

# DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

January 22, 2016

## Announcements

### Internal Grant Opportunities

The leadership of Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the 2016 Internal Grant 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:** Thursday, February 18 at 4:00 PM

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 >>](#)

### Annual Scientific Summit

Please save the date for Yale Cancer Center's Annual Scientific Summit on Wednesday, May 25 from 8:30am - 2:00pm at Yale's West Campus

*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:



**Myelodysplastic syndromes: from conducting clinical trials of novel therapies to evaluating real-life effectiveness of existing therapies**

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Conference Center. More details and a full agenda will be available soon.

## Notables

**The American Association of Immunologists (AAI)** honored **Dr. Richard Flavell** and **Dr. Lieping Chen**. Dr. Flavell will be presented with the AAI Excellence in Mentoring Award at the association's annual meeting in May. The award recognizes the importance of the mentor-trainee relationship for an individual's professional development and career.

Dr. Chen will receive the AAI-Steinman Award for Human Immunology Research, which recognizes "an individual who has made significant contributions to the understanding of immune processes underlying human disease pathogenesis, prevention, or therapy."

[Learn More >>](#)

**Nicole Deziel, PhD, MHS** received an **American Cancer Society Mentored Research Scholar Grant** entitled Exposure to Halogenated Aromatic Compounds and Risk of Thyroid Cancer. The award, for \$729,000, built upon an Institutional Research Grant she received from Yale Cancer Center in 2014. Nicole will work with Yawei Zhang, Melinda Irwin, and Ted Holford to use cutting-edge statistical techniques to evaluate whether exposures to individual or combinations of environmental pollutants called halogenated aromatic compounds are associated with increased risk of thyroid cancer in women participating in an ongoing Connecticut thyroid cancer study.

**Francine Foss, MD** received a \$200,000 grant from the **Spatz Foundation** to support her research proposal "Chemokine Receptor Antagonists for Cutaneous T cell Lymphoma."



**A Conversation with Vincent DeVita, MD: No Truce Sought in Cancer War: 'We Want to Cure This Disease'**

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**Smilow Network Brings World-Class Cancer Care to Communities**

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**Breast cancer screening guidelines: What women need to know**

[Read More >>](#)

## Research in the News

### Springing ovaries and removing fallopian tubes may cut cancer risk, but few have procedure

During hysterectomies for non-cancerous conditions, removing both fallopian tubes while keeping the ovaries may help protect against ovarian cancer while preserving hormonal levels, but few women receive this surgical option, according to a new study by Yale School of Medicine researchers.

Xu and her co-author, Dr. Vrunda Bhavsar Desai, conducted the study using data from the 2012 National Inpatient Sample. The team studied 20,635 adult women undergoing hysterectomy for benign conditions who were at low risk for ovarian cancer or future ovarian surgery.

[Read More >>](#)

### Cell-to-cell communication: More is better-up to a point

When it comes to communicating, cells perform better in crowds. When too many work together, though, the cells end up in a game of "telephone," passing on increasingly unreliable signals.

Researchers from Yale, Emory, Purdue, and other universities looked at how cells sense the chemical and mechanical cues that determine cell behavior. Two studies with their results - which have potential implications ranging from breast cancer treatment to semiconductor manufacturing - appeared in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Cells read these signals by sensing the concentration of a chemical and gravitating toward it, as if tracking a scent. "The cells want to find where there's more of this molecule," said Andre Levchenko, the John C. Malone Professor of Biomedical Engineering and director of the Yale Systems Biology Institute, one of the papers' authors. "They use the gradients as directional cues."



### Eliminate Excessive Government Regulation and Oversight of Cancer Programs

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## Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook

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### LATEST POSTS:

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most commonly sexually transmitted virus in the United States, and can cause cancer in both males and females. HPV accounts for nearly all cervical cancers and 30% of head and neck cancers.

Fortunately, HPV infections can be prevented with vaccination. The CDC recommends that most children ages 11 or 12 should be vaccinated.



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Last week, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force released a new set of mammography screening guidelines. These guidelines are designed to help women understand when and how frequently they should be screened for breast cancer. Watch Dr. Anees Chagpar, director of The Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, quickly explain these new guidelines

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### **Yale study pinpoints key genetic factor behind autoimmune diseases, cancer**

Scientists have long known that variations in specific human genes are associated with distinct patterns of disease, but an understanding of the molecular mechanisms has remained elusive until now. A team of Yale researchers has untangled that mystery for a key immune response gene, a discovery which could lead to more personalized treatment for conditions such as lupus and cancer.

Led by professor of medicine Dr. Richard Bucala, the researchers focused on the immune response gene known as MIF. Variants of MIF that cause over-expression of the gene contribute to a range of diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, infectious diseases, and cancer. By reproducing the variants in the lab and studying their function in cells, they identified the specific "transcription factor," or protein, that regulates the gene.

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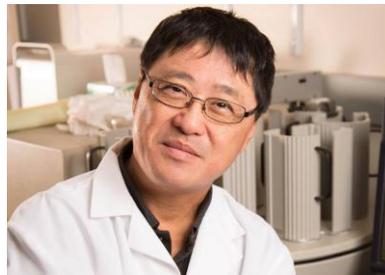
## **Employee Profile: Andrea Lucibello**

Andrea Lucibello, LCSW, is the Coordinator for Bereavement Services at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Her position is under the Palliative Care Service and Oncology Social Work Service at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Her background is in psychiatric social work and she has been with YNHH for 12 years. Andrea became



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Based on research at Yale Cancer Center, investors in one of the largest biotech fundraising rounds to date have committed \$65 million to the development of new cancer treatments. Through their investments in NextCure, new biopharmaceutical company, investors are supporting the research of Yale Professor Lieping Chen, who developed a novel drug discovery platform that will hopefully lead to new immunotherapy drugs to treat cancer.



[Read More >>](#)

Tune in to Yale Cancer Center "Answers" on WNPR today at 6 pm to listen to Heidi Larson and Courtney McGowan, certified specialists in oncology nutrition at Yale-New Haven Hospital, discuss how to take control of cancer through nutrition and exercise with Anees Chagpar, MD. Yale Cancer Center "Answers" is a weekly radio show focused on cancer screening, detection, treatment, and prevention to provide the latest information to listeners in Connecticut.



Airing Today:  
**Oncology  
Nutrition**

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involved with hospice care and bereavement counseling because of an experience within her own family. In her current role, she meets with patients at Smilow that have lost a loved one while they are going through cancer treatment.

Andrea facilitates the bereavement support groups offered by YNHH Bereavement Services. She is also available for one-on-one meetings and telephone bereavement support; whatever is most comfortable for those reaching out. Her goal is to help people heal by understanding the grief process and to develop ways for coping with their feelings, such as grief rituals for special days/holidays. People come to her because they have never experienced emotional pain in this way, and think there is something wrong with them. Andrea is there to validate for them that grief is a normal response to loss. Attention is also given to people who may have risk factors for complicated grief and recommendations are made for additional support.

"I am here as a person outside their family or friends to talk to and share their journey with. Many times people don't want to be a burden to their family, so they don't talk about their feelings, trying to block out the pain or ignore it, hoping it will go away," said Andrea. "But grief is a life-long journey and there is no quick fix, but with bereavement support we can help each person understand what will bring healing to him/her."

YNHH Bereavement Services is growing as more people learn about the importance of bereavement support. "Andrea is a wonderful addition as she provides us with considerable knowledge of bereavement. She has initiated several new programs to facilitate a normal grief process for family member who need assistance. Family members are expressing real appreciation of these programs," said Eileen Cain, MSW, Director of Social Work, Yale-New Haven Hospital and Medical Center.

## Funding and Award Opportunities

## Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

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### LATEST TWEETS:

 The power of #photography to convey the human experience can astonish and inspire. <http://bit.ly/1P7Su0o>  
@wptnews@YNHH#Pediatric#cancer

 Yale Doctor Finds Inspiration in Obama's Cancer Challenge  
<http://www.tinyurl.com/hgadkroy9x> @royherbstyale

 Myelodysplastic syndromes: clinical trials to real-life effectiveness of existing therapies  
<http://bit.ly/1JkNp4y> Dr. Amer Zeidan

 A possible #flu vaccine strategy for some #cancer patient  
<http://bit.ly/1S3YPuI>  
#myeloma#hematology@WTNH story by @jocelynmaminta

 @AneesChagpar reminds us that #breastcancer#Screening guidelines are not one-size-fits all <http://bit.ly/1OuHPLG> . #bcsm

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## Closer to Free

**closer to free**

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

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## Calendar

**January 22; 12PM**  
**YCC Research in Progress Series**  
NP4-101B

### **The RTFCCR/LLS Patient-Focused Immunotherapy Research Grant**

In a joint collaboration, the RTFCCR and LLS aim to stimulate innovative and clinically relevant cancer research that has the highest potential for near-term patient impact in terms of clinical application, therapeutic outcomes and quality of life. With this competitive grant, the RTFCCR and LLS aspire to advance clinical cancer research worldwide that aims to "educate" a person's immune system to fight blood cancers.

Potential projects will include, but not be limited to, the following points of interest:

Characterization of the status of the immune system in blood cancers patients with the purpose of stratifying them on conventional or emerging immunotherapies for the treatment of blood cancers; understand how or if immune system impairment can lead to blood cancers. Development of novel immunotherapeutics including conventional antibodies, immuncheckpoint inhibitors, bi-specific T-cell engaging biologics, adoptive cell therapies, and vaccines for use in clinical trials. Development of repurposed agents that engage the immune system. Examine improvements to the quality of life during or after immunotherapy for the treatment of blood cancers.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** January 25, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship Program Award**

The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science program recognizes and rewards the contributions women make in STEM fields and identifies exceptional women researchers committed to serving as role models for younger generations. More than 2,250 women scientists in over 110 countries have been recognized since the program began in 1998.

In the US, the For Women In Science fellowship program awards five post-doctoral women scientists annually with grants of \$60,000 each. Applicants are selected from a variety of fields, including the life and physical/material sciences,

*Biomarkers for Identifying Breast Cancer Patients Who Respond to Treatment: Are Mutations the Answer*

Christos Hatzis, MD

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**January 24; 6PM**

### **Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

*The Origin of Ovarian Cancer*

Gil Mor, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**January 25; 11AM**

### **YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**

SHM I-304

*The Tumor Associated-Variant RAD51 G151D Induces a Hyperrecombination Phenotype*

Carolyn Marsden, PhD

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**January 25; 4PM**

### **Employee and Family Resources**

Park Street Seminar Room, 202

*Mindfulness Solutions: A Class for Caregivers*

[Read More >>](#)

**January 26; 9:30AM**

### **Pathology Research in Progress Talks**

TAC N-107

TBA

Michael Stankewich, PhD and Jiesi Luo, PhD

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**January 26; 12PM**

### **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

*Lung Cancer Screening*

Lynn Tanoue, MD

*Real-Life Clinical Effectiveness of Therapies for Elderly Patients with Myelodysplastic Syndromes*

Amer Zeidan, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**January 26; 5:00 PM**

### **Breast Clinical Lecture Series**

technology (including computer science), engineering, and mathematics.

I invite you to collaborate with us and spread the word to your community about this special fellowship program for exceptional female post-doctoral researchers who are also committed to serving as role models for the next generation of girls in STEM.

**Application Deadline:** February 5, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### **NCCN and Immunogen**

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 >>](#)

### **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

Smilow 1st Floor Conference Room

*Utility Of The "Mini-Shave" Technique In Reducing Positive Margin Rates After Partial Mastectomy and Factors Associated with Positive (+) Margin Status after Breast Conserving Surgery (BCS) in Women with Breast Cancer*

Jonathan Hanna

*Factors associated with intraoperative evaluation for sentinel node biopsy in breast cancer patients*

Sanaea Bhagwagar

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### **Pathology Grand Rounds**

Fitkin Amphitheater

*mRNA Processing and Links to Human Disease*

James L Manley, PhD

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**January 29; 12PM**

### **YCC Research in Progress Series**

NP4-101B

TBA

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**January 31; 6PM**

### **Yale Cancer Center Answers**

TAC N-107

*WNPR Fertility Preservation and Cancer*

Cindy Duke, MD and Ryan Martin, MD

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**February 1; 12PM**

### **YCC Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar Series**

BCMM 206/208

*Regulation of Histone Demethylase JARID1B in Mouse Melanoma*

Shang-Min Zhang, PhD

*Specific Inhibitors of Lysine Demethylase 5A*

Molly Gale

[Read More >>](#)

**February 1; 1:30PM**

### **Yale Cancer Biology Institute Research Seminar**

Hope 110

*Epigenetic regulation of T regulatory cell stability and function by trimethylation of lysine 27 of histone H3*

institutional overhead or indirect costs.

**Application Deadline:** March 16, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

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## Recent Publications

### Health information needs and preferences in relation to survivorship care plans of long-term cancer survivors in the American Cancer Society's Study of Cancer Survivors-I.

Playdon M, Ferrucci LM, McCorkle R, Stein KD, Cannady R, Sanft T, Cartmel B.

J Cancer Surviv. 2016 Jan 7.

[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 >>](#)

### Trends in end-of-life cancer care in the Medicare program.

Wang SY, Hall J, Pollack CE, Adelson K, Bradley EH, Long JB, Gross CP.

J Geriatr Oncol. 2016 Jan 15.

[Read More >>](#)

### Exercise adherence in a randomized trial of exercise on aromatase inhibitor arthralgias in

Michel DuPage, PhD

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### February 1; 4PM

#### Employee and Family Resources

Park Street Seminar Room, 202

*Mindfulness Solutions: A Class for Caregivers*

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### February 2; 9:30AM

#### Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Amalia Avila Figueroa, PhD and Robert Amezcuita

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### February 2; 12PM

#### Pathology Research in Progress Talks

Park Street Auditorium

*The Impact of Precision Medicine on Cancer Treatment Decisions: Insights from Encounters with Breast Cancer*

Steven Katz, MD, MPH

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### February 4; 12:30PM

#### Pathology Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheater

*SWI/SNF (BAF) Complex Mutations in Cancer: Mechanisms and Therapeutic Vulnerabilities*

Charles Roberts, MD, PhD

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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)

**breastcancer survivors: the Hormones and Physical Exercise (HOPE) study.**

Arem H, Sorkin M, Cartmel B, Fiellin M, Capozza S, Harrigan M, Ercolano E, Zhou Y, Sanft T, Gross C, Schmitz K, Neogi T, Hershman D, Ligibel J, Irwin ML.

J Cancer Surviv. 2016 Jan 19.

[Read More >>](#)

**Role of non-coding sequence variants in cancer.**

Khurana E, Fu Y, Chakravarty D, Demichelis F, Rubin MA, Gerstein M.

Nat Rev Genet. 2016 Jan 19.

[Read More >>](#)

**Laparoscopic Resection of The Diaphragmatic Tumor Nodule for Management of Recurrent Endometrial Cancer.**

Menderes G, Schwab C, Black J, Silasi DA.

J Minim Invasive Gynecol. 2016 Jan 8.

[Read More >>](#)

**Anxiety, pain, and nausea during the treatment of standard-risk childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia: A prospective, longitudinal study from the Children's Oncology Group.**

Dupuis LL, Lu X, Mitchell HR, Sung L, Devidas M, Mattano LA Jr, Carroll WL, Winick N, Hunger SP, Maloney KW, Kadan-Lottick NS.

Cancer. 2016 Jan 15.

[Read More >>](#)

**Pancreaticoduodenectomy for locally advanced colon cancer in hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer.**

Zhu R, Grisotti G, Salem RR, Khan SA.

World J Surg Oncol. 2016 Jan 15;14(1):12.

[Read More >>](#)

**Velocity and doubling time of prostate-specific antigen: mathematics can matter.**

Uchio E, Aslan M, Ko J, Wells CK, Radhakrishnan K, Concato J.

J Investig Med. 2016 Jan 14.

[Read More >>](#)

**LIN-28B/let-7a/IGF-II Axis Molecular Subtypes are Associated with Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Prognosis.**

Lu L, Katsaros D, Canuto EM, Biglia N, Risch HA, Yu H.

Gynecol Oncol. 2016 Jan 2.

[Read More >>](#)