June 2, 2017

**Announcements**

**Yale at ASCO**

I am looking forward to joining many of you at ASCO this weekend, and to celebrating the many research and clinical accomplishments that you will present. Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital are fortunate to have many abstracts accepted for oral and poster presentations, and participation in a number of educational sessions. If you will be in Chicago this weekend, please schedule time to support your colleagues at their presentations. I also hope you will join us for a reception at 8:30PM on Sunday at the Hilton Chicago.

**YCC Participation at ASCO**

**Notables**

Congratulations to [Lajos Pusztai, MD](mailto:lajos.pusztai@yale.edu), who has been appointed Chairman of the [SWOG Breast Committee](https://www.sswog.org). In planning, Dr. Pusztai will first focus on need, selecting disease areas where little progress has been made, such as metastatic triple negative breast cancer. Second, he plans to focus on value, launching studies that examine multiple effective treatments to determine which is the most cost-effective. We look forward to his leadership at SWOG.

The [Conquer Cancer Foundation](https://www.conquer.org) will award two of our fellows with [Young Investigator Awards (YIA)](https://www.conquer.org) during a ceremony at ASCO this weekend. [Dr. Michael Cecchini](mailto:Michael.Cecchini@YaleMed.edu) will receive the Pfizer YIA for his project “A Mutational Signature as a Biomarker for Response to Olaparib and Ramucirumab for Metastatic Gastric Cancer.” Jill Lacy, MD, mentors Dr. Cecchini. [Dr. Brian Henick](mailto:Brian.Henick@YaleMed.edu) will receive the AbbVie, Inc YIA to support his...
project, "Understanding the role of macrophages as determinants of sensitivity and resistance to PD-1 axis therapy in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).” Dr. Roy Herbst mentors Dr. Henick.

Connecticut Magazine's 2017 "Top Docs" list includes 28 Smilow Cancer Hospital physicians, who were selected based on a survey of their peers. Congratulations to the following physicians for their selection:

Daniel Boffa  
Jean Bolognia  
Frank Detterbeck  
Richard Edelson  
Neal Fischbach  
Harris Foster  
Scott Gettinger  
David Hesse  
Elizabeth Holt  
Silvio Inzucchi  
Gary Israel  
Anamika Katoch  
Martin Katz  
Jeremy Kortmansky  
Jill Lacy  
Johanna LaSala  
Alfred Lee  
David Leffell  
Walter Longo  
Thomas Martin  
John Persing  
Joseph Piepmeier  
Vikram Reddy  
Kert Sabbath  
Lynn Tanoue  
Robert Weiss  
David Witt

OncLive presented its annual Giants of Oncology awards last night at a ceremony in Chicago. Congratulations to Dr. Daniel Petrylak, who received the award for Genitourinary Cancers.

During the Yale School of Medicine commencement ceremonies, Yale Cancer Center members received recognition for their contributions to the teaching of the medical school students. The Alvan R. Feinstein Award for outstanding teaching of clinical skills went to Tamar Taddei, MD, associate professor of medicine (digestive diseases) and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Virus and Other Infection-associated Cancers Research Program. The Leah M. Lowenstein Award for excellence in the promotion of humane and egalitarian medical education went to Alfred Lee, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine (hematology).
Stacey Stein, MD, assistant professor of medicine (medical oncology), completed the Yale School of Medicine Faculty Fellowship program in May. The yearlong program develops clinician educators to provide educational leadership in their departments through 18 sessions, culminating with a presentation at Medical Education Day in May. Dr. Stein presented a redesign of the medical oncology medical student elective.

Eamon Duffy, a student at Yale School of Medicine who has worked in the laboratory of Dr. Madhav Dhodapkar, has earned a Hematology Opportunities for the Next-Generation of Research Scientists (HONORS) award from the American Society of Hematology (ASH).

Research in the News

Precancerous Lesions Associated with HPV Dropping in Connecticut
The vaccine for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is proving to have significant population-level effects in Connecticut, with rates of precancerous lesions caused by HPV down drastically among young women, a new Yale School of Public Health study finds.

The study used data collected between 2008 and 2015 and revealed that rates of cervical lesions caused by HPV, known as cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grades 2-3 and adenocarcinoma in situ (CIN2+), declined in that period by between 30 percent and 74 percent among women 21 to 26 years old. The total number of cases reported declined over this period from 2,163 in 2008 to 1,540 in 2015.

"Sticky" particles promise more precise drug delivery for brain cancer
A Yale research team has found that by tinkering with the surface properties of drug-loaded nanoparticles, they can potentially direct these particles to specific cells in the brain.

By making nanoparticles bioadhesive, or "sticky," the researchers have answered a long-standing question:

Yale Study: Minority Breast Cancer Patients Less Likely To Have Genetic Test

New Studies Help Colon Cancer Survivors Stay Cancer-free

9 Ways to Lower Skin Cancer Risk

Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook
Once you get the particles to the brain, how do you get them to interact with the cancer cells there?

#OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized administrative assistant Marion Miller for her outstanding help in preparation for an upcoming renovation project. Marion knew all the right people to call, had supply closets packed within hours, and proactively facilitated the necessary logistics behind temporarily relocating her colleagues. Marion’s kind demeanor and never-ending willingness to help others makes her an invaluable asset to the YCC team. Thank you, Marion!

Yale Cancer Center’s #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS program is a staff recognition initiative to show appreciation to employees who have exemplified an above-and-beyond effort or an outstanding contribution to the team. All nominations should be submitted to the Director’s Office, c/o Anna Raso.

Funding and Award Opportunities

Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology (U01)
This FOA invites cooperative agreement applications for Research Projects that utilize systems biology approaches to address emerging questions in cancer initiation, progression, and treatment.

Application Deadline: June 23, 2017

We’ve got the perfect recipe to help you kick off peach season! This peach and basil salad with fresh mozzarella from the American Institute for Cancer Research - AICR is a refreshing, flavor-packed meal that’s also full of protein - what more could you want? Simply mix the peaches, basil, and mozzarella into a large mixing bowl, add the rest of the ingredients and toss. Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to four hours.

Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology (U01)
This FOA invites cooperative agreement applications for Research Projects that utilize systems biology approaches to address emerging questions in cancer initiation, progression, and treatment.

Application Deadline: June 23, 2017

Funding and Award Opportunities

Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology (U01)
This FOA invites cooperative agreement applications for Research Projects that utilize systems biology approaches to address emerging questions in cancer initiation, progression, and treatment.

Application Deadline: June 23, 2017

We’ve got the perfect recipe to help you kick off peach season! This peach and basil salad with fresh mozzarella from the American Institute for Cancer Research - AICR is a refreshing, flavor-packed meal that’s also full of protein - what more could you want? Simply mix the peaches, basil, and mozzarella into a large mixing bowl, add the rest of the ingredients and toss. Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to four hours.
NCCN/Pfizer Request for Proposals: Clinical Pathways in Breast Cancer

NCCN is pleased to announce it is collaborating with Pfizer's Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC) team to offer a new grant opportunity seeking proposals that use clinical pathways to address a quality improvement initiative along the continuum of care for breast cancer patients.

**Letter of Intent Due:** June 26, 2017

SU2C/Genetech Catalyst Research Grant

Stand Up To Cancer announces a second Catalyst™ collaboration with Genentech.

**Proposals Due:** June 27, 2017

Department of Defense Lung Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for 2017

**Concept Award**

**Letter of Intent Due:** July 27

**Career Development Award**

**Letter of Intent Due:** September 13

**Idea Development Award**

**Preproposal Due:** June 28

**Investigator-Initiated Translational Research Award**

**Preproposal Due:** June 28

**Translational Research Partnership Award**

**Preproposal Due:** June 28

A team from Yale Cancer Center traveled to the recent LUNG FORCE Expo in Hartford to educate patients and caregivers on the latest in lung cancer prevention, treatment, and research. Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer of women in the United States, and the American Lung Association's Lung Force initiative aims to unite women and their loved ones to educate everyone about lung cancer.

Thank you to Dr. Roy Herbst, Cindy Bensley, and Polly Sather for their presentations!

Congratulations to Lajos Pusztai, MD, DPhil, Chief of Breast Medical Oncology and Co-Director of the Yale Cancer Center Genetics, Genomics and Epigenetics Program, for his recent appointment as Chair of the Breast Committee of SWOG Cancer Research. SWOG Cancer Research is a nationwide network of cancer researchers who design clinical trials to improve the lives and outcomes of cancer patients.
To address the cancer health needs of both deployed and non-deployed personnel, their dependents, retirees, and veterans.

**Idea Award with Special Focus**
**Preapplication Due:** June 30, 2017

**Translational Team Science Award**
**Preapplication Due:** June 30, 2017

[Learn More>>]

**Lung Cancer Research Foundation Grant**
The Lung Cancer Research Foundation has announced its funding opportunities for research projects in basic, translational, and clinical research, supportive care, and quality of care/outcomes.

**Application Deadline:** July 1, 2017

[Learn More>>]

**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>>]

**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

**Breakthrough Fellowship Award**
**Deadline for Application:** June 15, 2017

**Era of Hope Scholar Award**
**Deadline for Application:** June 15, 2017

We are proud to announce that the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program at Smilow has been named a Center for Excellence in Pancreatic Cancer by The National Pancreas Foundation. We are proud of this recognition, and would like to thank Dr. James Farrell for leading the application process. Congratulations to each physician, caregiver, and staff member in our Gastrointestinal Cancers Program!

A new study from Charles Fuchs MD, Director of Yale Cancer Center and Physician-in-Chief of Smilow Cancer Hospital, has established a connection between nut consumption levels and outcomes in colon cancer patients.

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter
Innovator Award  
Deadline for Application: August 31, 2017

Distinguished Investigator Award  
Deadline for Application: August 31, 2017

Learn More>>

Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for 2017

Clinical Consortium Award  
LOI Due: August 24, 2017

Impact Award  
LOI Due: July 7, 2017

Health Disparity Research Award  
LOI Due: July 7, 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>>

Recent Publications

Optimism, symptom distress, illness appraisal, and coping in patients with advanced-stage cancer diagnosis undergoing chemotherapy treatment.  
Catherine Sumpio, Sangchoon Jeon, Laurel L. Northouse, M. Tish Knobf  
ONF 2017, 44(3), 384-392
Underutilization of proton therapy in the treatment of pediatric central nervous system tumors: an analysis of the National Cancer Database.
Khan AJ, Kann BH, Pan W, Drachtman R, Roberts K, Parikh RR.

MIF family cytokines in cardiovascular diseases and prospects for precision-based therapeutics.
Tilstam PV, Qi D, Leng L, Young L, Bucala R.

Caring for the Older Population With Advanced Lung Cancer.
Presley CJ, Reynolds CH, Langer CJ.

Hematologic Malignancies: Plasma Cell Disorders.
Dhodapkar MV, Borrello I, Cohen AD, Stadtmauer EA.

skin Cancers in Organ Transplant Recipients.
Mittal A, Colegio OR.

Epigenetic modifications in poorly differentiated and anaplastic thyroid cancer.
Sasanakietkul T, Murtha TD, Javid M, Korah R, Carling T.

Genome-wide mediation analysis of psychiatric and cognitive traits through imaging phenotypes.
Hum Brain Mapp. 2017 May 22.
B7-H3 expression in NSCLC and its association with B7-H4, PD-L1 and Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes.
Altan M, Pelekanou V, Schalper KA, Toki MI, Gaule P, Syrigos KN, Herbst RS, Rimm DL.
Read More >>

Mini-review of conventional and hypofractionated radiation therapy combined with immunotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer.
Campbell AM, Decker RH.
Read More >>

Pancreatic Cysts and Guidelines.
Farrell JJ.
Read More >>

June 5; 12PM
YCC Epigenetics Research in Progress Seminar
BCMM 206/208
Elucidating Novel Factors that Target Somatic Hypermutation
Ravi Dinesh
The Role of AID/APOBEC Proteins in Genome Instability in Multiple Myeloma
Rashu Seth, PhD
ASCO 2017
Read More >>

June 6; 9:30AM
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
TAC N-107
TBA
Jade Xiujian Li and Erin Boisvert, PhD
Read More >>

June 6; 12PM
YCC/SCH Schwartz Center Rounds
Park Street Auditorium
How Much Do We Push?
Read More >>

June 8; 2:30PM
Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar
SRC, Suites 107-109
Read More >>

June 9; 1:30PM
Pharmacology Seminar Series
Brady Auditorium, B-131
unPAKing the Importance of Group II PAKs During Cancer Cell Migration
Claire Wells, PhD
Read More >>

June 10; 10AM
American Cancer Society Relay for Life: Hamden/North Haven
Hamden Town Center Park
Read More >>

June 11; 7:30PM
Yale Cancer Answers
WNPR 90.5
*Cardiac Risk for Prostate Cancer Patients*
Nataniel Lester-Coll, MD
Read More >>

**June 13; 9:30AM**
Pathology Research in Progress Talk
TAC N-107
TBA
Vasiliki Pelekanou MD, PhD and Alexandra Albert
Read More >>

**June 13; 12PM**
YCC Grand Rounds/Yale Program on Aging Joint Visiting Professorship
Park Street Auditorium
*Cancer in Older Adults: The Top Five Things Healthcare Providers Need to Know*
Arti Hurria, MD
Read More >>

**June 13; 8AM**
Liver, Pancreas, and Biliary Symposium
CT Convention Center
Trinity Health New England Symposium
Read More >>

**June 15; 9AM**
Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
Smilow LL05
*The Evolution of Regional Nodal Irradiation in Breast Cancer*
Bruce Haffty, MD
Read More >>

---

**Submissions**

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:
Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
renee.gaudette@yale.edu