July 14, 2017

Announcements

Frederick Wilson, MD, PhD Appointed to Medical Oncology

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Frederick Wilson will join the section of medical oncology on September 1 as an Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology, specializing in lung cancer. Rick joins us from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute where he is currently a Clinical Instructor of Medicine in the Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology. He completed his undergraduate studies at Duke University before earning his PhD in biochemistry and genetics at Yale University and his medical degree at Harvard Medical School.

Smilow Cancer Hospital Launches Transtem Patient Software

Last month, our stem cell transplant program implemented Transtem Patient Software to provide data management for our blood and marrow transplant program. The systems allows us to more easily and accurately report data to the Center for International
Blood and Marrow Transplant Research, automates our reporting, and increases the overall efficiency of our program operations while maintaining regulatory compliance.

**Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer Hosts National Meeting**

The Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer hosted the Annual Retreat of Skin Cancer SPOREs earlier this week at The Quinnipiack Club in New Haven. Organized by Ruth Halaban, PhD, the meeting included 70 investigators from the SPORE sites: MD Anderson Cancer Center, Moffitt Cancer Center, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, the Wistar Institute/University of Pennsylvania, and Yale. We were also very proud to host Toby Hecht, Associate Director, Translational Research Program, and Julia Arnold, Program Director, Translational Research Program from the NIH/NCI, our Lung SPORE leaders from Yale Cancer Center, and collaborators from IBM’s Watson and IsoPlexis. The meeting began on Monday afternoon, was followed by a lovely reception and dinner, and continued through Tuesday. The general subjects of discussion were: Epidemiology, Screening and Molecular Biomarkers, New Technologies for Cancer, New Targets for Melanoma Therapy, Immunobiology of Melanoma, Predictive Biomarkers for Immunotherapy Activity and Toxicity, and New Trials and Trial Designs.

**NIH Next Generation Researchers Initiative**

The NIH has launched the Next Generation Researchers Initiative to bolster support for early-stage and mid-career investigators to address longstanding challenges faced by researchers trying to embark upon and sustain independent research careers. The NIH will take a multi-pronged approach to increase the number of NIH-funded early-stage and mid-career investigators and stabilize the career trajectory of scientists by further extending the payline for R01 equivalent applications from early stage investigators and providing additional support for mid-career investigators, defined as investigators who are within 10 years of receiving their first NIH R01 equivalent award, whose applications score in the top 25 percentile.

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**Notables**

Wendell Yarbrough, MD. Clinical Program Leader for the Head and Neck Cancers Program at Smilow Cancer New Greenwich Hospital device hones in on cancer cells
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First Time Rider to Honor Mom Battling Breast Cancer at Closer to Free
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Monitoring a Cancer Tumor is Sometimes Better Than Aggressive Treatment, Study Finds
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LATEST POSTS:
Hospital, has been appointed to the National Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network Head and Neck Steering Committee (HNSC). The Committee was established in 2007. At monthly meetings, the HNSC addresses the design, prioritization, and evaluation of concepts for phase II and phase III clinical trials in adult head and neck cancers.

**Development Update**

Dr. Stephan Ariyan and Dr. David Fischer

Thank you to Dr. Stephan Ariyan, who provided the funding needed to purchase a new monitor/screen for the tumor board room on NP 4 at Smilow Cancer Hospital. A plaque was installed and a small ceremony was held to acknowledge the gift from Dr. Ariyan during a Melanoma Tumor Board Conference last month.

**Employee Profile: Ellen Ferraro**

As a nurse on the inpatient Surgical Oncology Unit

Marissa Antonio was a new mother when she found out she had advanced liver cancer. Today, her daughter is seven years old and Marissa is working through the post-treatment portion of her journey. "She knows what I have been through and that I plan to be here for her for a long time," Marissa said. "This was a long journey for all of us, full of obstacles and setbacks. I always tell people that I was treated at the best hospital, with the best doctors. They never gave up on me, and I am so thankful that they kept believing my life was worth saving."

Listen to Dr. Steven Gore discuss "Unlocking the Secrets of Cancer" with Yale Cancer Center researcher, Dr. Jesse Rinehart on WNPR.

After being diagnosed at the age of 19 with Hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell cancer (HLRCC), a rare form of kidney cancer with no known cure, Andrew Lee started Driven to Cure, a nonprofit organization to bring awareness and research funding to find a cure for rare kidney cancer diseases. To date, Driven to Cure has raised more than $300,000 and this year we are proud to be one of its beneficiaries. Thank you Andrew and the Lee Family for your inspiring dedication and support!
at Smilow, Ellen Ferraro, RN BSN CMSRN CNIII, makes it her goal to set every patient on a healing path as soon as they arrive. Caring for patients from five different disease teams means that there are different care paths and plans that need to be managed. Ellen spends much of her day teaching patients how to care for themselves following tracheostomies and total laryngectomies and also how to manage drains, ostomies, and catheters after urologic and general surgery.

Ellen has been a nurse for 29 years, and a part of the Surgical Oncology Unit for seven. She commented that airway management and cardiac monitoring are very important aspects of what she does and understanding what each patient needs before she enters their room. "We want patients to feel comfortable and confident when they leave here, whether they are going home or to a rehab facility," said Ellen. "I spend a lot of time with patients and family members making sure they can manage their own care before they leave. Watching them walk out of here confident and ready for the next step is why we do what we do."

When needed, Ellen coordinates with social work and chaplaincy to assist with any psychosocial issues that may arise. Communication with the care coordinator is also essential. She commented that a lot of patients are waiting to learn what their prognosis is or what the next steps are. This brings a lot of stress and anxiety and having the right resources in place from the start can help. Cara Henderson, RN, BSN, CMSRN, Patient Service Manager at Smilow, commented, "Ellen has been a dedicated YNHH employee for 29 years and has been instrumental in the education of new nurses as well as patients and families. She is also a 2017 Nightingale Award recipient and exemplifies Smilow Cancer Hospital's mission and values."

We are proud to report that Yale New Haven Children's Hospital has again made it on the U.S. News and World Report's Best Children's Hospital rankings, being classified as among the best in the nation for eight of its subspecialties, including pediatric cancer care.

Happy UV Safety month! The link between exposure to UV (ultraviolet) rays and skin cancer risk has long been noted within the scientific community, and practicing safe sun habits is important for everyone, especially during the summer months. Wearing broad-spectrum sunscreen (and reapplying throughout the day), as well as reducing sun exposure during peak hours are a few ways you can reduce your risk.
**Funding Opportunities**

**Cooperative Agreement to Develop Targeted Agents for Use with Systemic Agents Plus Radiotherapy (U01)**

This FOA invites cooperative agreement (U01) applications that propose studies to enhance pre-clinical in vitro and in vivo testing of NCI-prioritized molecularly targeted anti-cancer agents for use with radiation therapy combined with systemic chemotherapy.

**Application Deadline:** July 14, 2017

Learn More>>

**Breast Cancer Alliance Young Investigator Award**

BCA invites clinical doctors and research scientists whose primary focus is breast cancer and who are in the early stages of their careers to apply for funding for the Young Investigator Grant.

**Application Deadline:** July 22, 2017

Learn More>>

**Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Developmental Research Program Award**

Provide support of up to $50,000 for innovative pilot projects focused on a broad spectrum of research, and/or technology development applicable to human lung cancer prevention, early detection and/or other population science research. Contact Ed Kaftan PRIOR to starting your application.

**Full Applications Due:**
No later than 9:00 AM on July 24, 2017

Learn More >>

**ACS-MRA Research for Proposals/Multidisciplinary Team Award**

To facilitate research focused on prevention, risk, early detection, and management of short- and long-term immune-related adverse events (irAEs) associated with FDA-approved or late-stage development checkpoint cancer immunotherapies for melanoma and other cancers.

**Deadline for LOI:** August 1, 2017

Learn More >>

Congratulations to Dr. Jill Lacy, who was recently selected to receive the 2017 Annual David S. Fischer Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring of Fellows in Medical Oncology. Teaching and mentoring young doctors is of crucial importance, and we are grateful to have dedicated doctors like Dr. Lacy who are amazing at what they do.

Read More >>

Congratulations to Steven Gore, MD, Professor of Medicine and Director of Hematologic Malignancies here at Yale Cancer Center, on being named Co-Chair of the National Cancer Institute’s National Clinical Trials Network Leukemia Steering Committee! Dr. Gore will take on this leadership position after serving as a member of the committee, which is charged with increasing the overall efficacy of clinical trials for patients with
Utilizing the PLCO Biospecimens Resource to Bridge Gaps in Cancer Etiology and Early Detection Research (U01)

This (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 PLCO Screening Trial.

**Application Deadline:** August 15, 2017

Learn More >>

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**Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for 2017:**

**Breakthrough Award**

**Deadlines for Full Applications:**
- Level 1 & 2 Due: June 15, 2017
- Level 3 & 4 Due: August 31, 2017

**Innovator Award**

**Deadline for Application:** August 31, 2017

Learn More>>

**Distinguished Investigator Award**

**Deadline for Application:** August 31, 2017

Learn More>>

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**Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for 2017:**

**Clinical Consortium Award**

**LOI Due:** August 24, 2017

**Idea Development Award**

**LOI Due:** July 14, 2017

**Physician Research Award**

**LOI Due:** July 27, 2017

**Early Investigator Research Award**

**LOI Due:** July 27, 2017

**Prostate Cancer Pathology Resource Network Award**

**LOI Due:** August 24, 2017

Learn More>>
Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Nurse Researcher Grants

ALSF’s Nurse Researcher Grants program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for young cancer patients and their families by supporting studies to discover better ways to care for children undergoing treatment. This year, ALSF is offering two grants:

**Discovery Grant**
**Application deadline:** August 21, 2017

**Nurse Researcher Fellowship**
**Application deadline:** September 25, 2017
[Learn More>>]

Elsa U. Pardee Foundation Request for Proposals
The Pardee Foundation provides support to investigators in U.S. nonprofit institutions proposing research aimed at identifying new treatments or cures for cancer.

**Application Deadline:** August 31, 2017
[Learn More >>]

SU2C Dream Team Translational Cancer Research Grant
SU2C is inviting proposals for a new $10 million Dream Team of top scientific investigators searching for new strategies to prevent or treat cancer. The new $10 million grant is open to any type of translational cancer research.

**Letter of Intent Due:** September 5, 2017
[Learn More >>]

Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in Hematology/Oncology
The Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Programs provide financial support to junior faculty researchers for a 2-year period.

**Application deadline:** September 8, 2017
[Learn More>>]

Department of Defense
**Lung Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for 2017:**

**Career Development Award**

**Letter of Intent Due:** September 13, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

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**The Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (U01)**

This 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:** September 21, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

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**Recent Publications**

- **Surveillance and Outcomes of Nonresected Presumed Branch-Duct Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms: A Meta-analysis.**
  Ooka K, Rustagi T, Evans A, Farrell JJ.
  [Read More >>](#)

- **Cancer genomics: Less is more in the hunt for driver mutations.**
  Kumar S, Gerstein M.
  [Read More >>](#)

- **Associations of Hospice Disenrollment and Hospitalization With Continuous Home Care Provision.**
  Wang SY, Dang W, Aldridge MD, Canavan M, Cherlin E, Bradley E.
  Med Care. 2017 Jul 7.
  [Read More >>](#)
Endocrine-related adverse events associated with immune checkpoint blockade and expert insights on their management.
Sznol M, Postow MA, Davies MJ, Pavlick AC, Plimack ER, Shaheen M, Veloski C, Robert C.
Cancer Treat Rev. 2017 Jun 22;58:70-76.
Read More >>

Treatment guidelines and patterns of care in oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma: Primary surgical resection vs. nonsurgical treatment.
Fujiwara RJT, Burtness B, Husain ZA, Judson BL, Bhatia A, Sasaki CT, Yarbrough WG, Mehra S.
Read More >>

Brachytherapy Boost Utilization and Survival in Unfavorable-risk Prostate Cancer.
Johnson SB, Lester-Coll NH, Kelly JR, Kann BH, Yu JB, Nath SK.
Read More >>

Effectiveness of Screening Modalities in Colorectal Cancer: A Network Meta-Analysis.
Read More >>

Targeting histone demethylases in MYC-driven neuroblastomas with ciclopirox.
Read More >>

SYD985, a Novel Duocarmycin-Based HER2-Targeting Antibody-Drug Conjugate, Shows Antitumor Activity in Uterine and Ovarian Carcinosarcoma with HER2/Neu Expression.


Artificial human antigen presenting cells are superior to dendritic cells at inducing cytotoxic T cell responses. Li H, Shao S, Cai J, Burner D, Lu L, Chen Q, Minev B, Ma W. Immunology. 2017 Jun 30. Read More >>


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Annual Facility Treatment Volume and Patient Survival for Mycosis Fungoides and Sézary Syndrome.
Kann BH, Park HS, Yeboa DN, Aneja S, Girardi M, Foss FM, Roberts KB, Wilson LD.
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