Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the fall issue of Kaleidoscope! Thanks so much to all of you who let me know how much you enjoyed our inaugural issue - please continue to send your feedback and items you would like to see featured in this newsletter. In this issue, you'll find some exciting news about our upcoming site visit, ongoing outreach events, as well as some wonderful educational conferences and research presentations. I've also highlighted our rates of inclusion of women and minorities to therapeutic clinical trials, and will continue this as a regular feature of Kaleidoscope - I hope I can count on your help to ensure our numbers grow even stronger!

With many thanks for your continued support,

Anees B. Chagpar, MD
Assistant Director for Diversity and Health Equity
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Administrative Corner

NCI Site Visit
It's official! The P30/CCSG grant is in, and we are now preparing for the site visit, which will be held on February 6, 2013. As you may know, Diversity and Health Equity is an integral part of Yale Cancer Center's Strategic Plan, and we'll be highlighting a number of our activities during the site visit. If you have particular research interests/achievements and/or outreach programs that reflect the myriad of great work going on at Yale, please let me know! I'd love to help show off all of this fantastic work!

Healthier Together
The acquisition is complete, and Yale-New Haven Hospital is now the fourth largest hospital in the nation. In addition, with the St. Raphael (Chapel Street) Campus, we welcome a wider diversity of patients, and look forward to offering all of our patients outstanding care, combining our outreach initiatives, and expanding our clinical trials across both campuses.

Clinical Corner

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening
The Centers for Disease Control's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program allows patients who are uninsured or underinsured access to screening, and if diagnosed, the Breast and Cervical Treatment Act allows for
these patients to access Medicaid coverage for their cancer treatment. This program is available at both Yale-New Haven York Street and Chapel Street campuses. Andrea Silber recently got a shout out from the Connecticut Department of Public Health for completing over 900 screenings thus far this year at the Chapel Street Campus - nice work Andrea!

**Building Bridges in our Community**

This quarter, we continued to have a strong presence in our community - with keynote addresses at both the Nubian Sisters’ Cancer Survivors Gala as well as at Sisters’ Journey’s Pink Tea events. Yale faculty and staff were well-represented at both events, demonstrating our clear partnership with the wider community. In addition, a number of Yale faculty and staff gave talks at churches throughout the region. These types of DMPA (Development, Marketing and Public Affairs) activities not only raise awareness and goodwill across a variety of diverse groups, but help to build Yale’s reputation as a partner with our community.

**Education Corner**

**Patient Navigation Training Program**

Gateway Community College will be training patient navigators, some of whom may rotate through the St. Raphael Campus patient navigation program. While the form of navigation is different between the two campuses, both meet or exceed this requirement of the Commission on Cancer and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. At the York Street campus, "navigation" occurs through nurse coordinators who are present in every disease team. These nursing level professionals not only work with intake coordinators to facilitate patients entry into the system, but further interact with patients and coordinate their care with all of the other members of the disease team to ensure seamless care throughout the continuum.

**Medical Schools See Record Highs for Enrollment of Minority Students**

If you've ever looked around the medical school classes at Yale, you'll find it to be an incredibly diverse and bright group of people. The diversity trend is picking up across the nation! This is great news as we think about diversity - not only in our classrooms, but also in our medical workforce of the future. A record number of Black/African American students (3,824) and Hispanic/Latino students (3,701) students applied to U.S. medical schools this past year and both groups reached new highs in enrollment of 1,416 and 1,731, respectively. After decreases in both applicants and enrollees in 2011, the number of American Indian and Alaska Native applicants (430) increased 13.5 percent and enrollment grew 17.2 percent to 184 this year. Asian applicants increased by 5.6 percent and enrollees by 5 percent. The number of women applicants and enrollees remained relatively unchanged, and still make up ~46.4% of the entering class.

**Addressing Health Equity Conference**

We are on track for the May 10th conference on Addressing Health Equity - mark your calendars! This will be a fantastic CME event that will bring together outstanding speakers including Lovell Jones, Elmer Huerta, Liz Margolies, and Otis Brawley, along with the CT State Commissioner of Public Health. In addition, the heart of the program will include interactive sessions with academics, community partners, advocates, and researchers to start to create an action plan for addressing health equity across clinical, research, educational, and outreach perspectives. We are very grateful to our supporters thus far who include Onyx, Lilly, Genentech, and Lionheart. Mark your calendars for May 10th in the Anlyan Center for what I am sure will be a spectacular event!
Research Corner

Research News
Cary Gross and colleagues recently made a fairly big splash with a study evaluating breast brachytherapy in elderly women. The manuscript is scheduled for publication in the Journal of Clinical Oncology later this month. Read More >>

Congratulations to Eric Patridge and his colleagues for their work on "Understanding cancer in LGBT communities: biological findings, health risks, barriers to health care" that will be presented at the Eighth Annual National Conference on Quality Health Care for Culturally Diverse Populations to be held on March 11-14, 2013 in Oakland.

Yasemin Turkman, the third trainee on Tish Knobf's Komen Breast Cancer Interdisciplinary Disparities Training Grant, presented her work on "Exploration of women's experiences with triple negative breast cancer" at the Fifth AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved, in October.