May 5, 2017

Announcements

YCC Goes to Capitol Hill

Yale Cancer Center participated in AACR, ASCO, and AACI's annual Hill Day this week with a contingent of faculty members visiting the legislative leadership from Connecticut on Capitol Hill. The day is focused on advocacy for sustained and increased funding support for cancer research to the NIH through the federal budget process. On Wednesday, the House approved the spending increase in the current Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which includes a $2 billion increase in funding to the NIH, and $5.689 billion allocated to the NCI; the Senate approved the budget yesterday.

from the desk of
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale
NewHaven Health
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Recent News
Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center
News Center >>
A Celebration of Survivorship
Patients and their loved ones gathered at the Yale West Campus Conference Center last night for our annual celebration of survivorship and were entertained with an hour of comedy by T.P. Mulrooney. The room was filled with laughter as T.P. delighted our guests with stories of his travels, his treatment, and his forays into golf. Four years ago, T.P. was sidelined from his comedy tours by stage IV throat cancer only to return stronger and with a renewed outlook. His inspiration and humor was a wonderful way to celebrate with our patients.

Pilot Awards Announced
Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2017 Pilot Funding, which is distributed in $50,000 increments to support each research project. The following projects will receive funding for the coming year:
Cancer Immunology
Nikhil Joshi, PhD, Assistant Professor, Immunobiology
Investigating early immune-tumor interactions in genetically engineered mouse cancer models

Cancer Prevention and Control
Leah M. Ferrucci, PhD, MPH, Associate Research Scientist & Lecturer, Yale School of Public Health
Caroline Johnson, PhD, Assistant Professor, Environmental Health Sciences
Tara Sanft, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine (Medical Oncology)
Gut microbiota and metabolite profiles among breast cancer survivors in a weight-loss intervention

Genetics, Genomics, and Epigenetics
Manoj M. Pillai, MD, Associate Professor, Medicine
Targeting Musashi 2 (MSI2) in aggressive myeloid leukemia

Radiotherapy and Radiobiology
Megan C. King, PhD, Associate Professor, Cell Biology
Impacts of resection pathway mechanism choice and efficiency in PARP inhibitor resistance

Signal Transduction
Anthony J. Koleske, PhD, Professor, Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry
Rong Fan, PhD, Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering
Single cell profiling of CTCs and CTC clusters in castration-resistant prostate cancer

Virus and Other Infection-associated Cancers
Andrew L. Goodman, PhD, Associate Professor, Microbial Pathogenesis and Microbial Sciences Institute
Defining the role of gut microbiome variation in the efficacy and safety of chemotherapeutics

Yong Xiong, PhD, Associate Professor, Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry
Targeting SAMHD1 as a New Approach to Improve AML Treatment

GynOnc in Waterbury
Dr. Elena Ratner will offer expanded office hours in Waterbury at our Smilow Care Center on the first and third Friday of the month from 8:30 to 12 noon. Please consider referring women to her practice in Waterbury who may benefit from the convenience of a location closer to their home. Patients can be referred through Epic using SMILOW GYN ONCOLOGY - Waterbury or by calling (203) 200-4176.

Liver Symposium
Please join Smilow Cancer Hospital and Saint Francis Hospital for a multidisciplinary symposium on liver, pancreas, and biliary disease on June 14. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the available options to manage complex hepatobiliary-related diseases.
Learn More >>

Notables
Melinda Irwin, PhD, and Tara Sanft, MD, co-principal investigators, have received an R-01 to support their project, "A randomized trial of lifestyle guidelines on breast cancer biomarkers and treatment adherence." The trial will examine the effect of a one-year dietary and physical activity guidelines intervention vs. usual care on adherence to adjuvant breast cancer in 250 women newly diagnosed with Stage I-III breast cancer who are not practicing dietary and lifestyle guidelines, and who are scheduled to receive adjuvant chemotherapy.

The American Society for Investigative Pathology has selected Katerina Politi, PhD, as the recipient of the 2017 Cotran Early Investigator Award. The award recognizes early career investigators with demonstrated excellence as an investigator.

Congratulations to Tamara Carroll, MD, on her award for her presentation, "Impact of Digital Breast

We are delighted to announce that Yale Cancer Center’s Katerina Politi, PhD, has been selected to receive the 2017 American Society for Investigative Pathology’s Cotran Early Career Investigator Award. The award is given to recognize researchers early in their career who have done significant work to help further understand the basis of disease.

Members of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Network recently participated in a one-day American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) workshop focused on quality improvement. Eleven project teams of physicians and staff from every Smilow Care Center and St. Francis Hospital participated in this pilot event for ASCO’s Quality Training Workshops in the Community.

Read More >>

Watch this quick 1-minute video from our nutrition department to learn how to make Mason jar salads! Share the video and
“Tomosynthesis” from the Society of Breast Imaging. Dr. Carroll received one of two awards from the Society, out of 220 submissions.

Congratulations to our nursing team, who are well represented at Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) 42nd Annual Congress this week in Denver. The following abstracts will be presented:

**Poster Sessions:**

*Engaging Patients and Caregivers in Assessing Chemotherapy Competency*
Lisa Barbarotta and Kristen Roche

*Coping Strategies for Staff Caring for Actively Dying Patients: Implementation of Guided Imagery and Staff Perception of Compassion Fatigue*
Samanth Herlihy, Mercy Asomaning, and Kelsey Osinski

*One Orientation Does Not Fit All: Development of the Ambulatory Practice Nurse Orientation*
Monica Fradkin and Kristen Roche

**Clinical Sessions:**

*Oncology Grand Rounds CNE Series: Nurse and Physician Investigators Discuss New Agents, Novel Therapies, and Actual Cases from Practice - Part 2 - Cancer Immunotherapy*
Daniel Petrylak, MD

*Global Oncology Nursing 101*
Christa Roe

*Team Science: A Discussion with the Experts*
Ruth McCorkle

*Leveraging Technology to Optimize the Care of Patients Treated with Immunotherapy*
Monica Fradkin, Lisa Barbarotta, Emily Duffield, Kelly Guttman, Michelle Randall-Doran, and Laura Tuttle

*Wisdom and Wit: Updates from the ONS Distinguished Nurse Researchers*

Plan to bring one to work or school tomorrow!

Read More >>

Tune in to WNPR today at 7:30PM for a discussion on healthcare quality and access on Yale Cancer Answers.

Read More >>

Mark your calendars! Smilow Cancer Hospital is sponsoring the annual Kids HUGS - a community bike ride to raise money for children affected by cancer. Join us on May 7th at 10AM to know that you're making a difference in a child's life.
Yale Researchers Identify Optimal Therapy for Patients with Early-Stage Glottic Cancer (Vocal Chord Cancer)

Radiotherapy alone is often used to treat early-stage glottic cancer (ESGC), a cancer of the vocal chords, however, the optimal radiation treatment schedule remains unknown. Both hypofractionated radiotherapy (HFX) and conventionally-fractionated radiotherapy (CFX) are recommended treatment options. In an attempt to compare differences in overall survival between the two approaches, a team of Yale Cancer Center researchers compared treatment patterns among patients treated with HFX versus CFX for ESGC using a large national database.

The Yale Cancer Center research team used clinical data from 10,212 patients diagnosed with stage 1 or 2 glottic cancer from 2004-2013. 4,030 patients (39.5%) received HFX and 6,182 patients (60.5%) received CFX. The study found that HFX is associated with improved survival compared to CFX among patients treated with definitive radiotherapy for ESGC, particularly among patients with stage 2 disease.

Employee Profile: Wendelin Nelson

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LATEST TWEETS:
Wendelin Nelson, PharmD, BCOP, is a Clinical Specialist in Oncology Pharmacy for the Gynecologic Oncology Program at Smilow and is an integral member of the team. She appreciates the multidisciplinary problem-solving and collaborative approach of the group. "There is a palpable esprit de corps attitude amongst the NP-14 staff, which makes working on that unit rewarding," said Wendelin.

It is her responsibility to ensure appropriate medication use both in terms of indication and preventing side effects and drug interactions. She reviews each patient's case individually and assesses their needs based on several criteria. Wendelin also takes part in Transition of Care Rounds, where it is discussed how patients can effectively transition their care to the outpatient setting. "We want to make sure there are no barriers when it comes to access to appropriate medications," said Wendelin. "I work closely with the Medication Assistance Program (MAP) here which helps uninsured and underinsured people gain access to the life-saving drugs they need, despite cost."

Wendelin has spent her entire career in hospital pharmacy, and has been at Yale since 2002, before the opening of Smilow. She commented that it has been fascinating to watch the growth of the oncology service. "Since Smilow opened the growth has been exponential and was handled with such care, consideration, and insight by our leadership. It is deeply rewarding to be a part of the team here."

Osama Abdelghany, PharmD BCOP, Oncology Pharmacy Clinical Manager, commented, "Wendelin has been a great asset to the Oncology Pharmacy Department since she joined the team. She has a profound passion for the profession and over the years has been an amazing teacher and great mentor to many pharmacists, myself included."

A quick visit with .@SenBlumenthal to discuss NCI#cancer funding and support during #HillDay with @AACR@ASCO@ACCI_Cancer #Thankyou

Thank you .@ACSNewEngland .@ACS_Research for supporting Dr. Jensen's research on DNA repair and cancer risk.

Expanded Center for Genome Analysis opens @YaleWestCampus - will quickly expand capabilities patients & research

Join us tonight at 5PM for a celebration of the #Smilow Starlight exhibit!

Join @YaleCancer's director of PalliativeCare, Dr. Jennifer Kapo, for "Living Well with a Serious Illness" May 11 jewishnewhaven.org/events

Watch this quick 1 min video from our nutrition dept to learn how to make mason jar salads! #HealthyLiving#lunch

Study published today @JNCI_Now determines optimal radiation treatment for early-stage glottic cancer. bit.ly/2pilnyE @ZHusainMD

Congrats to Dr. Tamara Carroll, 1 of 2 award recipients from .@BreastImaging for her presentation on Impact of Digital Breast Tomosynthesis

Our next #HeadandNeck#cancer support group meets Thursday, April 27th at 2PM. Join us every 4th Thursday bit.ly/2pq9JV3

Learn easy substitutions for unhealthy ingredients in your next #recipe from our nutrition team at #Smilow!

Join us on Thursday and register to @BeTheMatch .@Yale. It's easy to register and you may make a huge difference in a cancer patient's life.

If You Can't Drug It, Degrade It - A Protein Degradation Technology to
#OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS

Yale Cancer Center has recently adopted the #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS program, a Yale University recognition initiative. The program will provide us with the opportunity to recognize and show appreciation to employees who have exemplified an above-and-beyond effort or an outstanding contribution to our team. All nominations should be submitted to the Director’s Office, c/o Anna Raso.

Our first #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS have been given to Michelle Dingus, Christine Holmberg, and Renee Gaudette.

Michelle Dingus, Associate Administrator, and Christine Holmberg, Research Affairs Specialist, are being recognized for their outstanding contribution and effort in completing a recent grant submission. With only two people, they pulled off a 600-page, six institution grant in three weeks. Thank you, Michelle and Christine!

Renee Gaudette, Director of Public Affairs and Communications, is recognized for a great catch during a recent snowstorm when she noticed a number of social media posts incorrectly referring to Smilow being closed due to the inclement weather. Bringing this to the administration’s attention enabled them to proactively call patients to ensure they wouldn’t miss their appointments. Thank you, Renee!

Tackle Undruggable Oncoproteins via @AACR

Closer to Free

Upcoming Events

**May 5; 4:30PM**
Free Head & Neck Cancer Screening
Greenwich Hospital
Learn More >>

**May 6; 8AM**
Smilow Screening & Prevention Program at the Immanuel Baptist Church Health Fair
Immanuel Baptist Church
Screen to Save Initiative
Learn More >>

**May 7; 10AM**
Kids Ride for Kids: An Annual Community Event
Jacobs Beach
Learn More >>

**May 7; 7:30PM**
Yale Cancer Answers
WNPR 90.5
The Discovery of Renalase and the Role It Plays in Cancer
Gary Desir, MD
Learn More >>

**May 8; 11AM**
YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program
SHM I-116
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.

The Dresner Foundation Myelodysplastic Syndromes Research Fund Letters of Inquiry
The Dresner Foundation is dedicated to transforming lives in profoundly positive ways through grants focused on health, youth, and animal welfare. The foundation is inviting Letters of Inquiry from early career scientists for its Myelodysplastic Syndromes Research Fund.

**LOI's due: May 12, 2017**

Bioengineering Research Partnerships
This FOA encourages bioengineering applications that will accelerate the development and adoption of promising tools and technologies that can address important biomedical problems.

**Application Deadline: May 18, 2017**

The Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (U01)
This FOA invites applications from multidisciplinary teams of researchers and clinicians to establish the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (PCDC).

**Application Deadline: May 26, 2017**

Multilevel Interventions in Cancer Care Delivery: Building from the Problem of Follow-up to Abnormal Screening Tests (U01)
This FOA encourages applications that strengthen the science of multilevel effects of cancer care interventions by addressing the problem of incomplete follow-up to abnormal screening tests for breast, colorectal, cervical, and lung cancers.

**Application Due Date: May 26, 2017**

May 9; 9:30AM
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
TAC N-107
Collagens, Crosslinking, and Craziness: Loss of TSP2 Leads to a Profoundly Altered Extracellular Matrix
Nicole Calabro
TBA
Yuting Liu

May 9; 10AM
YCC Chalk Talk
WWW 208
Genomic and Immune-Based Strategies for the Treatment of Colorectal Cancer
Marios Giannakis, MD, PhD

May 9; 12PM
Smilow Forum
Park Street Auditorium
Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD

May 9; 4PM
Palliative Care Monthly Conference
WWW 208
Hospital Death: Trends and Characteristics of Patients Who Suffer Death in a Hospital vs Their Preferred or Chosen Place of Death
Melissa Gibson, MD
Complex Family Burden: A Case Study
Michael Gabriel, MD

May 9; 5:30PM
YNHH Transforming Healthcare Grand Rounds
TAC N-107
Transforming the People Experience
Adrienne Boissy, MD, MA

Cell-Penetrating Antibody Inhibits Human RAD51 Via Direct Binding
Audrey Turchick

Learn More >>

Learn More >>

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Learn More >>
Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (U01)
This FOA will support the development and characterization of state-of-the-art biomimetic tissue-engineered technologies for cancer research.
**Application Deadline:** May 30, 2017

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

Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) Convergence Grants
Stand Up To Cancer is requesting applications for proposals to form collaborative teams to address key questions about the human immune system's role in cancer development and treatment.
**Application Deadline:** June 30, 2017

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 anticancer agents for use with radiation therapy combined with systemic chemotherapy.
**Application Deadline:** July 14, 2017

Recent Publications

May 10; 7:30AM
**Interventional Radiology Grand Rounds Lecture**
LMP 1094
*Immunotherapy and the World of Medical Oncology*
Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD

May 11; 12:30PM
**Pathology Grand Rounds**
LMP 1094
*The Pathologist in the Age of Surgical Minimalism*
Elizabeth D. Euscher, MD

May 11; 2:30PM
**Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar**
SRC, Suites 107-109

May 11; 4PM
**YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series**
Smilow first floor conference room, 1-330
*Neoadjuvant Response and Long-term Outcomes in Breast Cancer*
Christos Hatzis, PhD

May 11; 7PM
**YNHH / Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Seminar**
Congregation Bnai Jacob
*Living Well with Serious Illness: Palliative Care*
Jennifer Kapo, MD

May 14; 7:30PM
**Yale Cancer Answers**
WNPR 90.5
*Pharmacoeconomic Specialist*
Sapna Prasad and William Burns
Role of Adjuvant Treatment in Esophageal Cancer With Incidental Pathologic Node Positivity.
Gao SJ, Park HS, Corso CD, Rutter CE, Kim AW, Johung KL.
Read More >>

Predictors and prognosticators for survival with Yttrium-90 radioembolization therapy for unresectable colorectal cancer liver metastasis.
Dendy MS, Ludwig JM, Kim HS.
Read More >>

Inferring gene regulatory relationships with a high-dimensional robust approach.
Zang Y, Zhao Q, Zhang Q, Li Y, Zhang S, Ma S.
Genet Epidemiol. 2017 May 2.
Read More >>

Lahti S, Ludwig JM, Xing M, Sun L, Zeng D, Kim HS.
Read More >>

Cytogenetic features of human trophoblast cell lines SWAN-71 and 3A-subE.
Reiter JL, Drendel HM, Chakraborty S, Schellinger MM, Lee MJ, Mor G.
Read More >>

Cellular Expression of PD-L1 in the Peripheral Blood of Lung Cancer Patients is Associated with Worse Survival.
Read More >>

May 15; 11AM
Pathology Epigenetics Seminar
TAC N-107
Chromatin Modification, Gene Regulation and Cancer
G. Greg Wang, PhD
Learn More >>

May 16; 9:30AM
Pathology Research in Progress Talk
TAC N-107
TBA
Shang-Min Zhang, PhD, and Sandra Martinez-Morilla, PhD
Learn More >>

May 16; 12PM
YCC Grand Rounds
Park Street Auditorium
Obesity and Cancer: Causal or Not?
Melinda Irwin, PhD, MPH
TBA
Christina Price, MD
Learn More >>

May 17; 3PM
State Chest Lecture
LMP 1094
Advances in Lung Cancer Therapy
Daniel Boffa, MD
Learn More >>

May 18; 8:30AM
Medical Grand Rounds / Annual Calabresi Lecture
LMP 1094
Do we need to Redefine Disease for a Digital Age?
Calum A. MacRae, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

May 18; 9AM
Smilow Screening & Prevention Program at the City of New Haven Employee Health Fair
New Haven City Hall
Screen to Save Initiative
Applications of pHLIP Technology for Cancer Imaging and Therapy.
Wyatt LC, Lewis JS, Andreev OA, Reshetnyak YK, Engelman DM.
Read More >>

Comparison of Two Types of Meditation on Patients’ Psychosocial Responses During Radiation Therapy for Head and Neck Cancer.
Boxleitner G, Jolie S, Shaffer D, Pasacreta N, Bai M, McCorkle R.
Read More >>

Bridging locoregional therapy: Longitudinal trends and outcomes in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma.
Oligane HC, Close ON, Xing M, Kim HS.
Read More >>

Bridging Locoregional Therapy Prolongs Survival in Patients Listed for Liver Transplant with Hepatocellular Carcinoma.
Read More >>

Acute Kidney Injury in Patients with Cancer.
Rosner MH, Perazella MA.
Read More >>

FGF-dependent metabolic control of vascular development.
Read More >>