October 17, 2014

Announcements

Closer to Free Tops $1.7 Million

Incredible news: The riders and volunteers at last month's 2014 Closer to Free Ride raised more than an astounding $1.7 million! Those dollars will help us bring our world closer to free. On behalf of the countless patients, researchers, doctors, nurses, caregivers and families affected by cancer, thank you for all of your efforts. I will begin discussing funding priorities with Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center leadership and look forward to sharing our 2014 funded projects with you in the coming months. Thank you again for your incredible support!

HCAHPS Scores Continue to Rise

The leadership at Smilow Cancer Hospital evaluates our patient- and family-centered care efforts each day, including continuous review of patient satisfaction surveys and Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) scores. I am proud to announce that in our recent HCAHPS survey, our cumulative scores for our four Smilow Cancer Hospital units exceed the Yale-New Haven Hospital overall scores in all 32 domains. In addition, our Smilow units met or exceeded the 90th percentile ranking in 11 domains and met or exceeded the 50th percentile in 19 domains. We are proud of all of our physicians and nurses, and the entire care staff who work together each day to make sure our patients and families receive the care and responsiveness they deserve. Thank you for all that you do!
Yale Employees Urged to Complete Workplace Survey
The 2014 Yale University Workplace Survey is now open. Please take the time to complete the survey and send your feedback to Yale School of Medicine and Yale Cancer Center leadership. Through midnight October 21, all university staff will have the opportunity to take the survey online.

All results are anonymous, but your feedback is department specific and important in our annual planning process. The Cancer Center leadership reviews our department results annually and continually works to improve our workplace based on your feedback. Please take the time to share your opinions.

Access Survey here.

Annual Awards Nominations are Due Next Friday
Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce our call for nominations for our annual awards in the areas of excellence in research and clinical care. Each award will be announced at the Yale Cancer Center Conclave on Monday, November 24, 2014. The nomination deadline for all awards is Friday, October 24, 2014.

Yale Cancer Center Research Prizes
Three Research Prizes will be awarded in support of excellence in the areas of basic science, clinical research, and cancer prevention and control. One award will be chosen in each area for a paper that is considered to have had the greatest impact on the field this year. The applicant must be a current member of the Cancer Center. The science in the publication must be cancer-focused. Please submit a PDF of your best publication (publication date from October 2013 to Sept 2014). To be eligible you must be either the first or last author of the publication. Email your publication to Christen Ruff.

Yale Cancer Center Award for Clinical Excellence
This award will be given to the physician who best exemplifies excellence in clinical care including superb clinical skills, use of a patient- and family-centered approach to care, and inclusion of a multi-disciplinary care model. Nominee must be a current member of Yale Cancer Center. Please nominate yourself or a peer and send a brief nomination letter (one page maximum) to Christen Ruff.

Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award
Yale Cancer Center recognizes the achievements of one of our senior members through our annual Lifetime
Achievement award. Please send nomination suggestions for the award to Christen Ruff.

Ruth McCorkle Oncology Advanced Practice Provider Award
This annual recognition from Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital is a unique opportunity to recognize the contributions of our APP colleagues who contribute so much to oncology patient care. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for this award by completing the nomination form and submitting it to Cathy Lyons. Download application here.

Notables

Benjamin Toll, PhD has been awarded an R21 grant from the NIH to implement a smoking cessation clinical trial evaluating the differences between standard care intervention (counseling plus nicotine replacement) and standard care plus monetary rewards for smoking cessation in presurgical cancer patients. The primary aim of the proposed study is to develop an effect size for smoking cessation at the time of surgery (7-day point prevalence), with a secondary aim of creating an effect size for long-term abstinence at 3 months post-surgery. He and his research team will also examine exploratory outcomes of perioperative complications and rates of continuous abstinence. Dr. Roy Herbst is a co-investigator on the trial with Dr. Toll.

Linda Niccolai, PhD was awarded an administrative supplement grant to the Cancer Center core grant for one year of support to fund her project on "Increasing Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Coverage among Adolescents in Connecticut."

James Yu, MD received a PhRMA Foundation Research Starter Grant at the Turning The Tide Against Cancer Conference last week. The grant will support his research on "Quantifying the Benefit of Modern Cancer Therapy for Elderly Patients: A Population Level Measurement."

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, presented on the Lung Cancer Master Protocol during his lecture on "Patient-Centered Clinical Development Models" at the Turning the Tide Against Cancer Conference last week in Washington, DC.
Congratulations to the following Yale Cancer Center employees who are celebrating milestones of employment with Yale University:

Catherine Adrada - 30 years
Sonya Valentine - 25 years
Zia Raven - 20 years
Karina Brierley - 15 years
Kathryn D'Addeo - 15 years
Renee Gaudette - 15 years
Marion Miller - 15 years
Sarah Renzi - 15 years
Clara Robinson - 15 years
Aileen Schecter - 15 years
Jo-Ann Gargiulo - 10 years
Alexandra Reyes - 10 years
Dorothy Saccavino - 10 years
Marcia Talarczyk - 10 years
Savannah Woods - 10 years
Richard Carr - 5 years
John Jones - 5 years
Mary Ann Melnick - 5 years
Michele Messina - 5 years
Matthew Osborne - 5 years
Michele Robertino - 5 years
Nicole Scott - 5 years
Kevin Vest - 5 years

Employee Profile: Shirley Pinette

The Employee Profile recognizes the diverse contributions made by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital staff to meet our patient care, research, education, and outreach goals. The staff profiled are examples of the great work being done here, and the dedication and values we possess.

To suggest someone to be profiled, please contact Emily Fenton.

From left to right: Magdalena Plasilova, MD, Pat Waldron, Eileen Hansen, Renee Bailey, Mary Ellen Diotalevi, and Shirley Pinette

In 1979, Shirley Pinette started her career at Yale-New Haven Hospital as a Staff Radiologic Technologist where she

Anabel asked Make-A-Wish Connecticut to help her attend Southern Connecticut State University. On Tuesday, her wish came true!

With her education, Anabel plans to help others with cancer; she intends on studying oncology pharmacy and is considering becoming a nurse.

Yale Cancer Center joined EMCOR Group, Inc. this morning for our 5th annual "Protect Yourself. Get Screened Today." Pink Hard Hat Ribbon to increase awareness of breast cancer screening and early detection.

Earlier this month, Dr. Katerina Politi penned an opinion piece published by The Hill, in which she urged Congress not to cut funding for cancer research. Dr. Politi specifically discusses the need to continue to support "target therapies," which provided her a better chance of survival.

Although these therapies, which include immunotherapies, appear extremely promising, funding outside of the government remains limited. Dr. Politi worries that the lack of new funding will prevent the research
performed all routine radiographic examinations. She quickly promoted to supervisor and teacher, and at one point was supervisor for over 30 Radiologic Technology students in the clinical setting, and moved into the field of breast cancer exclusively in 1993 as Manager of Breast Imaging. For the past five years Shirley has served as Outreach Manager for the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, responsible for many aspects of community outreach and patient care.

Since Shirley arrived at the Breast Center, she has gone above and beyond for patients every day. One of her main goals has been to spread awareness to the community about the importance of yearly mammograms. She attends health fairs, charity walks, and arranges for the Yale-New Haven digital mobile mammography van to visit various locations within the community. Shirley has also been a constant friendly face to breast cancer patients as they arrive for treatment and has had an impact on the level of care they receive.

Shirley commented, "Not everyone gets to see what happens outside the walls of Smilow and the real difference we are making in people's lives. I hear from men and women all the time about the excellent care their friend, sister, mother or they themselves received at Smilow Cancer Hospital. That makes me feel proud!"

As Shirley looks forward to retirement at the beginning of December it provides an opportunity to look back on all that Shirley has accomplished in her time at the Breast Center. Her staff, patients and colleagues have all benefited from her dedication and hard work, and the example she has set.

Dr. Donald Lannin, Professor of Surgery (Oncology) in the Breast Center commented, "Shirley has played a huge role in the growth and development of the Breast Center over the last 13 years, even before it was at Smilow. She is a true 'team player' and is always ready to dig in and tackle any problem that comes up. The typical image of Shirley is a small very pleasant woman who is moving very quickly with a very large cup of water."

Anees Chagpar, MD, Director of the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, shared, "Shirley is the glue that held much of the Breast Center together. From managing outreach at community health fairs and the mobile mammography van, to supervising our administrative staff, Shirley has done it all -- and did it all well, always with a pleasant demeanor. She got things done with efficiency and poise. She'll be dearly missed!"

Maureen Major Campos, RN, MS, Program Manager for Women's Oncology Services at Smilow Cancer Hospital commented, "Shirley is a dynamic leader whose sole focus is needed to develop better targeted therapies.

Watch as Bob shares his story of courage and hope, from the beginning of his frightening diagnosis with lung cancer, to an incredible journey with the help of his family and care team at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven.

Events

October 17; 12:00 PM
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
NP4-101A
Rethinking Survivorship in Head and Neck Cancer
Shrujal Baxi, MD, MPH
Learn More >> (PDF)
the patient experience and high standards of excellence. She has managed a very successful staff with great patient care outcomes. We have been fortunate to have her on the Breast Center team and she will be missed!"

It is true that Shirley will be missed around the Breast Center by patients, her staff and her colleagues, but she has left a lasting impact and model of what a true leader and teacher should be.

Funding and Award Opportunities

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Career Development Awards**
The annual Pancreatic Cancer Action Network-AACR Research Career Development Awards represent a joint effort of the two organizations to encourage junior faculty who have completed their most recent doctoral degree or medical residency within the past eleven years to conduct pancreatic cancer research and establish successful career paths in the field. The research proposed for funding may be basic, translational, clinical, or epidemiological in nature and must have direct applicability and relevance to pancreatic cancer.

**Application Deadline:** October 29, 2014
Learn More >>

**NCCN/Volasertib - Research Grant Opportunity**
National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it has received a $2 million research grant from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to support NCCN investigator initiated clinical studies of volasertib in the treatment of aggressive lymphoid malignancies. The overall aim of this RFP is to develop innovative studies of volasertib in the treatment of aggressive lymphoid malignancies including acute lymphoblastic leukemia, aggressive lymphoma histologies (including Hodgkin lymphoma), and multiple myeloma.

**Application Deadline:** October 30, 2014
Learn More >>

**Center for Cancer Research Clinical Investigator Development Program**
The Center for Cancer Research (CCR), a Division of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is pleased to announce its annual call for applications for Clinical Investigator Development Program (CIDP). This is an exciting training opportunity intended for physicians

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**October 17; 1:00 PM**
YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program
SHM 1-116
*Synthetic, Mechanistic, and Preclinical Studies of the Novel Anticancer Agent - Lomaivitcin A*
Seth Herzon, MD and Peter Glazer, MD
Learn More >> (PDF)

**October 18; 6:00 PM**
YCC/SCH Benefit
The Ballroom at Lorrico Tower
*Train for Tatas: Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser*
Learn More >> (PDF)

**October 19; 6:00 PM**
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
*The Mystery of Cancer Metastases*
Don Nguyen, PhD
Learn More >>

**October 20; 10:30 AM**
YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program
SHM 1-304
*The Polyamine Catabolic Enzyme SAT1 Modulates Tumorigenesis and Radiation Response in GBM*
Scott Welford, PhD
Learn More >> (PDF)

**October 20; 3:00 PM**
YCC Signal Transduction Research Program
SHM 1-116
*MS & Proteomics Resource at Yale: Supporting Research Through Advanced Mass Spectrometry*
TuKiet T. Lam, PhD
Learn More >> (PDF)

**October 21; 9:30 AM**
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
TAC N-107
TBA
Joseph Madri MD, PhD
Learn More >>

**October 21; 12:00 PM**
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
Park Street Auditorium
interested in dedicating their careers to clinical research. Candidates may be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or possess (or be eligible for) the appropriate work visa and must have successfully completed subspecialty training at a U.S.-accredited institution in appropriate fields. **Application Deadline:** October 31, 2014

**Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation Innovation Grant**
Do you have a novel idea that has potential for high impact on pediatric cancer patients? Does your idea, approach, or methodology have the potential to move your research and the field in a new direction? ALSF’s Innovation Grant provides seed funding for proof-of-concept proposals. The letter of intent must be approved in order to submit a full proposal. The award is up to $125,000 annually for two years. **Letter of Intent Deadline:** November 3, 2014

**Free to Breathe Issues Request for Proposals for Lung Cancer Research**
Free to Breathe, a partnership of lung cancer survivors, advocates, researchers, healthcare professionals, and industry leaders united in the belief that every person with lung cancer deserves a cure, has issued a Request for Proposals for research projects focused on preventing or stopping lung cancer metastasis.

Grants of up to $600,000 over three years will be awarded in support of innovative, high-impact lung cancer research that leads to clinical translation (e.g. clinical trial) by the end of the award period. The partnership is particularly interested in proposals that include interdisciplinary teams and two or more principal investigators; collaborations with industry partners (PIs must be employed at a nonprofit entity such as an academic or research institution); access to existing patient samples or data, especially tissue from metastatic sites; studies that include mechanistic investigations into the underlying causes of metastasis; studies that are distinct research components of new or existing clinical trials; and/or novel approaches for preventing brain metastasis. **Application Deadline:** November 7, 2014

**Melanoma Research Alliance Grants**
**Established Investigator Awards**

**Research Awards**
Up to $125,000 per year for 2 - 3 years.

**Realigning Reimbursement Policies for Quality and Value in Cancer Care**
Jennifer Malin, MD, PhD
Learn More >> (PDF)

**October 21; 5:30 PM**
YCC / Breast Center C-HIT Event
Gateway Community College
Beyond The Pink Ribbon: New Frontiers in Screening, Treating, and Preventing Cancer
Anees Chagpar, MD
Learn More >> (PDF)

**October 22; 5:30 AM**
Therapeutic Radiology Presents
Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale
Stereotactic Radiosurgery and Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy
Roy Decker, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

**October 23; 9:30 AM**
Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
Smilow, LL-412
Risk-Based Management of Prostate Cancer
Anthony D’Amico, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

**October 23; 3:00 PM**
Immunobiology Special Seminar
BML 137
Transcriptional and Epigenetic Regulation of PD-1
Jeremy M. Boss, PhD
Learn More >> (PDF)

**October 24; 12:00 PM**
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
NP4-101A
TBA
Kurt Schalper, MD
Learn More >>

**October 26; 12:00 PM**
Atria Larson Place Luncheon
Atria Larson Place
Honoring Breast Cancer Survivors
Magdalena Plasilova, MD
Learn More >>

**October 26; 6:00 PM**
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
**Special Opportunity: Bristol-Myers Squibb-MRA Established Investigator Awards in Immunotherapy**
Up to $125,000 per year for 2 - 3 years to conduct projects focused on advancing the immunotherapies in melanoma.

**MRA Pilot Awards**
$50,000 per year for 2 years for potentially transformative pilot studies.

**Special Pilot Opportunity: Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer-MRA Pilot Award**
$50,000 per year for 2 years potentially transformative pilot studies in the area of immunotherapy.

**MRA Established Investigator Academic-Industry Partnership Awards**
Up to $100,000 per year for 2 - 3 years. Industry funds and/or in-kind support (e.g., reagents, clinical grade drugs, equipment, contract services) must match but may exceed MRA funds for the award period. Industry scientists may serve as co-investigators or collaborators, but may not be PIs. (Deadline: November 21, 2014)

**Special Opportunity: Amgen-MRA Established Investigator Academic-Industry Partnership Award**
In collaboration with Amgen, applications are solicited for preclinical or correlative laboratory studies related to the therapeutic potential of oncolytic virus immunotherapy in melanoma, alone or in combination with immune modulators (e.g., checkpoint inhibitors) or targeted therapies. Potential biomarkers of response in local and distant tumors and immune cell-type identification/evaluation in tumors and systemic changes related to oncolytic virus immunotherapy treatment are of interest. Mechanism of action studies using in vivo imaging or molecular techniques to differentiate direct versus immune-mediated effects are encouraged. Up to $100,000 per year for 2 to 3 years from MRA may be requested. Amgen funds will match MRA funds for the award period for a total combined award amount of up to $600,000.

**MRA Young Investigator Awards**
Investigators within 4 years of their first academic faculty appointment.

**MRA Young Investigator Awards**
Up to $75,000 per year for 3 years for translational research projects.

**Special Opportunity: MRA Young Investigator Award in Dermatology**
Seeking applications from dermatologist young investigators who remain actively engaged in patient care and are proposing studies in melanoma prevention, diagnosis/staging, and treatment.

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**Detecting Lung Cancer Early**
Daniel Boffa, MD
[Learn More >>](#)

**October 27; 11:00 AM**
**YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**
SHM 1-304
Radiotherapy Combined with Anti-PD-1 Checkpoint Blockade
Immunotherapy: A Promising Future Direction
Andrew B. Sharabi, MD, PhD
[Learn More >> (PDF)](#)

**October 27; 12:00 PM**
**YCC Schwartz Center Rounds**
Park Street Auditorium
*I'm Good Enough to Forgive You, But Not Stupid Enough to Trust You Again...*
Thomas J. Lynch Jr., MD
[Learn More >> (PDF)](#)

**October 28; 9:30 AM**
**Pathology Research in Progress Talks**
TAC N-107
TBA
Qin Yan, PhD and Haris Mirza, MD, PhD
[Learn More >>](#)

**October 28; 12:00 PM**
**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds/Paul Calabresi Memorial Lectureship**
Park Street Auditorium
It's Academic: Strengthening Partnerships to Advance Health and Innovation Through Regulatory Science
Margaret A. Hamburg, MD
[Learn More >> (PDF)](#)

**October 30; 9:00 AM**
**Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**
Smilow, LL-412
Medical Student Presentations
[Learn More >>](#)

**October 30; 4:00 PM**
**Yale Stem Cell Center Special Seminar**
Amistad Conference Room, 112
MRA Team Research Awards

Special Opportunity: Bristol-Myers Squibb-MRA Team Science Awards in Immunotherapy: Awards for multidisciplinary teams of two or more established PIs, along with at least one Young Investigator to conduct projects with the potential to lead to transformative advances in melanoma immunotherapies. Up to $900,000 total over 2 - 3 years may be requested.

MRA Team Science Academic-Industry Partnership Awards
These awards are designed to facilitate progress via interactions between the academic and industrial research sectors in the team setting, and will be co-funded by MRA and an industrial collaborator whose involvement is essential to the project. Multidisciplinary teams of two or more established PIs will receive up to $500,000 total over 2 - 3 years from MRA to conduct projects supported by preliminary data. Each team must include at least one Young Investigator as a co-investigator.

Application Deadline: November 21, 2014

Yale Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science Pilot Project Grants
The Yale Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) is offering funding for pilot projects to initiate research relating to understanding tobacco additives and modified risk tobacco products through behavioral, molecular, laboratory, pharmacological, epidemiological, and economic sciences that involves humans (both clinical & epidemiological research) and animals (basic research). We are particularly interested in studies of menthol, flavors, sweeteners, and e-cigarettes and studies using novel techniques. Yale TCORS will fund 3-5 pilot projects at the level of $25,000 to $75,000 (direct costs only). The project must be completed in 1 budget year (9/1/15-8/31/16).

Application Deadline: December 5, 2014

Recent Publications

The Quality Improvement Knowledge Application Tool Revised (QIKAT-R).

Molecular Mechanism to Maintain Pluripotency
Haifan Lin, MD, PhD

October 30; 5:00 PM
YCC Humanities in Medicine Program / The Arnold Baskin Lecture
Beaumont Room
Evolutionary Darwinian Medicine: Can We Save Ourselves?
Philip Askenase, MD

October 31; 12:00 PM
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
NP4-101A
TBA
Joseph Paul Eder, MD

Employment Opportunities
Success in any clinical research endeavor, but especially in cancer research, requires the most qualified, dedicated staff, committed to excellence and the mission of Yale Cancer Center. The combination of education, oncology research experience, and exceptional nursing skills is enormously difficult to find. Your participation, as knowledgeable colleagues, is invaluable at this time. Should you know individuals with outstanding clinical research nursing experience, and who are ready to join our team, please direct resumes to Sandra Greer, Sr. Staffing and Career Development Representative or call (203) 432-5822. All referrals will be held in strictest confidence.

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
gerene.gaudette@yale.edu
Phase II Study of Modified FOLFOX6 With Bevacizumab in Metastatic Gastroesophageal Adenocarcinoma.

PLEKHA5 as a Biomarker and Potential Mediator of Melanoma Brain Metastasis.

PAX-8 expression in renal tumours and distant sites: A useful marker of primary and metastatic renal cell carcinoma?

Perioperative outcomes and hospital reimbursement by type of radical prostatectomy: results from a privately insured patient population.

A Targetable Androgen Receptor-Positive Breast Cancer Subtype Hidden Among the Triple-Negative Cancers.

Cancer immunotherapy and next-generation clinical immune assessment.

Detection of p53 Protein Transcriptional Activity by Chromatin Immunoprecipitation.
Read More >>

County-Level Association of Melanoma and Papillary Thyroid Cancer: Evidence of Shared Environmental Risk?
Read More >>

Outcome of primary neuroendocrine tumors of the thymus: A joint analysis of the International Thymic Malignancy Interest Group and the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons databases.
Read More >>

Emerging Science and Therapies in Non-small-Cell Lung Cancer: Targeting the MET Pathway.
Read More >>

Identification of Putative Fallopian Tube Stem Cells.
Read More >>

Breast cancer laterality does not influence survival in a large modern cohort: implications for radiation-related cardiac mortality.
Read More >>