March 18, 2016

Announcements

Medical Oncology Retreat

Last week the faculty of our section of medical oncology and our care centers joined together for a two-day retreat at Water's Edge in Westbrook, CT. The break from clinical, research, and teaching responsibilities gave the group the opportunity to network, learn more about each of the practices, brainstorm ideas, and regroup. Hosted by Drs. Roy Herbst and Michal Rose, the two-day program was planned by a committee of faculty members and included stress-reduction, medical error discussions, and leadership seminars. In addition, each of the Smilow Cancer Care Centers presented on their locations, as well as the VA Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Saint Francis.

Learn More >>

Join Yale University's Relay for Life

from the desk of
Peter G. Schumel, 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:

Nearby Bald Eagles Remind us that Recovery is Possible
Read More >>
Yale University students join together for an annual Relay for Life event each spring in the Payne Whitney Gym to support cancer survivors and raise awareness and funding for the American Cancer Society. The American Cancer Society funds many of our research efforts through grants and other initiatives. Please consider sharing your support of both the Yale students and the American Cancer Society by supporting the Relay for Life on Friday, April 15.

Learn More >>

Notables

The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering announced the election of 23 of Connecticut's leading experts in science, engineering and technology to membership in the Academy. Congratulations to Yale Cancer Center's Murat Gunel, Akiko Iwasaki, and Anna Marie Pyle who have been inducted in the 2016 membership of the Academy.

Learn More >>

Susan J. Baserga, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Genomics, Genetics, and Epigenetics Research Program, is the winner of this year's American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology William C. Rose Award for her valuable contributions to the field of ribosome biogenesis research and her dedication as a teacher and a mentor. The Rose award is given to scientists who have made outstanding contributions to biochemical and molecular biology research and have a proven commitment to the education of younger scientists.

Learn More >>

Study finds racial differences in smoking patterns, screening

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Fucito: Smokers should be encouraged to quit at lung cancer screenings

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LATEST POSTS:

Lauren Telesz, an 18-year-old Smilow Cancer Hospital patient whose Hodgkin's Lymphoma is now in remission, had a unique request for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Unlike requests from children with serious illnesses to visit Disney World or to meet a celebrity, Lauren wished to become a published author. Lauren's book, "The Excursion," is a children's storybook designed to help improve vocabulary skills.
Research in the News

Study finds racial differences in smoking patterns, screening

New research from the Yale School of Public Health reveals that differences in smoking habits between African Americans and whites may lead to a disparity in screening for lung cancer.

For the study, Theodore Holford, the Susan Dwight Bliss Professor of Public Health (biostatistics), and colleagues used data from the National Health Interview Surveys, conducted from 1965 to 2012, to pinpoint differences in tobacco-smoking habits between African Americans and white smokers. The researchers analyzed the changes in smoking behavior that occurred after the publication of the landmark U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health in 1964, which was the first federal report to link smoking with adverse health effects and spurred a nationwide effort to curb tobacco use.

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Yale team screens cardiac drugs that also attack cancer

Several drugs now being used to treat heart failure and atrial arrhythmia also show promise as DNA disruptors in cancer cells and could be readily repurposed as anticancer agents, according to a new study by Yale researchers.

Now researchers at Yale have also discovered that cardiac glycosides block the repair of DNA in tumor cells. Because tumor cells are rapidly dividing, their DNA is more susceptible to damage, and inhibition of DNA repair is a promising strategy to selectively kill these cells. Several other researchers have noted that cardiac glycosides possess anticancer properties, but the basis for these effects was not well known. The Yale scientists showed that cardiac glycosides inhibit two key pathways that are involved in the repair of DNA.

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Key protein in pancreatic cancer growth may also be its undoing

Yale researchers have found that the overexpression of a protein called renalase in pancreatic cancer plays a critical role in spurring the cancer's growth while also...
providing a possible new target for attacking the tumors it helps develop.

This is why the study's lead author, Gary Desir, M.D., professor of Medicine, is so encouraged by the findings. Desir is no stranger to renalase, having discovered and named it in 2005 in his Yale lab.

"We discovered renalase while searching for a mechanism that could explain the very high incidence of heart disease in patients with failure," Desir said. "We named this previously unknown protein that circulated in plasma at very high levels renalase. We chose that name because the kidney (renal) makes a lot of it, and it functions as an enzyme (ase) to metabolize adrenaline."

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Employee Profile: 
Winsome Smith, RN

Winsome Smith, RN has been a nurse for 40 years and has been with the Yale-New Haven Hospital Apheresis/Transfusion Service since the 1980's. In that time she has had the opportunity to witness many advances and the growth of the clinic, including the move towards peripheral blood stem cells from bone marrow and the introduction of biotherapies.

In the clinic, Winsome cares for both inpatients and outpatients across the age spectrum. She performs apheresis treatments, where blood is removed from the body and separated into various components for patients with hematological malignancies and other cancers. She also administers chemotherapy to non-oncologic patients. Even though they are a small staff, the clinic is able to provide 24/7 support to the hospital for any acutely ill patients, both adult and pediatric. If a patient is too ill to come to the clinic, they will provide care at the bedside.

"My main goal is to get the patients whatever they need in order to provide them the best care possible. This

Read More >>

Congratulations Dr. Samuel Katz, recipient of the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy's Young Investigator Grant! This grant will support Dr. Katz's immunotherapy research. He is investigating the use of RNA to reprogram a patient's T-cells, also known as killer white cells, so that they might target and destroy blood cancer cells.

Read More >>

My younger brother was diagnosed with multiple myeloma over a year ago. As my brother went through his treatments, I could see the despair in his eyes.... One day I had enough of my brother's moping around

"This is why we train," I said. "To prepare for the road ahead."
"This is why we train," I told him. "For the mental stamina."
"This is why we train," I said. "To prepare you for the unexpected things"...
requires flexibility and also a lot of collaboration with outpatient and inpatient physicians, community providers, support services and more," said Winsome. "As the lead nurse on the unit, I help with strategic planning to make sure that patients are receiving the best possible care and the clinic is running efficiently."

Kathryn Pratt, RN, Autologous Stem Cell Transplant Coordinator, commented, "Winsome is keenly aware of everything that happens on her unit and is always available to address any issues. She has a vast breadth of knowledge and takes the time to provide a comprehensive and understandable explanation of the extremely complex procedures that go on in the apheresis unit. Kind and caring, she is able to forge connections with even the most anxious patients in a very short amount of time. Winsome is the epitome of excellent nursing care."

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**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. [Learn More >>]

**Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver of the Year Award**

Each year the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare honors extraordinary health care professionals with the National Compassionate Caregiver of the Year (NCCY) Award. The award recognizes caregivers from across the country who exemplify characteristics of compassionate care, including: communicating sensitively with patients and loved ones; listening carefully, showing empathy and instilling hope; respecting patients' values, culture, choices and decisions; and understanding the significance of patients' families and communities.

An individual health care professional or team that works directly with patients in any U.S. health care setting is eligible for this prestigious national award.

**Application Deadline:** March 31, 2016 [Learn More >>]
Human Frontier Science Program

The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) is a niche program that supports innovative basic research into fundamental biological problems with emphasis placed on novel and interdisciplinary approaches that involve scientific exchanges across national and disciplinary boundaries. The participation of scientists from disciplines outside the traditional life sciences such as biophysics, chemistry, computational biology, computer science, engineering, mathematics, nanoscience or physics has made biological research increasingly quantitative and will continue to do so. Such collaborations have opened up new approaches for understanding the complex structures and regulatory networks that characterize living organisms, their evolution and interactions.

To stimulate novel, daring ideas and innovative approaches, preliminary results are not required in research grant applications. The HFSP places special emphasis on encouraging scientists early in their careers - this is expressed both in the establishment of a special Young Investigators' Grant and in encouraging scientists early in their careers to participate in the Program Grants.

**Application Deadline:** March 31, 2016

Learn More >>

2016 AACR Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research

The recipient of this award will receive a $10,000 honorarium and present a 25-minute lecture at the annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, San Antonio, TX.

**Application Deadline:** April 13, 2016

Learn More >>

Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Grants

**Breakthrough Award**

Investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent) Senior postdoctoral fellows who do not meet the eligibility requirements of the Breakthrough Fellowship Award are encouraged to apply under Funding Levels 1 and 2. Supports promising research that has the potential to lead to or make breakthroughs in breast cancer. Potential impact of the research may be near-term or long-term, but it must be significant and go beyond an incremental advancement.

March 18; 8AM

**YSM Dean’s Office / Laboratory Medicine Seminar**

Yale’s West Campus Conference Center

**Cellular Immunotherapy Summit at Yale**

Read More >>

March 18; 12PM

**YCC Research in Progress Seminar**

Park Street Auditorium

**Targeting Homologous Recombination Deficiency in Prostate Cancer**

Tony Kim, MD

Read More >>

March 18; 1PM

**YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program**

SHM I-116

**Macrophage Migration Inhibitory Factor in Leukemia and Lymphoma**

Elias Lolis, PhD

Read More >>

March 18; 2:30PM

**YSM Special Seminar**

SHM B-145

**Study of Relevant Mechanisms of Immunosupression in Glioblastomas**

Miguel Idoate, MD, PhD

Read More >>

March 19; 6PM

**Yale Cancer Center Hosts: The Jim McNiff Memorial Golf Tournament Fundraiser**

The Winemaker’s Boutique

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Read More >>
Breakthrough Fellowship Award (NEW!)
Successfully completed the requirements for a doctoral or medical degree, and been in the laboratory or clinical research setting in which the proposed research is to be performed for no more than 2 years, and a total of less than 4 years experience in a postdoctoral fellowship or mentored clinical research training program (excludes any clinical residency or fellowship training).

Era of Hope Scholar Award
Independent, non-mentored investigators within 6 years of their last training position (e.g., postdoctoral fellowship, medical residency, clinical fellowship) as of the application submission deadline. Supports exceptionally talented, creative early-career scientists who have demonstrated that they are the "best and brightest" in their fields.

Innovator Award
Associate Professor or above (or equivalent). Supports visionary individuals who have demonstrated creativity, innovative work, and leadership in any field. Provides opportunity to pursue novel, visionary, high-risk ideas that will accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer. Please must include breast cancer advocates on their research team.

Letter of Intent Deadline: April 21, 2016
Learn More >>

Prostate Cancer Foundation Challenge Awards
Challenge awards are awarded to investigations of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer. These awards will be funded depending on the level of innovation in applications received. High risk, currently unfunded projects are most desired.
Application Deadline: April 29, 2016
Learn More >>

Prostate Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award
PCF Young Investigator Awards will be three (3) years in duration and will provide $75,000 per year. The award funds may be used flexibly to advance the career and research efforts of the awardee. Every PCF Young Investigator is required to be under the direct supervision of a mentor. Applicants should be within six-years following completion of a professional degree or clinical training such as MD, PhD, MD-PhD, DSc, ScD, DDM.
DDS, DMD, MBBS or equivalent and hold the title of Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor, Research Associate, Assistant Professor, or equivalent.

**Application Deadline:** April 29, 2016

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 >>

**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

Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094

Disease Relapse Following Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation

Robert J. Soiffer, MD

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March 23; 12PM

YSPH Dissertation Presentation

LEPH, Room 216

Dietary Biomarker Discovery using Metabolomics & Application to Understanding Breast Cancer Etiology

Mary Playdon

Read More >>

March 24; 9AM

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

NP4 101-A

Improving Survival in Cervical Cancer

Akila Viswanathan, MD, MPH

Read More >>

March 24; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheater, LMP 1094

Vascular Dependent and Independent Factors Modulating Cerebral Infarct Volume

Douglas A. Marchuk, PhD

Read More >>

March 27; 6PM

University of Connecticut School of Medicine CME Symposium

Cell & Genome Building, Grossman Auditorium

Surgery For Sarcomas

Lee Jeys, MB ChB, MSc

Read More >>

March 29; 9:30AM

Disease Relapse Following Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation

Robert J. Soiffer, MD

Read More >>
have an innovative new idea but lack sufficient preliminary data to obtain traditional funding. It is not designed to fund incremental advances. The 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 >>

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**Recent Publications**

**Pedicle versus free flap reconstruction in patients receiving intraoperative brachytherapy.**
Geiger EJ, Basques BA, Chang CC, Son Y, Sasaki CT, McGregor A, Ariyan S, Narayan D.
[Read More >>](#)

**Comparison of Smoking History Patterns Among African American and White Cohorts in the United States Born 1890 to 1990.**
Holford TR, Levy DT, Meza R.
[Read More >>](#)

**Mutation based treatment recommendations from next generation sequencing data: a comparison of web tools.**
[Read More >>](#)

**The light and the dark sides of Interleukin-10 in immune-mediated diseases and cancer.**
[Read More >>](#)

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**Pathology Research in Progress**

**TAC N-107**
Alexandra Signoriello and Shang-Min Zhang, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

**March 29; 12PM**

**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**
Park Street Auditorium
*Evolutionary analysis reveals early and multiple origins of metastatic lineages within primary tumors*
Jeffrey Townsend, PhD
TBA
Shrikant Mane, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

**March 29; 5PM**

**YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series**
Smilow first floor conference room, 1-330
TBA
[Read More >>](#)

**March 30; 3PM**

**YCC Special Seminar**
Brady Auditorium, B-131
*Leveraging Large Epidemiologic Cohorts to Define Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Treatment, and Biology*
Charles S. Fuchs, MD
[Read More >>](#)

**March 31; 12:30PM**

**Pathology Grand Rounds**
Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094
*Thyroid FNA: Can New Technologies Help Meet our Aspirations?*
Ellen J. Giampolli, MD
[Read More >>](#)

**April 1; 8AM**

**2016 YCC Developmental Therapeutics Half-Day Retreat**
300 George Street Auditorium
*Undruggable Targets*
[Read More >>](#)
Integrating multidimensional omics data for cancer outcome.
Zhu R, Zhao Q, Zhao H, Ma S.
Read More >>

Intensive Combination Chemotherapy and X-Irradiation in Hodgkin's Disease.
DeVita VT Jr, DeVita-Raeburn E, Moxley JH 3rd.
Read More >>

Directed migration of cancer cells by the graded texture of the underlying matrix.
Read Mater >>

Localized JNK signaling regulates organ size during development.
Elife. 2016 Mar 14;5.
Read More >>

Neuroendocrine tumor biomarkers: From monoanalytes to transcripts and algorithms.
Modlin IM, Bodei L, Kidd M.
Read More >>

Pairing smoking-cessation services with lung cancer screening: A clinical guideline from the Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence and the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.
Fucito LM, Czabafy S, Hendricks PS, Kotsen C, Richardson D, Toll BA; Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD)/Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) Synergy Committee.
Read More >>
Patient preferences regarding incidental genomic findings discovered during tumor profiling.
Read More >>

Disease-related costs of care and survival among Medicare-enrolled patients with myelodysplastic syndromes.
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