May 29, 2015

Announcements

ASCO 2015
Yale Cancer Center will have an exciting weekend at ASCO, beginning tomorrow morning when the embargo lifts on an important study from our breast center that will most definitely change the way our surgeons are trained and women with breast cancer are cared for. Congratulations to Anees Chagpar on her important publication! Dr. Melinda Irwin and Dr. Yang Zhou will also be presenting new data that confirms the importance of exercise on outcomes and cancer survivorship.

In addition, Dr. Daniel Petrylak will present updated data on immunotherapy for bladder cancer; Dr. Barbara Burtness will discuss the impact of viruses on head and neck cancers; Dr. Roy Herbst will show new hope in small cell lung cancer; and Dr. Francine Foss will discuss the potential of transplant in T Cell Lymphoma.

The following is a full list of Yale Cancer Center's participation at this year's meeting. Please take the time to support your colleagues if you're attending in Chicago this weekend.

Download Session List >>

Qin Yan Receives $4.1M in DoD Funding
Yale Cancer Center biologist Dr. Qin Yan has been awarded $4.1 million from the U.S. Department of Defense for a project that will explore finding new drug targets and more effective treatments for metastatic breast cancer. Dr. Yan, Associate Professor of Pathology and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Genetics and Genomics Research Program, said the Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) Era of Hope Scholar project aims to dissect the epigenetic mechanisms of breast cancer metastasis and to develop targeted therapies. He and his team hope to identify why some breast cancers become metastatic, understand what
drives metastasis, and translate the findings into new personalized therapies for the clinic.

**Notables**

Congratulations to Joseph Contessa MD, PhD and Evan Morris, PhD, co-principal investigators on a new R01 from the National Cancer Institute, "Validation of Quantitative 11C-Erlotinib PET for Imaging EGFR-Mutant Lung Cancer." Their project will be done in collaboration with Sarah Goldberg, MD, MPH, and is the first NIH funded collaboration between Yale Cancer Center and the Yale PET Center. The 3-year grant totals over $750,000.

Dr. Andrea Silber has received a $35,000 grant from Avon Foundation for Women at AVON 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer. The grant will provide patient navigation to medically underserved metastatic breast cancer patients to help them access care and make informed health care decisions.

The following grants have been funded through the Closer to Free Grants for Small Projects to Improve Patient Care at Smilow Cancer Hospital for 2014. For more information on the process, please contact Ruth McCorkle.

1. Effects of Meditation on Patients' Psychosocial Responses during Radiation Therapy for Head and Neck Cancer. Gisela Boxleitner, Complementary Services; $5,000.
3. Improving the Patient Experience through Implementation of a New Patient Education Folder. Alison Tray, Thoracic Oncology Program, $5,000.
4. Evaluation of Arm and shoulder function in Women with Breast Cancer. Louis Friedman, Rehabilitation Services, $4,300.

The Women's Faculty Forum (WFF) at Yale recently selected 20 faculty members across the university to work with...
journalists from The OpEd Project. Congratulations to Dr. Anees Chagpar who has been selected to participate in The Public Voices Fellowship at Yale University.


Research in the News

Exercise offers cancer survivors significant improvements in quality of life
For many cancer survivors, a better quality of life is as close as the nearest pair of sneakers. That's because a growing body of research, including two recent studies led by Yale Cancer Center, show that exercise is a powerful way for survivors to improve quality of life. The studies were presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago. The first evaluated the effect of the LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program on cancer survivors who participated in twice-weekly, 90 minute exercise sessions for 3 months at local YMCAs. The other study explored whether home-based exercise programs that encouraged brisk walking could improve fatigue and quality of life for ovarian cancer survivors. Both studies showed exercise to be a potent tool for survivors to improve life in many areas.
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Drug-resistant lung cancer may have Achilles heel
Drugs introduced more than a decade ago that target mutations in a protein known as the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) held the promise of personalized treatments for a common form of non-small cell lung cancer. But most patients quickly develop resistance to these drugs and are left with few or no treatment options, because it has been very difficult to design new drugs that act selectively upon the drug-resistant form.

Now Yale University researchers have discovered a key structural difference in the drug-resistant form of EGFR that

"Second," he continued, "responses tend to be durable, and unlike chemotherapy, do not appear to be less frequent in patients who have received a number of prior chemotherapies. Truly remarkable are the ongoing responses in some of our chemotherapy refractory patients started four to five years ago, patients who had a prognosis at that time of only a few months."

Blood transfusions save the lives of cancer patients each and every day at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. Because blood is perishable and blood platelets can be stored for only 5 days from the time they are collected, new donations are needed every day.

Honor a loved one and make a commitment to donate blood in the coming weeks.
Read More >>

Remember to protect your skin this holiday weekend from the sun’s harmful rays. Recent research from Yale Cancer Center revealed that sun damage continues to occur long after you have come in from the sun.
#SkinCancer #DontFryDay Aim at Melanoma
could be a new "Achilles heel" for treatment strategies to combat the disease. Two experimental drugs, AZD9291 and Rociletinib (CO-1686), that show promise against drug-resistant EGFR in recent clinical trials alter the structure of the drug-resistant form so that it appears more like the non-resistant form, the researchers also found.

The findings suggest that the cancer-causing activity of drug resistant EGFR may depend on regions and functions of the protein that have been largely ignored by previous drug discovery efforts.

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

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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)
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, PBTDGR) 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
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 >>

Recent Publications
Measurement of Domain-Specific HER2 (ERBB2) Expression May Classify Benefit From Trastuzumab in Breast Cancer.
Read More >>

Events
May 31; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
Cancer Survivorship in 2015
Angela Khairallah, LCSW and Mae Anne Jauk, MA, APRN-BC
Read More >>

June 1; 12:00 PM
Epigenetics Interest Group Meeting
BCMM 206/208
KMT2D: An Epigenetic Driver of Orphan Pheochromocytomas
Taylor C. Brown, MD
Read More >>

June 2; 9:30 AM
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
TAC N-107
"Molecular Drivers of Tumor-initiating Cells in Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma" and "Signaling Networks Engaged in Sensing Mitochondrial Stress"
Sergey Ivanov MD, PhD and Arvind Goswami PhD
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June 7; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
HIV and Cancer
Robert Dubrow, MD, PhD and Amy Justice, MD, MSCE, PhD
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Obesity, diet, physical activity, and health-related quality of life in endometrial cancer survivors.
Koutoukidis DA, Knobf MT, Lanceley A.
Read More >>

The transition experience to breast cancer survivorship.
Knobf MT.
Read More >>

Trajectories of Evening Fatigue in Oncology Outpatients Receiving Chemotherapy.
Read More >>

Predictors and Trajectories of Morning Fatigue Are Distinct from Evening Fatigue.
J Pain Symptom Manage. 2015 Mar 27.
Read More >>

BCL-2 family member BOK promotes apoptosis in response to endoplasmic reticulum stress.
Read More >>

Nicotine Metabolite Ratio (3-hydroxycotinine/cotinine) in Plasma and Urine by Different Analytical Methods and Laboratories: Implications for Clinical Implementation.
Read More >>
The R280H X-ray cross-complementing 1 germline variant induces genomic instability and cellular transformation.
Sizova DV, Keh A, Taylor BF, Sweasy JB.
Read More >>

Practice - and Community-Based Interventions to Increase Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Coverage: A Systematic Review.
Niccolai LM, Hansen CE.
Read More >>

Preliminary Safety, Pharmacokinetics, and Efficacy of Regorafenib, Cisplatin, and Pemetrexed in Patients With Advanced Nonsquamous Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancers.
Hellmann MD, Sturm I, Trnkova ZJ, Lettieri J, Diefenbach K, Rizvi NA, Gettinger SN.
Clin Lung Cancer. 2015 Apr 20.
Read More >>

Cancer. Preprocancer.
Brash DE.
Read More >>

Associations of coffee drinking with systemic immune and inflammatory markers.
Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2015 May 21.
Read More >>

Expectations in the care of lung cancer.
Lilenbaum R, Leighl NB, Neubauer M.
Read More >>

Achievements and challenges of molecular targeted therapy in melanoma.
Sullivan R, LoRusso P, Boerner S, Dummer R.
Read More >>