September 5, 2014
Announcements

Closer to Free Ride Tomorrow!
I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our 4th annual Closer to Free Ride tomorrow at the Yale Bowl. If you are not already participating, please consider stopping by one of the many cheer stations to cheer on our patients and your friends and colleagues.

View a list of Cheer Stations here.

Following the ride, all employees are invited to the Yale Bowl for the day-long celebration with live music, BBQ, and plenty of family and kids’ activities.

Ashita Talsania, MD Joins Torrington Care Center
I am pleased to welcome Dr. Ashita Talsania, Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology, to the Smilow Cancer Care Center in Torrington. Dr. Talsania will care for patients four days a week in Torrington and will be in New Haven one day a week to participate in activities with the Hematology and Thoracic Oncology Programs, including their Tumor Boards and Clinical Trial planning meetings.

Dr. Talsania joins Yale Cancer Center from Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA where she recently completed her fellowship in hematology/oncology and a residency in internal medicine. She received her medical degree from D.Y.Patil Medical School at Mumbai University in India.

SU2C on Air Tonight
The annual live broadcast of Stand Up To Cancer’s program and fundraising event will air tonight on all four major television networks at 8 PM. Yale Cancer Center’s Dr. Patricia LoRusso is co-leader of the
SU2C Melanoma-MRA Dream Team and will be in attendance at tonight's live broadcast. The goal of her research team's efforts is to sequence melanoma tumors and create a "personalized medicine" approach to lead to more effective and lasting treatments for patients with advanced and metastatic melanoma. The television program is SU2C's flagship fundraising and awareness event each year.

CME Programs in September
Please join us for two continuing education programs at Smilow Cancer Hospital in September. On Tuesday, September 9 at 5 PM we will host a CME Dinner Symposium highlighting treatment and research advances in Melanoma and Renal Cell Carcinoma and on Friday, September 12 at 8 AM we will host a Symposium at 55 Park Street on Gastrointestinal Cancers. Please register to join us for these two important programs.

Publicity for your Research
If you would like your research to be considered for publicity, please let Vicky Agnew and Renee Gaudette know as soon as you receive word of acceptance for publication or presentation at a conference. Early notice will give them a chance to shape and position the findings for stories in the news media and various Yale news outlets. All journal guidelines regarding announcements and embargoes will be followed.

Yale Presents at ASTRO
Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven will once again be well represented at the annual American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) beginning on September 14 in San Francisco. Congratulations to the following faculty members on their participation:

Lynn Wilson served as Chairman of the ASTRO Annual Meeting Scientific Committee for the third year of his three-year term and as Chairman of the Annual Meeting Steering Committee.

Sara Rockwell and Lynn Wilson are ASTRO Fellows.

Ranjit Bindra will be honored at the meeting with an Educator of the Year Award recognizing his outstanding contribution to the education and

What is cancer immunotherapy?
Read More >>

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LATEST TWEETS:

It is a big weekend for those who care about cancer research & treatment. Friday brings us @SU2C on TV. Saturday is @YNHH @ridecloser2free

Dr. Mario Sznol joins roundtable on immune therapy in Life Science Magazine Combination Cancer Immunotherapy - http://shar.es/11CZu2

Lupus antibodies sabotage cancer cells with deficient dna repair. Another way to attack #cancer

Two things to do over the long weekend: Register for the @ridecloser2free ride; and see us ... @YNHH

There's still time to register for @ridecloser2free but don't delay. Tick tock! http://www.rideclosertofree.org/

It's time to repackage the fight against cigarettes http://bit.ly/1qh0xKQ @bentollyale @yale @OncLive

Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook
mentoring of radiation oncology residents.

**Moderating Roles:**
Plenary Session and Clinical Trials Session
Lynn Wilson

Breast - Biology/Nodal Management
Meena Moran

Biology - Molecular Biology of Lung Cancer
Ranjit Bindra

Head and Neck - Biology and New Technology
Zain Husain

Radiobiology of High-Dose Stereotactic Radiotherapy and Physics 4
David Carlson

**Educational Symposia and Scientific Sessions:**

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**To Treat or Not to Treat: Decision Making and Treatment Options in Low-risk Prostate Cancer: Risk versus Benefit**
Vanna Dest, MSN, APRN, AOCN
Pamela Devine, MSN, RN

**Challenging Cases in CNS Cancer**
Joachim Baehring, MD, DSc
James Yu, MD

**Pediatric Brain Tumors**
Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD

**Extranodal Non Hodgkin’s Lymphoma: Recent Advances in the Management of CNS, Orbital and Cutaneous Lymphomas**
Lynn Wilson, MD, MPH, FASTRO

**Improving Patient Safety and Quality of Care with the Radiation Oncology Incident Learning System (ROILS)**
Suzanne Evans, MD

**ASTRO Guidelines Highlight Breast Margins**
Meena S. Moran, MD

**Understanding the New Evidence: A Comparative Effectiveness Research Primer for the Radiation Oncologist**
Cary Gross, MD

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**LATEST POSTS:**

The 4th Annual Ride Closer to Free is only 2 days away! We are looking forward to welcoming over 1,000 riders on Saturday to our biggest event yet. 100% of funds raised by participants and volunteers benefit patient programs at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven and cancer research at Yale Cancer Center.

With the opening ceremony at 6:45am, the ride beginning at 7:00am, and fun & festivities until 5:00pm, this Saturday is sure to be an amazing day to celebrate life and fight back against cancer.

Read More >>

Tune into Yale Cancer Center Answers at 6 PM this evening on WNPR or www.wnpr.org to listen to an interview with Dr. Xavier Llor, Medical Director of the Colorectal Cancer Prevention Program and Co-Director of the Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program.

In addition to regularly caring for patients, Dr. Llor has a very active basic and translational research program mainly focusing on two different aspects of colorectal cancer: hereditary and familial forms, and disparities in colorectal cancer.

Read More >>

Our immune systems are amazing; they work to make sure infections do not repeatedly harm a person, a condition known as a superinfection. Despite its
effectiveness, we still know little about how the immune system works.

In an article published this week, Dr. Akiko Iwasaki, Professor of Immunobiology and researcher for Yale Cancer Center and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Dr. Norifumi Iijima, help to explain this mystery. Their findings suggest a biological basis for new vaccines against sexually transmitted diseases, and possibly HIV, say the researchers, who note a similar approach might be applied to cancer vaccines as well.

Although friends and family provide love, care, and comfort, many cancer patients find that few truly understand the tumultuous times of cancer treatment. That is why Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven offers patients and family members 18 different support groups to help cope with the psychological challenges of cancer.

Recently, the Young Adult Cancer Support Group gave WTNH News 8's Jocelyn Maminta a glimpse of what they call a “lifeline for survival.” Jocelyn talks with four cancer patients, Nicole, Jaime, Jennifer, and Todd, about the support they receive from the group.
Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients Undergoing Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy
David Carlson

**Poster Sessions:**

**Historical Trends of Radiotherapy Use in Prevalent Malignancies**
Debra Yeboa

**Impact Of Three Decades Of Screening On Racial Disparities In Cervical Cancer Incidence**
Daniel Yang

**Optimized Prostate Intrafraction Motion Management IGRT Strategy for 3mm Margin**
Wu Liu

**Metallothioneins in Fibrosis: Implications for Radiation-induced Fibrosis**
Adriana Blakaj

**The Impact of New EMR Adoption on the Number of Radiology Exams Ordered in a Busy Radiation Oncology Clinic**
Sean Maroongroge

**ACE Inhibitors Decrease the Risk of Radiation Pneumonitis Following SBRT**
Eileen Harder

**Systemic Treatment And Radiation Necrosis Following Gamma Knife Radiosurgery In The Treatment Of Brain Metastases**
Rovel Colaco

**Change in Radiotherapy Treatment Volumes with Initial Alkyllating Chemotherapy in WHO Grade III Gliomas**
Vikram Jairam

**Robotic Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy for Prostate Adenocarcinoma**
Shane Lloyd

**Demographic Disparities in SBRT Utilization for Stage I NSCLC**
Christopher Corso

**Effect Of Primary Treatment Modality On The Association Between Statins And Prostate Cancer Recurrence: An Updated Meta-Analysis**
Henry Park

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**Events**

**September 6; 6:00 AM**
Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital Closer to Free Bike Ride
Yale Bowl
[Read More >>]

**September 7; 6:00 PM**
Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR
Melanoma Awareness and Treatment
Dale Han, MD and Amanda Ralabate, RN
[Read More >>]

**September 9; 12:00 PM**
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
Park Street Auditorium
Breaking the Barrier of Acquired Resistance
Thomas Lynch, Jr., MD
Strategies to Overcome and Prevent Resistance to EGFR-directed Therapies in Lung Cancer
Katerina Politi, MD
[Read More >>]

**September 9; 4:30 PM**
Yale Cancer Center Oncology Series
NP 4-101 A & B
Melanoma and Renal Cell Carcinoma
Thomas Lynch, Jr., MD
[Read More >>]

**September 10; 1:00 PM**
YCC Cancer Metabolism Interest Group (CMIG)
Giarman Room-SHM B-201
A Switch from White to Brown Fat Increases Energy Expenditure in Cancer-Associated Cachexia
Min-Dian Li
[Read More >> (PDF)]

**September 11; 5:00 PM**
YCC/SCH/AIM at Melanoma Event
2014 Melanoma Symposium
[Read More >> (PDF)]

**September 12; 7:00 AM**
Yale CME Event
The Effect of Diabetes and Antidiabetic Drugs on Outcomes after Pulmonary SBRT
Eileen Harder

Dose Selection Algorithm For Gamma Knife Treatment Of Cerebral Metastases - Preliminary Results
Rovel Colaco

Radiation Oncologists’ Opinions about Palliative Radiation Therapy for Patients on Hospice Care
Shane Lloyd

Predicting the Relative Biological Effectiveness of Carbon Ion Radiotherapy Beams using the Mechanistic Repair-Misrepair-Fixation (RMF) Model and Nuclear Fragment Spectra
David Carlson

Notables

Don Nguyen, PhD, a member of the Yale Cancer Center Signal Transduction Program, was awarded a 2-year R21 grant from the NCI, entitled: “Epigenetic modulation of lung cancer metastasis by a novel long intergenic RNA.” The project will be done in collaboration with Dr. David Rimm.

Melinda Irwin, PhD, Co-director of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, has received a grant from the CT Breast Health Initiative to support dissemination of Lifestyle, Exercise, and Nutrition (LEAN) Study intervention by testing her team’s LEAN book as an intervention without the addition of counseling.

Tessa Steffen joined the Yale Cancer Center Director’s Office as a Senior Administrative Assistant supporting Kevin Vest and Vicky Agnew. Tessa most recently worked as a Junior Nuclear Weapons Program Analyst for the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration. Tessa can be reached at (203) 785-4095.

YCC Member Survey

As many of you are aware, Yale Cancer Center has

Park Street Auditorium
Update In Gastrointestinal Cancer
Harry Aslanian, MD
Read More >> (PDF)

September 12; 1:00 PM
YCC Molecular Virology Research Program
SHM I-304
New Inhibitors of Epstein-Barr Virus Reactivation
Kelly Gorres, PhD
Read More >> (PDF)

September 14; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
Clinical Trials for Smoking Cessation
Steven Bernstein, MD
Read More >>

September 16; 12:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
Park Street Auditorium
Targeting aPKC disables oncogenic signaling by both the EGFR and the proinflammatory cytokine TNF in glioblastoma
Sourav Ghosh, PhD
TBD
Kerin Adelson, MD
Read More >>

September 18; 5:00 PM
Free Prostate Cancer Screening
McGivney Cancer Center/St. Raphael's Campus
Read More >> (PDF)

September 18; 5:00 PM
Yale Stem Cell Center Seventh Annual Retreat
Yale’s West Campus
Breast Tumor Evolution
Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD
Read More >> (PDF)

September 19; 5:15 PM
Yale Stem Cell Center Seventh Annual Retreat
Yale’s West Campus
Neuronal Plasticity and Genomic Diversity
Fred H. Gage, PhD
Read More >> (PDF)
recently embarked on an effort to develop a new strategic plan. We are eager to incorporate the input from our members into the planning process, and to that end, request that you complete a brief, web-based survey. All responses will be kept completely confidential by the consulting firm engaged to facilitate the strategic planning process. The survey will remain open through September 15. Thank you in advance for your contributions. Complete Survey >>

Research in the News

Researchers try to make sure herpes does not find a home
The immune system is great at making sure infections such as the herpes virus do not repeatedly infect a person, a condition known as a superinfection. Yet how the immune system combats superinfection is not well understood.

Yale Cancer Center researchers found that a lymphocyte network helps retain a specific type of T cell in the tissue of the vaginas of mice that have previously encountered herpes infection; this, in turn, prevents infection by the herpes simplex virus. The findings suggest a biological basis for new vaccines against sexually transmitted diseases, and possibly HIV, say the researchers, who note a similar approach might be applied to cancer vaccines as well. Read More >>

Sabotage as therapy: aiming lupus antibodies at vulnerable cancer cells
Yale Cancer Center researchers may have discovered a new way of harnessing lupus antibodies to sabotage cancer cells made vulnerable by deficient DNA repair.

The findings were published recently in Nature's journal Scientific Reports.

The study, led by James E. Hansen, M.D., assistant professor of therapeutic radiology at Yale School of Medicine, found that cancer cells with deficient DNA repair mechanisms (or the inability to repair their own genetic damage) were significantly more vulnerable to attack by lupus antibodies.

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.

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
renée.gaudette@yale.edu
Employee Profile: Theresa Petrone

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.

Theresa Petrone, RN, started as an RN volunteer at Smilow and within five months she became a full-time Oncology Nurse on Smilow 14-NP. During her nearly four years on the floor, she has achieved a great deal in her quest to provide the best patient care possible. She earned her OCN Oncology certification, she was awarded the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses, and for the last year she has volunteered to be a Quality and Safety intern for the new Quality internship program. In addition, she also sits on the hospital-wide Council for Quality and Safety.

The Daisy Award is a national award to honor nurses in memory of J. Patrick Barnes. The award was created to let nurses know how deserving they are of society’s profound respect for the education, training, brainpower, and skill they put into their work. Theresa commented, “Taking care of my patients is the best part of my job, and I love doing it. My goal is to provide these women with the best care and experience possible. Some patients are receiving chemotherapy while others are recovering from major surgeries. I also want to be sure they have access to all the wonderful support services Smilow has to offer, such as Reiki, yoga, social workers, translators, and specialized nutritionists.”
Theresa wanted to be a Quality and Safety Intern to further extend her ability to impact patient care and advocate for patients by helping to build good practices into the system. "Improving the systems under which we provide care is the best way to positively impact the most patients," said Theresa. In this role she tries to expand nurses' knowledge about the safety of patients and providing quality, attentive care. The Council for Quality and Safety is a multi-disciplinary, hospital-wide group that meets with a focus on quality indicators and how they can be improved. The Council identifies issues and discusses solutions to resolve them. Their current focus is on patient identification and pain and improving pain scores.

Supporting families is another important part of what Theresa does. An all-women's floor can be intimidating to male family members who feel out of place while they also deal with the deep emotional burden of facing a loved-one's illness. Theresa makes sure to make family members feel supported so that they can be positive influences while the patient heals. Tracy Carafeno, RN, MS, Patient Service Manager for Women's Services and Surgical Oncology, commented, "Theresa comes to work every day with a smile and a positive attitude. She is dedicated, compassionate and always puts her patients and families first. She has made a difference in the lives of so many women. NP 14 is very proud and honored to have Theresa as a team member."

**Funding and Award Opportunities**

**Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy Young Investigator Award**

Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy, Inc. (ACGT) funds research aimed at furthering the development of cell and gene therapy approaches to the treatment of cancer. To this end, ACGT offers its Young Investigator Award to qualified scientists at the Tenure Track Assistant Professor level. The overall objectives of this grant are to advance cell and gene therapy into the causes, treatment and prevention of all types of cancer by promoting development of novel and innovative studies by young investigators. The emphasis of this initiative is to promote basic and pre-clinical research approaches utilizing cells and genes as medicine. ACGT will direct its grants

into areas of cell and gene therapy research that have demonstrated great promise.

**Prostate Cancer Foundation 2014 PCF Global Treatment Sciences Challenge Awards**
Grants of up to $1 million over 2-3 years will be awarded for research projects related to lethal prostate cancer. (PCF expects to fund 5-10 of these awards.) Priority will be given to high risk, first-in-field, and currently unfunded projects. Funding will support the correlative research around either clinical trials of novel agents or strategies of standard of care. The foundation's emphasis is on developing or validating biomarkers that guide therapy in patients or further understanding of the mechanism by which therapies work. While the focus is on research in humans, the actual trials or treatments themselves will not be supported. Human samples are highly preferred, although at times model systems might be required to complement the understanding of an important mechanism.

**Application Deadline:** September 22, 2014

Learn More >> (PDF)

**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 30, 2014

Learn More >>

**Conquer Cancer Foundation - Career Development Award**
The Career Development Award (CDA) is a research grant that provides funding to clinical investigators who have received their initial faculty appointment to establish an independent clinical cancer research program. The cancer research must have a patient-
oriented focus, including a clinical research study and/or translational research involving human subjects.

**Application Deadline:** September 25, 2014
[Learn More >>](#)

**Connecticut DPH Biomedical Research Request for Proposals**
The Connecticut Department of Public Health is seeking proposals for biomedical research projects in the fields of heart disease, cancer and other tobacco-related diseases, Alzheimer's disease, stroke and diabetes.

**Application Deadline:** September 30, 2014
[Learn More >>](#)

**SPIRIT Pilot Grants**
The SPIRIT Group, a collaboration among 6 CTSA programs (Yale, Penn, Pitt, U Chicago, Wash U, and Johns Hopkins), has developed a pilot grant program to promote cross-institution research. Proposed projects should focus on a rare disease, and must involve a collaboration among scientists at each of the 6 institutions. A total of $300,000 will be awarded.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** September 15, 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)]

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**Recent Publications**

**BRAF-inhibition alleviates immune suppression in murine autochthonous melanoma.**
[Read More >>]

**A let-7 microRNA-Binding Site Polymorphism in KRAS Predicts Improved Outcome in Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Treated with Salvage Cetuximab/Panitumumab Monotherapy.**
[Read More >>]

**New strategies in personalized medicine for solid tumors: molecular markers and clinical trial designs.**
Jürgensmeier JM, Eder JP, Herbst RS.
Clin Cancer Res. 2014 Sep 1;20(17):4425-35
[Read More >>]

**Polymorphisms in DNA repair genes, hair dye use, and the risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.**
Cancer Causes Control. 2014 Sep 2.
[Read More >>]

**Family life events in the first year of acute lymphoblastic leukemia therapy: A children’s oncology group report.**
[Read More >>]

**A combinatorial microRNA therapeutics approach to suppressing non-small cell**
lung cancer.
Read More >>

An analysis of FDA-approved drugs for oncology.
Kinch MS.
Read More >>