

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

July 5, 2013

Announcements

Joseph Kim, MD Appointed to Medical Oncology

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Joseph Kim will be joining Yale Medical Oncology on August 1.

Dr. Kim received his Medical Degree from Wake Forest University and completed his internal medicine residency at Emory University, and medical oncology and hematology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute and National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the NIH.

He is also a recipient of the 2013 Young Investigator Award from the Conquer Cancer Foundation of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.



Dr. Kim will work with Dr. Daniel Petrylak in GU Oncology specializing in treating patients with prostate cancer. His focus is on clinical development of novel immunotherapies, such as therapeutic cancer vaccines and immune check point inhibitors, as well as other novel therapeutics in genitourinary malignancies.

Manoj Pillai, MD Joins Hematology

Dr. Manoj Pillai has joined the section of Hematology focused on translational research in hematologic malignancies. He is an outstanding physician-scientist involved in studying the regulation of normal and malignant blood cell development by small RNA molecules. Dr. Pillai is especially interested in studying the biology of Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS). At Smilow, Dr. Pillai will care for patients on the inpatient hematology units.



Dr. Pillai is joining Yale from the University of Colorado. He completed his internship and residency at Baylor College of

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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The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Links of Interest

CV Library

The CV library is a new

Medicine and a fellowship in medical oncology at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

T-TARE Awards

Yale Cancer Center received six applications for T-TARE (Translational - Targeted Area of Research Excellence) funds for consideration. The T-TARE award mechanism, administered by Julie L. Boyer, PhD, Associate Director for Translational Research Administration, provides seed money to members of Yale Cancer Center to support studies with a significant translational research component. T-TARE proposals require a collaborative effort among three or more faculty members - basic and clinical scientists, junior and senior investigators - and are intended to provide a basis for submission of new multi-investigator grant applications to the National Cancer Institute.

Congratulations to this year's awardees:

Frank Slack

\$160,000

Next Generation Targeting of Oncogenes in the Tumor Microenvironment

Dell Yarbrough

\$125,000

Divide and Conquer: Advancing Therapy for Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Lajos Pusztai

\$140,000

Expanding Therapeutic Options for Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Notables

Yale Medical Oncology and Hematology celebrated the teaching achievements of our faculty during the annual fellows' graduation on June 19. The following awards were presented that evening:

The David S. Fischer, MD annual award for outstanding teaching & mentoring of fellows in Hematology was awarded to **Thomas P. Duffy, MD**.

The David S. Fischer, MD annual award for outstanding teaching & mentoring of fellows in Medical Oncology was awarded to **Daniel Morgensztern, MD**.

The David S. Fischer, MD annual award for outstanding teaching & mentoring of fellows in Medical Oncology & Hematology was awarded to **Michal G. Rose, MD**.

A Medical Oncology & Hematology Fellowship Program annual award for Outstanding Fellow in Research was awarded to

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.

[Learn More >>](#)

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.

[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

Stop the Madness!
by Anees Chagpar, MD

[Read More >>](#)

Events

July 7; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

*Hereditary Factors
Involved in Cancer*
Victor Chang, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

July 11; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412

Pediatric Soft Tissue Sarcomas
Farzana Pashankar, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

both **Hong Zheng, MD, PhD** and **Vamsidhar Velcheti, MD**.

The American Orthopaedic Association recently awarded the **Distinguished Contributions to Orthopaedics Award** to **Gary Friedlaender, MD**, Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics and Clinical Leader of the Sarcoma Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The award is presented to one physician annually for their contributions to the field of Orthopaedics and patient care.

Yale Cancer Center members, **Ryan Jensen** and **Akiko Iwasaki**, have both received 2013 pilot grants from the **Women's Health Research at Yale Program**. Dr. Jensen, a member of the Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program, will capitalize on the latest biochemical and analytical tools to characterize a multitude of BRCA variations and mutations. His ultimate goal is to develop a biochemical assay to distinguish between harmful mutations and innocuous, routinely occurring genetic variations. Dr. Iwasaki, a member of the Molecular Virology Research Program, will develop a two-step "prime and pull" intervention for controlling recurrence of genital herpes infection using her grant funding.

Three Yale Cancer Center members have received grants from the state of Connecticut through the **Stem Cell Research Fund** to support their research initiatives.

Hypoxia and Maintenance of Human Cancer Stem Cells
Zhong Yun
\$200,000

The Role of Adipocyte Stem Cell in Lymphatic Vessel Differentiation
Nancy Ruddle
\$200,000

Continued Service and Technology Development at the Yale Stem Cell Center Cores
Haifan Lin
\$500,000

Updates from Smilow

Survivor Celebrations

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital celebrated survivorship with our patients and their families during two events last month. On June 12, we welcomed our patients and their families to an evening of survivorship with a panel presentation and performances by the Fairfield County Children's Choir. The auditorium at 55 Park Street was packed and everyone enjoyed the evening.

July 14; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center
Answers

WNPR
Oncology Pharmacists in Cancer Care
Scott Soefje and Sarah Perreault
[Learn More >>](#)

July 18; 9:00 AM
Therapeutic Radiology
Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412
The SCOTUS BRCA Patent Ruling: What is the Future of Genetic Testing?
Ellen Matloff, MS, CGC
[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

Then, on Sunday, June 23 Yale Pediatric Oncology and Hematology welcomed our pediatric cancer survivors to "Picnic in the Park" at Edgerton Park in Hamden for an afternoon of games and activities and family fun.

Check out the photo albums from each of the events online:



[Cancer Survivors Day Album >>](#)



[Picnic in the Park Album >>](#)

ASCO Review

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital hosted our fourth annual ASCO Review on Friday, June 21 at the New Haven Country Club. Hosted by Roy Herbst, MD, PhD, the event drew oncologists and physicians from around Connecticut to learn about the latest advances presented at this year's ASCO meeting.

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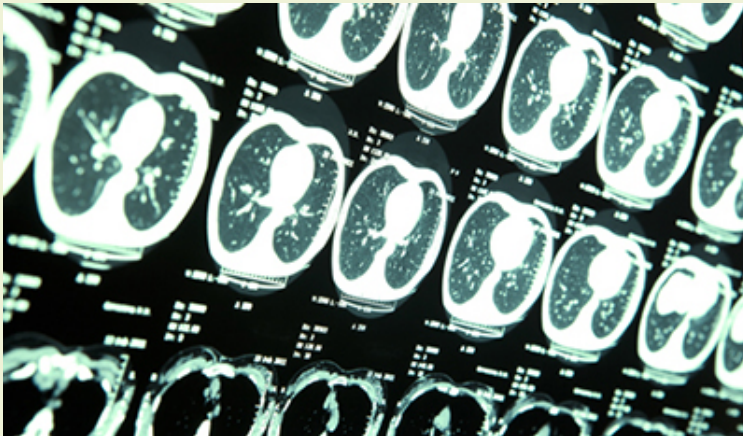
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Research in the News



Brai

n-penetrating particle attacks deadly tumors

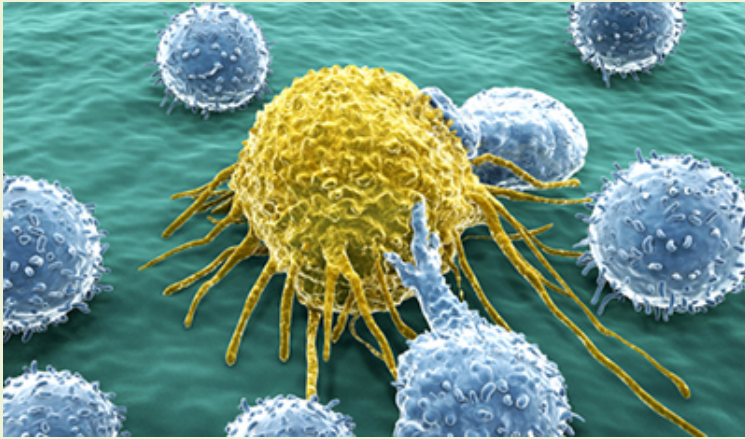
Scientists have developed a new approach for treating a deadly brain cancer that strikes 15,000 in the United States annually and for which there is no effective long-term therapy. Led by W. Mark Salzman, PhD, the researchers have shown that the approach extends the lives of laboratory animals and are preparing to seek government approval for a human clinical trial.

Current methods of drug delivery have serious limitations. Oral and intravenously injected drugs have difficulty accessing the brain because of a biological defense known as the blood-brain barrier. Drugs released directly in the brain through implants can't reach migrating tumor cells. And commonly used drugs fail to kill the cells primarily responsible for tumor development, allowing regrowth. The researchers developed a new, ultra-small drug-delivery particle that more nimbly navigates brain tissue than do existing options. They

also identified and tested an existing FDA-approved drug - a fungicide called dithiazanine iodide (DI) - and found that it can kill the most aggressive tumor-causing cells.

"This approach addresses limitations of other forms of therapy by delivering drugs directly to the area most needed, obviating systemic side-effects, and permitting the drug to reside for weeks," said neurosurgeon Dr. Joseph M. Piepmeier, a member of the research team. Piepmeier leads clinical research for Yale Cancer Center's brain tumor program. Saltzman is a member of Yale Cancer Center's Developmental Therapeutics Program.

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How

cancer spreads: Metastatic tumor a hybrid of cancer cell and white blood cell

Yale Cancer Center scientists, together with colleagues at the Denver Police Crime Lab and the University of Colorado, have found evidence that a human metastatic tumor can arise when a leukocyte (white blood cell) and a cancer cell fuse to form a genetic hybrid. Their study may answer the question of how cancer cells travel from the primary tumor's site of origin to distant organs and tissues of the body - the deadly process of metastasis.

Such a theory was first proposed as an explanation for metastasis more than a century ago. But until now, the theory was unproven in human cancer because genomic differences between cells from the same patient cannot be distinguished. To get around this problem, the researchers analyzed genomic DNA in the secondary malignancies of a patient who had a melanoma brain metastasis and had received a bone marrow transplant from his brother.

They found signature genes from both the patient and donor together in the tumor cells, providing the first evidence that leukocytes (in this case from the donor) can fuse with cancer cells and initiate a tumor.

[Read More >>](#)



Vincent DeVita, Jr., MD, President of the American Cancer Society and the Amy and Joseph Perella Professor of Medicine at Yale Cancer Center, as he describes his research to find the cure for Hodgkin's Lymphoma in this video celebrating the American Cancer Society's 100th Birthday.

[Watch the Video >>](#)

Funding and Award Opportunities

Yale Center for Molecular Discovery Pilot Project Program

The Yale Center for Molecular Discovery is announcing an incentive program to underwrite activities performed at the Center.

The Yale Center for Molecular Discovery (ycmd.yale.edu) provides biology and chemistry services to the Yale community. Drawing upon the extensive experiences of our staff in the fields of target and molecular discovery, the Center offers access to small molecule compound and siRNA collections as well as expertise and instrumentation for high throughput assay design and execution. Our approach is service-oriented and results-driven.

All grants will utilize a 2:1 match to underwrite Center activities that accelerate or broaden applicants' research field, obtain new funding or publications.

Potential projects may include any combination of activities provided by YCMD, including:

- Assay development or adaptation to high-throughput screening
- Screening of small molecule or siRNA libraries
- Compound identification or optimization via structure-based design or ligand-based design High-Throughput, High

Content Screening

Project selection by the Pilot Grant Review Committee, a panel comprised of faculty and prior RFP grantees. Any potential conflicts of interest should be identified by the applicant. All activities will be confidential and the investigator retains all intellectual property on any discoveries. Awards will be based on project goals, impact, methods, availability of reagents, and innovation.

Application Deadline: July 15, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

B7-H5 costimulates human T cells via CD28H.

Zhu Y, Yao S, Iliopoulou BP, Han X, Augustine MM, Xu H, Phenicie RT, Flies SJ, Broadwater M, Ruff W, Taube JM, Zheng L, Luo L, Zhu G, Chen J, Chen L.

Nat Commun. 2013 Jun 19;4:2043.

[Read More >>](#)

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

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

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

[Read More >>](#)

Aberrant DNA methylation of miR-219 promoter in long-term night shiftworkers.

Shi F, Chen X, Fu A, Hansen J, Stevens R, Tjonneland A, Vogel UB, Zheng T, Zhu Y.

Environ Mol Mutagen. 2013 Jun 27.

[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 >>](#)

Diagnostic SOX10 gene signatures in salivary adenoid cystic and breast basal-like carcinomas.

Ivanov SV, Panaccione A, Nonaka D, Prasad ML, Boyd KL, Brown B, Guo Y, Sewell A, Yarbrough WG.

Br J Cancer. 2013 Jun 25.

[Read More >>](#)

EGF Receptor activates MET through MAP kinases to enhance non-small cell lung carcinoma invasion and brain metastasis.

Breindel JL, Haskins JW, Cowell EP, Zhao M, Nguyen DX, Stern DF.

Cancer Res. 2013 Jun 21.

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Predictors of microinvasion and its prognostic role in ductal carcinoma in situ.

Sue GR, Lannin DR, Killelea B, Chagpar AB.

Am J Surg. 2013 Jun 18.

[Read More >>](#)

A Strategy for the Successful Management of Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans.

Goldberg C, Hoang D, McRae M, Chung C, Leffell DJ, Narayan D.

Ann Plast Surg. 2013 Jun 19.

[Read More >>](#)

Randomized Phase III Trial of Single-Agent Pemetrexed Versus Carboplatin and Pemetrexed in Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer and Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status of 2.

Zukin M, Barrios CH, Rodrigues Pereira J, De Albuquerque Ribeiro R, de Mendonça Beato CA, do Nascimento YN, Murad A, Franke FA, Precivale M, de Lima Araujo LH, Da Rocha Baldotto CS, Vieira FM, Small IA, Ferreira CG, Lilenbaum RC.

J Clin Oncol. 2013 Jun 17.

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