May 15, 2015

Announcements

Smilow Celebrates 5 Years!

I was so proud to have the wonderful opportunity to celebrate the 5 year anniversary of Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven last night at Yale’s West Campus with many of our most generous donors and our senior leadership. The evening was a outstanding success and a wonderful way to reflect on all that we have achieved over the last 5 years. Many of the guests enjoyed tours of the Yale Center for Genome Analysis before the formal event began - thank you to the fantastic team there for leading the informative tours.

Mr. Smilow gave touching remarks sharing many stories of friends who have received outstanding care here at Smilow. The most rewarding part of the evening was the opportunity to recognize the outstanding leadership team we have assembled here at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. I'm looking forward to our continued successes over the next 5 years. Thank you for all of your support during the first 5!
In Memoriam: Dr. Alan Sartorelli

It is with great sadness that we remember the life of Dr. Alan Sartorelli, who passed away on April 30 at the age of 83. Dr. Sartorelli will be remembered for his dedicated career at Yale School of Medicine, beginning in 1961 as Assistant Professor of Pharmacology. He served as Director of Yale Cancer Center from 1984 to 1993 and Chairman of Pharmacology from 1977 to 1984. Dr. Sartorelli was honored with the Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

During his career, Dr. Sartorelli elucidated the concept of bioreductive activation of prodrugs by oxygen-deficient (hypoxic) tumor cells and synthesized and evaluated potential anticancer agents, contributing to our understanding of tumor cell metabolism. He was a co-founder of the Vion Pharmaceuticals in New Haven and was a major leader in the development of several of their drugs. He was also an editor of *Biochemical Pharmacology* and executive editor of *Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. Dr. Sartorelli served on the editorial boards of many scientific journals, on many NIH committees, and mentored more than 100 graduate students and PhD candidates.

In recent years, Dr. Sartorelli particularly liked to recall his time at the helm of our Cancer Center. "I loved that job," he once told an interviewer from one of our Medical School publications. "It was exactly what I wanted to do." And he was proud of the fact that his role as director went beyond steering research across the many disciplines that make up the Cancer Center.

"He was completely focused and determined to carry on with research until the very end of his life," remembered Dr. Carolyn Slayman, Deputy Dean of Yale School of Medicine.

Smilow Celebrates our Nurses

In recognition of Oncology Nursing Month, I was pleased to join Cathy Lyons, Executive Director of Patient Care Services, on Wednesday to celebrate and recognize all of our amazing nurses and nursing managers who work tirelessly on behalf of

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Unbreakable Bonds in the Folds of a Wedding Dress

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WHRY-Funded Investigator
Reducing the Confusion In Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer Risk
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LATEST POSTS:

According to an ancient Japanese legend, one thousand cranes grant eternal good luck, including recovery from illness. To inspire a 22-year-old patient with acute myeloid leukemia to fight back, the hematology team is in the process of making a thousand origami cranes to hang in his hospital room. Created by Resident MDs Kenny Morford, Jackie Hirsh, Antonios Charokopos, and Alicia Howard, the cranes are starting to take on a life of their own on the 11th floor of Smilow Cancer Hospital. They are finding their way into many of the patients' rooms as well as staff offices.
our patients each day. Thank you for all of your outstanding efforts, and for your amazing ability to continually push our standards higher for patient care.

Four awards were given at this year's Oncology Nursing Breakfast:

Beginning later this year, IBM's Watson will help patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Made famous in 2011 on "Jeopardy!," Watson will analyze the DNA fingerprint of a patient's tumor to discover which genes are mutated and possibly causing the malignancy. Using this analysis, doctors will have more complete information at their disposal when selecting how best to treat patients.

Part of National Cancer Research Month, Yale Cancer Center leadership went to Capitol Hill this week to participate in "Hill Day" and raise awareness of the importance of federal funding for cancer research.
Many patients find it's difficult to get the nutrition they need while going through treatment. Check out these quick and tasty shake and soup recipes while going through treatment:

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LATEST TWEETS:

- Get to know Dr. Pat LoRusso, our associate director of Innovative Medicine. [Link] @ysm @YNHH@AACR
- How to quit smoking: it's all about your brain and money [Link] via @TIMEHealth
- MT Moving story by @devansiphiper incl. @ynhh patient @maryanngit Unbreakable Bonds in the Folds of a Wedding Dress [Link]
- ASCO15 embargo has lifted. See you at the podium and poster hall. Check out the program
- Study Asks If Carrot or Stick Can Better Help Smokers Stop [Link]
Kert Sabbath Named Director of Clinical Research for the Care Centers
I am happy to announce the appointment of Kert Sabbath as Director of Clinical Research at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers. Under Kert’s leadership on the Clinical Research Working Group, the Care Center physicians have more than doubled their accrual to therapeutic clinical trials in the past 12 months. In his position, Kert will work with all of the Care Centers to optimize their research contributions. Kert will continue to work closely with the Translational Working Group (TWG) leaders to align the care centers with their research objectives.

ASCO 2015
Thank you to the Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital team for your continued efforts to put our basic, clinical, translational, and population research on the podium at national meetings. I am looking forward to another engaging meeting at ASCO later this month, and to seeing many of you there. The following is a list of our participation in this year’s meeting. Please take the time to support your colleagues if you’re attending in Chicago this year.

Download Session List >>
Clinical Science Symposiums:
Saturday, May 30; 9:03 AM - 9:15 AM
Location: E Hall D1
Immunotherapy for Every Patient: Check Your Enthusiasm
Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD

Monday, June 1; 3:48 PM - 4:00 PM
Location: E Arie Crown Theater
Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell Therapy for B-Cell Malignancies
Madhav V. Dhodapkar, MBBS

Education Sessions:
Saturday, May 30; 1:15 PM - 1:35 PM
Location: E Hall D1
Recent Positive Clinical Trials and Data in Context of Study Results, Design, and Endpoints
Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD

Tuesday, June 2; 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: E450
Lung Cancer
Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD

Oral Abstract Sessions:
Saturday, May 30; 4:36 PM - 4:48 PM
Location: E Hall D1
Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Glimpse of Light
Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD

Monday, June 1; 9:48 AM - 10:00 AM
Location: S102
Randomized trial of exercise on quality of life and fatigue in women diagnosed with ovarian cancer: The Women's Activity and Lifestyle Study in Connecticut (WALC).
Yong Zhou, MD, MPH

Monday, June 1; 10:24 AM - 10:36 AM
Location: S102
Impact of the LIVESTRONG at the YMCA Program on physical activity, fitness, and quality of life in cancer survivors.
Melinda L. Irwin, PhD, MPH

Monday, June 1; 12:09 PM - 12:21 PM
Location: E450
The Potential Role of Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation in Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma
Francine M. Foss, MD

Monday, June 1; 9:57 AM - 10:09 AM
Location: E Arie Crown Theater

May 19; 9:30 AM
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
BML 137
Erin Boisvert, PhD and Abitha Sukumaran, PhD
Read More >>

May 19; 12:00 PM
Smilow Case Notes
Park Street Auditorium
Complications of New Treatments
Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD
Read More >> (PDF)

May 19; 4:00 PM
Palliative Medicine Grand Rounds
WWW 208
Ketamine in Palliative Medicine: Some Evidence but not Enough
Anu Paul, MBBS
Read More >> (PDF)

May 20; 9:30 AM
2015 Yale Cancer Center Annual Scientific Retreat
Yale’s West Campus
Mark A. Lemmon, PhD
Read More >>

May 20; 12:00 PM
YCC Prevention and Control Research Program
LEPH, Room 216
Hydraulic Fracturing and Childhood Leukemia: Is There a Connection
Nicole Deziel, PhD
Read More >>

May 21; 9:00 AM
Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
NP4-101A
A phase Ia study of MPDL3280A (anti-PDL1): Updated response and survival data in urothelial bladder cancer (UBC).
Daniel P. Petrylak, MD

Monday, June 1; 3:15 PM - 3:27 PM
Location: S100bc
HPV and Epstein-Barr Virus-Related Head and Neck Cancer: Deintensification and Surveillance
Barbara Burtness, MD

Poster Discussion Session:
Saturday, May 30; 3:00 PM - 3:12 PM
Location:S406
Expanding Indications of Checkpoint Blockade
Harriet Kluger, MD

Poster Sessions: S Hall A
Saturday, May 30; 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Prospective study of the decision-making impact of the Breast Cancer Index in the selection of patients with ER+ breast cancer for extended endocrine therapy.
Tara Sanft, MD

A phase 2, randomized, open-label study of lucitanib in patients with FGF aberrant metastatic breast cancer.
Maysa Abu-Khalaf, MD

A phase II trial of neoadjuvant aromatase inhibitor therapy and the mTOR inhibitor everolimus in postmenopausal women with hormone receptor positive/HER2 negative breast cancer and a low/intermediate risk Oncotype Dx Recurrence Score (≤ 25).
Maysa Abu-Khalaf, MD

Expression and significance of the co-regulatory ligands B7-H4 and PD-L1 in triple negative breast cancer.
Mehmet Altan, MD
Outcomes of adjuvant ACT vs. TC chemotherapy in older women with breast cancer.
Sarah Schellhorn Mougalian, MD

Significance of PD-L1, IDO-1, and B7-H4 expression in lung cancer.
Kurt Alex Schalper, MD/PhD

Can routine cavity shave margins (CSM) improve local control in breast cancer? Initial results of the SHAVE trial, a prospective randomized controlled trial of routine CSM vs. standard partial mastectomy (SPM).
Anees B. Chagpar, MD, MSc, MPH, MA, MBA

Poster Sessions: S Hall A

The Patient Thermometer & Breast Journal Club
Mary Strauss, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C
Read More >>

May 21; 11:00 AM
YSM Teaching and Learning Center
TAC N-107
Medical Education Day at Yale: Enhancing Educator Development and Scholarship
David M. Irby, PhD
Read More >> (PDF)

May 21; 12:00 PM
Schwartz Center Rounds
Park Street Auditorium
Read More >>

May 22; 12:00 PM
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
NP4-101A
Justine Cohen, DO and Jamie Stratton, MD
Read More >>

May 22; 1:00 PM
YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program
ShM I-116
Drug Development Studies on Triapine and Laromustine: A Tribute to Professor Alan Sartorelli
Z. Ping Lin, PhD and Philip Penketh, PhD
Read More >> (PDF)

May 24; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR
New Advances in Bladder Cancer

Read More >>
Saturday, May 30; 1:15 PM - 4:45 PM
Distress in cancer survivors attending a multidisciplinary survivorship clinic.
Tara Sanft, MD

Trends and regional variation of end-of-life cancer care in the Medicare program.
Shi-Yi Wang, MD, PhD

Contemporary national trends of prostate cancer screening among privately insured patients in the United States.
Simon P. Kim, MD, MPH

Poster Sessions: S Hall A2
Monday, June 1; 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM
First-line monotherapy with nivolumab (NIVO; anti-programmed death-1 [PD-1]) in advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC): Safety, efficacy and correlation of outcomes with PD-1 ligand (PD-L1) expression.
Scott Gettinger, MD

Activity and safety of pembrolizumab in patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer with untreated brain metastases
Sarah Goldberg, MD

"The burden upon me": The complexity of healthcare utilization among Medicare patients undergoing curative lung cancer treatment.
Carolyn Jean Presley, MD

Association between radiation dose and outcomes with postoperative radiotherapy for N0-N1 non-small-cell-lung cancer.
Elyn H. Wang, BS

Clinical diagnostic utility of a blood-based multi-transcriptome assay for gastroenteropancreatic disease.
Irvin Mark Modlin, MD, PhD

Poster Sessions: S Hall A
Monday, June 1; 1:15 PM - 4:45 PM
A framework to assess the cost effectiveness of predictive biomarkers in oncology: Test Incremental Cost Effectiveness Ratio (TICER).
Anton Safonov, BS

Notables

Hyperlink: Please submit your recent...
Congratulations to Sarah Goldberg, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), the recipient of this year’s Charles A. Coltman, Jr., Fellowship from the SWOG/Hope Foundation. Dr. Goldberg also received the first SWOG Trial Support, or STrS, award, which will provide critical bridge funding for the S1403 lung cancer trial now in protocol development.

Thank you to the 2015 Yale-New Haven Hospital Free Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Screening team, co-chaired by Joseph Mendes and Debbie Klotzer. The team screened a total of 385 participants at both our York Street and St. Raphael Campuses and had a record number of 69 referrals. This year they also partnered with the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Waterbury and screened over 90 participants at that location.

Dr. Roy Herbst briefed Congress on Capitol Hill yesterday on behalf of the American Association for Cancer Research on the unknown risks associated with electronic cigarettes.

Employee Profile: Maria Moura

As part of the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, Maria Moura, BSN, RN-BC, CBPN-IC, OCN is a Breast Health Nurse Coordinator at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at New Haven, Saint Raphael Campus. Maria is very involved with patient care from diagnosis with breast imaging guided biopsy to the different treatment modalities for breast cancer.

Maria supports Dr. Brigid Killelea, surgical oncologist, Dr. Andrea Silber, medical oncologist, and Dr. Lajos Pusztai, medical oncologist. She helps to coordinate patient treatment plans, provides education on each treatment modality and ensures everything is in place as far as referrals and appointments. She makes herself available to patients throughout the entire treatment process. Maria commented, “In working with the different specialties of breast cancer treatment I get to follow the same patient and see how they are doing during each treatment phase and I feel that patients benefit
from having a familiar face during the treatment process. Thankfully the majority of patients with breast cancer do well, but it is still a very scary and difficult diagnosis for each patient and I am so grateful I am allowed to be with them at such a vulnerable time."

As part of the Avon-Pfizer Metastatic Breast Cancer Grants Program focusing on disparities, Maria will be working with Dr. Silber to educate and coordinate services for underserved women in the community and help establish a program to deal with socioeconomic issues. Women are made aware of the services that are available and how they can access them.

Maria's main goal is providing the best care possible to patients every day. If there is a way that she can make the journey easier for patients, she does it. Maureen Major Campus, RN, MS, Program Manager for Women's Oncology Services at Smlow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven said, "Maria is extremely knowledgeable on breast disease and is vital to the care of our patients. She is a gracious team member and has taught us all about flexibility and problem solving. She is a strong member of our team and we are lucky to call her a colleague."

Dr. Pusztai commented, "Maria is always there for the patients to answer questions and uses her sound judgment to solve problems. She goes the extra mile without being asked. I think she embodies all values that Smilow stands for; caring, professionalism, collegiality and compassion. I am very fortunate to work with her in the clinic."

### Funding and Award Opportunities

**Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation "A" Awards**

Designed for early career scientists with an original project who can demonstrate outstanding mentorship and have a strong future commitment to pediatric cancer investigation. The grant is open to MD, MD/PhD and PhD investigators. Maximum of $450,000 awarded over three years.

**Application Deadline:** May 22, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

**Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research**

The Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (Y-CORE PCOR) is an AHRQ-funded K12 program within the Yale-New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation that is designed to train junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows in patient-
centered outcomes research. Y-CORE PCOR will provide training and career development support for 2 scholars who have a clinical or research doctoral degree and are committed to a career in patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and comparative effectiveness research (CER).

**Application Deadline:** May 29, 2015

**Learn More >>**

**Prostate Cancer Foundation**
The Prostate Cancer Foundation's 2015 Young Investigator Awards Program will award grants to advance careers and research in prostate cancer ($225,000 over three years). Early-career basic scientists, medical oncologists, pathologists, urologists, radiologists, radiation oncologists, public health experts, bioinformaticians, bioengineers, and others are encouraged to apply. Interaction with translational prostate cancer physician-scientists within a clinical environment is highly desirable. Applicants should be within six years of the completion of a professional degree or clinical training and under direct supervision of a mentor(s), and have received no more than $200,000 in current direct research funding, including institutional funds.

**Application Deadline:** June 3, 2015

**Learn More >> (PDF)**

**Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research Program**
The Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research Program supports assistant professors of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of a cure for cancer. The award provides $240,000 in flexible support-$60,000 per year for a four-year period. In line with The Stewart Trust's mission to invest in innovative, cutting-edge cancer research that may accelerate and advance progress toward a cure for cancer, applications are invited from nominees conducting cancer research.

For consideration, please send a research proposal summary and CV to Daniel DiMaio for consideration. Yale Cancer Center can nominate one candidate for the Pew-Scholars for Cancer Research Program. All materials must be sent to Dr. DiMaio by Monday, June 15.

**Learn More >>**

**Komen Request for Applications**

**Career Catalyst Research Grants - Basic/Translational Research**
This award mechanism is appropriate for both basic (i.e. Ph.D.) or clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows proposing research 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.

**Career Catalyst Research Grants - Clinical Research**
This award mechanism is appropriate for clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows/faculty proposing clinical, patient-oriented research projects that involve direct interactions with human subjects/patients. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

**Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants - Basic/Translational Research**
This grant mechanism is appropriate for both basic (i.e. Ph.D.) or clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows proposing research 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.

**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 >>](#)

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

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### Recent Publications

**SRSF2 Mutations Contribute to Myelodysplasia by Mutant-Specific Effects on Exon Recognition.**
Cancer Cell. 2015 May 11;27(5):617-630.
Read More >>

**Therapeutic Combinations of Immune-Modulating Antibodies in Melanoma and Beyond.**
Cohen J, Sznol M.
Read More >>

**MiR-125a targets effector programs to stabilize Treg-mediated immune homeostasis.**
Read More >>

**Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, body mass index and cytokine polymorphisms: a pooled analysis from the InterLymph consortium.**
Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2015 May 11.
Read More >>
Circulating tumor cell clusters-associated gene plakoglobin and breast cancer survival.
Lu L, Zeng H, Gu X, Ma W.
Read More >>

Selective modulation of the functions of a conserved DNA motor by a histone fold complex.
Genes Dev. 2015 May 8.
Read More >>

Multifaceted control of DNA repair pathways by the hypoxic tumor microenvironment.
Scanlon SE, Glazer PM.
Read More >>

ALDH1B1 Is Crucial for Colon Tumorigenesis by Modulating Wnt/β-Catenin, Notch and PI3K/Akt Signaling Pathways.
Singh S, Arcaroli J, Chen Y, Thompson DC, Messersmith W, Jimeno A, Vasiloiu V.
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DNA Damage Signaling Is Induced in the Absence of Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) Lytic DNA Replication and in Response to Expression of ZEBRA.
Wang'ondu R, Teal S, Park R, Heston L, Delecluse H, Miller G.
Read More >>

BRAF inhibition decreases cellular glucose uptake in melanoma in association with reduction in cell volume.
Mol Cancer Ther. 2015 May 6.
Read More >>