June 12, 2015

Announcements

ASCO 2015
Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital received international attention at this year's ASCO annual meeting thanks to Dr. Anees Chagpar's publication of new recommendations for updated SHAVE margins during surgery for breast cancer, which reduce the need for a second operation by 50%. Dr. Chagpar's groundbreaking clinical trial here at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and subsequent findings released in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and presented at ASCO, will change the way that partial mastectomies are performed and surgeons are trained. Read More >>

We also had another year of new data presented on immunotherapy treatments, and outcomes from clinical trials here at Smilow, including Dr. Daniel Petrylak's study of MPDL3280A for bladder cancer, which has achieved a 20% complete response rate as second line therapy, and is ongoing in clinical trial. Dr. Scott Gettinger and Dr. Roy Herbst also presented more promising data on immunotherapy for lung cancer.

Please review all of the coverage from ASCO15 in the Yale Cancer Center News Center. Read More >>

Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Program Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*
Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital has once again been ranked among the best in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* in their 2015-16 Best Children's Hospitals rankings, published online this month. Cancer was one of the ranked subspecialties for Yale-New Haven Hospital, ranking #44 in the nation. "I am proud..."
to see our program continually ranked as one of the top pediatric oncology programs in the country. The dedication of our physicians, nurses, and entire team, is evident by our inclusion on the list, and we will continue to strive to push our ranking higher," Gary Kupfer, Chief of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, said.

**ASCO Review - Next Friday**
Please join us for our annual ASCO Review next Friday, June 19 at the New Haven Country Club in Hamden, CT. The ASCO Review will include a full day of highlights from the annual ASCO meeting, as well as research developments from Yale Cancer Center laboratories and clinical trials open for patients.

**Closer to Free**
Please join Team Med Onc and Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center for the 5th Annual Closer to Free Ride. This year's ride will take place on Saturday, September 12th. I hope you will consider riding, volunteering, or donating to our signature fundraising event. Riders can choose from 3 courses of 25, 62.5, or 100 miles. The ride ends with a huge finish line celebration at the Yale Bowl. Volunteers are also needed especially medical volunteers, licensed massage therapists, motorcycle safety volunteers, and more! Help us get Closer to Free!

**YCC Retreat on Catchment**
"Catchment" has become a popular buzzword in the Research Community and NCI-designated cancer centers and their research programs must conduct research that impacts their catchment area. But what exactly is catchment and how do you guarantee that your research is adhering to the catchment requirement?

Please consider attending "Cancer Research and Outreach in our Community of New Haven and Connecticut" on Wednesday, July 15 at the Boyer Center, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM, and hosted by Dr. Melinda Irwin, Associate Director for Population Sciences and Co-Leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program. The deadline to register is Monday, July 6th to Susan Silva.

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**ASCO: Daratumumab as stand-alone therapy in treatment-resistant multiple myeloma**

**Optimizing a lupus autoantibody for targeted cancer therapy**

**Tool to Predict Late Recurrence of Breast Cancer Reduces Use of Adjuvant Therapy**

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**LATEST POSTS:**

**National Cancer Survivors Day** was celebrated with a beautiful event yesterday at Yale's West Campus,
The Trustees of the Edward Mallinckrodt, Jr. Foundation have named Valentina Greco, PhD, the 59th Mallinckrodt Scholar, through a competitive competition. Dr. Greco is a member of Yale Cancer Center's Signal Transduction Program. The funding of the grant commences October 1, 2015 and includes a stipend of $100,000 annually for four years.

Women's Health Research at Yale announced their Pilot Project funding for 2015, and Yale Cancer Center's Christine J. Ko, MD, Associate Professor of Dermatology and Pathology, has been awarded a grant in collaboration with Yale Cancer Center to study skin cancer. Her research project aims to identify a biological marker to predict the growth rate and recurrence of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. Dr. Ko's research team's current target is a mutated gene they believe marks the difference between a slow-growing cancer and a more aggressive one.

The Women's Faculty Forum at Yale recently selected 20 faculty members across the university to work with journalists from The OpEd Project. Congratulations to Dr. Laura J. Morrison from the Yale Palliative Care Program and Dr. Anees Chagpar, Director of the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, who have been selected to participate in The Public Voices Fellowship at Yale University.

Research in the News

New Type of Drug Can Target all Disease-Causing Proteins

Current drugs block the actions of only about a quarter of known disease-causing proteins, but Yale University researchers have developed a technology capable of not just inhibiting, but destroying every protein it targets. The new type of drug, called Proteolysis Targeting Chimeras (PROTACs), also can continue to destroy mutant proteins in mouse tumors, according to a new study presented at the American Association for Cancer Research meeting in April.

The Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital has moved. Our team is now located in one easy to access location on the Saint Raphael Campus at 330 Orchard Street in New Haven. The phone number to reach the program is (203) 200-4DNA.
study published June 10 in the journal *Nature Chemical Biology*.

“This new drug modality culminates a decade of work in the field by my lab,” said Craig Crews, the Lewis B. Cullman Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology and senior author of the paper, which was done in collaboration with scientists from GlaxoSmithKline and Arvinas, LLC.

**Employee Profile: Tessa Steffen**

This August will mark Tessa Steffen’s first year with Yale Cancer Center. She is a Senior Administrative Assistant to Kevin Vest, Deputy Director for Administration and Clinical Affairs, and to Vicky Agnew, Senior Communications Officer. Tessa handles administrative tasks in the Director’s Office, which is responsible for managing the flow of people and information through the Cancer Center and represents the Director’s interests through communication with other Yale and Yale-New Haven Hospital offices, YSM department chairs, faculty, staff, students, alumni, dignitaries and visitors. In addition, she works on various assignments focused on projects and process improvement.

One such project, based on her past experience as a certified record manager for the Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration, is updating and revising current YCC records by employing standardized naming conventions and restructuring the file system in an effort to increase productivity. However, her biggest project is serving as YCC’s Sustainability Leader, the main goal of which is to increase the amount of materials that are reduced, reused and recycled with a focus on paper and waste management. She hopes to achieve this by bringing awareness to current deficiencies and by implementing new ideas, tools and strategies. She is actively seeking Green Team members to help tackle the sustainability issues targeted cancer therapy” was selected as the cover feature in the journal *Cancer Research*. The article details the efforts of Dr. James Hansen and his team to use an optimized lupus antibody against cancer as a drug delivery molecule, and the cover image demonstrates penetration of an optimized lupus antibody construct into the nuclei of colon cancer cells.

We are seeing progress and we are now allowing science to guide us forward...we are really personalizing the therapies,” Dr. Roy Herbst, Chief of Medical Oncology at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, on CNN.

“We are moving forward, and in the right direction.”

Kids HUGS is a local a peer support program that provides creative arts activities for kids to have fun while learning to recognize and express their emotions. Parents have a chance to meet other parents and learn helpful ways of communicating with their children about sensitive issues during difficult times.
Yale Cancer Center encourages our families to learn more about Kids HUGS!

http://www.kidshugs.org/

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

LATEST TWEETS:

@ColleenZenk urges all #cancer survivors to get oral cancer screenings from the dentist. “You don’t even have to take your clothes off!”

@ColleenZenk “They call it the ‘old man’s cancer,’” but oral #cancers are on the rise and aggressive among young people #HPV @YNHH

@ColleenZenk: “When I walked into Smilow Cancer Hospital @YNHH, I was greeted by a team, not just one doctor. A team!” #oralcancer #hpv

@YaleTomLynch tells #cancer survivors at Cancer Survivors Day that patients, families, and medical teams are part of @ynnh community

@HH_Oncodr talks to @JNCI_Now about triplet chemotherapy for metastatic #coloncancer http://bit.ly/1cLUz1P @annaazvolinsky
projects that are laboratory- or field-based and do not meet Komen’s definition of clinical research. Studies focusing on quality of life or survivorship issues are not appropriate for this mechanism.

**Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants - Clinical Research**

This grant mechanism is appropriate for clinical (i.e., M.D.) fellows proposing clinical, patient-oriented research projects that involve direct interactions with human subjects/patients. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials. Komen defines clinical research as hypothesis driven, patient-oriented research for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects/patients, in conjunction with laboratory-based research as appropriate. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials. Komen defines clinical research as hypothesis driven patient-oriented research for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects/patients, in conjunction with laboratory-based research, as appropriate. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

**Graduate Training in Disparities Research (GTDR)**

GTDR Grants (formerly Post-Baccalaureate Training in Disparities Research Grants, PBTDR) are intended to establish and/or to sustain a training program for a minimum of three graduate students who are seeking careers dedicated to understanding and eliminating disparities in breast cancer outcomes across population groups.

**Application Deadlines:** June 17, 2015

Learn More >>

**Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation for Cancer Research Medical Grants**

To support the conduct of innovative and insightful medical research on hematologic malignancies. Funds are provided for clinical or basic science research that will lead to novel therapeutic approaches that could replace, or be used in combination with existing effective therapies for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers of the blood.

**Internal Deadline:** June 29, 2015

Learn More >>

**Yale Cancer Center Discovery Fund Grants**

To support exceptionally innovative or unconventional collaborative cancer research at Yale Cancer Center with the potential to create new scientific paradigms,
In order for Yale Cancer Center to reach its potential as one of the nation’s top cancer centers, it has to conduct research with the potential to transform our understanding of the causes of cancer or to revolutionize our ability to study, prevent, treat, or cure cancer. Such research is intrinsically high-risk and is unlikely to fare well in review in the current conservative NIH funding environment. In addition, such research will often require the assembly of collaborative multidisciplinary teams that bring different perspectives to a complex problem. To stimulate collaborative high-impact cancer research, the YCC is establishing the Yale Discovery Fund grant program. These grants will provide relatively long-term, generous support to allow teams of investigators to embark on ground-breaking, innovative high-risk/high-reward cancer research. These grants will be supported by the venture philanthropy model, in which they will be funded primarily by substantial gifts from a limited number of donors who will play an active role in the selection of successful applications and will be regularly reviewed of progress. Our goal is that the research supported by these grants will be transformative: it will create new scientific paradigms, establish entirely new and improved clinical approaches, or develop transformative technologies. In addition, we hope that teams not selected for funding will continue to meet and collaborate and refine their proposals for submission to other internal and external grant competitions.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** July 8, 2015

Learn More >>

### NCCN Pfizer Metastatic Breast Cancer Request for Proposals
National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce it is collaborating with Pfizer’s Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC) team to offer a grant opportunity focused on improving care for patients with metastatic breast cancer, where treatment goals focus on improving quality and length of life as there is, to date, no known cure.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** July 15, 2015

Learn More >>

### Faculty Scholars Competition
The Simons Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are pleased to announce the Faculty

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**June 12; 12:00 PM**
**YCC / Immunology Special Seminar**
Amistad 112
*Immunotherapy for Genitourinary Cancers*
Charles Drake, MD, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

**June 12; 1:00 PM**
**YCC Molecular Virology Research Program**
SHM I-304
*Unfolding Mechanisms of Antiviral Defense*
Susan Fink, MD, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

**June 14; 6:00 PM**
**Yale Cancer Center Answers**
WNPR
*Genetic Heterogeneity in Breast Cancer*
Christos Hatzis, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

**June 15; 11:00 AM**
**YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**
SHM I-304
*FRET Studies of DNA Pol Beta Mutator 1260Q: The Critical Role of Fingers Domain Movements and Nucleotide Selection*
Jamie Towle-Weicksel, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

**June 16; 9:30 AM**
**Pathology Research in Progress Talks**
TAC N-107
*Identifying the Role of Codanin in Erythroid Differentiation* and *Conditionally Reprogrammed Cells: An Emerging Model in Cancer*
Vasiliki Pelekanou MD, PhD and Linette Bosques
[Read More >>](#)

**June 16; 12:00 PM**
**YCC Grand Rounds**
Park Street Auditorium
*Prostate Cancer: Where Have We Been, Where Are We, and Where Are We Going?*
Patrick C. Walsh, MD
[Read More >>](#)
Scholars Competition, a national competition for grants to outstanding early-career scientists.

The three philanthropies will award a total of $148 million over the program's first five years, awarding up to 70 grants every two and a half to three years. The awards are intended for basic researchers and physician scientists who have already demonstrated significant research accomplishments and show potential to make unique and important contributions to their fields.

The Faculty Scholars Competition marks the first time that HHMI, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Simons Foundation have formally undertaken an initiative together.

Application Deadline: July 28, 2015
Learn More >>

Patterson Trust Fellowship Program in Clinical Research
The Robert E. Leet and Clara Guthrie Patterson Trust was established in 1980 for the advancement of medical science, particularly research "relating to human diseases, their causes and relief." Two-year fellowships of $90,000 ($45,000 per year) will be awarded to Applicants working in Connecticut or New Jersey.

The Patterson Trust will provide support to early-stage mentored investigators conducting clinical research with a focus on patient-oriented or translational laboratory research. The Program will help the Trust to pursue its mission by providing Applicants with the opportunity to demonstrate creativity and explore opportunities that may promote careers in clinical research. Pilot and preliminary studies are encouraged.

Application Deadline: August 14, 2015
Learn More >>

Class of '61 Yale Cancer Research Award
In order to recognize significant accomplishment and continuing outstanding promise in cancer research, Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the Class of '61 Yale Cancer Research Award. This annual award recognizes significant accomplishment 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. The annual award, established through the ongoing generosity of the Yale College Class of 1961, will provide unrestricted funds to support the winner's cancer research. The initial award

June 16; 5:00 PM
YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series
Updates in Cancer Genetic Counseling and Testing for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer?
Karina Brierley, MS
Smilow First Floor Conference Room, 1-330
Read More >>

June 17; 8:00 AM
Urology Grand Rounds
Hope 110
Impact of Surgical Innovation on Reducing Death and Suffering from Prostate Cancer
Patrick C. Walsh, MD

June 17; 1:00 PM
YCC Cancer Immunobiology Research Program
SHM I-304
Hematopoietic Stem Cell Niches Control Lymphopoiesis in Bone Marrow
Jõao Pereira, PhD
Read More >>

June 18; 9:00 AM
Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
SHM B-20
M&M Conference
James Yu, MD
Read More >>

June 19; 7:00 AM
Yale ASCO Review 2015
New Haven Country Club
Highlights of the Annual Meeting
Read More >>

June 19; 1:00 PM
YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program
SHM I-116
Precision Medicine for Pancreatic Cancer: Where We Are and Where We Want To Be
James Farrell, MD
Read More >>

June 20; 12:00 PM
Yale Pediatric Cancer Survivors Day
The Carriage House at Edgerton Park
will be $50,000. Nominees must be Yale faculty members age 45 or less, whose accomplishments are documented by published papers and awarded grants in any area of cancer research including seminal investigations into basic cancer biology, important translational or clinical studies, or critical population science studies.

Nomination Deadline: August 31, 2015

Learn More >>

Recent Publications

Optimizing a lupus autoantibody for targeted cancer therapy.
Noble PW, Chan G, Young MR, Weisbart RH, Hansen JE.
Cancer Res. 2015 Jun 1;75(11):2285-91.
Read More >>

Treatment complexity: a description of chemotherapy and supportive care treatment visits in patients with advanced-stage cancer diagnoses.
Sumpio C, Knobf MT, Jeon S.
Support Care Cancer. 2015 May 31.
Read More >>

The benefit and burden of cancer screening in li-fraumeni syndrome: a case report.
Read More >>

The effect of pre-existing mental health comorbidities on the stage at diagnosis and timeliness of care of solid tumor malignances in a Veterans Affairs (VA) medical center
Wadia RJ, Yao X, Denge Y, Li J, Maron S, Connery D, Gunduz-Bruce H, Rose, M.
Cancer Medicine. 9 JUN 2015.
Read More >>

Clostridium Perfringens Enterotoxin C-terminal domain labeled to fluorescent Dyes for in vivo visualization of micro-metastatic chemotherapy-resistant ovarian cancer.

Wild West BBQ
Read More >>

June 21; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
Aspirin as a way to Prevent Pancreatic Cancer
Harvey Risch, MD, PhD
Read More >>

June 23; 9:30 AM
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
TAC N-107
Lauren Moore and Britta Kunkemoeller
Read More >>

June 25; 9:00 AM
Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
NP 4-101A
Integrated Analysis of Multidimensional Cancer Data: Methodological Development and Applications to TCGA
Steven Shuangge Ma, PhD
Read More >>

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
renee.gaudette@yale.edu

Forward to a Friend


Chemotherapy-only treatment effects on long-term neurocognitive functioning in childhood ALL survivors: a review and meta-analysis.
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Density and Polarization States of Tumor-Associated Macrophages in Human Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinomas Arising in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients.
Read More >>

Whole-exome sequencing defines the mutational landscape of pheochromocytoma and identifies KMT2D as a recurrently mutated gene.
Read More >>

The Clinical Utility of a Novel Blood-Based Multi-Transcriptome Assay for the Diagnosis of Neuroendocrine Tumors of the Gastrointestinal Tract.
Read More >>

At the front line of combating cancer: an interview with harriet kluger, MD.
Read More >>

Evolution of Multidisciplinary Brain Metastasis Management: Case Study and Literature Review.
Read More >>

Nuns, Warts, Viruses, and Cancer.
DiMaio D.  
Read More >>

**Gene-by-Environment Interactions in Pancreatic Cancer: Implications for Prevention.**  
Jansen RJ, Tan XL, Petersen GM.  
Read More >>

**The cost of cancer-related physician services to medicare.**  
Read More >>

**The Dynamic Duo: Niche/Stem Cell Interdependency.**  
Mesa KR, Rompolas P, Greco V.  
Stem Cell Reports. 2015 May 27.  
Read More >>