October 3, 2014

Announcements

Top Closer to Free Fundraisers

Our annual Closer to Free Ride was an amazing success on September 6th, thanks in no small part to these amazing individuals who led the way in fundraising this year. Thanks to their efforts, and to the amazing contributions of all of the riders, volunteers, and donors, 100% of the funds raised will support patient programs at Smilow Cancer Hospital and cancer research at Yale Cancer Center. I look forward to sharing this year’s funded projects with you in the coming months. You can read about last year’s funding priorities here.

Top Fundraising Individuals

In the #3 spot, with $12,494, Stephen Ackley-Ortiz

Coming in at #2, having raised $14,701, Marc Minella

Our #1 individual fundraiser has done a remarkable job raising $16,702! We are honored to announce Anne

Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center

LATEST ARTICLES:

Breast Cancer Survivors Become Advocates Helping Others

Read More >>
Martin as our top fundraiser. Anne has done a tremendous job raising money for the Closer to Free Ride for the second year in a row. Thank you Anne!

Top Fundraising Teams
Our #3 team, having raised $40,052, is Team MedONC, led by Team Captain Dr. Howard Hochster. At #2, with $83,210, is Carl’s Crusaders with amazing leadership from Team Captain Stacey Hubbard. And the #1 fundraising team, once again, is Team Live Positive, with an ASTOUNDING $125,210 led by the always-inspirational Maureen Raucci.

Vincent DeVita, Jr., MD Honored by ASCO with Top Oncology Advance in 50 Years

Congratulations to Dr. Vincent DeVita, the Amy and Joseph Perella Professor of Medical Oncology and former Director of Yale Cancer Center, who received the prestigious honor of having developed the treatment for Hodgkins Disease, MOPP, which was voted as the Top Advance in 50 Years of Modern Oncology by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

Discovered by Dr. DeVita in 1965, MOPP was the first chemotherapy breakthrough for advanced cancer in adults. The four-drug combination chemotherapy regimen induced long-term remissions in over half of patients with aggressive Hodgkins lymphoma. Dr. DeVita’s breakthrough sparked the first hope that advanced cancers could be cured with drug
treatment, and paved the way for 90% cure rates for patients with this disease today.
[Learn More >>]

**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. From October 1 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 >>]

**Annual Awards Nominations**
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**

[Dr. Paul Eder discusses Quest for clinically meaningful PFS benefit an 'imperfect science’ http://goo.gl/6y3Niu #healio@YaleMed#Cancer]

[#TBT 1976 with @Yale President Brewster, @cityofnewhaven Mayor Logue, Gov. Ella Grasso, & @YaleCancer Dir. Jack Cole.]

Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook

[Like us on Facebook]

**LATEST POSTS:**

On this day of October, we join those all over the world to raise awareness for breast cancer. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a campaign to help raise awareness to detect and attack breast cancer in its early, most treatable stages.

Although there will be events occurring throughout the month, perhaps one of our favorites, our Annual Pink Hard Hat Event, will take place on October 15. Join employees from Yale Cancer Center, Smilow Cancer Hospital, and EMCOR/Tucker Mechanical as they don pink hard hats to form themselves into a human pink ribbon in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
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 >>

**Notables**

Lieping Chen, MD, PhD and Susan Mayne, PhD were invited presenters at the 13th Annual AACR International Conference on Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research last weekend in New Orleans. Dr. Chen gave a presentation on "Costimulation and coinhibition in preventing tumor progression, and Dr. Mayne presented on, "Diet, nutrition, and cancer: Past, present and future."

Melinda Irwin, PhD has received a two-year grant from the American Institute for Cancer Research. The AICR award will expand Dr. Irwin's LEAN study and enroll 200 overweight breast cancer survivors and complete a 6-month post-intervention assessment of maintenance of weight, as well as changes in physical activity, diet, and quality of life.

**NCI Exceptional Responders Initiative**

The NCI is asking clinicians to identify potential exceptional responder cases. An exceptional responder is a patient having either complete or partial response to experimental or standard cancer therapy lasting for six months or more. This could be from patients enrolled in early phase clinical trials where fewer than 10% responded or could be from patients treated on later phase trials of single agents or combinations. It can also be from patients having exceptional responses from established cancer treatment.

The NCI plans to examine tissue and clinical data from up to 300 exceptional responder cases and will conduct genome sequencing analyses. The information will be

As the leaves begin to change color here in Connecticut, many think one thing: Football! For Devon Still, a Cincinnati defensive tackle, however, this fall has been a season to put his big NFL dreams on hold and devote himself to his daughter, Leah, a 4-year-old fighting against neuroblastoma (a pediatric cancer in her adrenal gland).

Still's team has done their part to help in the fight: not only have they kept Stills on the practice squad (playing him against Atlanta in week 2) so that he can retain health insurance, they have also sold over 10,000 jerseys in support of pediatric cancer research.

Yale Cancer Center is excited to announce that Dr. Joann Sweasy has been appointed as Co-Leader of the Radiobiology and Radiotherapy (RR) Research Program and that Dr. Marcus Bosenberg has been appointed Co-Leader of the Cancer Genetics and Genomics (CGG) Program.

Congratulations Dr. Sweasy & Dr. Bosenberg!
stored in a controlled access database so that qualified investigators will be able to access it for further research.  
Learn More >>

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**Employee Profile: Jessica Stein**

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.

As a Clinical Oncology Social Worker, Jessica Stein wears two hats. One is working on the in-patient unit on NP15, Smilow's surgical oncology floor, where she primarily sees patients with head and neck, endocrine, GI and GU cancers, and the other is working in the out-patient setting in the Multi-Specialty Clinic on NP4, seeing patients with similar diagnoses who oftentimes are admitted to the surgical oncology floor where she continues to offer her help and assesses their needs post-surgery.

"A lot of these patients, especially those with head and neck cancer, are coming out of surgery with an altered appearance and changes in function as well," said Jessica. "They need to learn new ways to communicate and to eat and it is often hard adjusting to that along with the diagnosis of cancer. I am available to assist patients and families with learning how to cope more effectively."

Jessica explained that receiving a cancer diagnosis is like entering a new world with new challenges to face. Patients are not sure where they need to be, who they can get in touch with questions, and what this diagnosis means for them in the future. Jessica is there to help them navigate this new world, provide resources, and help with any issues that may arise such as finances, family matters, and coping.

Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, and Manager of Oncology Social Work at Smilow Cancer Hospital commented, "Jessica's clinical skills enable her to work with patients and families to validate and normalize their concerns and support them through these life challenges. Jessica's ability to connect

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Say hello to Finn! As a friendly therapy dog at Yale's Medical and Nursing Libraries, he brings smiles to patients, caretakers and clinicians at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. Finn sends lots of tail wags and kisses to all!

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When Kylie Simonds was asked by her fifth grade teacher last year to create something to solve an everyday problem, she immediately recalled her fight against rhabdomyosarcoma (a rare pediatric cancer) at Yale Cancer Center. Remembering, in particular, the cumbersome nature of an IV pack, she decided to design a backpack that would allow children with cancer easily maneuver while receiving their treatments.

After her prototype won multiple awards, Kylie now finds herself in conversation with manufacturers. She's an amazing kid!
patients to appropriate resources and help them to maintain their dignity and respect is remarkable. She is an asset to the patients and families with whom she works, as well as to her medical teams."

### 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 >>](#)

**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 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

[Learn More >>](#)

**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 >>](#)

### Events

**October 5; 6:00 PM**

**Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

*Complications with Liver Cancer*

Tamar Taddei, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**October 6; 10:30 AM**

**YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**

SHM I-304

*Defining Metabolic Vulnerabilities in Pancreatic Cancer*

Costas Andreas Lyssiotis, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**October 7; 9:30 AM**

**Pathology Research in Progress Talks**

TAC N-107

[Read More >>](#)

**October 7; 11:00 AM**

**YCC Special Seminar**

Amistad 112

*Early Replicating Fragile Sites: Novel Source of Genome Instability in B cell Lymphoma*

Robert Faryabi, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**October 7; 12:00 PM**

**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

*Comparative Effectiveness of Surgery and Radiosurgery for Stage I NSCLC*

James Yu, MD

*The Yale Thoracic Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Program*

Roy Decker, MD, PhD

[Read 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)

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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)

**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.

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Ami Jhaveri, MD  
*Code Status: Change of Heart*

Melinda Yushak, MD  
*Read More >> (PDF)*

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**October 15; 9:30 AM**

**The Emcor Pink Hard Hat Program**

Amistad Park  
*Human Pink Ribbon for Breast Cancer Awareness*

Anees Chagpar, MD, MSc, MA, MPH, MBA  
*Read More >>*

**October 16; 9:00 AM**

**Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

Smilow, LL-412  
*Best of ASTRO*

James Yu, MD  
*Read More >>*

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**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.

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**Submissions**

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette  
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing  
renee.gaudette@yale.edu
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

Learn More >>

### Recent Publications

**Adhesion Molecule-Mediated Hippo Pathway Modulates Hemangioendothelioma Cell Behavior.**
Tsuneki M, Madri JA.

Learn More >>

**Afatinib demonstrates remarkable activity against HER2-amplified uterine serous endometrial cancer in vitro and in vivo.**

Learn More >>

**p53 protein aggregation promotes platinum resistance in ovarian cancer.**
Oncogene. 2014 Sep 29.

Learn More >>

**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.

Learn More >>

**A Functional Screen Identifies miRs that Induce Radioresistance in Glioblastomas.**
Mol Cancer Res. 2014 Sep 25.

Learn More >>

**Co-detection and sequencing of genes and transcripts from the same single cells facilitated by a microfluidics platform.**
Han L, Zi X, Garmire LX, Wu Y, Weissman SM, Pan X, Fan R.
Clin Cancer Res. 2014 Sep 25.
Learn More >>

Solitomab, an epithelial cell adhesion molecule/CD3 bispecific antibody (BiTE), is highly active against primary chemotherapy-resistant ovarian cancer cell lines in vitro and fresh tumor cells ex vivo.
Cancer. 2014 Sep 23.
Learn More >>

How the immune system spots tumors.
Okabe Y, Medzhitov R.
Elife. 2014 Sep 24;3.
Learn More >>

Pregabalin for the Treatment of Painful Hand-Foot Skin Reaction Associated With Dabrafenib.
Lilly E, Burke M, Kluger H, Choi J.
Learn More >>

Clinical cancer research: the past, present and the future.
DeVita VT Jr, Eggermont AM, Hellman S, Kerr DJ.
Learn More >>

Delayed platysma myocutaneous turnover flap for repair of pharyngocutaneous fistula.
Neubauer P, Cañadas K, Sasaki CT.
Learn More >>

Graham-Steed TR, Soulos PR, Dearing N, Concato J, Tinetti ME, Gross CP.
J Geriatr Oncol. 2014 Sep 18.
Learn More >>

Variation in Pelvic Lymph Node Dissection Among Patients Undergoing Radical Prostatectomy by Hospital