

February 1, 2013

Announcements

Genetic Landscape of Common Brain Tumors Holds Key to Personalized Treatment

Nearly the entire genetic landscape of the most common form of brain tumor can be explained by abnormalities in just five genes, an international team of researchers led by Yale School of Medicine scientists reported online in the January 24 edition of the journal *Science*.

Knowledge of the genomic profile of the tumors and their location in the brain make it possible for the first time to develop personalized medical therapies for meningiomas, which currently are only managed surgically.

Approximately half of the tumors have already been linked to a mutation or deletion of a gene called neurofibromin 2, or NF2. The origins of the rest of the meningiomas had remained a mystery. Led by Murat Gunel, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Genetics and Genomics Research Program, the Yale research team conducted genomic analyses of 300 meningiomas and found four new genetic suspects, each of which yields clues to the origins and treatment of the condition. Tumors mutated with each of these genes tend to be located in different areas of the brain, which can indicate how likely they are to become malignant.

[Read More >>](#)

from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL
AT YALE-NEW HAVEN

Yale CANCER
CENTER

A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute

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Closer to Free

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Help advance cancer research and enhance patient care.

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

closer to free the flash mob



Flash Mob Brings Us Closer to Free

Whether or not you're a football fan, you can't deny the interest generated each year around the Super Bowl commercials. I'm excited to share with you a sneak preview of a new Closer to Free commercial we are launching during this year's game for Smilow Cancer Hospital.

The commercial was staged at New Haven's Union Station in November as a flash mob. The live, spontaneous event helped draw attention to our mission of advancing cancer research and enhancing patient care.

The 60-second commercial will air Sunday, February 3 during the pre-game programming. A 30 second version will air immediately before kick-off. The 30-second version will also air sometime during the third quarter.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the filming of the commercials and accompanying video footage. Please take a few minutes to watch the videos at www.closetofree.com.

Smilow Cancer Hospital Opens Greenwich Hospital Campus

Yale-New Haven's Smilow Cancer Hospital has opened a new campus at Greenwich Hospital. The opening of Smilow's Greenwich Campus will allow Yale Cancer Center specialists to work collaboratively with leading oncologists and specialists from Greenwich in the hospital's advanced and newly renovated facilities. Dr. Daniel Petrylak is already seeing patients in Greenwich weekly and other physicians will join him

CVs you receive to share.

[Learn More >>](#)

In the News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center.

[Read More >>](#)

Subscribe to Yale Cancer Center Answers on iTunes

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.

[Learn More >>](#)

DirectConnect Archives

[Learn More >>](#)

Events

February 1; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

WWW 208

Evolving Approaches to Therapy for Leukemia

John Pagel, MD, PhD

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

February 3; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Screening Options for Lung Cancer

Frank Detterbeck, MD,

FACS, FCCP

[Learn More >>](#)

February 5; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Viruses and Cancer: KSHV and HPV

Christoffer Boshoff, MD

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

soon.

[Learn More >>](#)

Daniel Petrylak Named Co-Leader of Signal Transduction Research Program

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Daniel Petrylak has been appointed co-leader of the Signal Transduction Research Program at Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Petrylak joins David Stern, who has led the program since 2006. Dr. Petrylak leads our medical oncology team for genitourinary cancers and his research efforts have focused on androgen receptor signaling as a mechanism of prostate cancer progression and resistance. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Petrylak on this new role.

Researchers Find Genes Behind Aggressive Endometrial Cancer

In a major breakthrough for uterine serous carcinoma (USC) - a chemo-resistant, aggressive form of endometrial cancer, Yale researchers have defined the genetic landscape of USC tumors, findings that point to new treatment opportunities.

The collaborative team-which included researchers with expertise in gynecological cancer, genomics, and computational biology- identified a number of new genes that are frequently mutated in USC. The results of this comprehensive genetic analysis of USC are published in the Jan. 28 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* online early edition. The researchers were supported as part of a collaborative program with Gilead Sciences, Inc.

The team collected tumors from 57 women affected with USC to try to determine the molecular basis of the tumor's aggressive behavior. They sequenced all the genes from the tumors and identified mutations that are crucial for these tumors to grow. The team also studied the copy number variations-genes that are not mutated but are amplified in the tumors to give them a growth advantage over normal tissues.

[Read More >>](#)

Notables

Nita Maihle, PhD is the recipient of the **Albert Einstein College of Medicine 2013 Distinguished PhD Alumna Award** in recognition of her outstanding professional accomplishments and contributions to the biomedical community.

The American Urological Association will award the Victor A. Politano Award to **Toby C. Chai, MD**, in recognition of outstanding work in the treatment of urinary incontinence and

February 7; 12:30 PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094
Systems Biology of the Flu: Host-Directed Strategies For Identifying Signatures, Targets and Drugs

Michael Katze, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 8; 12:00 PM

YCC Research in Progress Meeting

WWW 208

Diversity and Health Equity in Cancer

Anees Chagpar, MD

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

February 8; 1:00 PM

YCC Molecular Virology Research Program

SHM I-116

Role of NS4A transmembrane domain oligomerization in hepatitis C virus replication and assembly

Nathan Pirakitikulr

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

February 8; 3:00 PM

YCC Hematology Special Seminar

WWW 208

Comments on Myeloproliferative Disorders

Peter B. Rintels, MD

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

February 10; 6:00 PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Clinical Research Opportunities for Lung Cancer

Sarah Goldberg, MD, MPH

[Learn More >>](#)

February 11: 12:00 PM

Office of Research Compliance and Education Brown Bag Lunch Series

The Anlyan Center Auditorium, TAC N-107

Online Tools Supporting Compliance with NIH's Public Access (PubMed) Policy

Denise Hersey, MLS, MA

[Learn More >>](#)

innovations in bladder research. The award will be presented to Dr. Chai at the Association's annual meeting in May.

Closer to Free Fund

Next weekend, Yale Women's Basketball holds their annual fundraising weekend to support [Closer to Free](#). On **Saturday, February 9th**, both men and women teams of three can register to participate in the **Battle of the Badges** to support YCC breast cancer research and the SCH Breast Center. Saturday evening, the team plays Princeton at 7PM. The proceeds from a game-time raffle, silent auction, and the sale of specially designed tee shirts will all support the **Closer to Free Fund**. Visit yalebulldogs.com/pinkzones or contact [Susan Frankenbach](#) for more information.

Employee Profile: Evelisse Calo

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](#).

For Evie Calo, Clinical Receptionist II in the Multispecialty Clinic on the 8th floor of Smilow Cancer Hospital, her role at the front desk requires more than checking patients in for their appointments. Among other things, she is a smiling face, a listening ear, a problem solver, and recently, an EPIC Superuser.

When patients arrive in the waiting area on the 8th floor, Evie greets them, collects their chart, makes any necessary updates to their information, and responds to questions and concerns they may have. "Patients want to know how long the wait will be, and new patients have questions about what the visit will be like, etc. While I don't have a medical background, I try to help them as much as possible. These patients are coming in for treatment, or scans to see if their cancer has returned," Evie said. "The least I can do is answer their questions and let them know that they are



February 11; 4:00 PM C&M Physiology Special Seminar

SHM B-145

*Novel Pathways in the Control
of PGC-1alpha Acetylation*

John Dominy, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 12; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

*Effects of Androgen Deprivation
on Brain Function in Prostate
Cancer Patients*

Herta Chao, MD

*Fertility Preservation in Young
Women Receiving Antineoplastic
Therapy*

Alison Loren, MD

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

February 14; 10:00 AM Office of Research Compliance and Education Training Programs

47 College St

*Understanding the PTAE0 and
How It Is Used for Sponsored
Projects*

[Learn More >>](#)

February 14; 12:30 PM Pathology Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094

*Gastrointestinal Stromal
Tumors: from Kit to Succinate
Dehydrogenase*

Jason Hornick, MD, PhD

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

February 15; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

WWW 208

*Towards Identifying Tumor-,
Germline-, and Lifestyle-Based
Determinants of Long-Term
Survival in Stage II/III*

Cutaneous Melanoma

Bonnie Gould Rothberg, MD,
PhD, MPH

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

Employment

more than a disease or a number on a chart."

With the launch of EPIC, Evie has been trained as a Superuser for the 4th, 7th, and 8th floors. This means that if someone is confused, or needs help, she is the one they turn to. Evie started at Yale-New Haven Hospital in 2004 after graduating college, and started working for the Cancer Center shortly after. She explained how important she feels the employees at the front desk are, and how hard they work. She commented that they set the tone for an appointment, just by offering a smile, or addressing a patient by their first name. "Many patients come in on a regular basis and we get to know them and their families, and what their story is; it's a humbling experience and very hard when one of them passes," Evie said.

Michelle Wilson, MHSA, FACHE, Associate Director of Clinical Operations, commented, "Evie exemplifies a wonderful skill set for working with oncology patients; one where she performs her job responsibilities accurately and efficiently but, most importantly, with care for patients and their families. I consistently receive patient accolades for Evie and am so appreciative to have her on the Yale Cancer Center team."

Funding Opportunities

Yale Cancer Center Announces Grant Opportunities

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the 2013 Internal Grants competitions. These grants will support innovative basic, clinical, computational, prevention/control, and translational cancer research. The primary review criteria will be scientific excellence, innovation, cancer relevance, and the likelihood of the project evolving into federally funded cancer research. Members of the Cancer Center or faculty who have applied for membership are eligible to apply.

Two types of grants will be awarded for one year, commencing on March 15, 2013:

YCC Pilot Grants of up to \$50,000 for a specific project headed by a member of the Cancer Center. Up to eight Pilot Grants will support individual research projects.

YCC Collaborative Pilot (Co-Pilot) Grants of up to \$100,000 for groups of two or more members of the Cancer Center. We anticipate funding up to two Co-Pilot Awards.

Application Deadline: February 14, 2013
[Pilot Grant Application >> \(PDF\)](#)

[Co-Pilot Grant Application >> \(PDF\)](#)

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 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 Cancer Center Translational-Targeted Area of Research Excellence (T-TARE) Awards

These grants will support research with a significant translational potential/clinical component for groups of between three and five investigators headed by a member of the Cancer Center. The major review criteria for this award are translational potential, scientific excellence, and the likelihood that the proposed program will result in submission of multi-investigator grant applications, such as a P01 or P50 application, at the conclusion of the T-TARE funding.

Award Amounts: Up to \$200,000 for one year commencing July 1, 2013.

Purpose: To provide seed money to members of the Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center to support studies on the same general topic with a significant translational research component by three or more faculty members, to generate preliminary data or evidence of collaboration for a new, multi-investigator grant application to the National Cancer Institute, such as a Program Project grant or SPORE grant.

Eligibility: Members of the YCCC or faculty who have applied for membership are eligible to serve as P.I. Each application shall include between three and five projects led by different faculty members. In addition to the P.I. and project leaders, each project should include collaboration with a biostatistician and allocate a portion of the budgeted funds to support this effort.

Application Deadline: April 26, 2013

[Learn More and Download Applications >>](#)

Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation Grants

Applications are being accepted for the 2013 Individual Grants from the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation. Yale Cancer Center can send one application for review. If interested, please send a copy of your CV and a two-page description of your proposed project by email to Jan Zulkeski in Dr. Daniel DiMaio's office by 5:00 PM on Friday, February 22.

[Learn More >>](#)

Oncology Times: Call for Submissions

Oncology Times is looking for your oncology nursing perspective!

We are looking for opinion articles for publication in our quarterly [Nursing HemOnc Spotlight](#). Articles should be written

by oncology nurses, and any topic of potential interest to oncology nurses, as well as other members of the cancer care team, is welcome. We are especially looking for lively, provocative pieces. Word length is flexible, but in general should be about 500 to 1500 words.

All submissions from Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital should be submitted to [Cathy Lyons](#) or [Monika Fradkin](#) for initial review before submission to *Oncology Times*.

Recent Publications

Clinical benefit from neoadjuvant chemotherapy in oestrogen receptor-positive invasive ductal and lobular carcinomas.

Delpech Y, Coutant C, Hsu L, Barranger E, Iwamoto T, Barcnas CH, Hortobagyi GN, Rouzier R, Esteva FJ, Pusztai L.

Br J Cancer. 2013 Jan 8.

[Read More >>](#)

Ki67 expression in the primary tumor predicts for clinical benefit and time to progression on first-line endocrine therapy in estrogen receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer.

Delpech Y, Wu Y, Hess KR, Hsu L, Ayers M, Natowicz R, Coutant C, Rouzier R, Barranger E, Hortobagyi GN, Mauro D, Pusztai L. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2012 Sep;135(2):619-27.

[Read More >>](#)

Fulvestrant radiosensitizes human estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer cells.

Wang J, Yang Q, Haffty BG, Li X, Moran MS. Biochem Biophys Res Commun. 2013 Jan 10.

[Read More >>](#)

Landscape of somatic single-nucleotide and copy-number mutations in uterine serous carcinoma.

Zhao S, Choi M, Overton JD, Bellone S, Roque DM, Cocco E, Guzzo F, English DP, Varughese J, Gasparrini S, Bortolomai I, Buza N, Hui P, Abu-Khalaf M, Ravaggi A, Bignotti E, Bandiera E, Romani C, Todeschini P, Tassi R, Zanotti L, Carrara L, Pecorelli S, Silasi DA, Ratner E, Azodi M, Schwartz PE, Rutherford TJ, Stiegler AL, Mane S, Boggon TJ, Schlessinger J, Lifton RP, Santin AD. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2013 Jan 28.

[Read More >>](#)

Breast imaging of the pregnant and lactating patient: physiologic changes and common benign entities.

Vashi R, Hooley R, Butler R, Geisel J, Philpotts L. AJR Am J Roentgenol. 2013 Feb;200(2):329-36.

[Read More >>](#)

Breast imaging of the pregnant and lactating patient: imaging modalities and pregnancy-associated breast cancer.

Vashi R, Hooley R, Butler R, Geisel J, Philpotts L. AJR Am J Roentgenol. 2013 Feb;200(2):321-8.

[Read More >>](#)

Personalized Immune-Interception of Cancer and the Battle of Two Adaptive Systems- When is the Time Right?

Dhodapkar M. Cancer Prev Res (Phila). 2013 Jan 22.

[Read More >>](#)

Quality of Cancer Survivorship Care in the Military Health System (TRICARE).

Fox JP, Jeffrey DD, Williams TV, Gross CP. Cancer J. 2013 Jan;19(1):1-9.

[Read More >>](#)

Evaluation of novel orthotopic nude mouse models for human small-cell lung cancer.

Isobe T, Onn A, Morgensztern D, Jacoby JJ, Wu W, Shintani T, Itasaka S, Shibuya K, Koo PJ, O'Reilly MS, Herbst RS. J Thorac Oncol. 2013 Feb;8(2):140-6.

[Read More >>](#)

TLR2 enhances ovarian cancer stem cell self-renewal and promotes tumor repair and recurrence.

Chefetz I, Alvero AB, Holmberg JC, Lebowitz N, Craveiro V, Yang-Hartwich Y, Yin G, Squillace L, Gurrea Soteras M, Aldo P, Mor G. Cell Cycle. 2013 Jan 16;12(3).

[Read More >>](#)

New insights into aldosterone-producing adenomas and hereditary aldosteronism: mutations in the K⁺ channel KCNJ5.

Scholl UI, Lifton RP. Curr Opin Nephrol Hypertens. 2013 Jan 10.

[Read More >>](#)

Hypoxia-Selective O(6)-Alkylguanine-DNA Alkyltransferase Inhibitors: Design, Synthesis, and Evaluation of 6-(Benzyloxy)-2-(aryldiazenyl)-9H-purines as Prodrugs of O(6)-Benzylguanine.

Zhu R, Baumann RP, Penketh PG, Shyam K, Sartorelli AC. J Med Chem. 2013 Jan 23.

[Read More >>](#)

Soluble Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 (sHER2) as a Potential Risk Assessment, Screening, and Diagnostic Biomarker of Lung Adenocarcinoma

[Abby L. Cosentino-Boehm](#), [Jacqueline M. Lafky](#), [Tammy M. Greenwood](#), [Kimberly D. Kimbler](#), [Marites C. Buenafe](#), [Yuxia](#)

[Wang](#), [Adam J. Branscum](#), [Ping Yang](#), [Nita J. Maihle](#) and [Andre T. Baron](#).
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