

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

December 21, 2012

Announcements

Happy Holidays!

As 2012 comes to a close, I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. We have made tremendous progress in patient care and cancer research over the last year, and welcomed many new staff and faculty with the integration of our 8 Cancer Care Centers and the Saint Raphael Campus and continued recruitments. I am overwhelmingly pleased with the way each and every one of you have embraced the changes and growth we have seen, and look forward to continued improvements in 2013.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season with your families and wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

John Roberts Named Assistant Director for Clinical Research

The Yale Cancer Center leadership has named John D. Roberts, MD as Assistant Director for Clinical Research for Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Roberts joined Yale Cancer Center this summer from Virginia Commonwealth University and is on the faculty of the section of medical oncology. He is also the Director of the Adult Sickle Cell Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. In this new role, Dr. Roberts will focus on the relationship between YCC and Sarah Cannon Research Institute (SCRI) to leverage our clinical research efforts through SCRI by bringing SCRI trials to Yale, and initiating Yale clinical research trials through the SCRI Network. Please join me in congratulating John.

Breast Center Participated in San Antonio Meeting

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven once again had a strong presence at the annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium earlier this month. Anees Chagpar and Lajos Pusztai and their team had an educational session presentation, two general session oral presentations, three poster discussions, and seven poster presentations at the meeting. Thank you for your contributions, each time we present research and outcomes from Yale and Smilow, we are building our reputation and brand with our

from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



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Links of Interest

CV Library

The CV library is a new resource available to our members, with CVs of post-docs and others looking for positions at Yale. Please browse the listings if you have openings, and send the CVs you receive to share.

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In the News

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colleagues at institutions throughout the country. I look forward to seeing many of you at the spring meetings, particularly at AACR and ASCO.

Notables

David A. Spiegel, PhD has been awarded \$3.6 million from the U.S. Department of Defense as one of three 2012 recipients of the **Era of Hope Scholar Award**. A member of the Yale Cancer Center Developmental Therapeutics Program, Dr. Spiegel's research project intends to develop a technology platform that will enable the creation of molecules that can distinguish between healthy and diseased cells, with a focus on breast cancer cells.

[Learn More >>](#)

Dr. Jordan Pober, a member of the Yale Cancer Center Cancer Immunology Program, has been named the inaugural **Bayer Professor of Translational Research at Yale School of Medicine**. Dr. Pober serves as director of the Human and Translational Immunology Program at Yale School of Medicine and is vice-chair of the Department of Immunology's Section of Human and Translational Immunology.

Xiaoling Song, PhD, a postdoc in the lab of Katie Politi, has been awarded a 2 year, \$100,000 grant from **Uniting Against Lung Cancer** to support her project, "*The Role of ERBB2 and ERBB3 in Resistance to Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors in EGFR Mutant Lung Cancer.*"

Research in the News

Despite Hype, Costly Prostate Cancer Treatment Offers Little Relief from Side Effects

Prostate cancer patients receiving the costly treatment known as proton radiotherapy experienced minimal relief from side effects such as incontinence and erectile dysfunction, compared to patients undergoing a standard radiation treatment called intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), Yale Cancer Center researchers report in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

The Yale Cancer Outcomes, Public Policy, and Effectiveness Research (COPPER) Center studied a national sample of about 30,000 men with Medicare coverage who received treatment with either IMRT or proton radiotherapy for prostate cancer from 2008 to 2009. The team found that the incidence of complications such as problems with urinary function was slightly lower for proton radiotherapy at six months after treatment, but by 12 months after treatment there was no longer any difference.

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Yale Cancer Center's weekly radio program on CT Public Radio is ranked number 2 in the world for cancer programs on iTunes. Subscribe to the show. [Learn More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Video presentations from Yale Cancer Center members are now available online.

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Events

December 23; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Patient Perspective with Lung Cancer Survivor

David Gewirtz

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December 30; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Minimally Invasive Treatment for Prostate Cancer

Peter Schulam, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 4; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

WWW 208

Title TBD

Cary Gross, MD

and

Xiaomei Ma, PhD

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Employment Opportunities

We seek your assistance in the recruitment of qualified Oncology Research Nurses to join the Cancer Center for full time research opportunities. Positions traditionally require a minimum of BSN and 4 years of research nursing experience with a strong preference within oncology. In lieu of research

Yale Team Identifies Successful Combination Drug Therapies for Melanoma Mutations

Yale Cancer Center researchers have identified several effective combinations of therapies that inhibit melanomas driven by two of the most formidable cancer genes. Some combinations include cholesterol-lowering statin drugs. The study appears in the journal Cancer Discovery.

The Yale scientists were seeking to overcome the problems of resistance and partial response to single-drug cancer therapy in patients with melanoma. Until now there has been no effective method reported to target mutated RAS melanoma oncogenes through combination drug therapy. RAS genes drive many types of cancer that are notoriously difficult to treat. The BRAF gene is a second key driver of melanoma and can be targeted by new therapies. However, even when single-drug therapy is initially successful, recurrence nearly always occurs and is associated with poor patient prognosis.

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Medical Oncology and Hematology Holiday Party




experience, trained oncology nurses with little or no research experience are considered for positions of the same level. Should you know of any potential candidates, please encourage them to go on-line to www.yale.edu/jobs and navigate to the STARS employment website in search of positions 18343BR and 18943BR, upload the resume and apply. They may also contact [Sandra Greer](#) for further information.

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

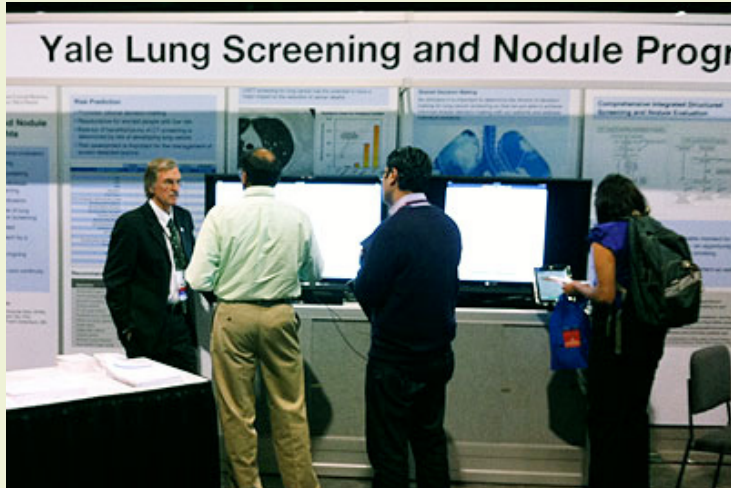
 Forward to a Friend



Yale Medical Oncology and Hematology celebrated the holidays on December 16th in Harkness Lounge with festive food and music by the Yale Spizzwinks!

Yale Lung SCAN Program Recognized as an ACCP Center of Excellence





The Yale Lung Screening and Nodule Program (Yale Lung SCAN) was recently recognized by the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) as a Center of Excellence at the annual ACCP/CHEST 2012 meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. This distinctive acknowledgment was awarded to only 10 health care programs, recognized for their excellence, quality, and innovation. The Yale Lung SCAN program was invited to exhibit the program as a "best practice" example to an international audience of approximately 5000 registrants.

Members of Yale Lung SCAN showcased their program at an interactive booth. The primary mission - to provide individuals at increased risk of developing lung cancer with individualized evidence-based screening evaluation and management - was exemplified through the Center of Excellence exhibit. There was a great deal of traffic and interest in the program. The overwhelming reaction was that the sophistication and evidence-based nature of the program were amazing.

[Read More >> \(PDF\)](#)

Development Update

Katie Schutt has joined the Yale Cancer Center Development Office as the new Assistant Director of Development. Katie is currently an Assistant Director for the Yale Alumni Fund assigned to Yale College Classes 1955 and prior. Before coming to Yale in September 2011, she was the Unit Coordinator of Geriatric Programs at the Garrison Institute on Aging at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center for two years. Katie has also worked as a grant program associate at the Daniels Fund in Denver and a Senate Page in Washington, DC.

Katie's first day with us is January 7th. In her role with YCC, she will develop and implement strategies to engage Closer to Free Fund donors who have the capacity to provide greater support to the cancer program. She will also partner with cancer center faculty and grateful patients.

Employee Profile: Sandra Hurd

The Employee Profile recognizes the diverse contributions made by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital staff have 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](#).

Sandra Hurd, MPH, BSN, RN, CBCN has been a NurseCoordinator at The Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven since May of 2010. However, she has been a nurse at Yale for over thirty years. As a Nurse Coordinator, Sandy's responsibilities include welcoming women to Smilow, ensuring smooth entry to care and assisting each patient through the many difficult steps of treatment.



Sandy commented that when a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, it is often overwhelming and stressful. There are many choices that need to be made regarding surgical options and treatment. Their physician and team give them a lot of information about treatment options to review. Sandy and her colleague Sherri Storms, along with the rest of the team, help women navigate appropriate options reflecting their own personal philosophies by providing support, tools, and resources.

"In my job, I get to meet amazing, resilient women every day. It is often difficult for them to learn how to put their own needs first after caring for others for so long." Sandy said. "I encourage them to take time for themselves, even though I know how hard that can be."

Maureen Major-Campos, RN, MS, Program Manager, Women's Oncology Services at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, commented, "Sandy has been an outstanding addition to our team. She advocates for the patients she serves by supporting them both emotionally and physically through their journey. She has coordinated two revisions to our Patient Education Binder and uses her natural nursing skills to educate patients as well as a strong resource to her teammates. Everyone stops to listen to Sandy and her stories; it speaks of excellence and perseverance and comes from the heart."

Funding Opportunities

The New Idea Award from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is proud to announce THE NEW IDEA AWARD, a new grant program to develop safer and more effective treatment paradigms for patients with hematological malignancies. Specifically, this program represents a concept grant to support academic researchers with innovative therapy ideas that are substantially different from current standard treatments and may advance to clinical testing in the short-term.

The goal of this RFA is to evaluate novel concepts that could lead to significant improvements in the clinical outcomes, including quality of life, of patients with hematological malignancies. Grants will support initial exploration of untested but potentially transformative research ideas and treatment approaches. In order to receive such an award, applicants must succinctly describe the innovative idea/approach and a method for testing it within the one-year grant period.

Application Deadline: January 3, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

2013 AACI Translational Research Fellowship

Applications are now being accepted for the 2013 AACI Translational Cancer Research Fellowship. The fellowship is designed to help ensure that qualified applicants receive research training and experience under the guidance of highly trained, well-respected researchers who have demonstrated success in their field of research. The goal is to assist the trainee in becoming a high-caliber, productive independent researcher with an enduring focus on the importance of translational research relevant to cancer.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

Experimental characterization of the dosimetric properties of a newly designed I-Seed model AgX100 (125I) interstitial brachytherapy source.

Chen Z, Bongiorni P, Nath R.
Brachytherapy. 2012 Nov;11(6):476-82. doi:
10.1016/j.brachy.2011.08.009.

[Read More >>](#)

What currently defines breast cancer? Initial data from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancers (NAPBC)

Moran MS, Kaufman C, Burgin C, Swain S, Granville T, Winchester D.

JOP. DOI 10.1200

[Read More >>](#)

Toxic erythema of chemotherapy following i.v. BU plus fludarabine for allogeneic PBSC transplant.

Parker TL, Cooper DL, Seropian SE, Bolognia JL.
Bone Marrow Transplant. 2012 Nov 19. doi: 10.1038/bmt.2012.218.
[Read More >>](#)

A Prospective, Multicenter Study of Complementary /Alternative Medicine (CAM) Utilization During Definitive Radiation for Breast Cancer.

Moran MS, Ma S, Jagsi R, Yang TI, Higgins SA, Weidhaas JB, Wilson LD, Lloyd S, Peschel R, Gaudreau B, Rockwell S.
Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2013 Jan 1;85(1):40-6. doi: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2012.03.025.
[Read More >>](#)

Cryptopleurine analogs with modification of e ring exhibit different mechanism to rac-cryptopleurine and tylophorine.

Wang Y, Wong HC, Gullen EA, Lam W, Yang X, Shi Q, Lee KH, Cheng YC.
PLoS One. 2012;7(12):e511138. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0051138.
[Read More >>](#)

Proton Versus Intensity-Modulated Radiotherapy for Prostate Cancer: Patterns of Care and Early Toxicity. Yu JB, Soulos PR, Herrin J, Cramer LD, Potosky AL, Roberts KB, Gross CP.

J Natl Cancer Inst. 2012 Dec 14.
[Read More >>](#)

Genotype-Selective Combination Therapies for Melanoma Identified by High-Throughput Drug Screening. Held MA,

Langdon CG, Platt JT, Graham-Steed T, Liu Z, Chakraborty A, Bacchiocchi A, Koo A, Haskins JW, Bosenberg MW, Stern DF.
Cancer Discov. 2012 Dec 13.
[Read More >>](#)

Risk of Secondary Cancer After Diagnosis of Thyroid Cancer Primary is Elevated in Microcarcinomas.

Kim C, Bi X, Pan D, Chen Y, Carling T, Ma S, Udelsman R, Zhang Y.
Thyroid. 2012 Dec 13.
[Read More >>](#)

Drug targets and predictive biomarkers in the management of metastatic melanoma. Thumar J, Giesen E, Kluger HM.

Pharmgenomics Pers Med. 2012;5:139-48.
[Read More >>](#)

COX-2 Expression and Survival in Patients With Locally Advanced Cervical Cancer Treated With Chemoradiotherapy and Celecoxib: A Quantitative Immunohistochemical Analysis of RTOG C0128.

Doll CM, Winter K, Gaffney DK, Ryu JK, Jhingran A, Dicker AP, Weidhaas JB, Miller BE, Magliocco AM.
Int J Gynecol Cancer. 2012 Dec 7.
[Read More >>](#)

Studies of NVP-BEZ235 in Melanoma.

Sznol JA, Jilaveanu LB, Kluger HM.
Curr Cancer Drug Targets. 2012 Nov 21.

[Read More >>](#)

Effect of Exercise on Markers of Inflammation in Breast Cancer Survivors: The Yale Exercise and Survivorship Study.

Jones SB, Thomas GA, Hesselsweet SD, Alvarez-Reeves M, Yu H, Irwin ML.

Cancer Prev Res (Phila). 2012 Dec 4.

[Read More >>](#)

Factors Associated with Breast MRI Use: A Population-Based Analysis.

Killelea BK, Lannin DR, Horvath LJ, Horowitz NR, Chagpar AB.

Ann Surg Oncol. 2012 Dec 1.

[Read More >>](#)

A step towards treating KRAS-mutant NSCLC.

Goldberg SB, Schlessinger J, Boyer JL, Herbst RS.

Lancet Oncol. 2012 Nov 27.

[Read More >>](#)