October 31, 2014

Announcements

Yale and Gilead Sciences Extend Cancer Research Collaboration
I am pleased to announce that The Yale School of Medicine has announced a three-year extension of our research collaboration with Gilead Sciences, Inc. The renewal calls for Gilead to provide $30 million in additional funding for cancer research support for novel therapies, and grants the company first option to license Yale inventions that result from the collaboration.

Research projects are chosen by a joint steering committee chaired by Joseph Schlessinger, PhD. The Yale science team also includes Roy Herbst, MD, PhD and Richard Lifton, MD, PhD.

The renewal agreement will allow Yale and Gilead to continue to grow their relationship on several fronts. In addition to the sequencing initiative, Yale has also launched biochemical and pharmacological studies to identify compounds that may lead to therapeutic candidates for certain cancers. These efforts have yielded some promising results, which will now be further expanded in this next phase of collaboration. Moving forward, greater focus will also be placed on finding a single therapy that could be used in multiple cancers.

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Walther Mothes, PhD, Selected to Co-Lead Molecular Virology Program
After 23 years of remarkable leadership, Dr. Daniel DiMaio has chosen to step down from his leadership of the Molecular Virology Program to take on a new challenge, Director of the Division of Biological Sciences at Yale. I know Dan’s experience and vision will be an

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asset to the program, and look forward to continuing to work closely with him in his role as Deputy Director of Yale Cancer Center.

The Yale Cancer Center Executive Committee has named Walther Mothes, PhD, to Co-Lead the Molecular Virology Program along with Wendell Yarbrough, MD. Dr. Mothes' laboratory studies the spread and pathogenesis of oncogenic retroviruses and HIV-1. Using multi-photon laser scanning microscopy the laboratory monitors viral spread directly in living animals. It also applies single molecule imaging to understand how conformational events in the HIV-1 envelope protein lead to fusion between viral and cellular membranes. A detailed understanding of these processes will permit the rational design of vaccines and antiviral therapies that prevent the spread of viral infections. We look forward to his insight and leadership, along with Dr. Yarbrough’s, for the Molecular Virology Research Program.

Karina Brierley, CGC Named Chief Counselor for Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program
Dr. Erin Hofstatter and Dr. Xavier Llor are pleased to announce that Karina Brierley has been named Chief Counselor for Smilow Cancer Hospital's Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program. In her new role, Karina will have primary oversight of the genetic counselors in the program and will work closely with Drs. Hofstatter and Llor to facilitate the growth and development of the counseling services and innovative clinical research initiatives offered to patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital and at our 11 Care Centers. She will also ensure the quality of the services provided by the genetic counseling team is consistent throughout the program.

Karina joined Yale Cancer Center 15 years ago and has been a Senior Counselor with the office since 2011. She has taught, mentored, and supervised new genetic counselors, students, residents, and fellows. Her new position will begin on November 17.

Upcoming CME Symposium - Lung Cancer
Please join us for the Smilow Cancer Hospital Dinner CME Symposium on Lung Cancer next Thursday, November 6, 2014 highlighting updates on lung cancer treatment and care, including the latest information on surgical options, screening, mutations, immunotherapy and the Lung-Map Clinical Trial.

Q&A: Exploring the relationship between faith and medical treatment

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Notables

W. Mark Saltzman, PhD, has been elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Dr. Saltzman is the Goizueta Foundation Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and a pioneer in the fields of drug delivery, biomaterials, nanobiotechnology, and tissue engineering. He is a member of the Yale Cancer Center's Developmental Therapeutics Program.

Don X. Nguyen, PhD has received a one-year, $50,000 grant from the Lung Cancer Research Foundation (LCRF) to study the efficacy of drugs that target the proteasome in treating metastatic lung cancer.

Lynn T. Tanoue, MD, Professor of Medicine (Pulmonology), has been named President-Elect of the Yale-New Haven Hospital Medical Board, which sponsors numerous committees to evaluate and improve the professional activities of the medical staff and the quality of healthcare at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Sarah Goldberg, MD, MPH has been awarded the 2014 SWOG/Hope Foundation Coltman Fellowship. The fellowship engages outstanding young investigators from SWOG affiliated institutions in learning clinical trial methodology within an academic and cooperative group environment that will lead to independent clinical research.

Angela Malerba joined the Yale Cancer Center staff on Tuesday, October 21 in the role of Senior Administrative Assistant for Dr. Patricia LoRusso. She comes to us from the Yale School of Management where she has served in multiple roles since 2006.

Alyssa Morales joined the Yale Cancer Center Business Office on September 29 as an accountant. She comes to Yale Cancer Center from Covidien where she was in the role of Cost Accountant.
New Member Profile:
Sangini S. Sheth, MD

Yale Cancer Center accepts applications for new membership to our eight research programs from Yale faculty who have major cancer related efforts in research, patient care, or education throughout the calendar year. For more information, please see the Membership section on our website.

Sangini Sheth, a Johns Hopkins-trained obstetrician/gynecologist and public health scientist, is dedicated to improving the health of all women, but with a special focus on those from underserved or marginalized communities. Her work on improving initiation and completion rates of the HPV vaccine among young adult women, made possible by a Yale School of Medicine Research Development Award, caught the attention of CPC co-leader Melinda Irwin who wrote, “Dr. Sheth’s research will add depth and breadth to the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program. I look forward to working with Sangini.”

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Employee Profile:
Susan Crawford

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 mission. 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.

Yale Cancer Center had the honor of welcoming U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, Margaret A. Hamburg, MD, to present the Paul Calabresi, MD Memorial Lectureship at Grand Rounds. Dr. Hamburg lectured on "It's Academic - Strengthening Partnerships to Advance Health and Innovation through Regulatory Science" to a full auditorium at Smilow Cancer Hospital earlier today.

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The Cat and the Hat twins and our own "Queen Bee" represented Yale Cancer Center at New Haven Reads annual spelling bee on Friday night. Christen Ruff, Alaine Nellis, and Savannah Woods participated in the event on behalf of Yale Cancer Center on a team sponsored by Dr. Thomas Lynch.

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Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Events
The Palliative Care Service at Smilow Cancer Hospital is a patient and family centered consultation service focused on alleviating physical symptoms such as pain, fatigue, and nausea; and also helping with psychosocial issues such as depression, disruption of family life, and spiritual and financial concerns. For the past two years, Susan Crawford, a licensed clinical social worker with Palliative Care, has offered counseling support to patients. She meets with patients on both the inpatient and the outpatient services and, with the interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, PA's and Spiritual Care workers, acts as an extra layer of support for patients with a life-threatening illness and their families.

Much of what Susan focuses on is advance care planning and quality of life issues. She commented, "Palliative care is not hospice. Many of the patients I work with live a long time with cancer and need interventions of symptom management, coping mechanisms for the day-to-day, work related issues, planning for the future and relationship/family. We attempt to base our interventions on the strengths of the patient and family, articulating realistic, achievable goals. We have the privilege of watching healing happen in many ways."

When Susan entered the field of palliative care 11 years ago, it was a relatively new practice. She saw a piece missing for patients and their families when it came to long-term care and comfort near the end-of-life. The hope for the palliative care team is to meet with patients as early as possible when they are identified as having a life-threatening illness and symptom burden.

Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Manager of Oncology Social Work at Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented, "Susan is a highly regarded professional whose advice is sought after. Susan came to us with an in-depth knowledge of this patient population and has broadened our perspectives. We are so lucky that she is part of our team providing superb psychosocial care to all."
Funding and Award Opportunities

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
Learn More >>

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
Learn More >> (PDF)

Rita Allen Foundation Scholars
For junior faculty who are fully independent and who show extraordinary promise in basic science research in cancer, immunology, or neuroscience.

Emotional Distress Assessment Initiative: A Case Report of Quality Improvement at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers
Anne Chiang, MD
Learn More >>

November 6; 8:00 AM
YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Cancer Center Program Retreat
Yale's West Campus
Learn More >> (PDF)

November 6; 4:30 PM
Yale Cancer Center Evening Oncology Series
NP4-101 A & B
Lung Cancer
Thomas Lynch Jr., MD
Learn More >>

November 6; 5:00 PM
Smilow Cancer Hospital Patient Education Symposium
Park Street Auditorium
Living with Lung Cancer
Learn More >> (PDF)

November 7; 3:30 PM
Program for Biomedical Ethics Lecture
TAC N-107
Megatrends: Health Care Reform and the Future of American Medicine
Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD
Learn More >> (PDF)

November 8; 7:30 AM
Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital Sponsor Free Lung Cancer Screening
Multi-Specialty Clinic, NP4
Learn More >> (PDF)

November 9; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR
Stop Stress This Minute
Bud Wassell and James Porter
Learn More >>

November 11; 9:30 AM
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
TAC N-107
TBA
The foundation supports transformative research at its earliest stages - research projects with above average-risk and ground-breaking possibilities.

**Application Deadline:** November 6, 2014
Learn More >> (PDF).

**American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant for New Investigators**
Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce a competition for grants for Yale Assistant Professors. The awards are to support innovative work in the broad fields of basic, translational, clinical, and prevention/control cancer research by new investigators. These grants are restricted to investigators who have not already received federal research grant support or a previous ACS-IRG award. One-year grants will provide up to $30,000 for each award. YCC members and non-members are encouraged to apply.

**Application Deadline:** November 13, 2014
Learn More >>

**Melanoma Research Alliance Grants**

**Established Investigator Awards**

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

**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)

**Sandra Martinez-Morilla, PhD**
Learn More >>

**November 11; 12:00 PM**
**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**
Park Street Auditorium
Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD
"Development of Mibefradil as a Novel Glioma Radiosensitizer: Bench-to-Bedside at the Speed of Yale Science" and "Financial toxicity associated with cancer treatment"
Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD & Amy Davidoff, PhD, MS
Learn More >>

**November 11; 4:15 PM**
**YSPH Biostatistics Seminar**
LEPH 115
On the analysis of clustered semi-competing risks data
Sebastien Haneuse, PhD
Learn More >> (PDF)

**November 11; 4:30 PM**
**Yale Cancer Center Evening Oncology Series**
NP4-101 A & B
Head and Neck Cancers
Thomas Lynch, Jr., MD
Learn More >>

**November 13; 12:00 PM**
**Schwartz Center Rounds**
Park Street Auditorium
Learn More >>

**November 13; 5:30 PM**
**Smilow Wellness Workshop**
Park Street Auditorium
Mindfulness Matters
James E. Porter
Learn More >> (PDF)

**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.
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.

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

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**Recent Publications**

**Hypopharyngeal cancer incidence, treatment, and survival: temporal trends in the United States.**
Kuo P, Chen MM, Decker RH, Yarbrough WG, Judson BL.
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**Positive Surgical Margins in Early Stage Oral Cavity Cancer: An Analysis of 20,602 Cases.**
Luryi AL, Chen MM, Mehra S, Roman SA, Sosa JA, Judson BL.
[Read More >>](#)

**Esophageal perforation caused by edible foreign bodies: A systematic review of the literature.**
Aronberg RM, Punekar SR, Adam SI, Judson BL, Mehra S, Yarbrough WG.
[Read More >>](#)

**Diet Quality and Survival After Ovarian Cancer: Results From the Women's Health Initiative.**
[Read More >>](#)

**Trends and variations in the use of adjuvant therapy for patients with head and neck cancer.**
Chen MM, Roman SA, Yarbrough WG, Burtness BA, Sosa JA, Judson BL.
Cancer. 2014 Nov 1;120(21):3353-60.
[Read More >>](#)

In patients with neoplasia after partial hydatidiform mole immunohistochemistry or genotyping is essential to differentiate partial hydatidiform mole
from complete mole, histologic examination is insufficient.
Kohorn EI.
Read More >>

Predictors of survival in carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma.
Chen MM, Roman SA, Sosa JA, Judson BL.
Head Neck. 2014 Sep;36(9):1324-8.
Read More >>

Androgen receptor (AR) expression in 400 breast carcinomas: is routine AR assessment justified?
Safarpour D, Pakneshan S, Tavassoli FA.
Read More >>

UV Signature Mutations;
Brash DE.
Photochem Photobiol. 2014 Oct 29
Read More >>

Metastasis is regulated via microRNA-200/ZEB1 axis control of tumour cell PD-L1 expression and intratumoral immunosuppression.
Read More >>

Clinical cancer research: the past, present and the future
Vincent T. DeVita Jr, Alexander M. M. Eggermont, Samuel Hellman & David J. Kerr
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The PD-1 pathway as a therapeutic target to overcome immune escape mechanisms in cancer.
Henick BS, Herbst RS, Goldberg SB.
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PAX-8 expression in renal tumours and distant sites: A useful marker of primary and metastatic renal cell carcinoma?
Barr ML, Jilaveanu LB, Camp RL, Adeniran AJ, Kluger HM, Shuch B.
Read More >>

Racial differences in mantle cell lymphoma in the United States.
Wang Y, Ma S.
Read More >>