October 14, 2016

Announcements

Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH Named Director
I am pleased that Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital will soon benefit from the excellent reputation and leadership of Dr. Charles S. Fuchs, who has been named our next Director and Physician-in-Chief. Charlie is an internationally known scientist and clinician with expertise in gastrointestinal cancers. I believe his tenure here will come at the perfect time as the cancer center and hospital focus on building the infrastructure and sustainability needed to support our recent rapid growth, and prepare us for our next stage of development. Charlie will begin his tenure here on January 1 and I will work with him throughout his transition to Yale over the coming months to help minimize any impact to our daily operations.

Read More >>

New Care Center Oncologist
Khanh Nguyen, MD recently joined Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital as a clinician in our Derby Care Center. Dr. Nguyen joins us from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) where he completed his fellowship in Hematology/Oncology.

Dr. Nguyen received his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia and his residency at the University of Virginia Health System. His recent research includes the evaluation of endoplasmic reticulum stress modulator and autophagy inhibitor as a potential therapeutic option for pancreatic cancer. We are excited to welcome Dr. Nguyen to the Smilow community!

Screening Summit
The Smilow Screening & Prevention Program will host a Screening Summit for physicians on November 9 at 5:30pm at Yale's West Campus. The Summit will provide community physicians and healthcare providers with brief updates on screening guidelines for 4 common cancer types and the implemented recommendations at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Please RSVP to join us at this important event.

Learn More >>

Notables

Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD has been named Chair of the Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for Alliance Foundation Trials (AFT). AFT is a research organization that develops and conducts cancer clinical trials, working closely with pharmaceutical partners, research collaborators, and the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology scientific investigators and its institutional member network.

Andrea Kliss has joined the Smilow administration team in the office of Dr. Rogerio Lilenbaum as a
Program Coordinator. Andrea received her MA in Applied Clinical Psychology from Pennsylvania State University and comes to us with a strong program development and quality improvement background. She recently worked as a Cancer Program Coordinator for Catholic Health Initiatives, where she developed and executed cancer prevention screening programs within the community.

Research in the News

Study of ramucirumab plus pembrolizumab shows promise in NSCLC
In a phase I clinical trial, patients with previously treated advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) have showed initial response and disease control from the drug combination of ramucirumab and pembrolizumab. Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven, presented the interim data of the clinical trial at the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress.

This is the first study to combine ramucirumab, a VEGFR2 antibody, with pembrolizumab, a PD-1 antibody, to target both angiogenesis and immunosuppression simultaneously. Individually, both drugs have shown clinical activity in multiple tumor types.

Researchers find genes behind aggressive ovarian and endometrial cancers
In a major breakthrough for ovarian and uterine cancers, Yale researchers have defined the genetic landscape of rare, highly aggressive tumors called carcinosarcomas (CSs), pointing the way to possible new treatments.

The collaborative research team - which included experts in gynecological cancer, genomics, pathology and computational biology- performed a comprehensive genetic analysis of ovarian and endometrial CSs. The team collected tumors from 68 women affected with ovarian and uterine CSs to try to determine the molecular basis of the tumor’s aggressive behavior. They sequenced all the genes from the tumors and identified mutations that are crucial for these tumors to grow. The team also studied the copy number variations - genes

Why men should get screened for prostate cancer

Yale Developing Text System To Remind Breast Cancer Patients To Take Medication

From Rags to Riches: Bladder Cancer Research Rife With New Approaches

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook
that are not mutated but are amplified in the tumors to give them a growth advantage over normal tissues.

**Read More >>**

**New model for understanding myeloma**

In a new study, Yale professors Madhav Dhodapkar, Richard Flavell, and their co-authors describe new mouse models, wherein mice carry human versions of six genes that are essential for growth of tumor cells. The found that when the humanized mice were injected with tumor and non-tumor cells, both cell types were able to grow. The finding provides a potential new approach to understanding how myeloma develops and how to prevent it.

**Read More >>**

**New Member Profile: Patty Lee, MD**

Co-Leaders Peter Glazer and Joann Sweasy are pleased to welcome Patty Lee, MD, Associate Professor in Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, to the Radiobiology and Radiotherapy (RR) Research Program. Dr. Lee’s lab has had long-standing interests in oxidant-mediated mechanisms of lung injury and repair. Specifically, she uses genetic mouse models and molecular techniques to define the role of innate immune receptors, mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs), and heat shock proteins as key regulators of oxidant-mediated injury as well as cytoprotective lung responses. Collaborating with the Rimm, Glazer, and Sweasy Labs, the Lee Lab has generated exciting new data linking BRCA1 and p16 to lung DNA repair responses in smoking-induced lung diseases. Dr.

**Read More >>**

**LATEST POSTS:**

Dr. Meena Moran’s research interests focus on outcomes in breast cancer patients treated with radiation therapy, ethnic variations in breast cancer, and quality improvement in breast health care delivery. Her most recent study highlights the benefits of a radiation boost for women with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) breast cancer.

**Read More >>**

Check out this fantastic piece by Ashley Makar, who is receiving her treatment at Smilow. We can all learn something from reading her words, which challenge the way that we frame the narrative surrounding cancer. Thank you, Ashley, for not being afraid to speak up about this important issue.

**Read More >>**

Download our latest Yale Cancer Answers podcast to learn about breast cancer.
Lee welcomes the opportunity to deepen her research program in age- and smoke-related lung pathology, and also hopes to serve as a lung-resource for other YCC members.

**Employee Profile: Megan Vicario, RN**

Known as the 'Multiple Myeloma Queen,' Megan Vicario, RN, infusion nurse at the North Haven Care Center, works primarily with Dr. Martin Katz and patients diagnosed with hematological malignancies, many of them multiple myeloma patients. However, she also helps to treat and triage patients with various solid tumors such as breast, lung, and gastrointestinal cancers.

Megan administers chemotherapy treatments, handles prescription authorizations, and triages patient calls. A large portion of her day includes patient education and symptom management. A lot is done to manage symptoms at home, in order to avoid any unnecessary office visits and increase quality of life. Megan commented that the North Haven Care Center is one of the highest volume satellite clinics, and they can see anywhere from 25 to 55 patients in a day.

Much of Megan's passion for oncology nursing comes from her father's diagnosis with lung cancer when she was just a teenager. He was a non-smoker and very young when he was diagnosed. "Watching the compassionate care that my father received made me realize how important nurses are not just to the patient, but to the entire family unit," said Megan. "As my father's health started to decline, he had a home hospice nurse that we became very close to, and she was there with us when he passed away."

Researchers at Yale Cancer Center are testing a new virus they think may have an effect against chemotherapy-resistant ovarian cancer. The virus has proved itself against brain tumors in animal subjects, eliminating them completely, and Anthony N. Van den Pol, PhD, who leads the study, feels confident about the virus' effectiveness against ovarian cancer.

"Based on our very promising preliminary data, we expect that the virus will not only selectively infect and destroy ovarian cancer cells but lead to a dramatic increase in the lifespan of test animals beyond conventional chemotherapy," Van den Pol said.
Megan commented that it is very important for her to develop a relationship with patients early and be there for them throughout the stages of their disease. With new treatment regimens, multiple myeloma patients are often required to come in once or twice a week, which is thankfully increasing survival rates. "It is wonderful to see these patients doing well," said Megan.

Diane Corjulo, RN, BSN, Clinical Program Manager for the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers, commented, "Patients and families share that Megan is a wonderful and exceptional nurse. She is not afraid to discuss her concerns for her patients and she has a very nice way of collaborating with the provider. She is a strong advocate for patient safety and for policy and practice in her clinical setting."

Funding and Award Opportunities

All current funding opportunities are archived on the Yale Cancer Center website, and searchable by topic, funding agency, and due date. Please check the site often for new opportunities.

Learn More >>

Yale Pepper Center Letters of Intent

The Yale Pepper Center is soliciting letters of intent from full-time faculty members at Yale with interests and expertise relevant to aging research who would be interested in submitting a career development proposal (if currently within 4 years of first faculty appointment), a pilot project proposal, or a research development project.

Letter of Intent Deadline: October 17, 2016

Learn More >>

Melanoma Research Alliance Grants

The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) for high-impact translational research that has the potential to lead to near-term clinical application in melanoma prevention, detection, diagnosis, staging, and treatment. This cycle, proposals will be accepted for Young Investigator Awards, Established Investigator Awards, Pilot
Awards, and Academic-Industry Partnership Awards.

**Application Deadline:** October 21, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

**Women's Health Research at Yale 2016-2017 Pilot Project Program**

Pilot Project Awards: Up to $35,000 over one or two years for research designed to meet a pressing need in women's health with a clearly described path to direct clinical or public health utility.

Wendy U. and Thomas C. Naratil Pioneer Award: Up to $50,000 in funding over one or two years to initiate new investigations that are highly inventive or close to a major breakthrough in advancing women's health.

**Application Deadline:** October 27, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - Frederick National Laboratory For Cancer Research KRAS Fellowship**

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (FNLCR) have joined together to award two Fellowships to support research projects that are directly relevant and applicable to pancreatic cancer and KRAS and that align with the RAS Initiative that is being spearheaded by FNLCR.

**Deadline for Application:** October 27, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

**Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16)**

The Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Defense Appropriations Act provides $120 million (M) to the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) to support innovative, high-impact breast cancer research to accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer.

**Breakthrough Award**

Funding Levels 1 and 2:

[Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH named Director @YaleCancer and Physician-in-Chief of Smilow Cancer Hospital @YNHH](#)

[Join us now live on Facebook for In our Own Words, an essay series written and read by our patients](#)

[With cancer comes comes new experiences, new challenges & the greatest of compassionate, caring people...](#)

**Closer to Free**

[The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care](#)

**Upcoming Events**

**October 14; 12PM**

**Endocrine Grand Rounds**

BCMM 206/208

**Mechanisms of Immune Therapy for Cancer: What the Endocrinologist Should Know**

Scott Gettinger, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**October 15; 8AM**

**IMPACT: A Conference for Young Adults Living with Cancer and Beyond**

Park Street Auditorium

Tara Sanft, MD and Samantha Watson, SamFund

[Read More >>](#)

**October 17; 11AM**

**YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**

SHM I-304

**Nanoparticles for Site-specific Genome Editing in Utero**

Adele Ricciardi

[Read More >>](#)

**October 18; 9:30AM**
• Investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)
• Postdoctoral fellows are eligible and encouraged to apply

**Application Deadline:** November 3, 2016  
[Learn More >>]

**Pathway to Leadership Grant**
The Pathway to Leadership Grant is a grant of up to five years totaling up to $600,000 that is designed to build future leadership in the pancreatic cancer research community by supporting a highly promising postdoctoral or clinical research fellow during his or her mentored research and career development, continuing through his or her early phase of independence.  
**Application Deadline:** November 15, 2016  
[Learn More >>]

**Office of Disease Prevention Call for Nominations for Early-Stage Investigator Award**
The Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) at the National Institutes of Health invites submissions for the ODP Early-Stage Investigator Award. This inaugural award will recognize early-career prevention scientists who have already made substantial, outstanding research contributions to their respective fields and are poised to become future leaders in prevention research.  
**Deadline for Nominations:** November 15, 2016  
[Learn More >>]

**Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology (U01)**
This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites cooperative agreement applications for Research Projects that utilize systems biology approaches to address emerging questions in cancer initiation, progression, and treatment.  
**Application Receipt/Submission Date(s):** November 18, 2016  
[Read More >>]

**Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (U01)**
This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will support the development and characterization of state-of-the-art biomimetic tissue-engineered technologies for cancer research.
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Translational Research Grant
This grant supports an independent investigator leading a cross-disciplinary team conducting translational research that has as its endpoint the development of a pancreatic cancer assessment, prevention or treatment modality
Deadline for Application: December 1, 2016

ALSF Research Grants 2017 Funding Opportunities
Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) has evolved from the front yard lemonade stand of cancer patient Alexandra "Alex" Scott (1996-2004) into a national fundraising movement for childhood cancer research.

Open for Applications (funding to start in 2017):

- Innovation Grant - Letter of Intent, Deadline: Nov. 1, 2016 - Submit Now!
- Epidemiology Grants - Deadline: Dec. 15, 2016 - Apply Now!
- Young Investigator Grants - Deadline: Dec. 15, 2016 - Apply Now!

Recent Publications

A Comparison of Prognostic Ability of Staging Systems for Human Papillomavirus-Related Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma.

Hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.
Metabolite and Microbiome Interplay in Cancer Immunotherapy.
Read More >>

Diagnosis of cancer as an emergency: a critical review of current evidence.
Read More >>

Epigenetics in Cancer: A Hematological Perspective.
Read More >>

Microenvironment-dependent growth of preneoplastic and malignant plasma cells in humanized mice.
Read More >>

Brain-on-a-chip model enables analysis of human neuronal differentiation and chemotaxis.
Read More >>

Read More >>

Roy Herbst, MD, PhD
Read More >>

October 27; 9AM
Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
Smilow LL505
State of Yale New Haven Hospital and Health System
Thomas Balcezak, MD, MPH and Richard D’Aquila, MPH
Read More >>

October 27; 12PM
YCC Global Oncology Seminar Series
SHM I-116
Reducing Mortality of What Will be the #2 Cause of Cancer Death Five Years from Now
Harvey Risch, MD, PhD
Read More >>

October 27; 12:30PM
Pathology Grand Rounds
LMP 1094
Epigenetics: A Driver of DNA Copy Number and Drug Response
Johnathan Whetstine, PhD
Read More >>

October 27; 2:30PM
Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar
Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program, Suites 107-109
TBA
Read More >>

October 28; 7:30AM
Surgery Grand Rounds / 4th Annual Stephan Ariyan, MD, MBA Lectureship
Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094
TBA
Charles Balch, MD
Read More >>

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
Roles of defective ALDH2 polymorphism on liver protection and cancer development.
Read More >>

Transarterial Chemoembolization for the Treatment of Advanced-Stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma.
Read More >>

Exposure to inorganic arsenic can lead to gut microbe perturbations and hepatocellular carcinoma.
Read More >>

Toward automated assessment of health Web page quality using the DiSCERN instrument.
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Greedy outcome weighted tree learning of optimal personalized treatment rules.
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Survival Outcomes for Combined Modality Therapy for Sinonasal Undifferentiated Carcinoma.
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Continuous home care reduces hospice disenrollment and hospitalization after hospice enrollment.
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