

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

August 16, 2013

Announcements

Smilow Town Hall

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 17th from noon - 1 PM for our semi-annual Smilow Cancer Hospital Town Hall meeting in the auditorium at 55 Park Street. Abe Lopman, Rogerio Lilenbaum, Cathy Lyons, and I will discuss the latest areas of focus for improvement, our patient satisfaction scores, and our goals for the coming six months. We will also celebrate the amazing staff that go above and beyond each and every day for our patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital and in the Care Centers! More details will be provided in the coming weeks, including an agenda and remote access information for participation from the Care Centers.

Notables

Qin Yan, PhD was awarded a **Career Development Award** from the **Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program** to support his research on "Targeting Epigenetic Regulator JARID1B in Malignant Melanoma." The major goal of his project is to determine the effects of Jarid1b loss on melanoma formation and progression using the Braf/Cdkn2a mouse melanoma model. The total cost is \$399,600 over two years.

James Hansen, MD has been named a **2013 Research Scholar** grant recipient from the **Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)**. Dr. Hansen will use the grant funds to support his research to "Target Glioblastoma with a Lupus Autoantibody." The \$150,00 grant will fund his research project for two years.

Congratulations to **Kathleen Uscinski** who is celebrating 30 years of service at Yale University this month. Kathy is the Associate Director for Clinical Trial Administration at Yale Cancer Center.

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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closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Links of Interest

CV Library

The CV library is a new resource

Research in the News

Growing Use of MRIs Leading to More Invasive Breast Cancer Surgery



Heavy use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may be leading to unnecessary breast removal in older women with breast cancer, according to a study by Yale School of Medicine researchers in the current issue of *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*.

"These data are concerning because the long-term benefits associated with bilateral mastectomy for older women with breast cancer are unclear," said the study's lead author Dr. Cary Gross, associate professor of internal medicine at Yale School of Medicine and director of the Cancer Outcomes, Public Policy, and Effectiveness Research Center at Yale Cancer Center.
[Read More >>](#)

WSJ: Gene Breakthroughs Spark a Revolution in Cancer Treatment



Kellie Carey's doctor finally stopped dodging questions about how long she had to live six weeks after he diagnosed her lung

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

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center.
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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.
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Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Video presentations from Yale Cancer Center members are now available online.
[Learn More >>](#)

DirectConnect Archives

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ASCO Connection Blog

The Power of Cancer
by Anees Chagpar, MD
[Read More >>](#)

Events

August 18; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
Pediatric Oncology
Gary Kupfer, MD
[Learn More >>](#)

August 22; 9:00 AM
Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
Smilow, LL-412
Nutrition and Cancer
James Lucas, III, RD
[Learn More >>](#)

cancer. "Maybe three months," he told her in his office one sunny May morning in 2010, she recalls. Yet she is still alive, a testament to the most extraordinary decade of progress ever in the long scientific struggle against lung cancer.

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Funding and Award Opportunities

Funderburg Research Award in Gastric Cancer

The AGA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Gastroenterological Association is inviting applications for the 2013 Funderburg Research Award in Gastric Cancer. The annual award supports an established investigator in the field of gastric biology whose research demonstrates potential to enhance the fundamental understanding of gastric cancer pathobiology and ultimately prevent or develop a cure for the disease.

The recipient will be selected based on the novelty, feasibility, and significance of the proposal. The AGA Foundation will award \$50,000 per year for two years (total \$100,000) to an established investigator working on novel approaches in gastric cancer research, including the fields of gastric mucosal cell biology, regeneration and regulation of cell growth (not as they relate to peptic ulcer disease or repair), inflammation (including *Helicobacter pylori*) as precancerous lesions, genetics of gastric carcinoma, oncogenes in gastric epithelial malignancies, epidemiology of gastric cancer, etiology of gastric epithelial malignancies, or clinical research in the diagnosis or treatment of gastric carcinoma. The award recipient will be acknowledged at the Research Recognition Celebration during Digestive Disease Week 2014.

Application Deadline: August 30, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

ASH Bridge Grant Program

In 2013 and for the next two years, ASH's new bridge grant program will provide at least 30 one-year awards annually, in the amount of \$100,000 each, to ASH members who applied for an NIH R01 grant or equivalent but were denied funding due to budget cutbacks. The long-term goal of the award is to help sustain recipients' research and contribute to their retention in hematology investigation.

Application Deadline: November 1, 2013

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Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer Developmental Research Awards

The YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer is pleased to announce the availability of Developmental Research Awards beginning 30 September 2013 to fund projects in amounts up to \$50,000 for one year (Projects may be eligible for a second year of

August 25; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
Cancer Care in India
Prathima Kanumuri, MB, MS
[Learn More >>](#)

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 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

funding, pending receipt and review of a competitive renewal application that documents unequivocal progress during the first year of funding).

Developmental Research Program Awards are intended to support a broad spectrum of innovative pilot projects applicable to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment. To be funded, DRP projects must have promising translational research potential, i.e., direct application to human skin cancer, and there must be the expectation that they can evolve into, or be incorporated into, full projects with an unequivocal translational component funded either within this SPORE or as independent R01 (or equivalent) grants.

Application Deadline: September 6, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

Susan G. Komen for the Cure Grant Opportunities

Career Catalyst Research Grants - Basic and Translational Research

This grant mechanism is appropriate for both basic or clinical fellows proposing research projects that are laboratory- or field- based and do not meet Komen's definition of clinical research. Studies focusing on quality of life or survivorship issues are not appropriate for this mechanism

Application Deadline: September 5, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

Career Catalyst Research Grants - Clinical Research

This grant mechanism is appropriate for clinical (i.e. MD) fellows/faculty proposing clinical, patient-oriented research projects that involve direct interactions with human subjects/patients. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

Application Deadline: September 5, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants - Basic and Translational Research

This grant mechanism is appropriate for both basic or clinical fellows proposing research projects that are laboratory- or field- based and do not meet Komen's definition of clinical research. Studies focusing on quality of life or survivorship issues are not appropriate for this mechanism.

Application Deadline: September 5, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants - Clinical Research

This grant mechanism is appropriate for clinical (i.e. MD) fellows proposing clinical, patient-oriented research projects that involve direct interactions with human subjects/patients. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

Application Deadline: September 5, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

Graduate Training in Disparities Research (GTDR)

GTDR Grants (formerly Post-Baccalaureate Training in Disparities Research Grants, PBTDR) are intended to establish and/or to sustain a training program for a minimum of three graduate students who are seeking careers dedicated to understanding and eliminating disparities in breast cancer outcomes across population groups.

Application Deadline: September 5, 2013

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Employee Profile: Ashley Keyes, RN

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](#).

The 12th floor of Smilow Cancer Hospital serves as an inpatient unit for patients with solid tumors undergoing treatment and many that are managing end-of-life care and symptom management. Ashley Keyes is a registered nurse on the unit, and also works as a charge resource nurse providing leadership during her shift to other nurses. She is also in charge of ensuring a seamless process for patient chemotherapy admissions, facilitates interdisciplinary rounds with physicians, nurses, social workers, and care coordinators, and mentors new chemotherapy nurses.



Ashley recently received the Oncology Nursing Award for Excellence, a peer recommended, committee elected award for excellence, which she was honored and humbled to receive knowing how hard all of the nurses work. "All nurses at Smilow love what they do. This job is too difficult not to. The reward comes at the end of the day when you are exhausted and reflect on why. It's because you gave your patients everything you had, and they deserve that every day," Ashley said. "We focus on seeing our patients as people, not a disease. It comes down to giving patients the best quality care possible in an effective and safe manner."

Having worked as an oncology nurse for four years, Ashley described it as a hard, but very fulfilling job. She is with people in their weakest moment and is able to provide them care and some comfort. "It is important to remember the small things you can do," Ashley said. "Whether it's allowing a patient to see their favorite movie for the last time, like my amazing coworkers facilitated for a patient, or organizing pet therapy for them because they miss their dog at home, these seemingly small things can have a big impact on attitude and symptoms. And it's a way that I can give them some form of peace at the end."

Catherine Lyons, RN, MS, Clinical Program Director of Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented "Ashley epitomizes everything we strive for in Smilow. She is competent and compassionate; reliable and level headed. I am always glad when she is in charge as I know the right decisions will be made. Beyond that, she is a role model to new nurses. We are lucky to have her on our team."

Recent Publications

Trends and clinical implications of preoperative breast MRI in Medicare beneficiaries with breastcancer.

Killelea BK, Long JB, Chagpar AB, Ma X, Soulos PR, Ross JS, Gross CP.

Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2013 Aug 14.

[Read More >>](#)

Posttraumatic growth as experienced by childhood cancer survivors and their families: a narrative synthesis of qualitative and quantitative research.

Duran B.

J Pediatr Oncol Nurs. 2013 Jul-Aug;30(4):179-97.

[Read More >>](#)

Five to seven years after breast cancer treatment, over a third of women (37%) report persistent pain.

Knobf T.

Evid Based Nurs. 2013 Aug 12.

[Read More >>](#)

A phase II evaluation of gefitinib in the treatment of persistent or recurrent endometrial cancer: a Gynecologic Oncology Group study.

Leslie KK, Sill MW, Fischer E, Darcy KM, Mannel RS, Tewari KS, Hanjani P, Wilken JA, Baron AT, Godwin AK, Schilder RJ, Singh M, Maihle NJ.

Gynecol Oncol. 2013 Jun;129(3):486-94.

[Read More >>](#)

The promise and pitfalls of genomics-driven

cancer medicine.

Hofstatter EW, Bale AE.
Virtual Mentor. 2013 Aug 1;15(8):681-6.

[Read More >>](#)

Shedding of Soluble Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (sEGFR) Is Mediated by a Metalloprotease / Fibronectin / Integrin Axis and Inhibited by Cetuximab.

Wilken JA, Perez-Torres M, Nieves-Alicea R, Cora EM, Christensen TA, Baron AT, Maihle NJ.
Biochemistry. 2013 Jul 2;52(26):4531-40.

[Read More >>](#)

The Epidemic of Thyroid Cancer in the United States: The Role of Endocrinologists and Ultrasounds.

Udelsman R, Zhang Y.
Thyroid. 2013 Aug 12.

[Read More >>](#)

Expression of drug targets in patients treated with sorafenib, Carboplatin and Paclitaxel.

Jilaveanu LB, Zhao F, Zito CR, Kirkwood JM, Nathanson KL, D'Andrea K, Wilson M, Rimm DL, Flaherty KT, Lee SJ, Kluger HM.

PLoS One. 2013 Aug 6;8(8):e69748.

[Read More >>](#)

Induction of Cellular Senescence by Oncogenic RAS.

Gupta R, Wajapeyee N.
Methods Mol Biol. 2013;1048:127-33.

[Read More >>](#)

Erratum to: Changes in Specialists' Perspectives on Cancer Genetic Testing, Prophylactic Surgery and Insurance Discrimination: Then and Now.

Matloff ET, Bonadies DC, Moyer A, Brierley KL.
J Genet Couns. 2013 Aug 6.

[Read More >>](#)

Epigenetic silencing of RASSF1A deregulates cytoskeleton and promotes malignant behavior of adrenocortical carcinoma.

Korah R, Healy JM, Kunstman JW, Fonseca AL, Ameri AH, Prasad ML, Carling T.

Mol Cancer. 2013 Aug 5;12(1):87.

[Read More >>](#)

XPD-dependent activation of apoptosis in response to triplex-induced DNA damage.

Kaushik Tiwari M, Rogers FA.
Nucleic Acids Res. 2013 Aug 2.

[Read More >>](#)

Role of one-carbon metabolizing pathway genes and gene-

nutrient interaction in the risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Li Q, Lan Q, Zhang Y, Bassig BA, Holford TR, Leaderer B, Boyle P, Zhu Y, Qin Q, Chanock S, Rothman N, Zheng T. Cancer Causes Control. 2013 Aug 3.

[Read More >>](#)

Is Ki-67 Expression Prognostic for Local Relapse in Early-Stage Breast Cancer Patients Treated With Breast Conservation Therapy (BCT)?

Hafeez F, Neboori HJ, Harigopal M, Wu H, Haffty BG, Yang Q, Schiff D, Moran MS.

Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2013 Aug 1.

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Lobectomy Versus Limited Resection in T1N0 Lung Cancer.

Detterbeck FC.

Ann Thorac Surg. 2013 Aug;96(2):742-4.

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