

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

February, 5 2016

Announcements

Disease Aligned Research Teams

Yale Cancer Center recently launched our Disease Aligned Research Teams (DARTs), under the leadership and direction of Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Associate Director for Translational Research. Formerly known as Translational Working Groups, or TWGs, the DARTs are committed teams of physicians, researchers, caregivers, and other members of Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital staff who are dedicated to advancing translational science and bringing new clinical modalities to patients in our clinics. Each Clinical Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital has a dedicated DART that meets regularly to target precision therapy goals and to bring translational research efforts at Yale Cancer Center to our patients and to the next level through R01, P01, and SPORE applications.

The Yale Cancer Center DARTs and their leaders are as follows:

Brain Tumor: Kevin Becker
Breast Cancer: Lajos Pusztai
Endocrine Cancers: Tobias Carling
Gastrointestinal Cancers: Howard Hochster
Gynecologic Oncology: Alessandro Santin
Head & Neck Cancers: Barbara Burtness
Hematology: Madhav Dhodapkar
Melanoma: Mario Sznol
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology: Gary Kupfer
Prostate & Urologic Cancers: Daniel Petrylak
Sarcoma: Dieter Lindskog
Thoracic Oncology: Roy Herbst

from the desk of

Peter G. Schulam, MD, PhD

Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief,
Smilow Cancer Hospital (Interim)



Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

LATEST ARTICLES:



Yale Cancer Center joins national effort endorsing HPV vaccination for cancer prevention

[Read More >>](#)

Therapeutic Radiology: Roy Decker
Phase I: Patricia LoRusso

The new name resulted from discussions and a naming contest at the 5th Anniversary Smilow Cancer Hospital Personalized Medicine Symposium held on September 11, 2015. The prize was split between Drs. Robert Garofalo and Howard Hochster who suggested DART among nearly 100 entries.

5 Faculty Members Promoted



(l-r): Harriet Kluger, MD, Jill Lacy, MD, Michal Rose, MD, Barbara Burtness, MD, and Patricia LoRusso, DO

Yale Medical Oncology celebrated the promotion of five of our faculty members in January to the rank of full Professor with a dinner hosted by Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology. Drs. Barbara Burtness, Harriet Kluger, Jill Lacy, Patricia LoRusso, and Michal Rose all achieved the position of Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology).

"I am proud to have had the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of these five physicians and leaders in our section, each of whom have made immeasurable contributions to our patient care, research, education priorities. I look forward to continuing to encourage and celebrate achievements in their careers and many others in the section," Dr. Herbst said.

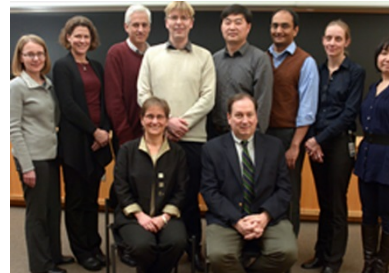
Smilow Interventional Oncology Program

After careful planning, the Interventional Oncology Program began seeing patients in Smilow Cancer Hospital. Led by Dr. Kevin Kim, Chief of Interventional Radiology, and Dr.



Edward Snyder, MD, to receive
Lectureship Award from the NIH &
American Red Cross

[Read More >>](#)



Yale Cooperative Center of
Excellence in Hematology
established by new NIH grant

[Read More >>](#)

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LATEST POSTS:

February 4 is #WorldCancerDay! Join all of us here at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital as we honor patients, caregivers, researchers, nurses, and doctors for their amazing contribution to the fight against cancer. By choosing healthy lives, delivering early detection, achieving treatment for all, and maximizing the quality of life, #WeCan!Can begin to minimize the impact of cancer.

Jeff Geschwind, Chair of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, the program complements medical, surgical, and radiation oncology to provide optimal patient care.

Interventional Oncology provides a range of therapeutic options used for palliative care including biopsy, vascular port, and chemotherapy catheter placement, abscess drainage, stenting of malignant strictures, and various therapies for pain relief.

Minimally invasive Interventional Oncology treatments include:

Chemoembolization: Selective delivery of chemotherapy directly to the tumor through a catheter located in the artery feeding the tumor.

Radioembolization: Selective delivery of radioactive particles directly to the tumor through a catheter located in the artery feeding the tumor.

Radiofrequency Ablation: A procedure that uses radio waves to heat and destroy cancerous cells performed through a needle inserted through the patient's skin.

Cryoablation: A procedure in which an extremely cold temperature via a cryoprobe inserted through the patient's skin is used to freeze and destroy cancer tissue.

Microwave Ablation: A procedure that uses microwaves to heat and destroy cancerous cells.

Pain Palliation Treatment: Therapeutic options consisting of ablation, chemoembolization or radioembolization designed specifically to relieve pain caused by primary or metastatic tumors.

Interventional Oncology Program Contact:
(203) 200-4747

Closer to Free Ride Launch



[Read More >>](#)

Check out what Justin can do! A healthy, smart, caring and funny 8 year today, Justin was treated at Smilow Cancer Hospital 4 years ago for retinoblastoma, cancer of the eye. Although his cancer left him with only one eye, today Justin breaks wood with his bare hands, skis black diamonds, and does well in school.



[Read More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center's Craig Crews, PhD, Patricia LoRusso, DO, and Roy Herbst, MD, PhD joined U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro at a press conference earlier this week to stress the importance of NIH funding to support cancer research.

"Medical research is incredible. A breakthrough at NIH saves not just one life, but potentially millions of lives over generations," DeLauro said.



[Read More >>](#)



Please join us for our annual launch event for the Closer to Free Ride on March 9th from 5-8 pm at BAR in New Haven. Rider and volunteer registration will be open at that time, and anyone who registers at the event with us receives a 2016 long sleeve tee. Mark your calendars for this year's ride date - September 10th!

Notables

The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, a non-profit organization focused on supporting innovative early career researchers, named two Yale postdoctoral fellows as **Damon Runyon Fellows** at its fall Fellowship Award Committee review. **Zhuobin (Ben) Liang, PhD**, sponsored by Yale Cancer Center members Patrick Sung and Gary Kupfer, is investigating the novel involvement of the Fanconi anemia DNA repair pathway in coordinating DNA replication and RNA transcription to maintain genome stability. **Seyed Fakhreddin Torabi, PhD**, with his sponsor Yale Cancer Center's Joan Steitz, is studying a highly abundant cellular long noncoding RNA (lncRNA) called MALAT1 (metastasis associated lung adenocarcinoma transcript 1), which serves as a prognostic factor in several human cancers. Congratulations to Ben and Seyed!

Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program, received an American Cancer Society Research Scholar Grant (\$792,000) over 4 years for his project "Pre-clinical Development of Mibefradil as a Novel Glioma Radiosensitizer."

A recent patient of Dr. Brian Shuch might not be alive if not for the Hereditary Kidney Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Her cancer wasn't responding to chemotherapy, and Dr. Shuch delved into her family history. Noting that her mother and children passed away of kidney cancer, Dr. Shuch used genetic testing to confirm her cancer diagnosis resulted from an inherited syndrome. With this new information, Dr. Shuch prescribed her an experimental chemotherapy. Nearly a year later, her cancer had essentially disappeared.



[Read More >>](#)

One of Dr. Andrea Silber's first patients was a young black mother of four, who had breast cancer but had never received treatment. When she passed away a week later, Dr. Silber became particularly motivated to decrease cancer health disparities in New Haven. Last year, Dr. Silber launched OWN IT (Oncologists Welcome NewHaven Into Trials) to educate, assist, and encourage minorities from the New Haven area to participate in clinical trials that will benefit their treatment.



[Read More >>](#)

Wu Liu, PhD, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program, received a grant from the Elsa U. Pardee Foundation for his research project "Nanoparticle-enhanced focused kV x-ray Radiotherapy: Monte Carlo dosimetry modeling."

Edward Snyder, MD was selected to receive **The Richard J. Davey Lectureship Award**. The award is given annually at the National Institutes of Health Department of Transfusion Medicine & American Red Cross Transfusion Medicine Symposium, to be held this year on September 22, 2016 at the Clinical Center of the NIH in Bethesda, MD. Dr. Snyder will speak on pathogen-inactivated platelets.

Dr. Anees Chagpar's study, "A Randomized, Controlled Trial of Cavity Shave Margins in Breast Cancer," has been selected for inclusion in ASCO's report, **Clinical Cancer Advances 2016: ASCO's Annual Report on Progress Against Cancer**. The report is available online at www.CancerProgress.Net/CCA.

Employee Profile: Eileen Hansen

Eileen Hansen's role has grown considerably in her year and a half at Smilow. As Administrative Manager of Women's Oncology Services, she is responsible for a team of 12 administrative personnel, works with patients to triage complaints, and promotes the Breast Center at several community outreach projects. She has a bachelor's in economics, and plans to pursue a graduate degree in Healthcare Administration.



Eileen organizes the Mobile Mammography Van, which visits the New Haven community to increase access and care for the underserved patient populations. Working alongside Diagnostic Imaging, Eileen arranges for the van to attend health fairs, visit community health clinics, corporations, churches, etc. The van goes out on average 3 - 4 times per week and the feedback has been very positive.

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

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LATEST TWEETS:

🐦 Congratulations @AneesChagpar for inclusion in @ASCO Progress on Cancer 2016 surgery section for the SHAVE study <http://bit.ly/1PkZSCp>

🐦 "I'd already been though a lot and wasn't sure I could face a stem cell transplant."
<http://bit.ly/1QGfLG4> #lymphoma

🐦 What's not behind a rare lymphoma > Advances > October/November 2015 | [Medicine@Yale](#)

🐦 Cancer patients can be vulnerable to winter health issues. @CDCgov@nccn have great advice <http://bit.ly/1TAsRr4> #fluseason@YNHH

🐦 @AneesChagpar tells @business government funds for #CancerMoonshot welcome but a fraction of the real moonshot <http://bloom.bg/1JU2ESd>

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Calendar

February 5; 12PM

"It is a wonderful service that we are able to provide the community," said Eileen. "A lot of the women we reach may never have scheduled a mammogram if we didn't bring it to them. We hear from a lot of the community health organizations that women were screened, something was detected and ultimately a breast cancer was found. It is very rewarding to hear stories like this, and to be a part of that."

A new project that Eileen is very excited about involves the current TeleVox system in place to remind patients, via a phone call or text, of their upcoming appointment. If a patient has more than one appointment on the same day within different departments, as often happens, they receive a call or text for each appointment, which can be confusing. Eileen is working to streamline this system so that they receive one call or text for all of their appointments.

Eileen commented that she works with a wonderful team, which she strives to support and encourage. An avid runner, she uses running as the perfect metaphor for life. "The lessons you learn through setting and working towards goals can be applied in all other aspects of one's life," said Eileen. "It forced me to challenge myself physically and mentally. I found out through running that I was a competitive goal oriented person and made me more effective in work and life."

Maureen Major Campos, RN, MS, Program Manager for Women's Oncology Services, commented, "The Women's Oncology Program is fortunate to have Eileen overseeing the administrative team including patient process changes, telephone call management and patient scheduling. Eileen oversees our Breast Outreach program and is an ambassador for mobile mammography services. Her managerial style is upbeat and she creatively thinks outside the box for solutions to concerns and is fully engaged in the patient experience."

Funding and Award Opportunities

All current funding opportunities are archived on the Yale Cancer Center website, and searchable by topic, funding agency, and due date. Please check the site often for new opportunities. [Learn More >>](#)

NCCN and Immunogen

YCC Research in Progress Series

NP4-101B

Advances in Melanoma Research: Basic to Clinical

Marcus Bosenberg, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

February 7; 6PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Reducing the Risk of Flu in Cancer Patients

Andrew Branagan, MD and Eamon Duffy

[Read More >>](#)

February 8; 4PM

Employee and Family Resources

Park Street Seminar Room, 202

Mindfulness Solutions: A Class for Caregivers

[Read More >>](#)

February 9; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

High Fidelity Control-free CHIP-seq Peak Calling

Jiaqi Jin

TBA

Zongzhi Liu, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

February 9; 12PM

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Recognizing Suicidal Risks and What to do about it in a Medical Setting

William Sledge, MD

[Read More >>](#)

February 9; 2PM

YCC / SCH Special Seminar

Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094

Playing Signaling Chess with the KRAS Oncogene

Jonathan Chernoff, MD, PhD

National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it has received a research grant from ImmunoGen Inc. to support NCCN investigator initiated clinical studies of mirvetuximab soravtansine (previously known as IMGN853) in the treatment for selected solid tumors. In brief, investigators are asked to submit RFPs detailing proposed research studies. The overall aim of this RFP is to develop innovative studies of mirvetuximab soravtansine in ovarian, endometrial, and breast cancer. Collaborative studies between NCCN Member Institutions are encouraged.

Application Deadline: February 15, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

YCC Internal Grants Opportunities

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the 2016 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 Yale Cancer Center or faculty who have applied for membership are eligible to apply.

Application Deadline: February 18, 2016

Two types of grants will be awarded for one year:

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

[Download Application >>](#)

YCC Collaborative Pilot (Co-Pilot) Grants of up to \$100,000 for groups of two or more members of Yale Cancer Center. For each Co-Pilot grant, one Co-PI must be a basic scientist and the other must be a translational or clinical scientist.

[Download Application >>](#)

V Foundation Pediatric Cancer Research Grants

The V Foundation will solicit one application for Pediatric Cancer Research Grants in Translational Research and for a V Scholar Award in Pediatric Research. Internal applicants should send their CV and brief summary for consideration to [Gary Kupfer](#) for consideration by Friday, February 19, 2016.

V Foundation Translational projects should move a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial or

[Read More >>](#)

February 9; 5PM

YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series

Smilow first floor conference room, 1-330

Companion Diagnostic Tests for Immune Checkpoints in Breast Cancer

David Rimm, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

February 10; 1PM

YCC Cancer Metabolism Interest Group Seminar

Giarman Room, SHM B-201

Regulation of T cell Responses to Cancer and Infection by Lipid Metabolism

Guoliang Cui, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

February 11; 9AM

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

NP4 101-A

Integration of Molecular Targeted Agents with Radiation Therapy in Lung Cancer

Henning Willers, MD

[Read More >>](#)

February 11; 12PM

Yale Cancer Center / Schwartz Center Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Caring for a Young Mother

Jennifer Kapo, MD

[Read More >>](#)

February 11; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheater, LMP 1094

HMGB1 and Endothelial Function

Alex Chen, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

February 12; 12PM

use specimens from a clinical trial to develop biomarkers or mechanisms. The research should apply in some direct way to human beings. If biomarker research is undertaken, a validation set is essential. A plan for biomarker validation, if applicable, must be included in any proposal. The endpoint of the project should be the planning or initiation of a new clinical trial.

[Learn More >>](#)

The V Scholar Award supports young tenure-track faculty early in their cancer research career by funding projects that are either laboratory-based fundamental research or translational research. The total amount of the grant is \$200,000 awarded in two annual installments of \$100,000, each.

[Learn More >>](#)

Connecticut Breast Health Initiative

Our mission is to make a difference locally in the fight against breast cancer through support, education and research. To accomplish this mission, CT BHI plans on funding a diversified portfolio of clinical/ translational research with emphasis on programs that have not yet qualified for federal grants targeting breast cancer cause and survival.

Letter of Intent Deadline: March 1, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Award

This award provides funding to basic scientists and clinicians who conduct research with the potential to significantly impact the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of one or more pediatric cancers. Applicants are not required to be pediatricians or members of pediatric departments; however, the proposed research must have direct relevance to one or more pediatric cancers. This four year award is \$50,000 per year for basic scientists, and \$60,000 per year for physician scientists. In addition, an annual \$2,000 expense allowance is awarded to the laboratory in which the Fellow is working and can be used by the Fellow for his/her educational and scientific expenses. The Foundation also provides a Dependent Child Allowance of \$1,000 per child per year. The award may not be used for institutional overhead or indirect costs.

Application Deadline: March 16, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

YCC Research in Progress Series

Park Street Auditorium

TBA

[Read More >>](#)

February 13; 1PM

YCC/SCH Closer to Free Event

Payne Whitney Gym

Pink Zone: Flip for a Cure

[Read More >>](#)

February 13; 2PM

YCC/SCH Closer to Free Event

TD Bank Sports Center

Quinnipiac Bobcats Game

[Read More >>](#)

February 14; 6PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

Bioinformatics and Cancer

Michael Krauthammer, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

February 15; 1:30

Yale Cancer Biology Institute Research Seminar

Hope 110

Metabolic Regulation of Cell Fate Decisions

Lydia Finley, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

February 15; 3PM

YCC/SCH Special Seminar

Brady Auditorium, B-131

Old Drugs Understood Better: Targeting Base Excision Repair to Enhance the Efficacy of Temozolomide, Pemetrexed and 5FU

Stanton L. Gerson, MD

[Read More >>](#)

February 15; 4PM

Employee and Family Resources

Park Street Seminar Room, 202

Mindfulness Solutions: A Class for Caregivers

Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver of the Year Award

Each year the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare honors extraordinary health care professionals with the National Compassionate Caregiver of the Year (NCCY) Award. The award recognizes caregivers from across the country who exemplify characteristics of compassionate care, including: communicating sensitively with patients and loved ones; listening carefully, showing empathy and instilling hope; respecting patients' values, culture, choices and decisions; and understanding the significance of patients' families and communities.

An individual health care professional or team that works directly with patients in any U.S. health care setting is eligible for this prestigious national award.

Application Deadline: March 31, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

Transcriptional Profiles from Paired Normal Samples Offer Complementary Information on Cancer Patient Survival - Evidence from TCGA Pan-Cancer Data.

Huang X, Stern DF, Zhao H.
Sci Rep. 2016 Feb 3;6:20567.

[Read More >>](#)

Quantification of private information leakage from phenotype-genotype data: linking attacks.

Harmanci A, Gerstein M.
Nat Methods. 2016 Feb 1.

[Read More >>](#)

The Role of the Immune System in Ovarian Cancer and Implications on Therapy.

Menderes G, Schwab CL, Black J, Santin AD.
Expert Rev Clin Immunol. 2016 Jan 28.

[Read More >>](#)

The implementation of electronic hematology consults at a VA Hospital.

Cecchini M, Rose MG, Wong EY, Neparidze N.
Blood. 2016 Jan 25.

[Read More >>](#)

February 16; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Carly Cox and Jamaal Rehman, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

February 16; 12PM

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds/Julia & Patricia Kingsbury Memorial Lectureship

Park Street Auditorium

Clinical Implications of Cancer Stem Cells

Max S. Wicha, MD

[Read More >>](#)

February 16; 5PM

YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series

Smilow first floor conference room, 1-330

TBA

Alexander Au, MD

[Read More >>](#)

February 18; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheater

Clinicopathologic Classification, Diagnosis and Pathogenesis of Vasculitis

J. Charles Jennette, MD

[Read More >>](#)

February 19; 12PM

YCC Research in Progress Seminar

Park Street Auditorium

TBA

Michael Hurwitz, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

Submissions

Please submit your recent

[Read More >>](#)

Impact of Widespread Cervical Cancer Screening: Number of Cancers Prevented and Changes in Race-specific Incidence.

Yang DX, Soulos PR, Davis B, Gross CP, Yu JB.
Am J Clin Oncol. 2016 Jan 22.

[Read More >>](#)

Lost in translation? Ten years of development of histone deacetylase inhibitors in acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndromes.

Stahl M, Gore SD, Vey N, Prebet T.
Expert Opin Investig Drugs. 2016 Jan 25.

[Read More >>](#)

Phase II Study of Olaparib (AZD-2281) After Standard Systemic Therapies for Disseminated Colorectal Cancer.

Leichman L, Groshen S, O'Neil BH, Messersmith W, Berlin J, Chan E, Leichman CG, Cohen SJ, Cohen D, Lenz HJ, Gold P, Boman B, Fielding A, Locker G, Cason RC, Hamilton SR, Hochster HS.
Oncologist. 2016 Jan 19.

[Read More >>](#)

NTRK fusion oncogenes in pediatric papillary thyroid carcinoma in northeast United States.

Prasad ML, Vyas M, Horne MJ, Virk RK, Morotti R, Liu Z, Tallini G, Nikiforova MN, Christison-Lagay ER, Udelsman R, Dinauer CA, Nikiforov YE.
Cancer. 2016 Jan 19.

[Read More >>](#)

publication and grant
announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
renee.gaudette@yale.edu

 Forward to a Friend