

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

May 13, 2016

Announcements

Celebrating our Nurses

Smilow Cancer Hospital celebrated Oncology Nursing Month earlier this week with a breakfast to honor our nursing team, and to present the 2016 awards. In Celebration of our nurses, patients, family, and friends at Smilow Cancer Hospital made 1,000 origami cranes with our staff. Ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish - some stories believe you are granted eternal good luck, instead of just one wish, such as long life or recovery from illness or injury. Each crane was then hand-dipped in resin to gift to our nurses as a reminder of the hope and healing they give to our patients each day.

The 7th annual Oncology/Research Awards for Clinical Excellence were given to **Eileen Holt, RN** and to **Abigail Flynn, RN**. Eileen cares for patients in the Smilow Radiation Oncology office in Hamden and was nominated by her entire team for her advanced clinical knowledge and compassionate care. Abigail is an inpatient nurse on NP 11 who was nominated by her colleagues as an "outstanding charge nurse, preceptor, and innovator. She consistently focuses on service excellence."

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 Heads to Capitol Hill for AACR's Hill Day

[Read More >>](#)

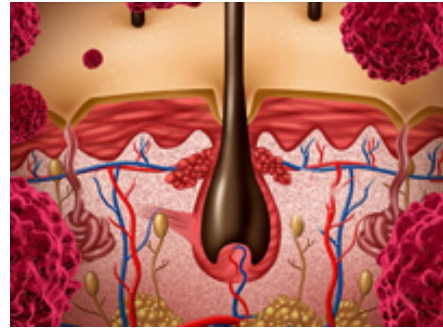


Cathy Lyons with Eileen Holt



Cathy Lyons with Abigail Flynn

The 5th annual Oncology Patient Care Associate Educational Awards were awarded to **Liana Braga** and **Marybel Liz**. Liana works on NP 12 and provides outstanding support to patients and families. She is currently working on her nursing degree at UCONN. Marybel works in our North Haven Care Center and was nominated by her colleagues as being "always cheerful, reliable, kind, and considerate to the team and to the patients." Marybel is in nursing school at Gateway.



Renalase: uncloaking melanoma cancer cells

[Read More >>](#)



AACR Strongly Supports Yesterday's Decision by the FDA to Regulate All Tobacco Products, From Electronic Cigarettes to Cigars and Hookahs

[Read More >>](#)



Cathy Lyons with Liana Braga



Cathy Lyons with Marybel Liz

The 3rd annual Claire Puklin award for Clinical Excellence in Urologic Nursing was presented to **Nancy Derienzo, RN**. Four physicians and her nursing colleagues nominated Nancy for outstanding patient care and teaching. Toby Chai, MD commented, "Claire would be proud to see Nancy get this award."



New medical building offers patient-centered care

[Read More >>](#)



Dr. Geschwind on Locoregional Therapy for Patients With Liver Cancer

[Read More >>](#)

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LATEST POSTS:

Fae Willett, a nurse at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Fairfield, was honored with a Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing. The Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut recognized Fae for her significant impact on patient care, going "beyond the call," and demonstrating



Cathy Lyons with Nancy Derienzo

Daniel Petrylak Appointed Chair of PRC

I am pleased to announce that Howard Hochster and I have appointed Dr. Daniel Petrylak as the chair of our Protocol Review Committee (PRC). As you know, Dan is the DART Leader for our Prostate and Urologic Cancers Program and is the principal investigator on several trials for prostate and bladder cancer. In his new role, he will oversee the scientific merit, progress, and priority of all oncology clinical trials at Smilow Cancer Hospital and in our Care Centers. I would like to thank Dr. Hari Deshpande for his guidance and dedication on the PRC as interim chair, and for his continued leadership on the committee as Vice Chair.

QOPI Certification Awarded

Smilow Cancer Hospital and all of our Care Centers now have the prestigious QOPI certification from ASCO. Our Fairfield and Trumbull Care Centers received their certification last week. Thank you to the entire team of physicians, nurses, and staff at the Care Centers for their effort, and to Monica Fradkin for coordinating the applications, and also to Lisa Shomsky, Nicole St. Onge, Mandeep Smith, Howard Cohen, and Nara Sinanis for their assistance. We can now proudly say that all of our Smilow Cancer Hospital locations are QOPI certified, demonstrating our commitment to quality, reduction in errors, and adaption of best practices.

Notables

Mark Lemmon, PhD, the David A. Sackler Professor of Pharmacology and co-director of the Yale Cancer

excellence. Fae, a registered nurse, was nominated for this award by the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Fairfield.

Congratulations, Fae!



[Read More >>](#)

"Groups like this, that work with families while they go through this, you realize that even during horrible times, they're such blessings," Barbara Alter said. "You see people rallying around you, holding you up."

Learn more about Circle of Care and their display of portraits at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Connecticut's State Capitol.



[Read More >>](#)

Mary Ann Gunderman was vacationing on Cape Cod when a wave hit her in the back of her head. That night, she suffered from sharp pains in her jaw. Dentist after dentist could not resolve Mary Ann's pain. When the pain intensified, an oral surgeon ordered an MRI, which found a brain tumor. Yale Cancer Center's Dr. Jennifer Moliterno Gunel, a member of the nationally recognized Brain Tumor Program at

Biology Institute, has been elected a **Fellow of the Royal Society**, the United Kingdom's national academy of science. The Society recognizes Dr. Lemmon's research into basic biochemistry and biophysics questions, which has yielded significant insights within the fields of cell signaling and cancer research.

[Learn More >>](#)

Dr. Stephan Ariyan, has been named as the **Frank F. Kanthak Professor in Plastic Surgery**. Dr. Ariyan is an internationally known surgeon who specializes in the surgery of the head and neck and malignant melanoma. He is the Clinical Program leader of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Melanoma Program.

[Learn More >>](#)

Fae Willett, RN, a nurse at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Fairfield, was honored with a **Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing**. The Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut recognized Fae for her significant impact on patient care, going "beyond the call," and demonstrating excellence. Fae, a registered nurse, was nominated for this award by the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Fairfield.

Amy Vollono, RN, a nurse on our inpatient unit on NP 11 is the recipient of a **DAISY Award** from the DAISY Foundation for her outstanding compassion, advocacy, and care of patients. Amy was nominated for the award by one of her colleagues.

Joan A. Steitz, PhD, Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Virus and other Infection-Associated Cancers Research Program, will be honored on May 26 with the **Jonathan Kraft Prize for Excellence in Cancer Research** at Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center.

[Learn More >>](#)

Development Update

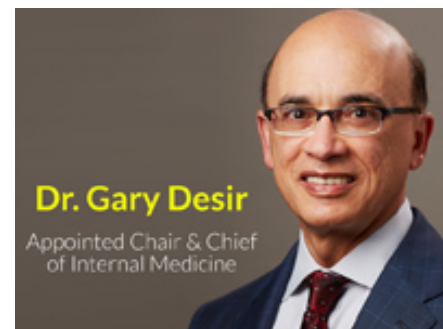
Smilow Cancer Hospital, removed the benign tumor during an eight-hour operation. Mary Ann noted, "After I met Dr. Moliterno and all the experts at Yale, I became very calm....They made me feel hopeful."



[Read More >>](#)

Dr. Gary Desir, a physician-scientist who has made major contributions to cancer research, has been selected as the next chair of the Department of Internal Medicine and chief of Internal Medicine at Yale New Haven Hospital. Dr. Desir was born in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti and after high school, he immigrated to the United States to attend college and medical school. Well respected as researcher, Dr. Desir identified and named renalase, a new growth factor, which can facilitate the development of cancer when dysregulated. Dr. Desir has also developed treatments to help modulate renalase signaling in cancer.

Congratulations Dr. Desir!



[Read More >>](#)

Celebrated artist Richard Lytle, whose work hangs in the Museum of Modern Art, teamed up with Girl Scout Troop 50889 in Westport, CT to create "Lily



Dr. Roy Herbst with Tiffany and Jeff Wigbels

Natalie Allen, International Anchor for CNN hosted this year's Hope Ball, the annual gala of the American Cancer Society, which took place at the Delta Flight Museum in Atlanta on Saturday, April 30th. Allen was there to celebrate Jeff Wigbels, the evening's honoree, and to speak out about the cancer that her own mother had suffered.

Nine years ago, Jeff Wigbels was diagnosed with non-smoking Stage IV lung cancer. Today he is cancer-free. In his speech, Jeff spoke at length about the treatment he received from Yale Cancer Center's Dr. Roy Herbst, calling Dr. Herbst his quarterback. Stressing the critical need for more funding for cancer research, he ended his moving speech by stating, "Dr. Herbst, your lung cancer research has magnified my hope."

Attendees at the gala included supporters of the American Cancer Society, Jeff's friends and family, and many of his caregivers over the years from various cancer centers around the country. The American Cancer Society produced a meaningful tribute video about Jeff that also featured his wife, Tiffany and their two lovely children, who also spoke during the gala.

Entertainment was provided by a group of aerial acrobats and a funk band. Attendees danced until closing. The event featured a silent auction, a jewelry pull and a snappy live auction as well. By the end of the evening, the American Cancer Society reported that they had grossed nearly \$600,000 from the 400+ party-goers.

Pads." Just as lily pads buoy frogs in ponds, the lily pads created by Troop 50889 are intended to lift the spirits of pediatric cancer patients. Designed to be placed at the bottom of IV poles, the lily pads are wooden seats with artistic flourishes - this way young patients can sit and move around the hospital during treatment. All together, the girls of Troop 50889 created 24 seats, which will be presented to Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital next month.



[Read More >>](#)

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LATEST TWEETS:

YCC Smilow @YNHH on Capitol Hill thanking CT lawmakers for supporting #cancerresearch @AACR@AACI_Cancer #ncrm2016

David Stern, @DrRoyHerbstYale, & @HH_Oncodr (Howard Hochster) rep YCC and Smilow @YNHH at Hill Day in DC #NCRM2016

"Accelerating Progress against Cancer with Science and Collaboration" by @NCIDrDoug

May is #bladdercancer awareness month. Learn more from the NCI Bladder Cancer

Employee Profile: Nicole Weld

Nicole Weld is an Oncology Social Worker in the Radiation Department at Smilow's main campus and also at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Orange. In her position, she interacts with patients with different types of cancer, and therefore, a wide array of issues and concerns. Her goal is to see as many new patients as possible and evaluate what their needs are and how she can best help them moving forward.




"We go through the cancer journey with patients, from the day they are diagnosed to after they have completed treatment, if needed," said Nicole. "I am an advocate for my patients as well as their family members, because cancer impacts everyone. They are involved in the process right along with the patient, and need support in different ways."

Nicole commented that the transition into a life after treatment can be a joyful, yet stressful time for patients. New worries arise such as a fear of recurrence, and if they are living a healthy lifestyle. Social workers do not just see patients when they are diagnosed, it can be a long-term relationship that continues after treatment has ended. There are mental, physical and spiritual effects they can be dealing with long after treatment.

Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Manager of Oncology Social Work at Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented, "Nicole is a huge asset to the oncology social work team. Her eagerness and enthusiasm to help others is unparalleled. She always goes above and beyond and the patient feedback illustrates this. She is inspiring and energizes others. The patients are so fortunate to have Nicole as their advocate and we are lucky to have her as part of our team."

Funding & Award Opportunities

 A Yale-discovered protein offers clues to #melanoma and #pancreaticcancer Renalase: unclocking melanoma cancer cells

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

May 13; 12PM

YCC Research in Progress Series

NP4-101 B

Bone Density Screening in Early Stage Breast Cancer

Jamie Stratton, MD

Investor's Manifesto for Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Jaymin Patel, MD

[Read More >>](#)

May 13; 1PM

YCC Virus and Other Infection-Associated Cancers Research Program

SHM I-304

Selective Induction of DNA Double-Strand Breaks in HPV-Associated Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma From 5-Azacytidine

Michael Hajek, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

May 15; 6PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Early Phase Clinical Trials

Amer Zeidan, MD

[Read More >>](#)

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 >>](#)

2016 AACR Distinguished Lecture on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities

Funded by Susan G. Komen®, the recipient of this award will receive a \$5,000 honorarium and present a 45 minute lecture at the Ninth AACR International Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved.

Application Deadline: May 18, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research

Yale may nominate one (1) candidate for the Foundation's conventional or mainstream research program and one (1) candidate for the Foundation's integrative research program using complementary therapies or botanical agents. Funding will be awarded in the amount of \$75,000 per year for a period of 3 years (\$67,500 direct costs per year). (Total: \$225,000)

Purpose: The Foundation funds cutting-edge research in the fields of leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers of the blood. Funds support promising scientists who are applying novel and state-of-the-art techniques to address fundamental problems in their genesis and treatment. Of interest are innovative clinical and basic science research that will lead to novel therapeutic approaches that could replace, or be used in combination with existing effective therapies. Focus is on projects for cancer prevention, detection and treatment that are most likely to be translated into clinical trials within a 3-5 year period.

Internal Application Deadline: June 2, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) Career Development Award Principal Investigator (PI):

Independent early-career investigator within 10 years after completion of his/her terminal degree (excluding

May 16; 11AM

YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-304

DNA Polymerase Beta Functions in DNA End-joining

Sreerupa Ray, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

May 16; 12PM

YCC Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program

LEPH, Rm 216

Estimation of Health Benefits from Prevention: Savings of Loss-of-Life Expectancy, Quality of Life, Functional Disability, and Healthcare Expenditures

Jung-Der Wang, MD, ScD

[Read More >>](#)

May 17; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Erin Boisvert, PhD

CLOCK S845 Phosphorylation Modulates Gene Transcription and Cell Signaling

Amelia Luciano

[Read More >>](#)

May 17; 10:30AM

Therapeutic Radiology Special Seminar

SHM I-116

Mitochondrial DNA Loops the Loop

Ian Holt, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

May 17; 12PM

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

EGFR, Unsweetened

Joseph Contessa, MD, PhD

Geographic Variation in End-of-Life Care: Insights from Health Services Research

Shiyi Wang, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

time spent in residency or on family medical leave) by the time of the application submission deadline.

Designated Mentor: Investigators at or above the level of Associate Professor (or equivalent); must have a proven publication and funding record in cancer research.

Application Deadline: June 8, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) IDEA Award

Independent investigator with a faculty-level appointment (or equivalent).

- **Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.**
- Supports innovative, untested, high-risk/potentially high-reward concepts, theories, paradigms, and/or methods in cancer research that are relevant to Service members, their families, and other military beneficiaries
- Emphasis on innovation and military relevance/impact
- **Must** address at least one of the FY16 PRCRP Topic Areas
- **Must** address at least one of the FY16 PRCRP Military Relevance Focus Areas
- Preliminary data not required

Application Deadline: June 8, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) Translational Team Science Award

At least two and up to three PIs must partner in one overarching correlative or translational research study.

At least one of the PIs is encouraged to be a military or Department of Veterans Affairs investigator.

- **Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.**
- Supports translational correlative studies associated with an **ongoing or completed** clinical trial and/or translational study that can lead to a future clinical trial or clinical application in cancer research that is relevant to Service members, their families, and other military beneficiaries

May 18; 12PM

YCC Cancer Immunology Research Program Seminar

SHM I-116

An eMERging Target in Cancer Immunotherapy

Carla Rothlin, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

May 18; 7:30PM

YNHH Auxiliary Skin Cancer Event

Whitney Center, Hamden

Skin Cancer: Early Detection, Treatment Options, and the Molecular Origins

Oscar Colegio, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

May 19; 2PM

YCC/SCH Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Meeting

CGPP, Suites 107-109

Obesity, Aspirin, and Risk of Colorectal Cancer in Carriers of Hereditary Colorectal Cancer: A Prospective Investigation in the CAPP2 Study

Sue Chmael, APRN

[Read More >>](#)

May 20; 1PM

YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program

SHM I-116

Targeting Wee1 and Aurora A Kinase in HPV-Negative Head and Neck Cancer

Barbara Burtness, MD

[Read More >>](#)

May 22; 6PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR 90.5

Lung Cancer Screening Updates

Frank Detterbeck, MD

[Read More >>](#)

May 23; 11AM

YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Program

- Not intended to support high throughput screenings, sequencing, etc.
- **Must** address at least one of the FY16 PRCRP Topic Areas
- **Must** address at least one of the FY16 PRCRP Military Relevance Focus Areas
- Preliminary data is **required**

Application Deadline: June 8, 2016
[Learn More >>](#)

NCCN: Phase I/II Clinical Trials and/or Correlative Studies with Duvelisib for Hematologic Malignancies

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) has received a 2 Million Dollar research grant from Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (hereafter, "Grantor") to support NCCN Member Institution faculty for the performance of clinical and/or correlative studies of duvelisib in the treatment of hematologic malignancies. NCCN will serve as the funding organization for these grants that are available only to NCCN investigators.

Application Deadline: June 19, 2016
[Learn More >>](#)

NCCN and Peregrine Pharmaceuticals Grant

National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it has received a research grant from Peregrine Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to support NCCN investigator initiated clinical and correlative studies of bavituximab in combination with other therapeutic strategies for the treatment of solid tumors in adult patients. The overall aim of this RFP is to develop innovative studies of bavituximab to help determine the role of bavituximab in expanding efficacy and/or improving outcomes for patients treated with immunotherapy or with modalities that increase tumor antigenicity.

Application Deadline: June 23, 2016
[Learn More >>](#)

Damon Runyon Innovation Award

The Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award is designed to provide support for the next generation of exceptionally creative thinkers with "high-risk/high-reward" ideas that have the potential to significantly impact our understanding of and/or approaches to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of cancer.

The Innovation Award is specifically designed to provide funding to extraordinary early career researchers who have an innovative new idea but lack sufficient preliminary data to obtain traditional funding. It is not designed to fund incremental advances. The research

SHM I-304

DNA Double-Strand Break Repair by Nonhomologous End-Joining

Dylan Reid

[Read More >>](#)

May 23; 1:30PM

Yale Cancer Biology Institute / Yale Cancer Therapeutic Accelerator Program

Hope 110

Chemical Genetics and Cancer Drug Discovery

Arvin Dar, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

May 24; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress

TAC N-107

TBA

Lauren Moore and Britta Kunkemoeller

[Read More >>](#)

May 24; 12PM

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

TBA

Andre Levchenko, PhD and Sidi Chen, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

May 24; 5PM

YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series

Smilow first floor conference room, 1-330

[Read More >>](#)

May 25; 8AM

Yale Cancer Center's Annual Retreat 2016

Yale's West Campus

Translational Research and DNA Damage and Repair

Leona Samson, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

May 25; 5PM

supported by the award must be novel, exceptionally creative and, if successful, have the strong potential for high impact in the cancer field.

Application Deadline: July 1, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

Fibroblasts and myofibroblasts of the intestinal lamina propria in physiology and disease.

Roulis M, Flavell RA.

Differentiation. 2016 May 7.

[Read More >>](#)

Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia: Are we finally solving the identity crisis?

Nazha A, Prebet T, Gore S, Zeidan AM.

Blood Rev. 2016 Apr 25.

[Read More >>](#)

Talin tension sensor reveals novel features of focal adhesion force transmission and mechanosensitivity.

Kumar A, Ouyang M, Van den Dries K, McGhee EJ, Tanaka K, Anderson MD, Groisman A, Goult BT, Anderson KI, Schwartz MA.

J Cell Biol. 2016 May 9;213(3):371-83.

[Read More >>](#)

FOLFIRINOX for locally advanced pancreatic cancer: a systematic review and patient-level meta-analysis.

Suker M, Beumer BR, Sadot E, Marthey L, Faris JE, Mellon EA, El-Rayes BF, Wang-Gillam A, Lacy J, Hosein PJ, Moorcraft SY, Conroy T, Hohla F, Allen P, Taieb J, Hong TS, Shridhar R, Chau I, van Eijck CH, Koerkamp BG.

Lancet Oncol. 2016 May 6.

[Read More >>](#)

Lung cancer screening.

Tanoue LT.

Curr Opin Pulm Med. 2016 May 6.

Yale Pediatric Ethics Program Seminar

Cohen Auditorium

Cassandra C. Revisited: The Ethical Implications of Minor Decision Making in the Healthcare Context

Jay Sicklick, JD

[Read More >>](#)

May 26; 9AM

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

NP4 101-A

Targeting DNA Repair in Oncology

Philip Connell, MD

[Read More >>](#)

May 26; 2PM

YCC/SCH Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Meeting

CGPP, Suites 107-109

[Read More >>](#)

May 27; 12PM

YCC Research in Progress Series

NP4-101 B

TBA

Janaki Parameswaran, MD and Joseph Sokhn, MD

[Read More >>](#)

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

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Digital chromoendoscopy utilization in clinical practice: A survey of gastroenterologists in Connecticut.

Langberg KM, Parikh ND, Deng Y, Ciarlegio M, Laine L, Aslanian HR.

World J Gastrointest Pharmacol Ther. 2016 May 6;7(2):268-73.

[Read More >>](#)

Pulmonary dose-volume predictors of radiation pneumonitis following stereotactic body radiation therapy.

Harder EM, Park HS, Chen ZJ, Decker RH.

Pract Radiat Oncol. 2016 Feb 4.

[Read More >>](#)

Structural Basis for Noncanonical Substrate Recognition of Cofilin/ADF Proteins by LIM Kinases.

Hamill S, Lou HJ, Turk BE, Boggon TJ.

Mol Cell. 2016 May 5;62(3):397-408.

[Read More >>](#)

Who benefits from chemoradiation in stage III-IVA endometrial cancer? An analysis of the National Cancer Data Base.

Lester-Coll NH, Park HS, Rutter CE, Corso CD, Young MR, Ratner ES, Litkouhi B, Decker RH, Yu JB, Damast S.

Gynecol Oncol. 2016 May 2.

[Read More >>](#)

A Multicomponent Intervention Including Texting to Promote Tobacco Abstinence in Emergency Department Smokers: A Pilot Study.

Bernstein SL, Rosner J, Toll B.

Acad Emerg Med. 2016 May 4.

[Read More >>](#)