February 20, 2015

Announcements

Clinical Trial Accruals on Track
I am pleased to announce that we continue to be on trend for above goal clinical trial accruals for fiscal year ’15, with 773 accruals projected for the year based on the first 7 months of data. We accrued 57 patients in January, a commendable effort given the schedule disruption due to the holiday and snow. Great work everyone! Please continue to share the options for clinical trials with your patients, and familiarize yourselves with the trials open for accrual.

Learn More >>

Dr. Thomas Prebet Joins Hematology
I am happy to announce that Dr. Thomas Prebet has joined Yale Hematology as an Instructor. Dr. Prebet joins us from the Institut Paoli-Calmettes in Marseille France where he was an Associate Professor of Clinical Hematology and a member of the molecular pharmacology group, as well as the early phase trial group and coordinator of the leukemia ward. Dr. Prebet will be Assistant Director of Myeloid Malignancy Research, where he will be working with Dr. Steven Gore to expand the clinical and translational research program in myeloid malignancies.

Yale Cancer Center Annual Retreat
Please save the date for the 2015 Yale Cancer Center Annual Retreat scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th at Yale West Campus in Orange, CT. More details to follow as the date approaches. Please contact Christina Dreyfus for additional information.

Palliative Care Research Retreat
Please research Wednesday, April 29th on your calendars for a Palliative Care Research Retreat at the West Campus. The goals of which are to bring palliative care researchers from

Recent News
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Mastering the Clinical Development of Personalized Cancer Medicines
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across Yale’s campus and from multi-disciplines to share their work and to identify potential collaborators. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Lisa Arnel.

Research in the News

Sunlight continues to damage skin in the dark
Much of the damage that ultraviolet radiation (UV) does to skin occurs hours after sun exposure, a team of Yale-led researchers concluded in a study that was published by the journal Science.

Exposure to UV light from the sun or from tanning beds can damage the DNA in melanocytes, the cells that make the melanin that gives skin its color. This damage is a major cause of skin cancer, the most common form of cancer in the United States. In the past, experts believed that melanin protected the skin by blocking harmful UV light. But there was also evidence from studies suggesting that melanin was associated with skin cell damage.

In the current study, Douglas E. Brash, clinical professor of therapeutic radiology and dermatology at Yale School of Medical, and his co-authors first exposed mouse and human melanocyte cells to radiation from a UV lamp. The radiation caused a type of DNA damage known as a cyclobutane dimer (CPD), in which two DNA "letters" attach and bend the DNA, preventing the information it contains from being read correctly. To the researchers' surprise, the melanocytes not only generated CPDs immediately but continued to do so hours after UV exposure ended. Cells without melanin generated CPDs only during the UV exposure.

Employee Profile: Kara Reynolds

For the past two years, Kara Reynolds has served as Manager of Outpatient Registration at Smilow Cancer Hospital in Patient Financial Admitting Services (PFAS). She manages the Clinical Referral Specialist staff supporting the Smilow clinics and Boutique. These individuals work directly with patients to schedule follow-up appointments, lab work, imaging, and specialty referrals.
and ensure valid insurance authorizations are on file for all diagnostic radiology appointments. Kara also manages Smilow's main campus and satellite Patient Account Representatives, who are responsible for obtaining insurance authorization for radiation and chemotherapy treatments, prescription drug authorizations, and assisting with financial counseling for uninsured patients.

Kara commented that communication is a critical skillset working in this field. She and her team are in constant communication with clinical teams, pharmacy, third party payors, patients, and University staff to minimize any financial risk to patients and YNHH. They make sure that all identified issues are resolved before the patient presents for their first visit.

"We strive to make the patient experience as seamless as possible. The more we can do to troubleshoot coverage, authorization, and benefit concerns ahead of time, the smoother the patient visit will be," said Kara. "Our patient's focus should be improving their health, and we are here to minimize as much as we can behind the scenes by coordinating the financial aspect of their visits. The staff in Smilow's PFAS department provide a great service to patients by advocating on their behalf to ensure their services are covered and payable by insurance carriers."

If an insurance claim comes back as denied, Kara and her team work to investigate the cause for denial and appeal for payment to ensure appropriate revenue is returning to the hospital as expected.

Sandy Elkin-Randi, Director of Outpatient Access at Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented, "Kara has been an exceptional addition to the Outpatient PFAS team. Her desire to learn, dedication to our staff and patients and her understanding of the EPIC system make her exemplary."

### Funding and Award Opportunities

**Grants to Improve Patient Care**

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven are pleased to announce a new program to fund small projects to improve patient care at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Monies for this program have come through our "Closer to Free" fund. Any employee at Smilow Cancer Hospital who develops a small project may apply by submitting an application for review. Projects can range from a patient education program to stress management for staff. In order to be eligible, a current Cancer Center Member must sponsor the project.

Although pancreatic cancer, according to the National Cancer Institute, is the twelfth most common cancer in the United States, it is the fourth most deadly. The large discrepancy underlines the need for significant advances in the treatment of pancreatic cancer. One of the largest problems in treating pancreatic cancer is diagnosis: by the time it is diagnosed, treatment is rarely effective.
A study published by Dr. Harvey Risch, Professor of Epidemiology, and several colleagues, signals a promising, inexpensive possibility for changing those numbers: aspirin.

Erikka Loftfield, a doctoral candidate studying in the Yale School of Public Health-National Cancer Institute’s joint PhD program, found an association between coffee consumption and the risk of cutaneous melanoma as part of her dissertation research. She found that drinking at least four cups a day of caffeinated coffee reduces the risk of this deadly form of skin cancer.

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

LATEST TWEETS:

🔗 Study finds sunlight continues to damage skin after direct exposure—even in the dark http://bit.ly/1w1RJPF
Applications from investigators in other fields and collaborative efforts are encouraged.

**Application Deadline:** March 17, 2015

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### 2015 New York Stem Cell Foundation - Innovator Awards for Early Career Investigators in Translational Stem Cell Research

Funding up to $1.5 M over 5 years.

NYSCF is soliciting applications from early career investigators for Innovator awards to be used for exploring the basic biology and translational potential of stem cells. The goal of this initiative is to foster bold and innovative scientists with the potential to transform the field of stem cell research, and advance understanding and use of stem cells in the development of treatments for human disease. In addition to providing funding, NYSCF partners with investigators to advance and translate their research. To be eligible, candidates must be within 5 years of starting a faculty or comparable position on June 1, 2015.

**Application Deadline:** March 18, 2015

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### 2015 Sontag Foundation - Early Career Distinguished Scientist Award for Brain Cancer Research

Career development award supporting early career scientists with inspiring, potential-laden brain cancer proposals. The foundation is highly interested in researchers that may bring new perspectives to bear on the complex questions related to brain cancer.

Applicant's initial faculty appointment must have been no earlier than March 2012.
Up to $600,000 over 4 years.

**Application Deadline:** March 19, 2015

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### Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

The Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (Y-CORE PCOR) is an AHRQ-funded K12 program within the Yale-New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation that is designed to train junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows in patient-centered outcomes research. Y-CORE PCOR will provide training and career development support for 2 scholars who have a clinical or research doctoral degree and are committed to a career in patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and comparative effectiveness research (CER).

February 20; 12:00 PM
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
NP4-101A
New Approaches and Correlative Studies for Metastatic Melanoma
Harriet Kluger, MD
Read More >> (PDF)

February 20; 1:00 PM
YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program
SHM I-116
**Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Infrastructure Grants**

We understand the expense of labor intensive pediatric clinical trials. The **Infrastructure Grant** is designed to help an institution build capacity for and maintain a pediatric oncology Phase I and II clinical trials program by providing funding for adequate staffing, patient care, data management, etc.

**Application Deadline:** April 10, 2015

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**Recent Publications**

**Lung Master Protocol (Lung-MAP)-A Biomarker-Driven Protocol for Accelerating Development of Therapies for Squamous Cell Lung Cancer: SWOG S1400.**


Clin Cancer Res. 2015 Feb 13.

Read More >>

**Direct Binding of Retromer to Human Papillomavirus Type 16 Minor Capsid Protein L2 Mediates Endosome Exit during Viral Infection.**


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**High-throughput screening to identify inhibitors of lysine demethylases.**

Gale M, Yan Q.


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**Sirolimus and trastuzumab combination therapy for HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer after progression on prior trastuzumab therapy.**


In reply to rusthoven and kavanagh.
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Is it the time for personalized imaging protocols in cancer radiation therapy?
Zhang Y, Feng Y, Zhang Y, Ming X, Yu J, Carlson DJ, Kim J, Deng J.
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Urinary prostaglandin e2 metabolite and pancreatic cancer risk: case-control study in urban shanghai.
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A fatal case of primary cutaneous gamma-delta T-cell lymphoma complicated by HLH and cardiac amyloidosis.
Gibson JF, Kapur L, Sokhn J, Xu M, Foss FM.
Read More >>

Determinants of mammalian nucleolar architecture.
Farley KI, Surovtseva Y, Merkel J, Baserga SJ.
Chromosoma. 2015 Feb 12.
Read More >>

Glutamate Dehydrogenase 1 Signals through Antioxidant Glutathione Peroxidase 1 to Regulate Redox Homeostasis and Tumor Growth.
Cancer Cell. 2015 Feb 9;27(2):257-70.
Read More >>

Dacomitinib (PF-00299804), a second-generation irreversible pan-erbB receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor,
demonstrates remarkable activity against HER2-amplified uterine serous endometrialcancer in vitro.

Sweets for a bitter end: lung cancer cell-surface protein glycosylation mediates metastatic colonization.
Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

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