

November 8, 2013

Announcements

Dr. Laura Morrison Appointed to Lead Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

I am pleased to announce that Laura Morrison, MD has joined our Palliative Care Program under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Kapo and will serve as an attending physician on the YNH Palliative Care Consultation Service.

Dr. Morrison has also been appointed to the new positions of Director of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Education and Director of the Yale Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship. The Fellowship is currently accepting applications and will receive its first class of fellows in July 2014.



Dr. Morrison joins us from Baylor College of Medicine where she was an Associate Professor of Geriatrics, Director of Education in the section of palliative care, and co-Director of the Geriatric Palliative Medicine Fellowship. She received her undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She completed her internship, residency, and fellowship at Case Western Reserve University and a post-doctoral fellowship in geriatrics at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Roy Herbst Presents 'Master Protocol'

The trial design for the 'Master Protocol,' which is co-chaired by Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, was announced yesterday during a panel presentation at the Friends-Brookings Conference on Clinical Research in Washington, DC. The 'Master Protocol' is a biomarker-driven, multi-drug, multi-arm, multi-center Phase 2/3 registration trial for patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the lung. The trial is a collaboration between Friends of Cancer Research, the National

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 CVs of post-docs and others looking for positions at

Cancer Institute, the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, and SWOG member institutions, including Yale Cancer Center.

[Learn More >>](#)

Support United Way

Yale Cancer Center is once again participating in the University's annual United Way Campaign, by encouraging employees to pledge to support Yale's effort to Give Every Child a Chance. Every contribution will help to ensure that the families and children in New Haven who need assistance and support receive the extra help that they need.

Investing with United Way is the most effective means I know for creating long-term solutions in our region. United Way is making long-term, strategic investments in the future of Greater New Haven, through work in education, health, and basic needs—all of which touch on the well-being of children. For example, United Way's work has brought mental health services, emotional support, and increased after-school programs to more than 5,600 students.

Please consider making a contribution or monthly pledge to support this important community resource.

[Learn More >>](#)

Save the Date for our Holiday Party

I hope you will join us for our annual Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital holiday party at the Peabody Museum on Wednesday, December 18 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Everyone is invited, along with their families, to join in this festive evening and celebrate the holiday season together. I look forward to seeing you all there!

[Learn More >>](#)

Notables

Katerina Politi, PhD received the 2013 Lynne Tarnopol Award from the **Lung Cancer Research Foundation** to support her work titled "*The Influence of Tumor Cell-of-Origin and Heterogeneity on Acquired Resistance to Targeted Therapies in Cancer.*" The award provides \$50K for research on this project. The Lynne Tarnopol Award is given in honor of a long-standing supporter and advocate for the LCRF and recognizes an outstanding research proposal from a young woman scientist. Dr. Politi is the inaugural recipient of the award, formally recognizing the pivotal accomplishments and contributions of women scientists in the field of lung cancer research.

November

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

Where do we go from here? Thoughts on Improving the Healthcare System

[Read More >>](#)

Events

November 8; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress

NP 4-101A

Palliative Care: Helping to Prolong Life in Cancer Patients
Andrew Putnam, MD

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

November 8; 1:00 PM YCC Molecular Virology and Developmental Therapeutics Research Programs

SHM I-116

Unusual Cis- and Trans-Requirements of Hepatitis C Virus RNA Replication
Brett Lindenbach, PhD

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

November 9; 6:30 AM

For those of you unfamiliar with Movember, it is one of the odder cancer awareness and fund-raising projects. Apparently, 'mo' is slang for mustache in Australia where this idea began. In brief, men start at the beginning of the month of November clean-shaven and grow mustaches (but no other facial hair) until the end of the month.

Since some of us do not enhance our outer beauty with upper lip hirsuteness, mustache development usually engenders questions such as "Are you unable to afford a shaver?" or "are you planning on acting in a 'blue' film?" at which point the mustache grower explains that the mustache is to promote awareness of men's health and, specifically, of prostate cancer.

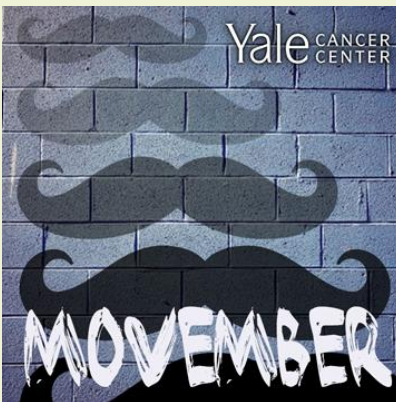
And there is a [website](#) where people can donate to prostate cancer charities. In the U.S., The Prostate Cancer Foundation is a major recipient and there are others (see the website). Lest you scoff at this method of fundraising, take note: last year alone this charity raised \$147 million and since its inception, it has raised \$446 million.

Everyone is encouraged to join in (both giving and participating). Women are also encouraged to join (we have paste on moustaches) and don't even have to endure the itchiness. To get involved go to www.movember.com and register. Ideally more than none of you will join. If so, please join our team, named Team Smi-Mo (after a long tradition of lame puns being used in team names). I'm open to a new name for our team.

I don't want to be the only one this year looking ridiculous at Thanksgiving (well, I will probably look ridiculous regardless) so please join and raise some money to put us out of business.

[Email me](#) with any questions.

Thanks,
Mike Hurwitz



The New England Endocrine Tumor Symposium at Yale
Park Street Auditorium
Tobias Carling MD, PhD, FACS
[Learn More >>](#)

November 9; 8:00 AM
Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital Free Lung Cancer Screening, Consultation, and Low Dose CT Scan
Smilow 4th Floor
Multispecialty Clinic
[Learn More >>](#)

November 10; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
Surgical Options for GI Cancers
Sajid Khan, MD
[Learn More >>](#)

November 12; 9:30 AM
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
BML 137
TBA
Marcos Carpio, PhD and
Nicholas Theodosakis
[Learn More >>](#)

November 12; 12:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
Park Street Auditorium
The 'Omics' Era and Kidney Cancer: Bringing Big Data to the Bedside"
Brian Shuch, MD
Cancer as a Metabolic Disease
Xiaoyong Yang, PhD
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

November 12; 5:00 PM
Transforming Healthcare Grand Rounds
Fitkin Amphitheater, LMP 1094
The Error of Counting Errors and Other Reasons Why Patient Safety is Hard
Robert L. Wears, MD, MS, PhD
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

November 12; 5:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center and Lung Cancer Alliance: Shine a Light on Lung Cancer Vigil
Park Street Auditorium
Thomas Lynch, Jr., MD
[Learn more >> \(PDF\)](#)

Closer to Free

Robby G. is a 7th grader from East Haven who was recently elected his class president, and plays short stop on his baseball team. His face lights up when he talks about the Red Sox winning the World Series. While his fall has been busy with school and all of his activities, his main interest has been raising funds for Closer to Free by making and selling one hundred rainbow rubber band bracelets to his classmates. Robby lost his mother to cancer while he was still a baby, and now that he is older, he wanted to find a way to help make a difference. He recently visited Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven with his Aunt Laura to deliver his contribution to Closer to Free.



Every gift, large or small, has a positive impact on the patients and their families, researchers and care providers - all of us who make up the Closer to Free community. Information about making a donation or organizing an event is available on the Give Closer to Free [website](#) or by contacting [Susan Frankenbach](#). Don't forget to "like" us on [Facebook](#)!

Free Prostate Cancer Screening

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital will host a free prostate cancer screening on Thursday, December 5th from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Saint Raphael Campus.

Prostate Cancer Screening: Don't Wait!

The screening will include a clinical exam and a PSA blood test and is by appointment only. Please encourage your patients in need of screening to attend. Registration is available by calling (888) 700-6543.

Funding and Award Opportunities

Yale School of Public Health Ovarian Cancer Research Grants

To provide funding for a pilot project in ovarian cancer prevention, detection, and survivorship research, which would ultimately lead to national peer-reviewed grants.

November 12; 5:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

November 13; 11AM
SHM I-304
Generating Small Transmembrane Protein Inhibitors of the PDGF Beta Receptor by Mutation of an Activator
Lisa Petti, PhD
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

November 13; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Cancer Prevention & Control Research Program

LEPH, room 216
Breast Oncology Research at Yale
Lajos Pusztai, MD, DPhil
[Learn More >>](#)

November 14; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412, Room E
Managing Lung Cancer in a High Risk Population: Lessons from the VA
Michal G. Rose, MD
[Learn More >>](#)

November 14; 12:00 PM Schwartz Center Rounds

Park Street Auditorium
Discussing DNR: When and How Often?
Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

November 14; 12:30 PM YCCI Symposia Conducting Clinical Trials/Lessons Learned and Useful Tips

Child Study Center, NIHB E02
FDA Audit: Lessons Learned at the University of Michigan
Kara Morgenstern, JD
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

November 15; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress

NP 4-101A
Research in Cancer Survivors: Care Delivery and Outcomes
Tara Sanft, MD
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

November 17; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR

Application Deadline: December 2, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant for New Investigators

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce a competition for grants for Yale Assistant Professors. The awards are to support innovative work in the broad fields of basic, translational, clinical, and prevention/control cancer research by new investigators. These grants are restricted to investigators who have not already received federal research grant support or a previous ACS-IRG award. One-year grants will provide up to \$30,000 for each award. YCC members and non-members are encouraged to apply.

Application Deadline: November 14, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science 2014 Pilot Program

The Yale Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) is offering funding for pilot projects to initiate research relating to understanding tobacco additives and modified risk tobacco products through behavioral, molecular, laboratory, pharmacological, epidemiological, and economic sciences that involves humans (both clinical & epidemiological research) and animals (basic research). We are particularly interested in studies of menthol, flavors, and e-cigarettes and studies using novel techniques.

Up to 5 pilot projects will be funded at the level of \$25,000 to \$100,000 (direct costs only), with higher levels of funding available for projects that incorporate more expensive technologies (such as neuroimaging). The project must be completed in 1 budget year.

Application Deadline: December 16, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

*Alternative/Complimentary
Medicine in Cancer Care*
Scott Soefje, PharmD, MBA,
BCOP and Wendelin Nelson,
PharmD, BCOP

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

November 19; 9:30 AM Pathology Research in Progress Talks

BML 137

*Antigen-Specific Exosome
Selected Suppressor T-Cell
miRNA Therapy*

Philip Askenase, MD

TBA

Mike Ran Zou

[Learn More >>](#)

November 19; 12:00 PM YCC Grand Rounds/Jasjit Bindra Memorial Lectureship

Park Street Auditorium

*Combined Modality Therapy
of Esophageal Cancer*

Joel E. Tepper, MD

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

November 21; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412, Room E

Metastatic Disease to Bone:

Impending Pathological

Fractures

Gary Friedlaender, MD

[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

Employee Profile: Nakia Dawson

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](#).

While no one is a stranger to the violence that occurs in the New Haven area, perhaps no one knows the impact it has on families and the community better than Nakia Dawson, Clinical Secretary for The Palliative Care Service at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

In addition to her role as Clinical Secretary for Palliative Care, she is founder of The Bereavement Care Network (BCN), a network that reaches out to the families of homicide victims in New Haven.

A lifelong resident of New Haven, Nakia's passion comes from a family member and close friend that were both victims of homicide.



Many families do not have the money to pay for funeral costs, as they may not have life insurance and the deaths are unexpected. BCN reaches out to these families to help pay for funerals, or other arrangements that are needed. The staff of six also provides families with emotional support and connections to various resources. Most of the money comes from fundraisers, or out of pocket. They also have a partnership with McClam Funeral Home, since they arrange funerals for 80% of the homicide deaths in New Haven.

"I have been where these families are and have felt what they feel. After serving as a bereavement coordinator with another organization, I knew that there was a greater need out there and that I needed to do more to help these families," said Nakia.

In her role with The Palliative Care Service at Smilow Cancer Hospital, Nakia handles new patient referrals, setting up appointments for patients, and making sure they receive their prescriptions. She sees patients come in with varying stages of disease, and cancers. The service, directed by Jennifer Kapo, MD, focuses on symptom management and quality of life issues for adult patients with serious chronic, progressive or terminal illnesses. Nakia explained that her work with BCN and the Palliative Care Service are intertwined. They both can deal with heartbreaking loss,

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

although the causes are different.

Dr. Kapo commented, "We are extremely fortunate to have Nakia as a member of the Palliative Care Team. Through her BCN work, she has a special expertise in dealing with patients and families faced with overwhelming tragedy. The patients and families who contact our palliative care service benefit from her calming, comforting and kind approach. As we expand our service to include bereavement services, I am looking forward to Nakia's input in building a comprehensive program that will support families and loved ones after a death. I am thrilled that she is part of our team."

For more information about BCN, and how to volunteer, please contact Nakia at bcn2013@gmail.com or (203) 589-5538.

Recent Publications

Paradox of hope.

Cohen JV.

J Palliat Med. 2013 Oct;16(10):1307-8.

[Read More >>](#)

Penguins and palliative care: facilitating cultural change in the ICU.

Kapo J, Siegel MD.

Crit Care Med. 2013 Oct;41(10):2443-4.

[Read More >>](#)

Quantitative assessment Ki-67 score for prediction of response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy in breast cancer.

Brown JR, Digiovanna MP, Killelea B, Lannin DR, Rimm DL.

Lab Invest. 2013 Nov 4.

[Read More >>](#)

A phase 2 study of oxaliplatin combined with continuous infusion toptotecan for patients with previously treated ovarian cancer.

Stein SM, Tiersten A, Hochster HS, Blank SV, Pothuri B, Curtin J,

Shapira I, Levinson B, Ivy P, Joseph B, Guddati AK, Muggia F.

Int J Gynecol Cancer. 2013 Nov;23(9):1577-82.

[Read More >>](#)

Promoting quality breast cancer care: Psychosocial distress screening.

Knobf MT, Major-Campos M, Chagpar A, Seigerman A, McCorkle R.

Palliat Support Care. 2013 Oct 29:1-6.

[Read More >>](#)

Monitoring patient distress and related problems before and after Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation.

Crooks M, Seropian S, Bai M, McCorkle R.

Palliat Support Care. 2013 Oct 29:1-9.

[Read More >>](#)

A prospective, multi-institutional diagnostic trial to determine pathologist accuracy in estimation of percentage of malignant cells.

Viray H, Li K, Long TA, Vasalos P, Bridge JA, Jennings LJ, Halling KC, Hameed M, Rimm DL.

Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2013 Nov;137(11):1545-9.

[Read More >>](#)

Skin cancer screening and primary prevention: Facts and controversies.

Federman DG, Kirsner RS, Viola KV.

Clin Dermatol. 2013 Nov-Dec;31(6):666-70.

[Read More >>](#)

Mechanistic insights into the role of Hop2-Mnd1 in meiotic homologous DNA pairing.

Zhao W, Saro D, Hammel M, Kwon Y, Xu Y, Rambo RP, Williams GJ, Chi P, Lu L, Pezza RJ, Camerini-Otero RD, Tainer JA, Wang HW, Sung P.

Nucleic Acids Res. 2013 Oct 22.

[Read More >>](#)