Four Business Leaders Join Cancer Center Advisory Board

The Yale Cancer Center Advisory Board, which was created in 1990 to assist in raising public awareness of the role of the Center as one of 38 National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer centers and expand the philanthropic opportunities for the Center, has increased its membership with the addition of four leaders in the business community.

Paul K. Kelly, Nicholas T. Makes, Jack Mitchell, and Richard S. Sackler, MD, were elected to the Advisory Board at the October 2003 meeting in New York City. Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., MD, Chairman of the Advisory Board, described the role of the new members as extremely valuable, adding that the increased support for the Center would increase both the profile of and potential for growth at Yale Cancer Center.

Paul K. Kelly is President and Chief Executive Officer of Knox & Co., an investment banking firm specializing in mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, and international financial advisory services, and President and Chief Executive Officer of PH II, Inc., a privately held investment company engaged in making principal investments on a global basis. Mr. Kelly has frequently been identified with the introduction of new financing concepts to the capital markets. Mr. Kelly resides in Westport, Connecticut with his wife Nancy.

In his 25th year with Turner Construction Company, Nicholas T. Makes has led the company’s Connecticut office as Vice President and General Manager for the last ten years.

The Impact of a Nursing Intervention with Ovarian Cancer Patients Studied

Building on the strong foundation of care that gynecological oncology patients are given at Yale and throughout the Northeast region, researchers at Yale Cancer Center have been awarded a three-year, $1.8 million grant by the National Institutes of Health to study the impact of nursing care provided by master prepared clinicians on quality of life for ovarian cancer patients. “We have a unique opportunity to test a complementary nursing service for patients in an already well-established medical practice,” Ruth McCorkle, PhD, Principal Investigator of the study, said.

Because many patients with ovarian cancer display little or no pre-diagnostic symptoms, ovarian cancer is often diagnosed at a later stage, which creates a tremendous uncertainty for a good prognosis. Women with ovarian cancer often experience intense emotional distress caused by their heightened anxiety or depression, differing physical needs, and other complex issues. Despite their increased need for emotional as well as physical follow-up care, under the current standard of care, few post-surgical patients receive formalized home care services.

Dr. McCorkle and Dr. Peter Schwartz, Director of Gynecologic Oncology at Yale University School of Medicine and Co-Principal Investigator for the grant, are hoping to demonstrate that personalized care and assistance for ovarian cancer patients following surgery will not only increase their length of survival but also reduce their overall care costs by decreasing the amount of mental health assistance and emergency services needed. To examine the cost outcomes, they have assembled a research team that includes economists from the Yale School of Medicine Department of Epidemiology and Public Health and management staff from the Yale-New Haven Hospital Finance Department. “The interdisciplinary research team we have recruited includes a committed group of colleagues representing some of the brightest talent we have at Yale,” Dr. McCorkle explained.

The project, which began in late 2003, will monitor 200 women who have been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and have been randomized into either an intervention group or an attention
Researcher Receives Funding
Will Study Markers of Breast Tumor Metastasis

IN AN EFFORT TO ELIMINATE the need for painful axillary lymph node dissections for women with confirmed breast tumors, Yale Cancer Center Researcher Robert Camp, MD, PhD, has been given $100 thousand to study alternative tumor markers with a grant from the Breast Cancer Alliance, Inc. Dr. Camp will use lectins to evaluate sugar residues on tumor cell membranes and study their correlation to breast tumor metastasis. Initial research with collaborators John Pawelek, MD, PhD and David Rimm, MD, PhD has suggested a link between the binding of a specific lectin called L-PHA, and the potential for tumor metastasis.

Current diagnosis and treatment for a woman with confirmed breast tumors typically involves an additional diagnostic procedure with the removal and dissection of axillary lymph nodes to determine whether the cancer has metastasized to the nodes and consequently, to other areas of the body. The results of the dissection are then used to help physicians determine the type and intensity of treatment they will prescribe for their patient. The lymphatic system collects excess fluid and proteins from the body tissues and carries them back to the bloodstream; removal of these nodes from the underarm can often result in lymphedema. Lymphedema causes severe swelling of the patient’s arms, redness, and pain. Dr. Camp is hoping to alleviate the chronic pain and discomfort that results from this procedure by developing prognostic markers that can be identified in the breast tumor and thereby eliminating the need for surgical removal of the lymph nodes for biopsy.

Dr. Camp will use the extensive archives of the Yale School of Medicine’s Department of Pathology to review breast tumor tissue for the presence of lectin binding, and compare the results to the patient’s lymph node status to determine the viability of lectins to be used as tumor markers. “One of the benefits of the Yale Pathology Department is the extensive computerized database we have, which catalogues tumor tissue dating back to 1932 along with the patient’s diagnosis,” Camp said. “The Pathology to review breast tumor tissue for the presence of lectin binding, and compare the results to the patient’s lymph node status to determine the viability of lectins to be used as tumor markers. “One of the benefits of the Yale Pathology Department is the extensive computerized database we have, which catalogues tumor tissue dating back to 1932 along with the patient’s diagnosis,” Camp said.

Using tissue microarrays, Dr. Camp will be able to analyze several hundred tumor samples within a single paraffin block, providing highly efficient evaluation and assessment of the samples. Each microarray will be stained with lectins and read using a software program he has developed called AQUA to determine the expression levels of the lectins within each sample. “The subtle differences detected by the computer program will permit quantitative analysis allowing us to determine which lectins will be successful markers in the prediction of tumor metastases,” Dr. Camp explained.

Because there are over 50 different commercially available lectins, microarrays will be created to subsequently test a variety of lectins. Dr. Camp also plans to examine microarrays constructed of tumor samples from patients who had both primary and distant metastases to determine if variations in the

Yale-New Haven Breast Center Officially Opens

The new Yale-New Haven Breast Center, which offers complete care for women seeking diagnosis or treatment of benign or malignant breast symptoms, was dedicated on November 19, 2005 in a newly renovated and private space in the Yale Physicians Building at 800 Howard Avenue.

“The new Breast Center represents a huge improvement in the quality of care we can offer our patients,” said Donald Lannin, MD, Executive Director of the Center and Professor of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine. “We expect that our patients will greatly appreciate both the enhanced care coordination and personal service we are able to offer.”

The Center addresses several important patient needs — all-inclusive services, privacy and reassurance. Lannin noted that although breast cancer will strike one in eight women nationally, only six percent of the women who seek medical care at the center actually will have breast cancer. “As soon as a woman has any breast abnormalities, such as cysts and calcifications, it becomes the most important thing in her life,” he said.

Denni D. Spencer, MD, Dean of Yale University School of Medicine, and Yale-New Haven Hospital President and CEO, Joseph Zaccagnino, said at the dedication ceremony that the collaboration is a landmark event for the two institutions and a timely response to one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in women.

“This disease is a scourge today,” Dr. Spencer said. “There are 4,000 new cases of breast cancer in Connecticut alone each year, and 500 deaths. These are statistics we can deal with and change. This is the place where that begins.”

He said the Center brings the physician to the patient, rather than sending the patient from one building to another for examination, testing, diagnosis, counseling and treatment. The patients also will benefit from the fact that the Breast Center is part of a teaching and research institution that is continually investigating new treatments for breast cancer, he said.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call 203.785.2328 to speak with a patient care coordinator.
Yale Professor Heads Global Consortium
Goal is to Promote Chinese Medicine

Dr. Edward Chu, Director of the VA Cancer Center and Professor of Medical Oncology and Pharmacology at Yale, also attended the December 15th symposium. “Our hope is that the Yale Cancer Center Developmental Therapeutics Program and the Section of Medical Oncology will play a leading role in developing clinical trials which investigate Chinese herbal medicine either alone or in combination with standard Western chemotherapy,” Dr. Chu explained. He and Dr. Cheng will collaborate with the conference participants to begin the development of clinical trials using Chinese medicine for oncology patients. Together, they launched a clinical trial focusing on the use of a combination of Chinese herbs for colorectal cancer patients in 2002 at Yale.

December’s international meeting was a first step in a four-year plan to help launch standardized research in Chinese medicine. The Consortium plans to use faculty exchanges, joint research ventures, academic publications, and joint symposia and academic meetings to help reach their goal of combining their knowledge of Chinese herbal medicine over the next several years. Yale University is currently the only American institution participating of Chinese medicine to ensure their effectiveness. Chinese medicine is used in dietary supplements sold in various countries but it is far from being used as a mainstream product in the West,” Dr. Cheng explained.

To date, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been extremely cautious in allowing herbal medicine trials to be developed, mainly because of possible chemical inconsistencies in the batches of herbs used. To overcome these worries, Dr. Cheng has developed a novel method to fingerprint the herbs with both a chemical fingerprint and a chemical test using acid to mimic the environment that the herb would be in while passing through the digestive system.

This system of chemical and biological fingerprinting will be used to help create the global database, which will also include the drug formulations, botanical ingredients, information on traditional and modern therapeutic indications, clinical information, animal pharmacology, biochemical activities, toxicities, and manufacturing information. “Our database will help develop future medicine by identifying active compounds for particular usage or by coming up with a better medicinal formula,” Dr. Cheng said.

Dr. Edward Chu, Director of the VA Cancer Center and Professor of Medical Oncology and Pharmacology at Yale, also attended the December 15th symposium. “Our hope is that the Yale Cancer Center Developmental Therapeutics Program and the Section of Medical Oncology will play a leading role in developing clinical trials which investigate Chinese herbal medicine either alone or in combination with standard Western chemotherapy,” Dr. Chu explained. He and Dr. Cheng will collaborate with the conference participants to begin the development of clinical trials using Chinese medicine for oncology patients. Together, they launched a clinical trial focusing on the use of a combination of Chinese herbs for colorectal cancer patients in 2002 at Yale.

December’s international meeting was a first step in a four-year plan to help launch standardized research in Chinese medicine. The Consortium plans to use faculty exchanges, joint research ventures, academic publications, and joint symposia and academic meetings to help reach their goal of combining their knowledge of Chinese herbal medicine over the next several years. Yale University is currently the only American institution participating

Yale University Recipient of First NCI Graduate Program Partnership in Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics

YALE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (NCI) as the first site in the nation to officially partner with the NCI for pre-doctoral training in cancer epidemiology. Selected following a request for applications, the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale will partner with the National Cancer Institute’s Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG) to create an innovative training program utilizing the resources of both institutions.

Susan Mayne, PhD, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health and overall principal investigator for the grant and program, explained, “the next generation of cancer epidemiologists requires multidisciplinary training and access to resources that are difficult to find at a single academic institution. This novel collaboration between Yale and the NCI will benefit both institutions and help to prepare future leaders investigating determinants of human cancer risk.”

The program will admit the first students in September 2004 and will support tuition and dissertation research for four to six pre-doctoral students while they train in modern methodologies for evaluating lifestyle factors associated with cancer risk, with an emphasis on nutritional, environmental, and occupational determinants. The program will include in-class instruction at Yale University along with a summer training program at the National Cancer Institute. Students will select two mentors from Yale and two from the NCI, who will then serve as the student’s dissertation advisory committee. The dissertation research will be conducted at the NCI DCEG, giving students access to the extensive resources, research, and expertise available at the DCEG. Upon successful completion of the program, Yale University will award the students their doctoral degree.

“Yale has previously partnered with the NCI on an ad hoc basis and we are pleased to strengthen that partnership through this collaborative training effort. We fully expect that graduates of this program will be uniquely qualified to be future leaders in the field of cancer epidemiology and genetics,” Mayne said.

Harvey Risch, MD, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, and Tongzhang Zheng, BMed, ScD, ScM, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, serve on the steering committee with Dr. Mayne at Yale University. Demetrius Albanes, MD, leads the partnership for NCI as head of the DCEG Office of Education, and is assisted by NCI DCEG steering committee members Aaron Blair, PhD, MPH, Chief of the Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch, and Arthur Schatzkin, MD, DrPH, Chief of the Nutritional Epidemiology Branch.
Holiday Party Brings Lots of Smiles!

Yale Cancer Center held the annual Patient and Family Holiday Party for those touched by cancer on Wednesday, December 10th. The party was attended by over 200 guests and allowed many current and former patients to visit with one another and their physicians and nurses. Dr. Richard L. Edelson, Director of Yale Cancer Center, introduced himself and greeted the room of smiling guests wishing them a wonderful holiday season and New Year. The Villore Fund donated the party in honor of the Yates family.

Lecture Series Strives to Answer Patient Needs

Patients seeking to learn more information about general cancer related topics, or their specific disease, are benefiting from the free educational programs sponsored by the Understanding Cancer Lecture Series. The lectures, which are held on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May, allow oncology patients and their families to benefit from the breadth of expertise Yale physicians and professors have to offer.

The Understanding Cancer Lecture Series, which was initiated in the fall of 2001 by the Cancer Education Committee at Yale Cancer Center and is led by Bonnie Indeck, MSW, Director of Patient Services, seeks to provide information on the newest trends in cancer treatment as well as methods to help cope with a cancer diagnosis. “The program allows patients and their families to learn techniques to help them manage their disease from a variety of cancer professionals including physicians, nurses, nutritionists, and social workers,” Indeck explained. Previous topics have focused on questions such as immunotherapy, anxiety, nutrition, and specific cancer diseases.

At the conclusion of the monthly program, guests are invited to complete surveys asking for feedback and suggested future topics for discussion. “Patients are continually generating ideas for new lecture topics and are helping to shape the program to best fit their needs,” Kathleen Derringer, Special Events Manager for the Center, said.

“The program went beyond my expectations. I am truly impressed and grateful,” one patient stated at the conclusion of a recent program.

For a schedule of the upcoming lectures, please visit our website at www.yalecancercenter.org. For more information on the program, to be added to the mailing list, or to suggest a future program idea, please call Kathleen Derringer at Yale Cancer Center at 203.737.2439.

Save the Date for

La Cassa Magica

An Extraordinary Evening to Celebrate
Yale Cancer Center
And
Support the Research to Discover the Source for the Cure

Saturday
April 24, 2004

Featuring
Grammy Award Winning Jazz Legend
Marion McPartland

The Country Club of Fairfield
Southport, Connecticut

For Information,
Please Contact Kathleen Derringer
203.737.2439
diversity among patients leads to a tremendous task for the clinic nurses. Throughout the course of treatment, the nurses take the time to become acquainted with the both the child’s likes and dislikes and the parents’ needs and concerns.

Admittedly, the nurses and staff in the Pediatric Specialty Center are put in a challenging situation as they relate to the children and parents they interact with on a daily basis and think of their own children at home. “You quickly learn how to put yourself in a professional situation and to weed out the personal feelings you may have,” Denise Carr, CN3, explained. Carr has been a nurse for the pediatric population at Yale-New Haven Hospital for the past fourteen years and is a mother of ten- and six-year-old children. “We are human; we often get attached as we share both the child’s and parents’ feelings but professionally we need to focus and care for the child as best we can,” Carr said.

Children often force the nursing staff in the center to be creative in an effort to get the child to comply with their treatment needs. “It is very hard for a two-year-old to understand the concept that a treatment hurts initially will eventually make them feel better,” Carr said. “We are constantly challenged by the age groups to determine what they will respond to.” To help distract the children while receiving treatment, the center is equipped with toys, games, and activities as well as a television and VCR at each infusion station. Children also have access to a computer and the Internet to keep them busy while in the Center.

The Pediatric Specialty Center is the major referral center for outpatient pediatric specialty services in Southern Connecticut, managing over twenty different subspecialties. The children seen in the clinic are facing a variety of health challenges and often require a range of levels of care, from a one-time consultation to treatments for acute, chronic, or terminal medical and surgical conditions. The disease diversity among patients leads to a tremendous task for the clinic nurses, with multiple protocols and treatment regimens to coordinate. “Because the pediatric patients seen in the clinic have such a variety of needs and treatment plans, our nursing staff is required to manage multiple cases simultaneously. With an average of twenty years experience, each of the four clinic nurses has irreplaceable knowledge in caring for pediatric patients,” Lynne Sherman, RN, BSN, Patient Service Manager of the Center said.

The program has grown significantly since Sherman joined the Center in 1990. With many medical treatments moving from an inpatient setting to outpatient, the Center has seen an increase in both the number of patients they treat and the complexity of both the cases and treatments. The Center now accommodates up to ten oncology patients for outpatient treatment per morning and is staffed daily by a physician, two registered nurses, a social worker, and a certified child life specialist. “It has been a gratifying experience to lead the program as it has grown over the past 13 years and to continue to plan for future improvements,” Sherman said.

Patients that have successfully completed treatment often come back and visit the Center and their former nurses after years of remission. “The patients are what keep us in this difficult job, they push us to keep going,” Carr said.

Pediatric Specialty Center Nurses. Karen Clarke, RN; Linda Willis, PCA; Donna Parente, RN; Lynne Sherman, RN, BSN, and Denise Carr, RN.

Under his leadership, the Connecticut office has completed more than fifty projects for Yale University and Yale-New Haven Hospital and is currently at work on the $40 million South Pavilion expansion for the hospital. Mr. Makes has served on the committee for Yale Cancer Center’s annual benefit, La Cassa Magica, for the last three years and is actively involved in many community organizations. He lives in Southport, Connecticut with his wife Patti and three children.

Jack Mitchell is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Mitchells/Richards, two leading clothing stores in Fairfield County. A fixture in the family business since 1969, Mr. Mitchell is committed to providing exceptional customer service to his loyal clients through personal attention. His recent book, now in its sixth printing, *Hug Your Customers: The Proven Way to Personalize Sales and Achieve Astounding Results*, outlines the business principles he has maintained to build a successful base in his stores. Mr. Mitchell currently resides in Wilton, Connecticut with his wife Linda. Together they raised four sons who all hold senior positions within the Mitchells and Richards stores.

Richard S. Sackler, MD is the Co-Chairman of Purdue Pharma L.P., Director of Napp Pharmaceuticals, Director of Mundipharma, and Chairman of Mundipharma Holdings, AG. Throughout his thirty-two year career at Purdue, Dr. Sackler has held many positions and has reorganized and built several departments, including the Office of Management, the Sales Department, and the Research and Development Department. He has held his current position as Senior Vice President for the Purdue Frederick Company since 1986. Dr. Sackler and his wife, Beth, live in Greenwich, Connecticut.

For more information on the Yale Cancer Center Advisory Board, please contact Judith Winslow, Director of Development, at 203.785.2144 or via email at judith.winslow@yale.edu

Dr. McCorkle and Schwartz hope to acquire additional funding to expand the study in early spring to include the husbands and caregivers of the patients in the intervention in an effort to determine its effect on the overall quality of life of the ovarian cancer survivors. For more information on the study, please contact Dr. McCorkle at 203.737.5501 at the Center for Excellence in Chronic Illness Care, Yale University School of Nursing.

expression or intensity of lectin staining exist between the primary tumor and the metastasis, in an effort to also establish a correlation between lectin staining and the development of distant metastases.

The Breast Cancer Alliance, Inc. (BCA) chose to fund Dr. Camp’s proposal following a presentation made to their committee in May 2005. “One of the most exciting aspects of working with the BCA is that it brings researchers and patient advocates much closer together. With the funding from the BCA, I will be able to expand my lab in a new direction with promising potential to make what I hope will be a world-class effort in understanding the role of tumor cell carbohydrate structure in breast cancer,” Dr. Camp said.
A Comprehensive Guide to Chinese Medicine

Dr. Yung-Chi Cheng, the Henry Bronson Professor of Pharmacology and Director of Yale Cancer Center's Developmental Therapeutics Research Program, is a lead author of the newly released *A Comprehensive Guide to Chinese Medicine*. The Guide gives an in-depth explanation into Chinese medicine — how it works, what its current state is, and how to make full use of it. Dr. Cheng has contributed throughout the book, including a chapter on the globalization of Chinese medicine.

Published in November 2003 by World Scientific Publishing Co.

Yale Cancer Center's quarterly newsletter is written to inform the public and the Center's friends, volunteers, donors, and staff on current items of interest at Yale Cancer Center. All inquiries should be addressed to Renee Gaudette, Public Affairs Manager, 100 Church Street South, Suite 211, New Haven, CT 06519-1714. Yale Cancer Center complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996.

Patient and Community Events
All Events are Free and Open to the Public

**February 11, 2004 • Understanding Cancer Lecture Series**
Non-Surgical Treatment of Primary and Metastatic Brain Tumors
Jonathan Knisely, MD, Joachim Baehring, MD, and Betsy D'Andrea, RN
6:00 PM, YNHH East Pavilion Cafeteria
For Reservations call 1.888.700.6543

**March 9, 2004 • Cancer Clinical Trials**
5:00-7:15 PM, YNHH Max Taffel Room
Dennis Cooper, MD and Fred De Pourcq,
Director of the Clinical Trials Office at Yale Cancer Center
Co-Sponsored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and AmiHealth Group. Dinner will be served.
For reservations, please call Betsy Kunz at 203.379.0445 x 30

**March 10, 2004 • Understanding Cancer Lecture Series**
Treatment of Colorectal Cancer
Jill Lucy, MD, Ronald Salem, MD, and Carol Hahn, APRN
6:00 PM, YNHH East Pavilion Cafeteria
For Reservations call 1.888.700.6543

**March 15, 2004 • Fighting Fatigue**
5:00 PM, YNHH Max Taffel Room
Co-Sponsored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Ortho Biotech. Refreshments will be served.
For more information, please call Betsy Kunz at 203.379.0445 x 30

**April 14, 2004 • Understanding Cancer Lecture Series**
Insurance Issues when Living with Cancer
Clifford Slicer, CIU, RHU, AAI, Program Manager, Consumer Affairs, State of Connecticut Insurance Department
6:00 PM, YNHH East Pavilion Cafeteria
For Reservations call 1.888.700.6543

**April 28, 2004 • Communicating with the Healthcare Team**
Talking to the Experts about Having a Child after Cancer Treatment
Dr. Nina Kadan-Lottick, Director of the Yale HERO's Clinic
Co-Sponsored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Ortho Biotech. Dinner will be served.
For more information, please call Betsy Kunz at 203.379.0445 x 30