

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

April 21, 2017

Announcements

SU2C Dream Team

Along with four other centers, Yale Cancer Center was awarded a Stand Up 2 Cancer (SU2C) Colorectal Cancer Dream Team grant. I am privileged to serve as co-Leader, working closely along Kurt Schlaper, MD, PhD, Director of the YCC Translational Immuno-Oncology Laboratory; Luis A. Diaz, MD, of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Lewis Cantley, PhD, director of the Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital; and Zhenghe Wang, PhD, of the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. Together, we are committed to finding new ways to care for patients with colorectal cancer, and providing more hope to them and to their families. Over 50,000 patients will die from colorectal cancer each year, and with the support of the SU2C team, up to \$12 million in funding will support new research endeavors to find new treatments for our patients.



(l-r) Stand Up to Cancer Colorectal Cancer Dream Team Co-Leaders Dr. Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH, and Lewis

from the desk of
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Smilow Cancer
Hospital

Yale **CANCER
CENTER**

A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute



Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from
Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

Cantley, PhD; Team Leader Luis A. Diaz, MD; Co-Leader Zhenghe Wang, MD; and Dream Team Principal Ryan B. Corcoran, MD, PhD

Harriet Kluger Named Associate Director

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Harriet Kluger will assume an expanded role in the Cancer Center as our incumbent Associate Director for Education, Training, and Faculty Development. As you know, Harriet has served as the Assistant Director for Education. As Associate Director for Education, Training, and Faculty Development, Harriet will continue to oversee our initiatives in Education, including training, career planning, and mentoring of our trainees in YCC. In her expanded role, Harriet will also coordinate programs focused on faculty development, including mentoring, career development, and promotion of both clinical and research faculty, the advancement of women faculty, and the advancement of minority faculty.



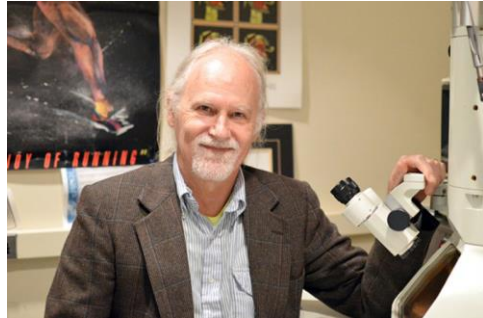
Critical to the mission of our Center are both the development of the next generation of outstanding physicians and scientists and advancing the careers of our clinical and research faculty. We are most fortunate to have Harriet oversee our efforts in Education, Training, and Faculty Development and work with our training program and faculty leaders to identify new opportunities to support and promote our trainees and faculty.

Please join me in congratulating Harriet in her new role.

Head and Neck Cancer Screenings

LATEST ARTICLES:

Going Viral: Using a Deadly Disease to Kill Ovarian Cancer



[Read More >>](#)

Why Scientists Must Share Their Failures



[Read More >>](#)

Dr. Yu on Trials of Moderate Hypofractionation in Prostate Cancer



[Read More >>](#)

Smilow Cancer Hospital recently hosted our annual head and neck cancers screening event in New Haven. Our physicians screened 226 people, and 29 people were referred for formal follow-up. On Tuesday, April 25, a screening will be hosted at our Smilow Care Center in Waterbury and on May 4, the final event will be held in Trumbull. Thank you to the entire Head and Neck Cancers team for a wonderful service!



Celebration of Survivorship with Kareem Abdul-Jabaar

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital have partnered with Southern Connecticut State University for an exciting event and presentation with Kareem Abdul-Jabaar on Friday, May 5 at 7pm. Our patients will be invited to attend this special celebration of cancer survivorship, and we would like to extend the invitation to our staff as well. Limited tickets are available.

Please send your contact information and ticket request by email to canceranswers@yale.edu to reserve up to two tickets to the event by Wednesday, April 26. Tickets will be distributed through a lottery system on Friday, April 28.

Care Centers Focus on Quality

On March 31, the Smilow Cancer Hospital Network completed a one-day ASCO workshop, which focused on quality improvement and Lean/Six Sigma system redesign. Eleven project teams with physicians and staff from every Smilow Care Center

Early tests show Opdivo triples life expectancy in lung-cancer patients



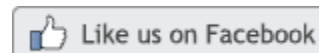
[Read More >>](#)

People Addicted to Tanning May Have Other Addictions, Study Finds



[Read More >>](#)

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook



LATEST POSTS:

Milford, Connecticut resident Phyllis Medvedow, who has been lung cancer free for ten years and counting, attributes much of her story to her positive outlook. "I think one of the important things too for me was not to dwell on the cancer, whether I'm at the beginning of it or any part of it. And that was a little hard to do sometimes," she said. "But not dwelling on it and allowing myself to think of happy things, think of things the kids have done, the grandchildren have done, obliterates the

and St. Francis Hospital participated in the event to focus on quality initiatives in the Smilow Care Centers. Each team will utilize the tools and resources from the training to execute a site-specific quality improvement initiative. This is part of a collaboration with ASCO and is a pilot for ASCO's Quality Training Workshops in the community.



Lung SPORE Workshop

The Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer will be hosting the annual Inter-SPORE workshop here at Yale this year. We invite anyone interested to join us June 21-22 to discuss current trends in translational lung cancer research, plan collaborations, and design new projects. The meeting agenda will be driven by the abstracts submitted.

Abstract Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2017

[Click Here to Submit Your Abstract](#)

[Click Here to Register](#)

Notables

In an announcement from Richard D'Aquila, **Catherine Lyons**, RN, MS, NEA-BC, was recently promoted to **Vice President for Patient Services** at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Congratulations to Cathy on her recent promotion and well-deserved recognition!

Liane Philpotts, MD, and **Regina Hooley, MD**, have published **Breast Tomosynthesis**, a reference guide on the latest developments with correlative findings, practical interpretation tips,

rest of it for now, and I think that makes a big difference."



[Read More >>](#)

An estimated 8,500 cases of testicular cancer are diagnosed annually in the United States, and is the leading cancer in men aged 15-44. Testicular cancer is unique in its ability to grow rapidly, with tumors capable of doubling in size in just 10-30 days, and early detection is key to successful treatment and a good prognosis. Tell a man in your life to practice good habits including regular doctor visits and monthly self-checks.



[Read More >>](#)

A new Yale Cancer Center study has shed light on human papillomavirus (HPV) associated head and neck squamous cell carcinomas. The study, performed by a team of Yale Cancer Center researchers, identified a certain subset of these cancers that included mutations on two genes, and led to a better prognosis.

physics, and information on how tomosynthesis differs from conventional 2-D mammography.

Dr. Angelique Levi, Assistant Professor of Pathology, and **Darryl T. Martin, PhD**, Associate Research Scientist in Urology, were awarded a **pilot grant** for their research project, "MRI-Targeted Prostate Cancer Nanomarker" by the Department of Urology during their annual research symposium.

Research in the News

IDH-mutant Cancers May Be More Amenable to PARP Inhibitors than IDH Inhibitors

Tumors with mutations in the proteins isocitrate dehydrogenase-1 or -2 (IDH1/2) exhibited features similar to BRCA-mutant tumors and were more likely to respond better to PARP inhibitors than to IDH inhibitors.

"IDH is an enzyme that plays a role in the citric acid cycle, the energy-producing unit of the cells, and IDH mutations are commonly found in brain tumors and some leukemias," said Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD.

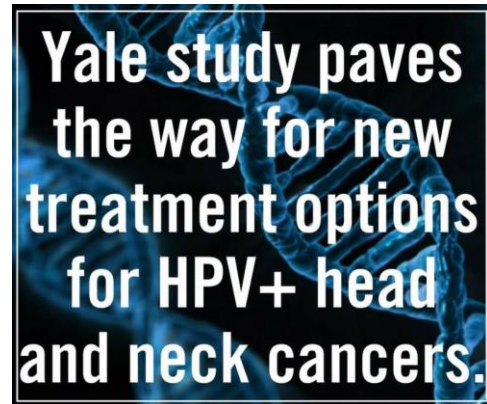
"We found that the oncometabolites produced by IDH mutations induce a state in the cell where DNA repair is profoundly inhibited. This essentially makes them quite similar to breast and ovarian cancers which harbor mutations in key DNA repair genes such as BRCA1 and BRCA2," Bindra said.

"Our data strongly suggest that exploiting this DNA repair deficiency in IDH-mutant tumors, rather than inhibiting the function of the mutant IDH proteins, likely will be a better strategy for treating brain tumors with these specific mutations, a devastating disease with an urgent need for better therapies," he added.

[Read More >>](#)

Employee Profile: Lynnanne Selezan, RN

The results suggest that these mutations may support an alternative mechanism through which HPV causes cancer. Identifying this subset of cancers is the first step in creating better, more individualized therapies to more effectively fight these disease subsets.



[Read More >>](#)

We're proud to announce that Charles Fuchs, MD, MPH, Director of Yale Cancer Center and Physician-in-Chief at Smilow Cancer Hospital, has been selected as a co-leader of the Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) Colorectal Cancer Dream Team. Dr. Fuchs, an internationally recognized expert in gastrointestinal cancers, brings both research and clinical experience to the SU2C Dream Team, which includes over 50 researchers at six institutions.



[Read More >>](#)

Receiving a cancer diagnosis can be one of the scariest and most confusing times in a person's life. Many patients like Kim Czepiga have found that taking certain actions, like learning about their diagnosis and the treatment process as well as building

Lynnanne Selezan, RN, was one of the first nurses hired when the Breast Center opened at Smilow seven years ago; she has been a nurse at Yale for 18 years. Lynnanne is an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN) and a Certified Registered Nurse of Infusion (CRNI). When she first started in the Breast Center, Lynnanne created a patient education program for chemotherapy and, since then, it has become a standard practice and has been adopted by other clinical programs in the hospital.



The practice of chemotherapy teaching involves both patients and the family members that will be caring for them, with the goal of making sure everyone knows what to expect, and to teach ways to safely manage side effects at home. Lynnanne meets with patients and their families to answer any questions and helps them to recognize what is an emergency versus something that can be managed at home.

"Hair loss and sexual health tend to be the two biggest issues women face as a result of chemo," said Lynnanne. "This education program has been very successful in helping women to manage side effects, and puts some of the power back in their hands. It gives them ways to take control of their own lives and teaches them how to be proactive."

Lynnanne is also a triage nurse, and answers patients' questions and listens to their symptoms to determine any action they need to take. Having lost her mother to cancer at a young age, she knows how devastating cancer can be for a family, which is one of the reasons why she left a career in business to become a nurse. Gineesha Abraham, APRN in the Breast Center, commented, "Lynnanne is a strong nurse with excellent clinical skills, strong triage skills, and she instituted chemotherapy teaching for our patients. It gets rave reviews from all of our patients. I couldn't do the work I do without her."

support networks, can help tone down some of that fear and anxiety.



[Read More >>](#)

A study led by Kerin Adelson, MD, Chief Quality Officer for Smilow Cancer Hospital, has demonstrated improved outcomes for patients with advanced cancers who received a palliative care consultation.

"Patients with advanced cancer admitted to an acute care hospital often have short life expectancies and high morbidity," said Dr. Adelson. "For these patients, the integration of palliative care has improved symptom burden, reduced patient and caregiver distress, increased referral to hospice, and improved outcomes."



[Read More >>](#)

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

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 >>](#)

The Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Career Development Program and Developmental Research Program Awards

The CDP of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer has been established to educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in lung cancer.

Letter of Intent Due: April 28, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

The Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer's DRP provides seed money to investigators to support studies with a strong translational component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated as, a full Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer project.

Letter of Intent Due: April 28, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Bioengineering Research Partnerships

This FOA encourages bioengineering applications that will accelerate the development and adoption of promising tools and technologies that can address important biomedical problems.

Application Deadline: May 18, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

The Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (U01)

This FOA invites applications from multidisciplinary teams of researchers and clinicians to establish the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (PCDC).


Application Deadline: May 26, 2017


[Learn More >>](#)


Multilevel Interventions in Cancer Care Delivery: Building from the Problem of Follow-up to


Follow us on 


LATEST TWEETS:


 Learn easy substitutions for unhealthy ingredients in your next #recipe from our #nutrition team at #Smilow!


 Join us on Thursday and register to @BeTheMatch .@Yale. It's easy to register and you may make a huge difference in a cancer patient's life.


 Spring is in the air!
[#spring#flowers@InsideYCC](#)


 If You Can't Drug It, Degrade It - A Protein Degradation Technology to Tackle Undruggable Oncoproteins via @AACR


 Join us at 11 in the lobby of #Smilow to Celebrate Spring and view Integrative Medicine @YaleCancer artwork @LillyPad#Oncology on Canvas

 Join us for a State of the Science Summit on #HeadandNeckCancers April 20th in Stamford, CT. Register here bit.ly/2niliZU @OncLive

 Dr Peter Yu @HartfordHealthC presents Grand Rounds today on #Cancer Informatics.

 Over 200 people were screened for deadly #headandneck #cancers@YaleCancer Join us for our next screening on Apr. 25 bit.ly/2oZlIGb

 Free State of the Science Summit on #HeadandNeckCancers to be held on April 20 in Stamford, CT. Join us! bit.ly/2nkbPRn @OncLive

 @Yale_Urology study: pediatric & adolescent renal cell carcinoma, find incidence increases w age #RCC#kidneycancer

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27805307

Abnormal Screening Tests (U01)

This FOA encourages applications that strengthen the science of multilevel effects of cancer care interventions by addressing the problem of incomplete follow-up to abnormal screening tests for breast, colorectal, cervical, and lung cancers.

Application Due Date: May 26, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (U01)

This FOA will support the development and characterization of state-of-the-art biomimetic tissue-engineered technologies for cancer research.

Application Deadline: May 30, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology (U01)

This FOA invites cooperative agreement applications for Research Projects that utilize systems biology approaches to address emerging questions in cancer initiation, progression, and treatment.

Application Deadline: June 23, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

Abiraterone Acetate for Metastatic Prostate Cancer in Patients With Suboptimal Biochemical Response to Hormone Induction.


Flaig TW, Plets M, Hussain MH, Agarwal N, Mitsiades N, Deshpande HA, Vaishampayan UN, Thompson IM Jr.


JAMA Oncol. 2017 Mar 30.

[Read More >>](#)

Cost-Effectiveness of Stereotactic Radiosurgery and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy: a Critical Review.

Lester-Coll NH, Sher DJ.

 @ranjitbindra presents on PARP inhibitors to treat brain tumors w/ IDH mutations at 4:20pm in room 147, LL bit.ly/2oEuBor #AACR17

 Craig Crews will present "PROTACs: Targeted Protein Degradation as a Therapeutic Strategy" at 3pm in room 202, level 2. #AACR17

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Upcoming Events

April 21; 12PM

YCC/OncLive Webinar

Webinar

Revolutionary Advances for Treating Urothelial Carcinoma

Michael Hurwitz, PhD, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 21; 12PM

YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP 4-101B

Emerging Perspectives in Cancer Immunotherapy

Scott Dessain, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 21; 1PM

YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program

SHM I-304

Identifying the Roles of Microbial Metabolites in Colon Cancer

Caroline Johnson, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

Curr Oncol Rep. 2017 Jun;19(6):41.

[Read More >>](#)

A phase I dose-escalation study of the safety and pharmacokinetics of a tablet formulation of vixtalisib, a phosphoinositide 3-kinase inhibitor, in patients with solid tumors.

Mehnert JM, Edelman G, Stein M, Camisa H, Lager J, Dedieu JF, Ghuysen AF, Sharma J, Liu L, LoRusso PM.

Invest New Drugs. 2017 Apr 17.

[Read More >>](#)

A phase 2 study of vorinostat in locally advanced, recurrent, or metastatic adenoid cystic carcinoma.

Goncalves PH, Heilbrun LK, Barrett MT, Kummar S, Hansen AR, Siu LL, Piekarz RL, Sukari AW, Chao J, Pilat MJ, Smith DW, Casetta L, Boerner SA, Chen A, Lenkiewicz E, Malasi S, LoRusso PM.

Oncotarget. 2017 Mar 22.

[Read More >>](#)

Comparative Effectiveness of Surgical Treatments for Small Renal Masses.

Agrawal S, Sedlacek H, Kim SP.

Urol Clin North Am. 2017 May;44(2):257-267.

[Read More >>](#)

Hereditary Kidney Cancer Syndromes and Surgical Management of the Small Renal Mass.

Nguyen KA, Syed JS, Shuch B.

Urol Clin North Am. 2017 May;44(2):155-167.

[Read More >>](#)

Breast Density Legislation and Clinical Evidence.

Hooley RJ.

Radiol Clin North Am. 2017 May;55(3):513-526.

[Read More >>](#)

Management of Sexuality, Intimacy, and Menopause Symptoms (SIMS) in Ovarian Cancer Patients: Expert Review.

April 23; 7:30PM

Yale Cancer Answers

WNPR 90.5

Skin Damage and DNA Repair

Douglas Brash, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 24; 11AM

YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-304

Chromatin State Contributes to Nuclear Mechanics

Jessica Johnston

[Learn More >>](#)

April 24; 2PM

Yale Stem Cell Center Seminar Series

TAC N-107

Regulation of Hematopoiesis by Inflammation: Losing a Notch and Taking a Toll

Nadia Carlesso, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 25; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

Multiple Network-Constrained Regressions Expand Insights into Influenza Vaccination Responses

Stefan Avey

TBA

Brad Wasserman, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 25; 12PM

Smilow Case Notes

Park Street Auditorium

A Complicated Case of Clots and Cancer

Ferdous Barlaskar, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 25; 4PM

Free Head & Neck Cancer Screening

The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center

Whicker M, Black J, Altwerger G, Menderes G, Feinberg J, Ratner E.

Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2017 Apr 11.

[Read More >>](#)

Quantification of Tumor Hypoxic Fractions Using Positron Emission Tomography with [18F]Fluoromisonidazole ([18F]FMISO) Kinetic Analysis and Invasive Oxygen Measurements.

Kelada OJ, Rockwell S, Zheng MQ, Huang Y, Liu Y, Booth CJ, Decker RH, Oelfke U, Carson RE, Carlson DJ.

Mol Imaging Biol. 2017 Apr 13.

[Read More >>](#)

IFN γ enhances cytotoxic efficiency of the cytotoxic T lymphocytes against human glioma cells.

Shao S, Risch E, Burner D, Lu L, Minev B, Ma W.

Int Immunopharmacol. 2017 Apr 11;47:159-165.

[Read More >>](#)

Efficacy of neratinib in the treatment of HER2/neu-amplified epithelial ovarian carcinoma in vitro and in vivo.

Menderes G, Bonazzoli E, Bellone S, Black JD, Lopez S, Pettinella F, Masserdotti A, Zammataro L, Litkouhi B, Ratner E, Silasi DA, Azodi M, Schwartz PE, Santin AD.

Med Oncol. 2017 May;34(5):91.

[Read More >>](#)

Management of myelofibrosis: JAK inhibition and beyond.

Stahl M, Zeidan AM.

Expert Rev Hematol. 2017 Apr 11.

[Read More >>](#)

[Learn More >>](#)

April 26; 12PM

YCC Cancer Prevention and Control Research Seminar

LEPH, Rm 216

Is 21-Gene Assay Cost-Effective for Breast Cancer?

Shiyi Wang, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 26; 4PM

Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology Seminar Series

SCL 160

Integrating Exome Sequencing and Protein Dynamics to Identify and Target Lung Cancer Risk Genes

Zeynep Gumus, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 27; 8:30AM

Medical Grand Rounds

LMP1094

Paper Cranes at the Bedside: Kindness and the Culture of Medicine

Kenneth Morford, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 27; 9AM

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow LL505

Exploiting Gene Amplification in Cancer Using a Novel Therapeutic Strategy

Faye A. Rogers, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 27; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

LMP1094

Informatics of Next-Generation Sequencing: The Pitfalls in Pipelines and Clouds and How to Avoid Them

Alexis B. Carter, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 27; 2:30PM

**Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention
Program Seminar**

SRC, Suites 107-109

[Learn More >>](#)

April 28; 2PM

**YSM Department of Pathology
Symposium**

BML Auditorium

*In Honor of Joseph A. Madri, PhD, MD,
Professor Emeritus of Pathology*

Jon S. Morrow, PhD, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

April 29; 11AM

**Smilow Screening and Prevention
Program at the New Haven Get Fit Day**

New Haven Green

Screen 2 Save Initiative

[Learn More >>](#)

April 30; 7:30PM

Yale Cancer Answers

WNPR 90.5

Improving the Quality of Healthcare

Yuna Lee

[Learn More >>](#)

May 2; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Radoslav Janostiak, PhD, and Emily
Wingrove

[Learn More >>](#)

May 2; 12PM

YCC Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

*Cancer Immunotherapy: Science Driving
Combinational Strategies*

Chris Boshoff, MD, PhD, FMedSci

[Learn More >>](#)

May 3; 3PM

State Chest Lecture

LMP 1094

Lung Cancer Screening: What We Have Learned and Where We Are Going

Nichole T. Tanner, MD, MSCR

[Learn More >>](#)

May 4; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

LMP 1094

Live on Ice: A History of New Uses for Cold Blood

Joanna Radin, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 4; 2:30PM

Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar

SRC, Suites 107-109

[Learn More >>](#)

May 4; 4:30PM

Free Head & Neck Cancer Screening

Park Avenue Medical Center

[Learn More >>](#)

May 4; 5PM

YCC/SCH Cancer Survivors Day

West Campus Conference Center

A Celebration of Survivorship

T.P. Mulrooney

[Learn More >>](#)

May 5; 4:30PM

Free Head & Neck Cancer Screening

Greenwich Hospital

[Learn More >>](#)



Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs & Communications



renee.gaudette@yale.edu

