The Yale Cancer Biology Training Program (CBTP)

The Yale Cancer Biology Training Program provides a unique cancer-focused training experience intended to develop the next generation of cancer scientific leaders. Training covers the genetic and biological underpinnings of cancer, the pathway to development of new therapies, and the practical challenges in applying these new therapies in cancer clinics.

Goals of the Program

1. To provide comprehensive training in cancer biology, genetics, immunobiology, and applied pharmacology
2. To educate predoctoral and postdoctoral PhD trainees on practical clinical issues in oncology
3. To prepare trainees to lead translational research on teams that include basic scientists and clinicians

Special Features

- Two-year program beginning year 2 for graduate students and early in training for Postdocs
- Format is similar to Medical Research Scholars Program: for graduate students, Yale BBS training plus add-ons and certification
- Each trainee will have a clinical co-mentor to foster exposure to clinical concepts and decision-making through tumor boards and clinics
- Certification as CBTP trainee upon successful completion of program

Special Requirements - Overview

1. Path 650b: Biology of Cancer
   A general survey of basic principles of cancer biology and genetics
2. Path 681a: Advanced Topics in Cancer Biology
   A seminar course for in-depth discussion of selected cancer-related topics
3. Path 682b: Clinical Cancer Translation
   A clinically-oriented seminar course covering clinical trials, patient treatment, and personalized cancer medicine
4. Additionally: Attendance at Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds, YCC Program meetings, Precisions Medicine Tumor Board, and training in Responsible Conduct of Research
Why I joined the CBTP!

Max Scalf
Track: MCGD
Department: Cell Biology
Year: 3

“Diseases aren’t just perturbed systems that we study in the lab. They affect real people with physical harm or death, emotional stress, and financial burden. Cell cultures and animal models in the lab, though wonderful tools to study the biology of cancer, are limited in truly capturing the full image of cancer as a human disease. I want to be a part of the CBTP to bridge this gap in my personal understanding. In turn, I believe this immediate personal gain will better inform my future work and approaches to understanding cancer biology and developing better diagnostics and therapeutics.”

Rebecca Starble
Track: MCGD
Department: Genetics
Year: 3

“I joined CBTP to gain a clinical perspective of cancer biology to complement my lab research that investigates drug resistance from a molecular biology perspective. It has been an invaluable experience shadowing my clinical mentor and meeting with patients; it has been so meaningful to witness firsthand how important cancer biology research is and the impact that it has on cancer patients and their families. I always come back to the lab with a renewed sense of purpose, focus, and hope after each of my shadowing experiences; I truly believe that shadowing in the clinic has improved my science and provided a broader context for my work.”

Natasha Pinto Medici
Department: Therapeutic Radiology
Year: Postdoctoral Fellow

“I joined the CBTP due to its outstanding quality presented through its trainees. As a Postdoctoral Fellow with limited background in the cancer field, this program provides a unique opportunity to learn in depth about cancer biology and the cancer-immunity relationship. The CBTP exposes its trainees to members of the Yale research community, through excellent multidisciplinary classes and seminars that can directly contribute to one’s scientific growth. The skills that I am learning through the CBTP will be fundamental for developing my own line of research, to write and apply for grants, allowing me to follow a path for independence.”