

July 19, 2013

## Announcements

### U.S. News & World Report Hospital Rankings Rank YNHH Among the Best

Yale-New Haven Hospital continues to rank among the top U.S. hospitals, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "America's Best Hospitals." Of the nearly 5,000 hospitals surveyed, YNHH ranks nationally in 10 of 16 specialties, including cancer. While our rank for cancer moved up 6 places from last year's position, we still have a lot of work to do to improve our ranking and to be recognized at the level that we truly deserve. We were ranked #29 for cancer services in 2013. The details of our ranking can be found [online](#).



I know that the dedication of our research teams and clinical staff and the incredible work that happens each and every day here at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital is not truly reflected in our rank, and hope that we can work to improve our reputation nationally over the ensuing year. Each of you can help with this effort by ensuring you are presenting on behalf of Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven when you present your work at national and international meetings.

Please be sure you make [Renee Gaudette](#) aware of your participation in meetings and any publications you have planned so we can adequately plan public affairs coverage and announcements on our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) pages. We are actively building a social media presence and hope that you will join us.

### A Patient's Last Wish Granted by Staff at Smilow

When our nurses on the 12th floor of Smilow learned that one of their terminally ill patient's last wish was to watch his favorite superhero movie, *Superman*, everyone from Food Services to

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

## 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 available to our members, with

Materials Management volunteered to help create a special night for him.

Shawn, a 27 year old who has since entered hospice, did not know what the staff had planned for him when he was escorted to the 'movie theater' in Smilow and was handed an 'Admit One' movie ticket. The staff had decorated a conference room to look like a movie theater, including reclining chairs, a projector to watch the movie, and a food cart with pizza, sodas, candy, and desserts. Staff stayed after their shifts to watch the movie with him, along with family and friends they had asked his father to invite.

When Maureen Raucci, RN went to visit Shawn in Hospice last Friday night, he said to her, "Maureen, it is a night I will never forget. Your Nurses and PCAs are angels!"

Thank you to all of our dedicated staff at Smilow Cancer Hospital for all that you do for our patients every day.



## Notables

**Frank Slack, PhD**, a member of the Yale Cancer Center Genetics and Genomics Research Program and **Joanne Weidhaas, MD, PhD**, a member of the Yale Cancer Center Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program, were awarded a grant from **LUNGevity** for their work on the KRAS-variant. They identified the KRAS-variant as a predictive marker for lung cancer therapy. The investigators were awarded \$500,000 over two years for a collaborative effort

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.

[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 >>](#)

### ASCO Connection Blog

The Power of Cancer  
by Anees Chagpar, MD

[Read More >>](#)

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## Events

### July 19; 12:00 PM YCC Special Seminar

WWW 208

*Update on Head and Neck Cancer Therapeutics*  
Athanassios Argiris, MD, FACP

[Learn More >>](#)

### July 21; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

*Alternative/Complimentary Medicine in Cancer Care*

Scott Soefje and Wendelin Nelson

[Learn More >>](#)

### July 28; 6:00 PM

between Yale Cancer Center and MD Anderson Cancer Center. The project, which is related to studies proposed in the recently submitted Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer (**Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, PI**), will validate the KRAS-variant marker in the BATTLE-1 and BATTLE-2 lung cancer studies, in a larger cohort of patients than previously tested, and provide potential therapeutic options for patients carrying the marker.

**Gerald Shadel, PhD** has received a \$200,000 grant from the state of Connecticut through the **Stem Cell Research Fund** to fund "Testing the oxidative stress theory of Ataxia-Telangiectasia pathology using induced pluripotent stem cells."

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## Research in the News

### Some tanners return to the booth after skin cancer

One in seven people uses a tanning bed after being diagnosed with skin cancer, according to a new research letter. Indoor tanning is known to increase a person's risk for cancer.

"The situation may be analogous to that of lung cancer patients who continue to smoke after diagnosis," said lead author Brenda Cartmel, a cancer prevention researcher at the Yale School of Public Health in New Haven, Connecticut.

"Just as tobacco is known to be addictive, our research suggests that some patients may become dependent on tanning, with new intervention approaches needed to change these behaviors," she told Reuters Health.

[Read More >>](#)

### Nature's own nanoparticles harnessed to target disease

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### Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR

*A New Take on Lung Cancer*  
Rogerio Lilienbaum, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

### July 29; 12:00 PM YCC Special Seminar WWW 208

*Erlotinib for Head and Neck  
Cancer Prevention and Therapy*  
William N. William Jr., MD

[Learn More >>](#)

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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 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](http://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.

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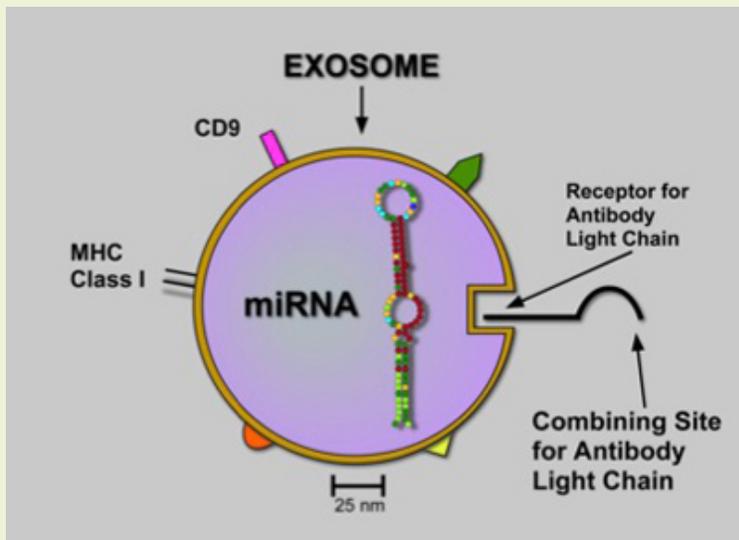
## Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**  
Director, Public Affairs and  
Marketing

[renee.gaudette@yale.edu](mailto:renee.gaudette@yale.edu)

 Forward to a Friend



Using a novel form of immune-genetic therapy, researchers from Yale School of Medicine and the Jagiellonian University Medical College in Poland have successfully inhibited a strong immune allergic inflammatory response in the skin of mice. The results suggest the technique could be used to combat a variety of diseases.

"We use an antibody coating we chose to deliver therapeutic genetic material we selected to target cells," said Dr. Philip Askenase, Professor of Medicine, member of Yale Cancer Center's Immunology Research Program and senior author of the study distributed on July 8 in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*.

The delivery system consists of naturally occurring nanoparticles called exosomes that are about one thousandth the size of donor cells that release them. These tiny vesicles were once thought to contain only unneeded cellular debris. However, in the last decade, scientists have shown that there are billions of exosomes in the circulation and that they carry genetic instructions in the form of micro-RNAs (miRNA) to regulate the functions of nearby and distant cells.

[Read More >>](#)



Cost of Gene Testing Brought Down by SCOTUS Ruling  
[Watch FOX News Story >>](#)

## Closer to Free

Our Closer to Free community continues to inspire us with their commitment to our cancer research and patient care. For the ninth year, the **Mary Beth Mikos-Corkery Memorial Golf Outing**, organized by her family, has contributed funds to support Dr. Michael DiGiovanna's breast cancer research. Over these years, the event has donated over \$250,000. More than 80 golfers participated in the event this May, many of whom have been involved since its beginning in 2004. Pictured below are Tom Marcello and Joan Mikos with Dr. DiGiovanna.



## Employee Profile: Booker T. McJunkin

*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.*

### **YNHH Employee Brings Football to New Haven Youth**

Booker T. McJunkin is responsible for assisting in the ambulatory care needs of patients in the Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation clinics, including the application of casts and splints. Mr. McJunkin works under the guidance of Dr. Gary Friedlaender, the Wayne O. Southwick Professor of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation and Professor of Pathology; Chair, Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation and Clinical Leader of the Sarcoma Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital.



Outside of this role, Mr. McJunkin has another passion, one he brought with him when he moved from New York City to New Haven in 2012, and that is football. Not just football however, but coaching troubled youth on and off the field. Known as the *New Haven Venom Football Club*, McJunkin is owner, head coach, manager, mentor, and teacher. "The club is targeted towards young men between the ages of 18-25 who have lost their way," said McJunkin. "The goal is to teach these young people how to build community, business and social relationships. 'Venom' can have a bad connotation, but we get powerful medicines from venom too."

As a former high school football player and retired military veteran that worked in medicine before coming to Yale, he encourages EMS training for those he sees as good candidates. He also encourages his players to go back to school and helps them receive their GEDs. McJunkin explained that football is a positive outlet and gives him the opportunity to reach them on other levels as well. Building off of the discipline and teamwork required in football, he helps his players learn ways to lead a better, more fulfilling life.

Team members also learn Microsoft Office techniques and other computer software programs. They are instructed as to how to speak to a potential employer and how to write a resume and cover letter, skills they may otherwise have never learned. Dr. Friedlaender commented, "Booker is a special gentleman of great passion and talent, with a demonstrated ability to change the future of disadvantaged youths in a highly positive manner. He does this by providing a strong role model, genuinely and unconditionally devoted to his mentees on and off the athletic field, through his unselfish commitment of time and boundless energy, and by virtue of his persuasive challenge to each of us to join in supporting his life-changing investment in the youth of our community."

The *New Haven Venom Football Club* is seeking and accepting support from individuals, corporations and the community in order to keep the club running. To learn more, please contact [Booker McJunkin](#).

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## Recent Publications

### **The calcium-sensing receptor in the breast.**

Vanhouten JN, Wysolmerski JJ.  
Best Pract Res Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2013 Jun;27(3):  
403-14.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Acute toxicity and risk of infection during total skin electron beam therapy for mycosis fungoides.**

Lloyd S, Chen Z, Foss FM, Girardi M, Wilson LD.  
J Am Acad Dermatol. 2013 Jul 9.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cells, Interferon Signaling, and FcγR Contribute to Pathogenesis and Therapeutic Response in Childhood Immune Thrombocytopenia.**

Sehgal K, Guo X, Koduru S, Shah A, Lin A, Yan X,  
Dhodapkar KM.  
Sci Transl Med. 2013 Jul 10;5(193):193ra89.

[Read More >>](#)

### **A Melanoma Brain Metastasis with a Donor-Patient Hybrid Genome following Bone Marrow Transplantation: First Evidence for Fusion in Human Cancer.**

Lazova R, Laberge GS, Duvall E, Spoelstra N, Klump V, Sznol M, Cooper D, Spritz RA, Chang JT, Pawelek JM.  
PLoS One. 2013 Jun 26;8(6):e66731.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Randomized dose-finding clinical trial of oncolytic immunotherapeutic vaccinia JX-594 in livercancer.**

Vilarinho S, Taddei TH.  
Hepatology. 2013 Jul 8.

[Read More >>](#)

**A new approach to understanding racial disparities in prostate cancer treatment.**

Presley CJ, Raldow AC, Cramer LD, Soulos PR, Long JB, Yu JB, Makarov DV, Gross CP.

J Geriatr Oncol. 2013 Jan;4(1):1-8.

[Read More >>](#)

**Indoor Tanning and Tanning Dependence in Young People After a Diagnosis of Basal Cell Carcinoma.**

Cartmel B, Ferrucci LM, Spain P, Bale AE, Pagoto SL, Leffell DJ, Gelernter J, Mayne ST.

JAMA Dermatol. 2013 Jul 3.

[Read More >>](#)

**Resonance Raman spectroscopic evaluation of skin carotenoids as a biomarker of carotenoid status for human studies.**

Mayne ST, Cartmel B, Scarmo S, Jahns L, Ermakov IV, Gellermann W.

Arch Biochem Biophys. 2013 Jun 30.

[Read More >>](#)

**Highly penetrative, drug-loaded nanocarriers improve treatment of glioblastoma.**

Zhou J, Patel TR, Sirianni RW, Strohbehn G, Zheng MQ, Duong N, Schafbauer T, Huttner AJ, Huang Y, Carson RE, Zhang Y, Sullivan DJ Jr, Piepmeier JM, Saltzman WM.

Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2013 Jul 1.

[Read More >>](#)

**Mammaglobin B (SCGB2A1) is a novel tumour antigen highly differentially expressed in all major histological types of ovarian cancer: implications for ovarian cancer immunotherapy.**

Bellone S, Tassi R, Betti M, English D, Cocco E, Gasparrini S, Bortolomai I, Black JD, Todeschini P, Romani C, Ravaggi A, Bignotti E, Bandiera E, Zanotti L, Pecorelli S, Ardighieri L, Falchetti M, Donzelli C, Siegel ER, Azodi M, Silasi DA, Ratner E, Schwartz PE, Rutherford TJ, Santin AD.

Br J Cancer. 2013 Jun 27.

[Read More >>](#)