January 23, 2015

Announcements

**Breast Center Receives NAPBC Reaccreditation**

I am very happy to announce that thanks to the leadership of Dr. Anees Chapgar and the dedicated physicians, nurses, and staff in the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) has once again accredited our Breast Center. The NAPBC accreditation is the seal of approval for breast centers from the American College of Surgeons and formally acknowledges our commitment to providing the highest quality evaluation and management of our patients with breast disease. In the summation session, the site reviewer, Dr. James Frank, described our Breast Center "a world-class breast center," and "an exemplary facility with strong leadership and well integrated, compassionate multidisciplinary care." Congratulations to the entire Breast Center team!

**Jeff Geschwind, MD Named Chair of Diagnostic Radiology**

Please welcome Jean-Francois (Jeff) Geschwind, MD as the next Chair of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology at Yale School of Medicine and Chief of Diagnostic Radiology at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Dr. Geschwind will assume these duties in April of this year. He is currently Professor of Radiology, Surgery, and Oncology and Vice Chairman of the Department of Radiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

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from the desk of
Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD
Director; Yale Cancer Center
Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven

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Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center
News Center >>

LATEST ARTICLES:

Smiles for Smilow Makes First Delivery
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Dr. Geschwind's research has focused on cancer therapeutics that block tumor glycolysis in cancer cells. In 2009, he founded a company based on this technology. Dr. Geschwind and his colleagues have also continued to improve therapies for patients with liver cancer, in particular image-guided therapies such as chemoembolization and radioembolization, focusing on drug delivery and imaging response. He is recognized as a key opinion leader in the field of liver cancer and has received numerous foundation, industry and federal grants for his research in the field. 

Learn More >>

Grants to Improve Patient Care
Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven are pleased to announce a new program to fund small projects to improve patient care at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Monies for this program have come through our "Closer to Free" fund. Any employee at Smilow Cancer Hospital who develops a small project may apply by submitting an application for review. Projects can range from a patient education program to stress management for staff. In order to be eligible, a current Cancer Center Member must sponsor the employee. A listing of active cancer center members is on the website. Learn More and download application here.

Application Deadline: February 27, 2015

New Members Happy Hour
You are cordially invited to the first ever New Members Happy Hour on Thursday, February 12th at the Boyer Center for Molecular Medicine (BCMM 206/208), 5:00-6:30 PM.

As we work on implementing the Strategic Plan, which emphasizes the importance of engaging new members, we hope you take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to represent the Leadership of the Cancer Center, and welcome our newest members over drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Please RSVP to Christina Dreyfus by Monday, February 2.

YCCI Faculty Dinner
In response to faculty requests to provide additional training opportunities, YCCI has partnered with the Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) to host a quarterly Faculty Dinner series for faculty interested in additional training opportunities. Our kickoff session will feature a panel presentation on Lessons Learned from FDA Inspection on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 5:00 PM at Harkness Hall Ballroom.

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

LATEST TWEETS:

US Senator @ChrisMurphyCT calls on the NIH to restore research funding http://bit.ly/1uypG9E @Yale has shouldered steep cuts.

@ASCO names research by @YaleMed's Scott Gettinger as one of the year's top clinical cancer advances @YNHH @Yale

Checkout "Immunotherapy shows promise in cancer treatment"!

Breast Cancer and Menopause @HuffPostBlog http://huff.to/1y2hYDZ via @HuffPost50
Reminder to RSVP for Smilow 5th Anniversary Celebration
A reminder to all caregivers and staff from Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Care Centers who have RSVP'd to join us in a celebration of "Patient and Family Centered Care" and "the Best Doctors and Nurses" on Friday, January 30 at 5:30 PM at the Omni Hotel in New Haven. We look forward to seeing you next Friday! Please contact Alaine Nellis if you need to confirm your attendance.

Notables

Narendra Wajapeyee, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology and a member of the Yale Cancer Center Signal Transduction Program, has received a R21 grant from National Cancer Institute to study the role of metabolic alteration in melanoma biology and therapy. The $400,000 grant is in collaboration with investigators Gary Cline and Yuval Kluger. Dr. Wajapeyee also received a research grant award from Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer research to identify the drivers of pancreatic cancer.

Xiaoyong Yang, PhD, Associate Professor of Comparative Medicine and a member of the Yale Cancer Center Signal Transduction Program, has received an American Cancer Society Research Scholar Grant to study the Control of Cancer Metabolism by O-Linked Glycosylation. The four-year grant totals $792,000.

Closer to Free

Benefit Concert Supports Patient Families at Smilow Cancer Hospital

Research led by Yale Cancer Center's Scott Gettinger, MD was selected by the American Society of Clinical Oncology for inclusion in Clinical Cancer Advances.
Thomas Lynch, MD (left) poses for a photo with (left to right) Empowered by Music pianist, Victor You, Hanna Chao, MD, and concert pianist and piano instructor Steven Beck. Empowered by Music was a benefit concert held on November 22 at the Center Church on the Green in New Haven in support of the Parenting at a Challenging Time (PACT) program at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. Dr. Chao, who founded Empowered by Music, is a breast cancer survivor and her son, Victor You, 13, was a great source of support to her during her treatment. In its first year, the Empowered by Music benefit concert generated over $4,000 in ticket sales and donations to benefit Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Employee Profile: Karen Conway

As a Clinical Research Nurse at the Smilow Cancer Hospital North Haven and Guilford Care Centers, Karen Conway sees patients with all different disease types. A nurse since 1986, Karen saw the opportunity to work in oncology with the opening of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers, and discovered a new passion. In her role she works with patients, physicians, APRN's, infusion nurses, and all staff essential to the process of administering clinical trials to patients.

2015, the Society's annual review of progress against cancer and emerging trends in the field. Dr. Gettinger’s study of first-line nivolumab, an anti-PD-1 immunotherapy, for advanced non-small cell lung cancer, is featured as one of the year's major achievements in clinical cancer research and care.

According to the National Institutes of Health, stress may affect a person's overall health and ability to cope with cancer. By coping with stress, we can all lead a healthier and happy life. Yoga is one great way to fight stress and stay healthy; aside from the important exercise it provides the body, Yoga provides mind-body practice that helps in the relaxing process.

To learn the benefits of Yoga first hand, join us for "The Art of Yoga" on either January 26 or February 2 for a soothing hour of centering, movement and mindfulness. These sessions, led by registered Yoga teacher Nancy Ashcroft, are free and open to the public.
The trials available in North Haven and Guilford run the gamut. A large portion of them are for locally advanced or metastatic disease, but also first line neoadjuvant trials, and phase I. The three main cancers that they see are breast, GI, and lung. Hematology trials have also recently started there as well. Karen meets with patients and plays a large part in education. She makes sure patients understand the trial that they are on, what the drugs involved are, and side effects they may experience. An important point with oral drugs that patients will be taking at home, is that there are side effects they need to be aware of, and also drug interactions. "I really enjoy working with this patient population. The Care Centers have grown incredibly and continue to expand. It is great to be able to offer these state-of-the-art clinical trials to people in the community that might otherwise not have access to them," said Karen.

Karen has to take into account all the logistics of starting a trial at a Care Center. They participate in the feasibility assessment and give feedback as to whether or not a particular trial can be managed given the set-up of the Care Center. When Karen first started there were 5 trials available, now there are 30. As part of the Clinical Trials Workflow Group, led by Monica Fradkin, RN, MPH, Oncology Nursing Education Coordinator, Karen works to increase communication between the Care Centers and the main hospital. She works with different disease team leaders and provides feedback and insight based on what they are experiencing.

Last year Karen was nominated for the 5th Annual Oncology/Research Nursing Award For Clinical Excellence as recognition for her hard work and dedication. Dr. Jeremy Kortmansky, an oncologist at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at North Haven, commented, "Karen is an essential and extraordinary nurse working tirelessly to build the research programs in the Care Centers, which is no easy task."

**Funding and Award Opportunities**

**Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) Young Investigator Awards**
The $100,000 grants will cover costs associated with a two-year bladder cancer-specific research proposal. The purpose of this grant is to support the development of outstanding research scientists and clinical cancer research investigators who have demonstrated a
commitment to improving the understanding and treatment of bladder cancer. Investigators may be working in basic, translational, clinical, epidemiologic, bioengineering or any other field, but must be working in a research environment capable of supporting transformational bladder cancer research.

Application Deadline: March 4, 2015
Learn More >>

2015 Sontag Foundation - Early Career Distinguished Scientist Award for Brain Cancer Research
Career development award supporting early career scientists with inspiring, potential-laden brain cancer proposals. The foundation is highly interested in researchers that may bring new perspectives to bear on the complex questions related to brain cancer.

Applicant's initial faculty appointment must have been no earlier than March 2012.
Up to $600,000 over 4 years.
Application Deadline: March 19, 2015
Learn More >>

**Recent Publications**

**mTORC1 Activation Blocks Braf(V600E)-Induced Growth Arrest but Is Insufficient for Melanoma Formation.**
Read More >>

**Functional trajectories in the year before hospice.**
Read More >>

**ERBB3 Independent Activation of the PI3K Pathway in EGFR Mutant Lung Adenocarcinomas.**
Read More >>

**January 26; 11:00 AM**
Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program
SHM-1304
The Role of AID/APOEC Proteins in Genome Instability in Multiple Myeloma
Rashu Seth, PhD
Read More >> (PDF)

**January 26; 2:30 PM**
Smilow Wellness Workshop
Park Street Seminar, Room 202
The Art of Yoga
Nancy Ashcroft
Read More >> (PDF)

**January 26; 4:00 PM**
Physics Club
Sloan Physics Lab, SPL 57
Is there any physics in cancer?
Herbert Levine, PhD
Read More >>

**January 27; 9:30 AM**
Pathology Research in Progress
Talks
TAC N-107
TBA
Keith Choate MD, PhD and Peter Gareiss, PhD
Read More >>

**January 27; 12:00 PM**
Smilow Case Notes
Park Street Auditorium
Anticoagulation Havoc
Katherine Harvey, MD
Palliation with Dignity
Mehmet Altan, MD
Read More >> (PDF)

**January 29; 12:30 PM**
Pathology Grand Rounds
Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094
Impact of Advances in Molecular Diagnosis on Selected Aspects of Soft Tissue Tumor Pathology
Andrew Folpe, MD
Read More >> (PDF)

**January 30; 12:00 PM**
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
NP4-101A
TBA
Coffee Drinking and Cutaneous Melanoma Risk in the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study.
Loftfield E, Freedman ND, Graubard BI, Hollenbeck AR, Shebl FM, Mayne ST, Sinha R.
J Natl Cancer Inst. 2015 Jan 20;107(2).
Read More >>

Heparin is an activating ligand of the orphan receptor tyrosine kinase ALK.
Read More >>

Phase 1/2 study of mogamulizumab, a defucosylated anti-CCR4 antibody, in previously treated patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma.
Blood. 2015 Jan 20.
Read More >>

Where next for microbiome research?
Read More >>

"It All Depends": A Qualitative Study of Parents’ Views of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine for their Adolescents at Ages 11-12 years.
Hansen CE, Credle M, Shapiro ED, Niccolai LM.
Read More >>

ERBB3 Independent Activation of the PI3K Pathway in EGFR Mutant Lung Adenocarcinomas.
Song X, Fan PD, Bantikasseg A, Guha U, Threadgill DW, Varmus H, Politi K.
Cancer Res. 2015 Jan 16.
Read More >>

Is partial laryngectomy safe forever?
Bagwell K, Leder SB, Sasaki CT.
TAM Receptor Signaling in Immune Homeostasis.
Rothlin CV, Carrera-Silva EA, Bosurgi L, Ghosh S.

Stereotactic Radiotherapy in the Treatment of Primary Bronchial Carcinoid Tumor.
Colaco RJ, Decker RH.

Lung cancer staging: the value of PET depends on the clinical setting.
Detterbeck FC, Figueroa Almanzar S.

February 5; 5:00 PM
YCC Program for Humanities in Medicine
Beaumont Room
TBA
Alice Flaherty, MD, PhD

February 6; 12:00 PM
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
NP4-101A
TBA
Peter Koo, PhD

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