Announcements

Yale Cancer Biology Training Grant
Yale Cancer Center is very pleased to announce that we have received the notice of award for the Yale Cancer Biology Training Grant, a T32 award from the National Cancer Institute, with David Stern and Peter Glazer as principal investigators. This grant will support training of future leaders in cancer biology and is a great step forward for Yale Cancer Center in meeting the educational goals set forth in the Yale Cancer Center Strategic Plan. In combination with considerable support from Yale Cancer Center and Yale School of Medicine, the grant will support two pre-doctoral and four postdoctoral PhD trainees annually. The grant enables the establishment of the new Yale Cancer Biology Training Program, which will be led by Dr. Stern and Dr. Glazer and will begin shortly.

Successful competition for this grant was a team effort led by administrators in the Department of Pathology, Department of Therapeutic Radiology, the Yale Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program, and across Yale School of Medicine, who were essential in preparation of the two submissions of the proposal to the NCI.

Nearly 400 People Screened for Head & Neck Cancers
The Smilow Cancer Hospital Head and Neck Cancers Program recently held their annual screenings in memory of John Joe, MD. Spearheaded by Joseph Mendes, PA-C, Saral Mehra, MD, and Debbie Klotzer, the screenings took place on Smilow’s main campus, at Bridgeport Hospital, and at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Waterbury. Special
thanks also goes to all of the physicians who screened patients at each location. 389 people were screened for and 39 were referred for follow-up consultations.

Notables

Abhijit Patel, PhD, a member of Yale Cancer Center’s Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Program, received an R01 grant from the NCI to study "Circulating DNA as a Marker of Treatment Efficacy and Failure in Lung Cancer." The project aims to evaluate whether quantitative changes in tumor-derived DNA fragments in blood can be used to monitor therapeutic response and recurrence in patients with lung cancer. The grant is for $383K per year for 5 years.

Shiyi Wang, MD, PhD, a member of the Yale COPPER Center and Yale Cancer Center’s Cancer Prevention and Control Program, received an award from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The two-year grant will compare benefits, treatment burdens, and side effects between less-intensive treatment strategies among older Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) patients. Dr. Wang was the recipient of two YCC Pilot Awards that helped build his team conducting breast cancer outcomes research.

Smilow Cancer Hospital is proud to have our nurses represent us at the 41st Annual Oncology Nursing Society Congress this weekend in San Antonio.

Podium Presentations:
Monica Fradkin, RN, MPH: Optimizing Clinical Research Practice, Process and Communication in an NCI-designated Academic Cancer Center

Ruth McCorkle, PhD, RN, FAAN: Lessons in Symptom Science Research

Mandeep Smith, RN, BSN: Nursing Role in Improving Safety and Quality with Oral Chemotherapy

Posters:
Donna M. Viner; Donna Andruskiwec; Dawn Blake-Holmes; Cara Henderson; Desiree Sanchis; and Michelle Randall-Doran: Revitalization of Oncology Nursing Grand Rounds

New protein-making factory promises better medicines
Read More >>

Yale researchers discover drug target in rare, lethal glandular cancer
Read More >>
Dawn Blake-Holmes and Mandeep Smith: *Starting at Zero! A Programmed Approach to Oncology Nurses Achieving Hospice and Palliative Care Certification*

Vanna Dest; Kerin B. Adelson; Salimah Velji; Catherine Lyons; Sonia Grizzle; Richard Lisitano; Michael Strait; and Rogerio Lilenbaum: *Emergency Room (ED) Utilization and Hospital Admission Rates Among Oncology Patients at a Large Academic Center and Implementation of Oncology Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Driven Urgent Visit Program*

Amy Justice, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Public Health and Section Chief of Internal Medicine at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, has been awarded an R01 grant from the NIH to study HIV and Aging Mechanisms for Hepatocellular Cancer. The 5-year grant includes $3 million in funding to support the research project.

Akiko Iwasaki, PhD, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Virus and Other Infection-Associated Cancers Program, has been newly named as the Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology and of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB). Dr. Iwasaki is known for her vaccine strategy, "Prime and Pull," which effectively creates immune barrier against herpes simplex virus.

Carlos Oliveira, MD, Clinical Fellow in Pediatrics, has received a grant from the American Cancer Society to support his project on the "Clinical Effectiveness of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine." The project is a population-based, case-control study to determine the overall type-specific effectiveness of HPV vaccines. It will be the first to evaluate how age at the time of immunization and number of doses received impacts the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing high-grade cervical lesions. The funding from the ACS totals $163,500; Linda Niccolai, PhD and Eugene Shapiro, MD are mentors on the project.

**Employee Profile:**

Tyreece Wilkins

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Smilow Cancer Hospital Head & Neck Cancers Program holds free screening

150+ participated in a head & neck #cancer screening supported by Smilow Cancer Hospital & @YaleCancer on Fri.

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**LATEST POSTS:**

On May 3, all classes at Yale School of Medicine will be cancelled to celebrate Student Research Day, an annual celebration of student-led scientific research that is more than 160 years old. Yale is one of only a few medical schools in the nation that requires scientific research to graduate. Mentored by Yale Cancer Center's Dr. Murat Gunel, soon-to-be doctor Victoria Clark will discuss her prize-winning thesis on the formation of meningiomas, tumors that arise from the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord.

We are very proud of the amazing research conducted by this year's graduating class!
When Tyreece Wilkins, PCA enters a room to meet with a patient, he tries to forget that they are sick, and focuses instead on how they are doing that day, in that moment, and what he can do to make them more comfortable. Tyreece works on the 12th floor of Smilow, an inpatient unit where patients can spend months recovering from surgery, receiving treatment, or dealing with co-morbidities of cancer. In Tyreece's role, he does everything from taking vitals and drawing blood, to helping bathe and feed patients, all in an effort to make their time in the hospital easier.

Under the auspices of the nurses on the floor, Tyreece sees patients with all different types of cancer. He explained that a lot of patients are experiencing effects such as neutropenic fevers, which are common for leukemia patients, or are receiving chemotherapy or radiation treatment. As part of their care team, Tyreece's goal is not only to care for them physically, but mentally as well.

"Patients that have to spend a lot of time here can begin to feel forgotten or abandoned by family and friends, they start to feel isolated from the outside world, which can affect their vitals," said Tyreece. "I try to take their mind off of what they are going through, if only for a short period of time. We discuss sports, TV shows, anything to help them forget where they are."

Tyreece has been in his current role for 4 years and enjoys helping patients and meeting people from different places and different backgrounds.

Bethany Larkin, MSHA, RN-BC, OCN, Assistant Patient Services Manager on NP 12 commented, "Tyreece has an innate ability to connect with his patients. He understands that an oncology diagnosis not only affects the patient, but the family unit as well. As a result, patients and families have commented on his inclusive care and compassion."

**Funding & Award Opportunities**

To reduce cases of cervical cancer at lower costs, states should coordinate their efforts to use a new vaccine, according to a new study from the Yale School of Public Health. The study, led by Dr. Alison Galvani, found that states would save money and prevent more cancers if they used Gardasil 9, a newer, more expensive vaccine that protects against nine types of HPV. Despite the higher price per dose, the new vaccine would prevent additional costs associated with treatment and care. According to the study, this would be especially true if states coordinated their efforts.

Yale Cancer Center's Dr. Mark Hochstrasser, alongside six other Yale faculty members, was recently elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS). Founded in 1780, AAAS is concerned one of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies, and serves as a champion of scholarship and dialogue. Dr. Hochstrasser was recognized for his contributions to the understanding of the ubiquitin system, a fundamental
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 >>

Taub Foundation Grants
The Taub Foundation Grants Program for Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) Research was created to support high-impact, innovative translational research to understand the underlying causes of MDS and to advance its treatment and prevention. The Program specifically focuses on MDS research, exclusive of AML and MPN. The Program supports translational research that includes bidirectional efforts, building upon research in the laboratory and therapeutic outcomes in the clinic. Studies focusing on molecular genetics, epigenetics, splicing factors, stem cells, the microenvironment and novel therapeutic targets relevant to MDS are encouraged. The Taub Program supports independent investigators at all stages of their careers. Awards are not restricted to investigators currently working in MDS. Applications from investigators in other fields and collaborative efforts are encouraged. Proposals focused on the progression of MDS to AML are not within the scope of this funding.

Application Deadline: May 13, 2016

Learn More >>

2016 AACR
Distinguished Lecture on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities
Funded by Susan G. Komen®, the recipient of this award will receive a $5,000 honorarium and present a 45 minute lecture at the Ninth AACR International Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved.

Application Deadline: May 18, 2016

Learn More >>

Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) Career Development Award Principal Investigator (PI):
Independent early-career investigator within 10 years after completion of his/her terminal degree (excluding regulatory system of eukaryotic cells, which has been linked to cancer.

Congratulations Dr. Hochstrasser!

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Earlier this month, the Association of American Physicians (AAP) elected Dr. Patricia LoRusso to its membership. Founded in 1885, the AAP is one of North America’s oldest medical honor societies. It seeks "the advancement of scientific and practical medicine." Its ranks have included Nobel laureates and members of the National Academy of Science. Dr. Roy Herbst, chief of medical oncology at Yale Cancer Center, describes Dr. LoRusso as a pioneer, whose "expertise is recognized around the globe."

Congratulations, Dr. LoRusso!

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Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter
Designated Mentor: Investigators at or above the level of Associate Professor (or equivalent); must have a proven publication and funding record in cancer research.

Application Deadline: June 8, 2016
Learn More >>

Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) IDEA Award
Independent investigator with a faculty-level appointment (or equivalent).

- Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.
- Supports innovative, untested, high-risk/potentially high-reward concepts, theories, paradigms, and/or methods in cancer research that are relevant to Service members, their families, and other military beneficiaries
- Emphasis on innovation and military relevance/impact
- Must address at least one of the FY16 PRCRP Topic Areas
- Must address at least one of the FY16 PRCRP Military Relevance Focus Areas
- Preliminary data not required

Application Deadline: June 8, 2016
Learn More >>

Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) Translational Team Science Award
At least two and up to three PIs must partner in one overarching correlative or translational research study.

At least one of the PIs is encouraged to be a military or Department of Veterans Affairs investigator.

- Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.
- Supports translational correlative studies associated with an ongoing or completed clinical trial and/or translational study that can lead to a future clinical trial or clinical application in cancer research that is relevant to Service members, their families, and other military beneficiaries

Application Deadline: June 8, 2016
Learn More >>

LATEST TWEETS:

Dr. Geschwind on Locoregional Therapy for Patients With Liver Cancer via @OncLive

Dr. Mark Hochstrasser & 6 other Yale faculty elected fellows of American Academy of Arts & Sciences @americanaca

Women Seem to Respond Better to Chantix Anti-Smoking Drug

Help in understanding cancer’s complexities Basket Cases: Changing the Way Cancer Is Treated via @cure_magazine

Online Ads Drive Teens to E-Cigarettes

Closer to Free
The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

April 29; 12PM
YCC Research in Progress Series
NP4-101 B
PD-1H, Yin Yang in Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Tae Kon Kim, MD
Harnessing Immune Surveillance for Prevention of Multiple Myeloma
Noffar Bar, MD
Read More >>

May 1; 6PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
• Not intended to support high throughput screenings, sequencing, etc.
• **Must** address at least one of the FY16 PRCRP Topic Areas
• **Must** address at least one of the FY16 PRCRP Military Relevance Focus Areas
• Preliminary data is **required**

**Application Deadline:** June 8, 2016  
[Learn More >>]

**NCCN: Phase I/II Clinical Trials and/or Correlative Studies with Duvelisib for Hematologic Malignancies**
The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) has received a 2 Million Dollar research grant from Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (hereafter, "Grantor") to support NCCN Member Institution faculty for the performance of clinical and/or correlative studies of duvelisib in the treatment of hematologic malignancies. NCCN will serve as the funding organization for these grants that are available only to NCCN investigators.  
**Application Deadline:** June 19, 2016  
[Learn More >>]

**NCCN and Peregrine Pharmaceuticals Grant**
National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it has received a research grant from Peregrine Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to support NCCN investigator initiated clinical and correlative studies of bavituximab in combination with other therapeutic strategies for the treatment of solid tumors in adult patients. The overall aim of this RFP is to develop innovative studies of bavituximab to help determine the role of bavituximab in expanding efficacy and/or improving outcomes for patients treated with immunotherapy or with modalities that increase tumor antigenicity.  
**Application Deadline:** June 23, 2016  
[Learn More >>]

**Damon Runyon Innovation Award**
The Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award is designed to provide support for the next generation of exceptionally creative thinkers with "high-risk/high-reward" ideas that have the potential to significantly impact our understanding of and/or approaches to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of cancer. The Innovation Award is specifically designed to provide funding to extraordinary early career researchers who have an innovative new idea but lack sufficient preliminary data to obtain traditional funding. It is not designed to fund incremental advances. The

**Clinical Trials for GI Cancers**
Stacey Stein, MD  
[Read More >>]

**May 2; 11AM**
**YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**
SHM I-304  
**PTEN Regulation of DNA Repair**
Parker Sulkowski  
[Read More >>]

**May 2; 12PM**
**YCC Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar Series**
BCMM 206/208  
**A Versatile Gene: Many Functions of Polybromo-1 in Cancers**
Haifeng Yang, PhD  
[Read More >>]

**May 2; 12:30PM**
**Employee and Family Resources Presents**
NP4-101B  
**Mindfulness Solutions**
Philip Levine  
[Read More >>]

**May 3; 9:30AM**
**Pathology Research in Progress Talks**
TAC N-107  
TBA  
Abitha Sukumaran, PhD and Arvind Goswami, PhD  
[Read More >>]

**May 3; 12PM**
**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds/Joseph R. Bove, MD Memorial Lectureship**
Park Street Auditorium  
**The Mechanistic Basis of Cancer Immunotherapy**
Ira Mellman, PhD  
[Read More >>]
research supported by the award must be novel, exceptionally creative and, if successful, have the strong potential for high impact in the cancer field.

**Application Deadline:** July 1, 2016

[Learn More >>]

**Recent Publications**

**Breast Cancer Screening Using Tomosynthesis and Digital Mammography in Dense and Nondense Breasts.**

[Read More >>]

**Association of Acute Interstitial Nephritis With Programmed Cell Death 1 Inhibitor Therapy in LungCancer Patients.**

[Read More >>]

**Dysfunctional telomeres induce p53-dependent and independent apoptosis to compromise cellular proliferation and inhibit tumor formation.**

[Read More >>]

**End-of-Life Care Intensity and Hospice Use: A Regional-level Analysis.**

[Read More >>]

**Integrating palliative care into self-management of breast cancer: Protocol for a pilot randomized controlled trial.**

[Read More >>]

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**May 5; 11:30AM**
**YCC 2016 Virus and Other Infection-Associated Cancers Annual Retreat**
Institute of Excellence Auditorium, Room 157
**Disparities in Virus Infection-Associated Cancers**
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**May 5; 12:30PM**
**Pathology Grand Rounds**
Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094
**Endocrine Proliferations of the GI Tract**
Robert Ridell, MB, BS
Read More >>

**May 5; 2PM**
**YCC/SCH Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Meeting**
CGPP, Suites 107-109
**Obesity, Aspirin, and Risk of Colorectal Cancer in Carriers of Hereditary Colorectal Cancer: A Prospective Investigation in the CAPP2 Study**
Sue Chmael, NP
Read More >>

**May 6; 12PM**
**YCC Research in Progress Series**
NP4-101 B
**Whole Exome Sequencing in Evaluation of Thrombophilia**
Eun-Ju Lee, MD
**Evaluating the Effect of Anti-PD Therapy on T Cell Responses to Dominate and Subdominant Tumor Antigens in Tumor Microenvironment**
Yu Zhang, MD
Read More >>

**May 8; 6PM**
**Yale Cancer Center Answers**
WNPR 90.5
**Urogynecology**
Leslie Rickey, MD
Read More >>

**May 9; 11AM**
Montagna Symposium 2015: Harnessing Stem Cells to Reveal Novel Skin Biology and Disease Treatments.
Horsley V, Kulesz-Martin M, Wang XJ.
Read More >>

Metabolic Regulation of Gene Expression by Histone Lysine β-Hydroxybutyrylation.
Read More >>

Lung cancer in the very young: treatment and survival in the National Cancer DataBase.
Arnold BN, Thomas DC, Rosen JE, Salazar MC, Blasberg JC, Boffa DJ, Detterbeck FC, Kim AW.
Read More >>

Integrating Dynamic Positron Emission Tomography and Conventional Pharmacokinetic Studies to Delineate Plasma and Tumor Pharmacokinetics of FAU, a Prodrug Bioactivated by Thymidylate Synthase.
Li J, Kim S, Shields AF, Douglas KA, McHugh CL, Lawhorn-Crews JM, Wu J, Mangner TJ, LoRusso PM.
Read More >>

Differential Expression of IR-A, IR-B and IGF-1R in Endometrial Physiology and Distinct Signature in Adenocarcinoma.
Flannery CA, Saleh FL, Choe GH, Selen DJ, Kodaman PH, Kliman HJ, Wood TL, Taylor HS.
J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2016 Apr 18;jc20161795.
Read More >>

Cost-effectiveness of next-generation vaccines: The case of pertussis.
Distinct binding of BRCA2 BRC repeats to RAD51 generates differential DNA damage sensitivity.
Chatterjee G, Jimenez-Sainz J, Presti T, Nguyen T, Jensen RB.
Read More >>

Cataloging antineoplastic agents according to their effectiveness against platinum-resistant and platinum-sensitive ovarian carcinoma cell lines.
Read More >>

Multimodality Imaging of Ethiodized Oil-loaded Radiopaque Microspheres during Transarterial Embolization of Rabbits with VX2 Liver Tumors.
Radiology. 2015 Dec 141624.
Read More >>

A Novel Inherently Radiopaque Bead for Transarterial Embolization to Treat Liver Cancer - A Pre-clinical Study.
Read More >>

Targeting glucose metabolism in cancer: new class of agents for loco-regional and systemic therapy of liver cancer and beyond?
Savic LJ, Chapiro J, Duwe G, Geschwind JF.
Lipiodol transarterial chemoembolization for hepatocellular carcinoma: A systematic review of efficacy and safety data.
Lencioni R, de Baere T, Soulen MC, Rilling WS, Geschwind JF.
Read More >>

Use of Transarterial Chemoembolization (TACE) and Sorafenib in Patients with Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma: US Regional Analysis of the GIDEON Registry.
Read More >>