January 8, 2016

Announcements

Smilow Welcomes New Care Center
On January 1, Smilow Cancer Hospital expanded our Care Center network to include Lawrence & Memorial's Cancer Center in Waterford, CT. I am pleased to have Smilow services available to patients in the southeast corner of Connecticut and would like to thank Anne Chiang, Smilow Chief Network Officer, Art Lemay, Executive Director of the Smilow Network, Monica Fradkin, Program Manager for Oncology Nursing, and Kevin Vest, Deputy Director for the Cancer Center, for their leadership during this integration.

This new collaboration brings three new physicians to Yale Cancer Center's sections of medical oncology and hematology. Their strategic alignment with our Disease Teams will bring new clinical trial opportunities to patients at Lawrence & Memorial Cancer Center. Please join me in welcoming Drs. Hellman, Haldas, and Newton to Smilow; I know they will be a timely addition to our patient care priorities and clinical research efforts.

Dr. Richard M. Hellman is the Medical Director of the L+M Cancer Center and his area of clinical interest is in neuro-oncology. He earned his medical degree at Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. Dr. Hellman was an intern and resident at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, and later served clinical fellowships in hematology and oncology at Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

from the desk of
Peter G. Schulam, MD, PhD
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief,
Smilow Cancer Hospital (Interim)

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

LATEST ARTICLES:

Record $67M Investment Round for Yale Researcher to Develop New Cancer Drugs
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Dr. Jason R. Haldas received his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, Va. He cares for patients with all diagnoses at the Waterford Care Center. His residency was in general internal medicine at Rhode Island Hospital (Brown University), followed by his fellowship in hematology and oncology at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC. His clinical expertise is in genitourinary oncology, focused on prostate cancer and the newest treatment options for his patients.

Dr. Benjamin R. Newton earned his medical degree at Tufts University School of Medicine, followed by internship and residency in internal medicine at Tufts-New England Medical Center. Dr. Newton served a clinical fellowship in hematology/oncology at Tufts Medical Center from 2006-2009. He has a special interest in caring for patients with gastrointestinal malignancies.

Melinda Irwin Receives Award
The leadership of Yale Cancer Center has selected Melinda L. Irwin, PhD, MPH, Associate Director for Population Sciences and Professor of Epidemiology, as the first recipient of the Yale Class of 1961 Cancer Research Award. This annual award recognizes significant accomplishments in cancer research at Yale University by a young member of the faculty, coupled with the expectation for future outstanding contributions to our understanding of the causes and cures for cancer.

Mindfulness Solutions
Please register for this free eight-week course, facilitated by Phillip Levine, mindfulness instructor, teaches both formal and informal mindfulness practices to caregivers. Class intended for Smilow and Yale Cancer Center.

New Weapons in the Fight Against Multiple Myeloma
Read More >>

A Survival Advantage for Older Patients with LS-SCLC who Receive Both Chemotherapy and Radiation? Yes, says a Study in JCO
Read More >>

After mastectomy, breast reconstruction may boost body image
Read More >>

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caregivers, but all employees may register as space allows. Attendees will learn to appreciate each moment and life to its fullest, moment by moment. Mondays from 4-5pm, beginning on January 25. Contact Bud Wassell for more information.

Learn More >>

Notables

Mark A. Lemmon, PhD, Co-Director of the Yale Cancer Biology Institute, has been named the David A. Sackler Professor of Pharmacology. Dr. Lemmon is a biochemist and structural biologist whose research focuses on how molecules work and how cells signal, especially in growth control.

Learn More >>

Michigan State University (MSU) hosted commencement ceremonies on Friday, December 18. MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine alumna Patricia LoRusso, DO, professor of medicine and associate director of innovative medicine at Yale Cancer Center, addressed graduates and received an honorary doctorate of science at the ceremony.

Learn More >>

The Breast Cancer Alliance recently awarded two grants to members of the Breast Center. The first is to Dr. Brigid Killelea to support the Breast Center's Interdisciplinary Breast Fellowship Program for the 2016-17 year. Dr. Andrea Silber also received an education and outreach grant from the Alliance to support her outreach efforts in the community from the Breast Center. Congratulations to both Dr. Killelea and Dr. Silber for their efforts!

The 2016 Small Projects to Improve Patient Care grant recipients, funded through the Closer to Free Fund, have been announced. Chosen by committee chaired by Ruth McCorkle, RN, PhD, Assistant Director for Psychosocial Oncology, the following projects have been funded:

LATEST POSTS:

Congratulations to Yale alumnus, Jonathan Rothberg, PhD, who will be awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation at the White House later this month!

Dr. Rothberg is a pioneer in genome sequencing and his introduction of massively parallel DNA sequencing technology greatly increased the speed and efficiency of genomic analysis. He has led or been a major part of well-known sequencing projects - including the first human genome (of Nobel laureate Jim Watson), the Neanderthal genome, and incorporation of sequencing technology on semi-conductor chips. He is an adjunct professor of genetics at Yale.

Read More >>

Yale Cancer Center welcomes our newest Care Center - Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Waterford - to the team! Joining our faculty are Drs. Richard Hellman, Jason Haldas, and Benjamin Newton.

Read More >>
• Jane Jeuland, Palliative Care Chaplain - Beyond Why.org: Online Social Support for Oncology Staff
• Dana Shaffer, Art Expression Coordinator - Development of an Anthology of Patient Stories written during personal story writing workshops
• Lisa Barbarotta, APRN-BC, Nurse Practitioner - IMPACT- Improving the mindset and perceptions about cancer together: An educational conference for young adults living with cancer
• Taylor Healey, BSN, RN, North Pavilion 12 - Respite Room for patients and families

Congratulations to the 2016 Lion Heart Grant recipients! The grant committee reviewed several outstanding applications and chose the following three projects for funding:

Preclinical Evaluation of Candidate Drug Combinations for Treatment of Triple Negative Breast Cancer
David F. Stern, PhD

Targeting CaSR/GABAB1 Heterodimers to Treat Bone Metastases in Breast Cancer
John J Wysolmerski, MD

How Does Na+/I Symporter (NIS) Expression in Metastatic Breast Cancer Correlate with Histopathological, Biological and Clinical Parameters?
Nancy Carrasco, MD

Congratulations to Yale Cancer Center's 2015-16 American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant award winners:

Sidi Chen, PhD
Department of Genetics & Systems Biology Institute
Investigating Functional Roles of MIR-345 in Cancer Metastasis

Nadya Dimitrova, PhD
Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
The roles of p53-regulated long non-coding RNAs in tumorigenesis

Smita Krishnaswamy, PhD
Department of Genetics
Understanding and Disrupting Dynamic Rewiring in Signaling and Gene Regulatory Pathways during the Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition

Christos Hatzis, PhD

Thanks to so many generous donors who gave toys to Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, the Child Life Department's Snowflake Shoppe was well stocked with fun this holiday season! Families hospitalized on Christmas Day were invited to choose gifts for the patient and siblings - all at no charge - to bring joy to the whole family.

Help @YaleCancer meet it's New Year's goal on Twitter.
Section of Medical Oncology Exploring the dynamics of de-differentiation in breast cancer cells

Matthew Strout, MD, PhD
Section of Hematology Therapeutic targeting of programmed DNA damage in B cell lymphoma

Research in the News

Immune therapy drug results in prolonged survival in advanced lung cancer
A Yale-led international study in patients with advanced non-small cell lung (NSCLC) cancer resistant to chemotherapy has found a promising weapon in an immune therapy drug commonly used to treat other cancers. The findings were published Dec. 19 in The Lancet and presented at the 2015 annual conference of the European Society for Medical Oncology in Singapore.

The study, called KEYNOTE 010, compared pembrolizumab with the chemotherapy drug docetaxel in 1,034 patients with NSCLC whose tumors expressed the PD-L1 biomarker. PD-L1 is a protein expressed by many tumor types that can render the cancer invulnerable to immune attack. The study endpoints were overall survival (OS), progression-free survival (PFS), and safety.

Patients whose tumors expressed even low levels of PD-L1 benefited significantly from pembrolizumab. Read More >>

Employe Profile: Cara Henderson

Cara Henderson, RN, Assistant Patient Service Manager (APSM) on NP-15 has a very personal reason for deciding to start her nursing career in oncology and dedicating her work to the safety and care of her patients. 11 years ago, she was the patient, being treated at Yale Cancer Center for lymphoma, and has committed herself to making sure patients are supported and receive the highest quality of care.
In her current role under Tracy Carafeno, RN, MS, Patient Service Manager for both the women's oncology and surgical oncology units, Cara helps to oversee the day to day operations of the surgical oncology inpatient unit. She interacts closely not only with patients, but also staff to make sure they have the tools necessary to provide safe and efficient care to patients.

"It's important that the staff feels supported so that they can be successful at the bedside. When they have the proper tools, everyone benefits, especially the patients. This is one of the reasons why we consistently have high Press Ganey scores. I try to be an advocate for my staff and in turn, they are some of the hardest working people I know," said Cara.

By providing daily electronic surveys to patients, Cara can address and resolve issues while patients are still in the hospital, instead of learning about it once they have left. She is constantly working to make improvements based on patient insight, as they have the opportunity to observe all aspects of care. They see all types of cancers in the unit, but the two most common are head and neck and GI cancers. A recent initiative spearheaded by Cara and her team aims to keep head and neck cancer patients out of the ICU after surgery to the floor of the mouth. By keeping select patients that qualify out of the ICU, they avoid complications such as delirium and are able to get up and moving faster and are discharged sooner.

Tracy commented, "Cara is a dedicated and compassionate nurse and leader, and is passionate about her role. Cara puts the patients and families at the center of all her decisions. This shows in the outcomes on her unit where patient satisfaction is at the 99th percentile."

Cara commented that without the staff on this unit, none of these outcomes would be possible and that their dedication is directly related to the high quality of care that patients receive at Smilow.

### Funding and Award Opportunities

**Lymphatic Education & Research Network Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards Program**

The Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) is committed to supporting basic and translational research in lymphatic health and disease.

**Events**

**January 8; 1PM**

**YCC Virus and Other Infection-Associated Cancers Research Program**

SHM 1-304

*The Innate Immune Response to HPV Infection*

Alex Lipovsky, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**January 10; 6PM**

**Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

*The Role of Pathology in Fighting Cancer*

David Rimm, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**January 12; 9:30AM**

**Pathology Research in Progress Talks**

TAC N-107

TBA

Jian "CJ" Cao, PhD and Marissa Holmbeck

[Read More >>](#)

**January 12; 12PM**

**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds / Blanche Tullman Memorial Lectureship**

Park Street Auditorium

*Therapy of Lymphoma Inspired by Functional and Structural Genomics*

Louis M. Staudt, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**January 12; 5PM**

**YNHH Transforming Healthcare Grand Rounds**

Fitkin Amphitheater

*The Effect of Competition, Mergers and Antitrust in Healthcare*

Fiona Scott Morton

[Read More >>](#)
that fosters an interdisciplinary field of investigators conducting lymphatic research. The supported research will improve our understanding and advance the prevention, diagnosis, and novel treatments of lymphedema and other lymphatic disorders. In each grant cycle, at least one fellowship will specifically focus on lymphedema.

**Application Deadline:** January 15, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Grants

Two funding options are available: a Research Acceleration Network (RAN) grant and a Research Acceleration Network (RAN) - 2 grant. The RAN grant provides a total of $1 million to pancreatic cancer research projects that include a clinical project designed to improve the prevention, detection/diagnosis/prognosis, treatment, or supportive care for pancreatic cancer. The RAN-2 grant provides a total of $2 million to pancreatic cancer research projects that include a Phase II treatment clinical trial or a robust prevention, detection/diagnosis/prognosis, or supportive care trial implemented no later than the beginning of the second year of the grant term.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** January 15, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship Program Award

The L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science program recognizes and rewards the contributions women make in STEM fields and identifies exceptional women researchers committed to serving as role models for younger generations. More than 2,250 women scientists in over 110 countries have been recognized since the program began in 1998.

In the US, the For Women In Science fellowship program awards five post-doctoral women scientists annually with grants of $60,000 each. Applicants are selected from a variety of fields, including the life and physical/material sciences, technology (including computer science), engineering, and mathematics.

I invite you to collaborate with us and spread the word to your community about this special fellowship program for exceptional female post-doctoral researchers who are also committed to serving as role models for the next generation of girls in STEM.

[Read More >>](#)
**Application Deadline:** February 5, 2016
**Learn More >>**

**NCCN and Immunogen**
National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it has received a research grant from ImmunoGen Inc. to support NCCN investigator initiated clinical studies of mirvetuximab soravtansine (previously known as IMGN853) in the treatment for selected solid tumors. In brief, investigators are asked to submit RFPs detailing proposed research studies. The overall aim of this RFP is to develop innovative studies of mirvetuximab soravtansine in ovarian, endometrial, and breast cancer. Collaborative studies between NCCN Member Institutions are encouraged.

**Application Deadline:** February 15, 2016
**Learn More >>**

**Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Award**
This award provides funding to basic scientists and clinicians who conduct research with the potential to significantly impact the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of one or more pediatric cancers. Applicants are not required to be pediatricians or members of pediatric departments; however, the proposed research must have direct relevance to one or more pediatric cancers. This four year award is $50,000 per year for basic scientists, and $60,000 per year for physician scientists. In addition, an annual $2,000 expense allowance is awarded to the laboratory in which the Fellow is working and can be used by the Fellow for his/her educational and scientific expenses. The Foundation also provides a Dependent Child Allowance of $1,000 per child per year. The award may not be used for institutional overhead or indirect costs.

**Application Deadline:** March 16, 2016
**Learn More >>**

**Recent Publications**

PMCA2 regulates HER2 protein kinase localization and signaling and promotes HER2-mediated breast cancer.

TBA
Amalia Avila Figueroa, PhD and Robert Amezquita
**Read More >>**

**January 19; 5PM**
**Digestive Diseases Research Seminar Series**
TAC, S-247
*New Trends in Molecular Stratification of Liver Cancer Patients*
Augusto Villanueva, MD, PhD
**Read More >>**

**January 19; 5PM**
**YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series**
Smilow First Floor Conference Room, 1-330
TBA
**Read More >>**

**January 20; 7AM**
**Urology Grand Rounds**
Beaumont Room
*Salvage Treatment for Recurrent Prostate Cancer after Radiation Therapy*
Preston Sprenkle, MD
**Read More >>**

**January 20; 12PM**
**YCC Cancer Prevention & Control Research Program Seminar**
YSFH, Room 216
*Yale Weight Loss Program*
Wajahat Mehal, PhD, MD
**Read More >>**

**January 21; 12:30PM**
**Pathology Grand Rounds**
Fitkin Amphitheater
*A Connecticut Children's Story*
Manju Prasad, MD
**Read More >>**
Acute myeloid leukemia requires Hhex to enable PRC2-mediated epigenetic repression of Cdkn2a.


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


Application of Medicare's New Technology Add-on Payment Program for Blinatumomab.

Dhruva SS, Prasad V.


Configuration-dependent presentation of multivalent IL-15:IL-15Rα enhances the antigen-specific T cell response and anti-tumor immunity.

Hong E, Usiskin IM, Bergamaschi C, Hanlon DJ, Edelson RL, Justesen S, Pavlakis GN, Flavell RA, Fahmy TM.


Pembrolizumab versus docetaxel for previously treated, PD-L1-positive, advanced non-small-cell lung cancer (KEYNOTE-010): a randomised controlled trial.

J Geriatr Oncol. 2015 Dec 15.

Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition and Cancer Invasiveness: What Can We Learn from Cholangiocarcinoma?
Brivio S, Cadamuro M, Fabris L, Strazzabosco M.

Melanoma brain metastasis pseudoprogression after pembrolizumab treatment.
Cohen J, Alomari AK, Vortmeyer AO, Jilaveanu LB, Goldberg SB, Mahajan A, Chiang VL, Kluger HM.

Financial toxicity in insured patients with multiple myeloma: a cross-sectional pilot study.
Huntington SF, Weiss BM, Vogl DT, Cohen AD, Garfall AL, Mangan PA, Doshi JA, Stadtmauer EA.

Knowledge, attitudes, and intentions toward fertility awareness and oocyte cryopreservation among obstetrics and gynecology resident physicians.
Yu L, Peterson B, Inhorn MC, Boehm JK, Patrizio P.
Hum Reprod. 2015 Dec 17.