March 31, 2017

**Announcements**

**Yale Cancer Center at AACR**

The 2017 annual American Association for Cancer Research meeting will begin tomorrow, April 1, in Washington, D.C., and many of Yale Cancer Center's members will present their basic and clinical research findings. I look forward to seeing many of you there. If you are attending the meeting, please support our colleagues during their presentations. A full list of presentations and poster viewings can be downloaded from our website.

Of special note, on Tuesday, April 4, at 3 PM, Dr. Craig Crews will receive the 11th AACR Award for Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry in Cancer Research in recognition of his important contributions to the field of chemical biology, including seminal work toward the development of the next-generation proteasome inhibitor, carfilzomib. Dr. Crews will present "PROTACs: Targeted Protein Degradation as a Therapeutic Strategy" in Room 202, Level 2.

Also on Tuesday, at 4:20 PM, Dr. Ranjit Bindra will participate in the official press program and present on IDH Mutant Cancers during his presentation "Oncometabolites induce a BRCAness state that can be exploited by PARP inhibitors" in Room 147, Level 1.

Yale Cancer Center at AACR >>
**Extended Care Clinic Opening Monday**

Smilow Cancer Hospital will open an Extended Care Clinic for our patients on the 12th floor in NP 12-3001 on Monday, April 3. The clinic will be available for our patients who need priority medical attention to promote continuity of care and to decrease our patients’ use of avoidable emergency room services. Bonnie Gould Rothberg, MD, MPH will serve as attending physician in the Extended Care Clinic and Benjamin Judson, MD has been appointed Medical Director of the Clinic.

Services will include pain management, hydration, and other acute care needs. The clinic will be available 7 days/week from 7 AM - 11 PM. Patients will need to be referred by their provider or on-call physician for care, and then should be sent to the 12th floor clinic. Beginning Monday, to refer a patient, please call (203) 200-ECC1 (3221).

**Celebratory ribbon cutting on March 28 to celebrate the new Clinic.**

**Nominations Open for Oncology Nursing and PCA Awards**

Smilow Cancer Hospital announces its annual Oncology/Research Nursing Clinical Excellence Awards and PCA Educational Grants. These awards were established to focus attention on the Smilow Cancer Hospital vision, mission, and philosophy and to recognize exemplary contributions of nurses and patient care associates involved in the care of patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Anyone, including peer staff members, nurses, advanced practice nurses, physicians’ assistants, physicians, and other members of the cancer care team, as well as patients and families, can nominate a nurse or PCA. The deadline for nominations is Monday, April 10.

---

**LATEST ARTICLES:**

"Precision medicine" now being used in treatment of local cancer patients

Cancer clinical trials could lead to better outcomes

Immunotherapy beating cancer, offers new hope for patients
Yale Cancer Center Intranet

Yale Cancer Center launched an Intranet section of our website to provide one easily accessible location for useful information for faculty and staff. The site includes policies, commonly requested forms and documents, coverage and fellows' schedules, contact information, and clinical trials office documents and information. The intranet is only accessible on campus or by logging in through VPN access off campus. If you would like to have additional information considered for inclusion on the new site, please contact Emily Fenton.

Notables

**Oscar Colegio, MD, PhD**, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Research Program, has been chosen as a 2017 recipient of the Young Investigator in Dermatology Award by the American Academy of Dermatology. Two awards are given each year to recognize outstanding basic, translational, or clinical research by young dermatology investigators.

**Hari Deshpande, MD**, presented "Clinical Trials for Cancers of Unknown Primary in the Tumor Profiling Era" at the inaugural International Congress on Clinical Trials in Oncology and Hematology in London, England, earlier this month.

**Ronald Breaker, PhD**, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Developmental Therapeutics Program, has been named the Sterling Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology.

**Alana Schepartz, PhD**, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Developmental Therapeutics Program, has been appointed the Sterling Professor of Chemistry at Yale University.

**Camille Servodidio, RN, BSN, MPH**, has joined Smilow Cancer Hospital in the role of Program Manager of Women's Oncology Services.

"Substantial" room for improvement in HPV vaccination coverage, study finds

Palliative care linked to fewer repeat hospitalizations

Major grant accelerates cancer research

Popular prostate cancer therapy is short, intense, and unproven
Camille is a qualified leader in Oncology Nursing having held leadership positions at both Hartford Hospital and at Middlesex Hospital where she was the Clinical Manager of the Breast Program.

The Yale Cancer Center Office of Research Affairs welcomes Ashley McCaherty as a new Program Manager. Ashley will be working alongside Christine Holmberg and Christina Dreyfus and joins the Cancer Center from the Department of Psychiatry.

Claudia Millan, RN, BSN, has been promoted to the role of Assistant Patient Service Manager (APSM) for the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers in Fairfield and Trumbull. Claudia began her career in Oncology Nursing in 2009 and joined the Care Centers in 2014.

Research in the News

Automatic Palliative Care Consult for Patients with Advanced Cancers Leads to Improved Outcomes

A recent study demonstrated that increased palliative care consultations for patients with advanced cancers is associated with substantial impact on 30-day readmission, administration of chemotherapy following discharge, hospice referral, and use of support services following discharge.

This is the first study of its kind to demonstrate these significant results, and it is expected that expansion of this model to other hospitals and health systems should improve the value of cancer care. "Patients with advanced cancer admitted to an acute care hospital often have short life expectancies and high morbidity," said Dr. Adelson. "For these patients, the integration of palliative care has improved symptom burden, reduced patient and caregiver distress, increased referral to hospice, and improved outcomes."

Yale Study Published in JNCCN Uncovers Racial Disparities in Treatment of Women with Breast Cancer

Patients face many difficult decisions as they navigate the cancer treatment
In a simple definition, cancer is a disease of the cells, which is caused by gene mutations. For a proportion of patients, including women with hormone receptor positive (HR+) breast cancer, gene expression profiling has a substantial impact on treatment decision-making by determining which patients might-or might not-respond to particular treatment options.

Gene expression profiling tests are readily available, yet researchers recently found that white women with breast cancer are far more likely to receive a particular test-Oncotype Dx™ (ODx)-than black or Hispanic women with the same diagnosis.

Development Update

Yale Cancer Center supporters, Ginny and Ken Grunley, spent a day on campus earlier this month. Last year, they launched the Ginny and Ken Grunley Fund for Lung Cancer Research. During their visit, they met with Dr. Katerina Politi, Dr. Kurt Schalper, Dr. Edward Kaftan, Dr. Yang Zhou, and Marianne Davis, APRN, as well as Dr. Roy Herbst. Dr. Politi and Dr. Schalper each gave presentations on their research, before they toured Dr. Schalper’s Immuno-oncology Lab and the Yale Art Gallery. The Grunleys are shown in the photo with Dr. Herbst during the art gallery tour, standing in front of Van Gogh’s *The Night Café*.

A pop-up art project sponsored by Lilly Oncology is fluttering through Smilow Cancer Hospital, visiting different floors and making days a little more colorful. At each station it stops at, caregivers and patients add a fingerprint, emphasizing the community we share in our connection to the hospital. Stop by the 8th floor, where the project is fluttering off to next, to view this beautiful, collaborative project.
Employee Profile: Nina Carusillo

When Nina Carusillo first started as a Physician Assistant (PA) for the Gynecologic Oncology Program 14 years ago, she was the first PA the department had ever hired. Now she oversees the care of patients in Smilow in the Gynecologic Oncology inpatient unit and is an integral part of the medical team. She works closely with the attending physicians, nurses, and other staff to provide the best care possible to patients.

Nina has always been interested in the medical aspects of the field, but has a personal interest in end-of-life care, which she explained, is something you cannot learn, but rather, a skill that is acquired through experience. "We see patients starting at the time of diagnosis, through end-of-life," said Nina. "Some patients I have known for 10-11 years, as well as their families. My hope is that they know the positive impact they have on my life, as I hope I have on theirs."

Nina holds meetings with patients and their family members to discuss end-of-life care and next steps. She commented that to do this job, your heart has to be in it every day, and you can accept nothing less of yourself than high-quality, compassionate care.

Over the last 14 years, Nina commented that the job has changed as new advancements have been made, but the patient population remains the same, and that is why she could never imagine working in another department or with a different team; she

Interested in how the field of cancer research is changing, and what that means for the future of cancer treatment? Read this article from our magazine Breakthroughs, which details how Yale Cancer Center has become a hub for translational research in immunotherapy, allowing researchers to coordinate and better fight cancer in innovative, multidisciplinary ways.

The 4th floor of Smilow Cancer Hospital is shining a bit brighter today thanks to a new art installation: "Starlight: the night sky reimagined by the Smilow community." Designed by artist Christin FitzGerald, whose husband Kevin has been cared for by the physicians and staff at Smilow since 2011, the project features countless constellations, chosen by Smilow patients, staff, and families.

Each piece is connected to the next, representing the enduring bond we all share by being connected to the hospital. Christin's daughter, when asked at the age
loves the specialty and the patients. Tracy Carafeno, MS, RN CNML, Patient Services Manager for NP 14/15, commented, "Nina has a gift of connecting with her patients. The relationships she builds allow patients to feel safe and cared for knowing that Nina is advocating for them. Nina is the backbone of the inpatient Gynecologic Oncology service."

Funding and Award Opportunities

All current funding opportunities are archived on the Yale Cancer Center Web site, and searchable by topic, funding agency, and due date. Please check the site often for new opportunities.

Learn More >>

Roslyn and Jerome Meyer Pilot Awards for Research in Melanoma and Immuno-Oncology

Yale Cancer Center in collaboration with the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer invites applications for funding of two-year research projects focusing on further study of the tumor immune microenvironment in melanoma and biology of melanoma with potential to provide the rationale for novel therapeutic applications.

Application Deadline: April 1, 2017.

Contact edward.kaftan@yale.edu with any questions.

Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Center 2017 Internal Collaborative (Co-Pilot) Grant Program

YCC is pleased to announce the 2017 Internal Co-Pilot Grant competition. Members of Yale Cancer Center or faculty who have applied for membership are eligible to apply.

Letter of Intent Due: April 3, 2017 to be emailed to janice.zulkeski@yale.edu

Learn More >>

Activities to Promote Technology Research Collaborations (APTRC) for Cancer Research (Admin Supp)

Read More >>

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

Follow us on twitter

LATEST TWEETS:

Chemical disinfectants & sanitizers linked to thyroid cancer: @YaleCancer @YaleSPH study by Yawei Zhang http://reut.rs/2omzQsP via @Reuters

Thank you to our entire team of doctors at #Smilow! They are dedicated and do the very best for our patients every day #NationalDoctorsDay

Pat LoRusso will present @AACR event "Progress & Promise Against Cancer" 4/1 @AACRFoundation#precisionmedicine

Welcome @rsm2800 to present @YaleCancer Grand Rounds @ASCO CancerLinQ #quality#cancercare

Listen to Maureen's decision to choose to continue treatment for stage IV #lungcancer: #lcsm#fighter#survivor
The NCI administers two unique programs focused on supporting technology development research that offer transformative potential for advancing cancer research.

**Deadline for Applications:** April 12, 2017
[Learn More >>](#)

**Golf for Rob Announces the Availability of Three 1-Year Melanoma Research Awards**
Golf for Rob announced they are now accepting applications for three 1-year Melanoma Research Awards.

**Application Deadline:** April 21, 2017
[Learn More >>](#)

**The Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Career Development Program and Developmental Research Program Awards**
The CDP of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer has been established to educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in lung cancer.

**Letter of Intent Due:** April 28, 2017
[Learn More >>](#)

The Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer's DRP provides seed money to investigators to support studies with a strong translational component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated as, a full Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer project.

**Letter of Intent Due:** April 28, 2017
[Learn More >>](#)

**Bioengineering Research Partnerships**
This FOA encourages bioengineering applications that will accelerate the development and adoption of promising tools and technologies that can address important biomedical problems.

**Application Deadline:** May 18, 2017
[Learn More >>](#)

**The Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (U01)**
This FOA invites applications from multi-disciplinary teams of researchers and clinicians to establish the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (PCDC).

**Application Deadline:** May 26, 2017
[Learn More >>](#)
Multilevel Interventions in Cancer Care Delivery: Building from the Problem of Follow-up to Abnormal Screening Tests (U01)
This FOA encourages applications that strengthen the science of multilevel effects of cancer care interventions by addressing the problem of incomplete follow-up to abnormal screening tests for breast, colorectal, cervical and lung cancers.
**Application Due Date:** May 26, 2017

Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (U01)
This FOA will support the development and characterization of state-of-the-art biomimetic tissue-engineered technologies for cancer research.
**Application Deadline:** May 30, 2017

---

**Recent Publications**

**Hypofractionated Radiotherapy for Prostate Cancer: Further Evidence to Tip the Scales.**
Yu JB.
J Clin Oncol. 2017 Mar 29;JCO2017727016.
[Read More >>]

**Active Surveillance in Younger Men With Prostate Cancer.**
Leapman MS, Cowan JE, Nguyen HG, Shinohara KK, Perez N, Cooperberg MR, Catalona WJ, Carroll PR.
J Clin Oncol. 2017 Mar 27;JCO2016680058.
[Read More >>]

**Clinical and Serologic Responses After a Two-dose Series of High-dose Influenza Vaccine in Plasma Cell Disorders: A Prospective, Single-arm Trial.**
RUVBL1-ITFG1 interaction is required for collective invasion in breast cancer.
Read More >>

Sentinel lymph node biopsy in low risk settings.
Tasoulis MK, Hughes T, Babiera G, Chagpar AB.
Read More >>

Isolated port site recurrence of node-negative clinical stage IB1 cervical adenocarcinoma.
Deshmukh U, McAdow M, Black J, Hui P, Azodi M.
Read More >>

Nuclear IRF-1 expression as a mechanism to assess "Capability" to express PD-L1 and response to PD-1 therapy in metastatic melanoma.
Read More >>

Systematic evaluation of immune regulation and modulation.
Read More >>
Differentiating Renal Neoplasms From Simple Cysts on Contrast-Enhanced CT on the Basis of Attenuation and Homogeneity.
Read More >>

Read More >>

The prognostic value of extranodal extension in human papillomavirus-associated oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma.
Read More >>

Negative Multi-Parametric MRI of the Prostate Predicts Absence of Clinically Significant Prostate Cancer on 12-Core Template Prostate Biopsy.
Read More >>

Metastatic Colorectal Cancer: Management With Trifluridine/Tipiracil.
Read More >>

Standardized Criteria for Palliative Care Consultation on a Solid Tumor Oncology Service Reduces Downstream Health Care Use.

Learn More >>

April 6; 12:30 PM
Pathology Grand Rounds
LMP1094
Viral Manipulation of Cell Death
Zahra Zakeri, PhD
Learn More >>

April 6; 2:30 PM
Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar
SRC, Suites 107-109
Learn More >>

April 6; 4 PM
Smilow Wellness Workshop
Park Street Auditorium
Self-Compassion for Caregiving Professionals
Tim Desmond, LMFT
Learn More >>

April 6; 5:30 PM
Smilow Wellness Workshop
Park Street Auditorium
Self Compassion: Practical Skills for Coping
Tim Desmond, LMFT
Learn More >>

April 7; 12 PM
YCC Epigenetics Interest Group & Signal Transduction Special Seminar
SHM I-304
High Throughput Sample Preparation and Analytical Platforms to Detect Epigenetic Alterations in Tissues
Karol Bomsztyk, MD
Learn More >>

April 7; 2 PM
Free Head & Neck Cancer Screening
YNHH, EP special event area
Learn More >>

April 9; 7:30 PM
Yale Cancer Answers
Waste disposal-An attractive strategy for cancer therapy.
Read More >>

New concepts in embolotherapy of HCC.
Read More >>

TRAF3/CYLD mutations identify a distinct subset of human papilloma virus-associated head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.
Read More >>

Pembrolizumab as Second-Line Therapy for Advanced Urothelial Carcinoma.
Read More >>
Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs & Communications
renee.gaudette@yale.edu