:30am
Lymphoma/Stem Cell Meeting
NP4-215B
Learn More >>

May 20; 9:30am
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
The Brady Auditorium, BML 1st Floor

TBA
Yalai Bai MD, PhD; Jie Li MD, PhD
Learn More >>

May 20; 12:00pm
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
Smilow Auditorium
Learn More >>

May 20; 4:30pm
Gastrointestinal Tumor Board
Smilow, NP4-215B
Learn More >>

May 20; 4:30pm
Gynecologic Oncology Conference
621 EP 2nd Floor
Learn More >>

May 21; 7:00am
The Yale Stress Center Class
Suite 209

Therapeutic Yoga
Anne Dutton, MA, RYT

Learn More >>

May 21; 12:00pm
of their last training position (e.g., postdoctoral fellowship, medical residency, clinical fellowship) as of the application submission deadline

- Supports exceptionally talented, creative early-career scientists who have demonstrated that they are the "best and brightest" in their fields.
- PIs should articulate a vision that challenges current dogma and demonstrates an ability to look beyond tradition and convention.
- PIs should exhibit strong potential for leadership in the breast cancer community
- PIs must include breast cancer advocates on their research team.
- Maximum funding of $2.5M for direct costs (plus indirect costs)
- Period of performance not to exceed 5 years

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** August 1, 2014  
**Application Deadline:** August 15, 2014

**Innovator Award**

Associate Professor or above (or equivalent)

- Supports visionary individuals who have demonstrated creativity, innovative work, and leadership in any field.
- Provides opportunity to pursue novel, visionary, high-risk ideas that will accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer.
- PIs must include breast cancer advocates on their research team.
- Nomination is required; self-nominations are accepted; application submission is by invitation only.
- Maximum funding of $5M for direct costs (plus indirect costs)
- Period of performance not to exceed 5 years

**Nomination Deadline:** May 14, 2014  
**Invited Application Deadline:** August 15, 2014

**Breakthrough Award**

- Investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)
- Postdoctoral fellows are eligible to apply
- Supports promising research that has the potential to lead to or make breakthroughs in breast cancer.
- Potential impact of the research may be near-term or long-term, but it must be significant and go beyond an incremental advancement.
- Partnering PI Option allows two PIs, termed Initiating and Partnering PIs, to collaborate on a single application.
- Four different funding levels, based on the scope of research, are available. It is the responsibility of the PI to select the funding level that is most appropriate for

**Thoracic Oncology Meeting**

Smilow Cancer Hospital, NP 4-215B

**Lung Cancer Case Presentation**

Learn More >>

**May 21; 12:30pm**  
**Yale Macrophage Café**

SHM C-103

**Home Seet Home: Legionella Grows in the Macrophage**

Stéphanie Shames, PhD

Learn More >>

**May 21; 4:30pm**  
**Breast Tumor Board**

NP4-215B

Learn More >>

**May 22; 7:30am**  
**Melanoma Tumor Board**

NP4-215B

Learn More >>

**May 22; 9:00am**  
**Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

Smilow, LL-412, Room E

**Exploring the Cost-Effectiveness of Prostate Cancer Treatment**

James Yu, MD

Learn More >>

**May 22; 12:30pm**  
**Gastrointestinal Cancer Multidisciplinary Intake Conference**

NP4-215B

Learn More >>

**May 22; 1:30pm**  
**Liver Tumor Board**

NP4-215B

Learn More >>

**May 22; 4:00pm**  
**Pediatric Tumor Board**

NP4-215B

Learn More >>

**May 23; 7:30am**  
**Endocrine Tumor Board**
Recent Publications

Raising the Bar for the Care of Seriously Ill Patients: Results of a National Survey to Define Essential Palliative Care Competencies for Medical Students and Residents
Schaefer, Kristen G. MD; Chittenden, Eva H. MD; Sullivan, Amy M. EdD; Periyakoil, Vyjeyanth S. MD; Morrison, Laura J. MD; Carey, Elise C. MD; Sanchez-Reilly, Sandra MD; Block, Susan D. MD

Acquired Resistance of EGFR-Mutant Lung Adenocarcinomas to Afatinib plus Cetuximab Is Associated with Activation of mTORC1

Histone Demethylase Jumonji AT-Rich Interactive Domain 1B (JARID1B) Controls Mammary Gland Development by Regulating Key Developmental and Lineage Specification Genes.

Mapping the homodimer interface of an optimized, artificial, transmembrane protein activator of the human erythropoietin receptor.
Cohen EB, Jun SJ, Bears Z, Barrera FN, Alonso M, Engelman DM, Dimaio D.

Employment Opportunities

Success in any clinical research endeavor, but especially in cancer research, requires the most qualified, dedicated staff, committed to excellence and the mission of Yale Cancer Center. The combination of education, oncology research experience, and exceptional nursing skills is enormously difficult to find. Your participation, as knowledgeable colleagues, is invaluable at this time.

Should you know individuals with outstanding clinical research nursing experience, and who are ready to join our team, please direct resumes to Sandra Greer, Sr. Staffing and Career Development Representative or call (203) 432-5822. All referrals will be held in strictest confidence.

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
renee.gaudette@yale.edu
For-profit hospital ownership status and use of brachytherapy after breast-conserving surgery.

Hospital-based, acute care after ambulatory surgery center discharge.

Practical guide to the use of chemotherapy in castration resistant prostate cancer.

Screening for prostate cancer: are digital rectal examinations being performed?

O-GlcNAc signaling in cancer metabolism and epigenetics.

How many names for a rose: Inconsistent classification of multiple foci of lung cancer due to ambiguous rules.

Predictors of Pretreatment Commitment to Abstinence: Results from the COMBINE Study.

New developments in the treatment of castration resistant prostate cancer.
Experience with thoracoscopic pneumonectomies at a single institution.
Read More >>