October 20, 2017

Announcements

Via Oncology Pathways
On Monday, October 30, Smilow Cancer Hospital will implement Via Oncology’s Clinical Pathways to help standardize care across Smilow and prioritize clinical trials when they are available for our patients. Via’s clinical pathways will initially launch in medical oncology, gynecological oncology, and hematology. This decision support tool is based on evidence-based guidelines and is customized to include our available clinical trials. I encourage all providers to sign up for a training session next week to learn more about the tool and to become familiar with the platform. Training sessions will be offered on our main campus and at our care centers beginning on October 31. If you have questions on the implementation, please contact Kerin Adelson. To schedule training, please contact Andrea Kliss.

Gastrointestinal Cancers Program in Litchfield County
It was a pleasure to join members of our Gastrointestinal Cancers Program and colleagues from our Torrington Care Center at the Litchfield Inn last night for a CME dinner and update on GI Cancers. We had nearly 50 people in attendance from the Litchfield County area to learn the latest on the management, diagnosis, and care of patients with GI cancers. Thank you to Drs. Debra Brandt and Anne Chiang for their leadership on the event and to our entire panel of faculty for their presentations.
Mandar Muzumdar, MD Joins Yale Cancer Center

I am pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Mandar Muzumdar, Assistant Professor in the Yale Cancer Biology Institute (Genetics). Dr. Muzumdar's research interests led him to study under the mentorship of Dr. Tyler Jacks and focus on the genetic and environmental factors that contribute to the growth and development of pancreatic cancer. His lab has discovered mechanisms engaged by pancreatic cancer cells to evade inhibition of their hallmark genetic driver KRAS, elucidated the role of the gene p53 in constraining pancreatic cancer development, and generated tools to identify new drug targets in KRAS mutant cells. Through this work, Dr. Muzumdar will continue his research at Yale's Cancer Biology Institute to identify novel approaches for both the prevention and treatment of pancreatic cancer. Please welcome him to Yale Cancer Center and the Cancer Biology Institute.

Prasanna Ananth, MD, MPH Joins Pediatric Hematology and Oncology

Please welcome Dr. Prasanna Ananth, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, to Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Ananth joins Yale from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. She received her undergraduate and medical degree from Stanford University and her MPH from University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Ananth's clinical and research focus is on
palliative and end-of-life care in pediatric oncology patients.

**Notables**

At the SWOG meeting earlier this month, Dr. Lajos Pusztai was confirmed as Chair of the Breast Committee and Dr. Roy Herbst was confirmed as Vice-Chair of the Lung Committee.

Amy Davidoff, PhD, Senior Research Scientist and a member of the COPPER Center and our Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, has been awarded two grants. The first will study “Patterns of palliative care and concurrent therapy for lung cancer at end-of-life: implications for quality” with support from the Lung Cancer Research Foundation. The second grant, from the National Cancer Institute, will study “Patterns of Medication Therapy and Patient-Reported among Older Adults with Cancer: SEER-MHOS Part D linkage.”

Michael Krauthammer, Associate Professor of Pathology and a member of Yale Cancer Center’s Signal Transduction Research Program, will be inducted into the American College of Medical Informatics (ACMI), a professional association committed to the use of informatics to transform health care.

The American Society for Radiation Oncology presented 2017 Annual Meeting Abstract Awards to two recipients from Yale. Sanjay Aneja, MD received one of three Resident Clinical/Basic Science Research Abstract Award, which recognizes the top research by a medical resident. Christopher Corso, MD, PhD received a Basic/Translational Science Abstract Award, which recognizes lead authors of top-rated basic and translational abstracts.

Our Thoracic Oncology Program was well represented at the World Conference on Lung Cancer in Japan earlier this week, with presentations by Drs. Roy Herbst, David Rimm, Scott Gettinger, and Frank Detterbeck and Marianne Davies, DNP, MSN, APRN. Dr. Joerg Rathmann from our Smilow Cancer Hospital at Saint Francis also joined the team at the Conference.
Employee Profile: Jose DeJesus

In his role as Community Health Educator for the Smilow Cancer Screening & Prevention Program, Jose DeJesus works with two separate populations in the community; those that have no symptoms or history of cancer, and those that have recently been diagnosed. When he started almost two years ago, his goal was to combine outreach efforts in order to reach more people. He focuses on educating patients on the benefits of screening before they have any symptoms, healthy lifestyle, and working with OWN-IT (Oncologists Welcome New Haven Into Trials), to raise awareness and dispel myths about clinical trials.

Born and raised in New Haven, Jose has always been involved with the community and has worked to improve living standards for all residents. He received a degree in

Mr. Santoro, a patient at Smilow, was unable to travel to his son's wedding in Atlanta because of his illness—and so his care team brought the wedding to him. His team worked tirelessly to set up a video call with the wedding party, helped him dress in his matching tuxedo and cufflinks, and prepared a dinner that matched the reception menu for Mr. Santoro and some of his friends to enjoy—which all allowed him to take part in his son's wedding experience.

The Smilow team did everything they could to give Mr. Santoro and his family a night that they will never forget. They said of this evening, "We feel like he was right here with us at the wedding all night!"

Thank you to our incredible staff!

Palliative care is commonly confused with hospice care, but in fact, it focuses on providing support and symptom relief for patients living with a serious illness who are not necessarily terminal. Wendy Van de Bogart, a patient with breast cancer
Human and Health Services and after experiencing cancer in his own family, it made sense for him to move into the public health field.

"Regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic status, people are hesitant to discuss the topics of cancer and clinical trials," said Jose. "There is a stigma associated with clinical trials and that it means a last resort, but that is not the case. Once I have a chance to sit and talk with people, they begin to realize the benefits. It is all about getting the right message, to the right person. We have far exceeded the number of people we had hoped to reach at this point, and are continuing to grow."

With Lung Cancer Awareness Month around the corner in November, Jose has started to plan events to reach the community. Beth Jones, PhD, MPH, is Director of the Smilow Cancer Screening & Prevention Program and commented, "Jose drives our ambitious screening outreach agenda, making sure that we are out in the community several times per month. With his amazing energy and ability to speak to anyone - and everyone - I can't imagine a better person to be out there representing all of the good work going on in Smilow and Yale Cancer Center."

#OOTBTHANKS

#OOTB: Liz Cornelio and Jeremy Rubenstein

cared for at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Torrington, received palliative care but says that no one ever called it that - and if it had been called palliative, she would have been worried. It is important to realize that palliative care is different from end-of-life care, and studies have shown that patients receiving palliative care may live longer and have better quality of life.

As Breast Cancer Awareness Month continues, meet Rafaella, a linguistics professor at Yale and mother of two who was treated for breast cancer at the Smilow Breast Center. Rafaella underwent three partial mastectomies to treat her ductal carcinoma in situ, and the third one ultimately produced clean margins, meaning that there were no more cancer cells in the area. She describes that the staff at ...See More

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter
Yale Cancer Center #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Liz Cornelio, Associate Administrator, and Jeremy Rubenstein, Accountant, for their phenomenal guidance and support during the Workday Financials transition. During initial processing issues, Liz took it upon herself to independently do the research, reach out to the experts, and perform multiple trial and error runs to figure out all the necessary solutions for her team. She also created a weekly meeting to discuss and work out these issues, which led to a huge boost in team morale. Jeremy has gone above and beyond to provide guidance and share his knowledge on what he has learned in Workday. At Liz's weekly meetings, he is constantly bringing something new to the table, whether it is a new functionality the team should be aware of or a tip to make their processes easier. Jeremy’s contributions have been instrumental during this transition. Thank you, Liz & Jeremy!

Yale Cancer Center’s #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS program is a staff recognition initiative to show appreciation to employees who have exemplified an above-and-beyond effort or an outstanding contribution to the team. All nominations should be submitted to the Director's Office c/o Anna Raso.

**Funding Opportunities**

**National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program 2018**
This program supports the acquisition, through purchase, upgrade, or development of state-of-the-art major instrumentation for research, research training, and integrated research/education activities.

**Internal Deadline:** October 24, 2017
[Learn More >>](#)

**Yale Cancer Center Research Prizes**
Research Prizes will be awarded in support of excellence in the areas of basic science, clinical research, translational research, and cancer prevention and control.

**Nomination Deadline:** October 27, 2017
Email your publication to [anna.raso@yale.edu](mailto:anna.raso@yale.edu).

**Women’s Health Research at Yale's 2017-2018 Pilot Project Program**
- Pilot Project Awards: Up to $35,000 over one or two years for research designed to meet a
pressing need in women’s health or in understanding sex differences, and with a clearly described path to direct clinical or public health utility

- Wendy U. and Thomas C. Naratil Pioneer Award: up to $50,000 in funding over one or two years to initiate new investigations that are highly inventive or close to a major breakthrough in advancing women’s health or knowledge of sex differences

**Application Deadline:** October 26, 2017  
[Learn More >>](#)

**Matthew Larson Foundation for Pediatric Brain Tumor Research Grants**  
The Matthew Larson Foundation for Pediatric Brain Tumor Research seeks to fund translational and clinical projects in Pediatric Brain Tumor Research.  
**LOI Due:** November 1, 2017  
[Learn More >>](#)

**Pershing Square Sohn Cancer Research Alliance Prize for Young Investigators**  
This prize of $200,000 per year for up to three years is awarded annually to at least six New York City area scientists, enabling them to continue to pursue explorative, high-risk/high-reward cancer research at a stage when traditional funding is lacking.  
**LOI Due:** November 6, 2017  
[Please visit www.psscrca.org](#)

**Basser Center for BRCA External Research Grant Program**  
The Basser Center for BRCA at Penn Medicine’s Abramson Cancer Center announces the Basser External Research Grant Program, which focuses on projects that have the potential to advance the care of individuals living with BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations.  
**LOI Due:** November 13, 2017  
[Learn More >>](#)

**Clinical and Epidemiological Research on Chronic Disease in the Caribbean**  
The NCI Center for Global Health (CGH) helps reduce the global burden of cancer by strengthening research capacity through funding and training.  
**Application Deadlines:** November 15, 2017; November 15, 2018; November 15, 2019  
[Learn More >>](#)

**Program in Innovative Therapeutics for Connecticut’s Health (PITCH)**  

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**Twitter Updates:**

- Patricia LoRusso of @YaleCancer & @AACR joins us at #CDD25 outlining the challenges in early-phase drug combinations.

- A new discovery by Yale Cancer Center scientists may open the potential for new types of cancer drugs.http://bit.ly/2g4JbCJ

- Our new paper is out on resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitors. Very proud of this @YaleCancer team effort!

- New research to develop #vaccine against pediatric #BrainTumors#btm .@ynhh .@YaleMed .@StBaldricks

- Today’s Paul Calabresi memorial lecture @YaleCancer given by Dr. George Canellos @DanaFarber new rx for lymphoma @YNHH

- Cancer peeps. My close friend @suleikajaouad is speaking @YaleCancer conference in New Haven on Sat. It’s free & open to the public.Check it

- Join us as we partner w/ @TheALCF for a special event to discuss #lungcancer and kick off #LCAM on Nov 2. Register: http://ynhh.org/events
PITCH fuels target validation based on innovative research ideas born in laboratories from Yale University and the University of Connecticut. This three-year, $10 million dollar program provides translational research resources to generate prototype therapeutics that address unmet clinical needs. **Deadline for Application:** November 15, 2017. Please contact [janie.merkel@yale.edu](mailto:janie.merkel@yale.edu) for information.

**Melanoma Research Alliance**
The MRA is pleased to announce RFP’s for high-impact pre-clinical, translational, and early clinical research that has the potential to lead to near-term clinical application in melanoma prevention, detection, diagnosis, staging, and treatment. **Application Deadline:** November 17, 2017: [Learn More >>](#)

**Exploratory Grants in Cancer Epidemiology and Genomics Research (R21)**
This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) invites applications for research on cancer epidemiology, genomics, and risk assessment. **Application Receipt/Submission Date(s):** November 22, 2017 [Learn More >>](#)

**Pilot and Feasibility Studies Evaluating the Role of RNA Modifications (the 'epitranscriptome') in Cancer Biology (R21)**
This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages basic research into the role of RNA chemical modifications and their corresponding writers, readers and erasers in the initiation and progression of cancer. **Application Receipt/Submission Date(s):** November 22, 2017 [Learn More >>](#)

**Clinical and Translational Exploratory/Developmental Studies (R21)**
This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) supports the development of new exploratory research in cancer diagnosis, treatment, imaging, symptom/toxicity, and prevention clinical trials; correlative studies associated with clinical trials; novel cancer therapeutic, symptom/toxicity, and preventive agent development, radiotherapy development activities, and mechanism-driven combinations; and innovative preclinical studies--including the use of new clinically-relevant models and imaging technologies--which could lead to first-in-human clinical trials. **Application Receipt/Submission Date(s):**

SHM 1-304
**Exploiting Oncometabolite-Induced BRCAness: Bench-to-Bedside and Back**
Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

**October 22; 7:30PM**
**Yale Cancer Answers**
WNPR
**Immunotherapy and the Treatment of Aggressive Breast Cancer**
Lajos Pusztai, MD, DPhil
[Read More >>](#)

**October 123; 12:00PM**
**Hematology Special Seminar**
FMB 115
**Allogenic Cell Therapy of Cancer**
Ephraim Fuchs, MD, MBA
[Read More >>](#)

**October 24; 12:00PM**
**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**
55 Park Street
**Big Data Approaches to Advance Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Biology**
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
[Read More >>](#)

**October 24; 1:00PM**
**Yale Cancer Center Genetics, Genomics and Epigenetics Research Program**
SHM B-201
**Targeting the Nucleolus for Cancer Therapy**
Susan J. Baserga, MD, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

**October 24; 4:00PM**
**YNHH Health Education Lecture Series**
TAC Auditorium
**The B.E.S.T. Platform for the Manufacturing of Vaccines for Emerging Diseases**
Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology (U01)
This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites cooperative agreement applications for Research Projects that utilize systems biology approaches to address emerging questions in cancer initiation, progression, and treatment.
**Application Receipt/Submission Date(s):**
November 24, 2017

Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (U01)
This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will support the development and characterization of state-of-the-art biomimetic tissue-engineered technologies for cancer research.
**Application Receipt/Submission Date(s):**
November 30, 2017

Cooperative Agreement to Develop Targeted Agents for Use with Systemic Agents Plus Radiotherapy (U01)
The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to invite cooperative agreement (U01) applications that propose studies to enhance pre-clinical in vitro and in vivo testing of NCI-prioritized molecularly targeted anti-cancer agents for use with radiation therapy combined with systemic chemotherapy.
**Application Deadline:**
December 14, 2017

Academic-Industrial Partnerships for Translation of Technologies for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment (R01)
This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages applications from research partnerships formed by academic and industrial investigators, to accelerate the translation of technologies, methods, assays or devices, and/or systems for preclinical or clinical molecular diagnosis or in vitro imaging that are designed to solve a targeted cancer problem.
**Application Deadline:**
January 8, 2018
The goal of the Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program is to recruit and retain individuals who are from gender, racial, ethnic, and other groups underrepresented in the life sciences, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, early in their careers.

**Application Deadline:** January 10, 2018

Learn More >>

**Minority Patient-Derived Xenograft (PDX) Development and Trial Centers (M-PDTCs) (U54)**
The main goals for this initiative include: a) Development of racially/ethnically diverse PDX models; b) Development of methods for preclinical testing of single agents and drug combinations; and c) Conducting response studies of PDX models, primarily from racially/ethnically diverse populations, to develop novel therapeutic strategies.

**Application Due Date:** January 18, 2018

Learn More >>

**Feasibility and Planning Studies for Development of Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) to Investigate Cancer Health Disparities (P20)**
The goals for this FOA include the development of translational research programs focused upon investigating cancer health disparities.

**Application Due Date:** January 18, 2018

Learn More >>

**Feasibility Studies to Build Collaborative Partnerships in Cancer Research (P20)**
Through this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), the National Cancer Institute (NCI) invites P20 planning grant applications for developing collaborative partnership between institutions serving underserved health disparity populations and underrepresented students (ISUPS) and NCI-designated Cancer Centers.

**Application Due Date:** January 29, 2018

Learn More >>

**Recent Publications**

Cancer-directed therapy and potential impact on survivals in nonresected hepatocellular carcinoma: SEER-Medicare population study.
Kokabi N, Duszak R Jr, Xing M, Howard DH, Applegate KE, Camacho JC, Kim HS.

Read More >>

Koutoukidis DA, Beeken RJ, Manchanda R, Michalopoulou M, Burnell M, Knobf MT, Lanceley A.
Read More >>

Association between a 17-gene genomic prostate score and multi-parametric prostate MRI in men with low and intermediate risk prostate cancer (PCa).

Leapman MS, Westphalen AC, Ameli N, Lawrence HJ, Febo PG, Cooperberg MR, Carroll PR.
Read More >>

Geriatric palliative care: Meeting the needs of a growing population.

Saracino RM, Bai M, Blatt L, Solomon L, McCorkle R.
Read More >>


Callahan MK, Kluger H, Postow MA, Segal NH, Lesokhin A, Atkins MB, Kirkwood JM, Krishnan S, Bhore R, Horak C, Wolchok JD, Sznol M.
J Clin Oncol. 2017 Oct 17;JCO2017722850
Read More >>

Immuno-thermal ablations - boosting the anticancer immune response.

Slovak R, Ludwig JM, Gettinger SN, Herbst RS, Kim HS.
Read More >>

Objective measurement and clinical significance of IDO1 protein in hormone receptor-positive breast cancer.

Yale Stem Cell Center 9th Annual Retreat
West Campus Auditorium
9th Annual Retreat: Day 1
C. David Allis, PhD, Jeremy Rich, MD, MHS, MBA
Read More >>

November 2; 5:00PM
SCH and YCC Present: Lung Cancer Living Room
Kroon Hall
Lung Cancer Living Room: Hosted by Bonnie K. Addario
Roy H. Decker, MD, PhD; Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD; Emily A. Duffield, APRN; Sarah B. Goldberg, MD, MPH; Justin D. Blasberg, MD
Read More >>

November 3; 8:00AM
Yale Stem Cell Center 9th Annual Retreat
West Campus Auditorium
9th Annual Retreat: Day 2
C. David Allis, PhD, Jeremy Rich, MD, MHS, MBA
Read More >>

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

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


Impact of vaginal cylinder diameter on outcomes following brachytherapy for early stage endometrial cancer.
Qian JM, Stahl JM, Young MR, Ratner E, Damast S. J Gynecol Oncol. 2017 Nov;28(6):e84.

Natural Killer T Cells in Cancer Immunotherapy.