January 25, 2019

Announcements

$1 Million Grant from Gray Foundation for Breast Cancer Research

We are proud to announce the Basser BRCA Initiative grant, a $1 million, three-year gift awarded to Yale Cancer Center by the Gray Foundation to advance the next generation of cancer therapies. Leveraging research currently being done at Yale to define the fundamental biology and molecular roles of the BRCA cancer susceptibility genes, this gift from the Gray Foundation will enable the development of transformative new therapeutic approaches for patients with BRCA-driven malignancies.

Our team, which includes Ryan Jensen, PhD, Ranjit S. Bindra, MD, PhD, Megan C. King, PhD, Patricia LoRusso, D., Janie Merkel, PhD, and Craig Crews, PhD, is in a unique position to drive innovative research in BRCA-related cancers, and funding from the Gray Foundation will provide us with the necessary resources to translate this work into the discovery of new cancer therapies. We are extremely grateful for their support.

Learn More >>

Aron Flagg Joins Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Program

from the desk of
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief
Smilow Cancer Hospital
Aron Flagg, MD, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics (Hematology/Oncology) and joins Niketa Shah, MD, specializing in pediatric bone marrow transplantation. Dr. Flagg comes to Yale from the Cleveland Clinic where he completed his residency and Chief Residency in 2009, and subsequently did a joint fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Pediatric Infectious Disease. Following fellowship, he continued on at the Cleveland Clinic as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Flagg's clinical interests include clinical pediatric bone marrow transplantation, particularly immune deficiency, lymphoblastic leukemia, and infectious and immunological consequences of transplant.

**Symposium Honoring Dr. José Costa**
Please join the Department of Pathology on Wednesday, January 30 at 2pm in the Hope Memorial Building for a Symposium in honor of Dr. José Costa, Professor Emeritus of Pathology, and former Deputy Director of Yale Cancer Center. Jon Morrow, MD, PhD, will host the symposium, with presentations by Larry Norton, MD, Carlo Maley, PhD, and Ricard Sole, PhD.
Learn More >>

**Liver Cancer Symposium**
Please join colleagues from the Smilow Cancer Hospital Liver Cancer Program for a CME Symposium on Friday, March 1 at the Yale West Campus Conference Center to discuss the changing landscape of hepatocellular carcinoma. The program is free, but registration is required.
Learn More >>

**Notables**

**Richard Kibbey, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Signal Transduction Research
Congratulations to Maribel Robinson, ACA, from the Breast Center at the Park Avenue Medical Center in Trumbull! Maribel received the Yale New Haven Health System Nurses’ Choice Award earlier this month after a nomination by Gean Brown, MSN, RN, Clinical Program Manager. Gean commented, “Maribel consistently upholds the organization’s values and beliefs. Maribel uses high reliability practices to keep our patients safe. She shows accountability and holds others to the same standard. She shows extraordinary compassion and selflessness in her day to day activities in the Breast Center, as well as in her community...When I try to think of one word to describe Maribel, the one that keeps coming to mind is solid. She is such an intricate part of our team, she is our constant, our solid compassionate caregiver." Thank you to Maribel, Gean, and the entire team at PAMC!

The Genetics, Genomics, and Epigenetics Research Program is proud to welcome Gloria Huang, MD, to its program. Dr. Huang is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and a board-certified gynecologic oncologist. Dr. Huang is...
a federally funded principal-investigator leading a cancer research laboratory at Yale. Her laboratory studies how genetic alterations and the host microenvironment influence cancer progression and response to treatment. Dr. Huang’s goal is to advance the field of gynecologic oncology through innovative scientific research, and to translate laboratory discoveries into more effective prevention and treatment strategies for patients.

The Cancer Immunology Research Program welcomes Ye Grace Chen, PhD. Dr. Chen is an Associate Research Scientist in the Department of Immunobiology. The long-term goal of Dr. Chen's research is to illuminate the diverse functions of RNA in the progression and treatment of cancer by investigating a newly discovered class of abundant RNAs. This emerging area of RNA biology will have significant implications for our understanding of cellular processes and abilities to harness novel tools in the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Dr. Chen's independent research group focuses on investigating and harnessing the functions of endogenous and foreign circular RNAs in cancer. They are working to identify and characterize the regulatory elements of endogenous and foreign circular RNA that affect the transformation of healthy into cancerous cells, cancer progression, and response to treatment. They will also develop new therapies based on the ability of foreign circular RNA to induce an immune response and act as a protein template. These investigations will yield insight into how cells regulate circular RNAs and how they affect diseases, while also offering clues to effective strategies for cancer treatment. Dr. Chen is in a unique position to execute these studies based on her expertise in molecular, chemical, and immune biology.

Employee Profile: Anthony Harris

Fighting the flu or having issues with taste or smell while undergoing cancer treatment? Here's a recipe for Homemade Chicken Soup suggested by our nutrition team at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

Mary was diagnosed with a rare endometrial cancer 6 years ago. She thrived following a novel treatment regimen developed by Dr. Alessandro Santin at Smilow Cancer Hospital, a regimen that
Environmental Services (EVS) is an integral part of Smilow Cancer Hospital and ensuring that the overall environment of the hospital is clean and operating efficiently. As part of that team, Anthony Harris is assigned to the surgical oncology inpatient unit on the 15th floor. On a daily basis, he works to clean and sanitize patient rooms, offices, and conference rooms. Having been at Yale since 1997, Anthony brings his extensive expertise and professionalism to Smilow every day.

When interacting with patients to restock and clean their rooms, Anthony tries to make them feel comfortable and at ease. "I try to put myself in their situation and treat them how I would want to be treated," said Anthony. "Everyone is a stranger until you get to know them, and I often see the same patients in and out of the unit. It means a lot when a patient remembers me, and I try to go above and beyond to meet their needs. If they request something I try to accommodate them if I can, otherwise I make sure to check in with a nurse and let them know. It's little things I can do to make them more comfortable."

One such patient recently recognized Anthony for his work writing, "You are kind, you are encouraging and considerate. For all of these wonderful qualities, I am grateful." Anthony's supervisor, Jason Rodriguez, commented, "I can say that I feel at peace every time Anthony shows up to work because I know he will impact someone’s life in some way. I’ve seen him interacting with patients and their families and there is something about his energy that makes them feel at ease."

#OOTBThanks!

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Jason Burgo, IT Support Specialist for Yale Cancer

nearly didn’t see the light of day. Read their story #gynonc https://bit.ly/2CJAJnf

Ever wonder what it's like to be to be a #cancer doctor who specializes in #hematology? A reporter from @AmerMedicalAssn shadowed Dr. Alfred Lee! @yalemed @ynhh #bloodcancers

Our Year in Review has published! Breakthroughs shares the latest cancer advances from Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. #cancerresearch #PatientCare https://bit.ly/2FH91vn

New research by Dr. Shi-Yi Wang in @JNCCN shows gene profiling raises costs for treatment without improving outcomes for low-risk #breastcancer patients. @NCCNnews @YaleCOPPER @yalemed @ynhh

Men are 4x more likely then women to be diagnosed with #bladdercancer. Because there is no preventative screening, it’s important to see your doctor right away if you see blood in your urine. Dr. Toby Chai talks more about bladder cancer here>> http://bit.ly/2HWS4du

Today @YaleCancer grand rounds we welcome Dr. Doug Lowy @NCIResearchCtr speaking about HPV and cancer. Great to see vaccination rates in CT exceed the US average but the entire world must strive to do even better to help prevent multiple cancers @YNHH @YaleMed @YaleMedicine

Learn the latest information on #stemcell transplants for #pediatriconcology today at 7:30pm on Yale Cancer Answers with Dr. Niketa Shah @YaleMed @YPediatrics @wnpr @YNHH

Thank you to the Gray Foundation for a $1 million grant for #breastcancer research! This generous gift will help us develop new treatments for patients with #BRCA related disease. @yalemed@ynhh
Center, for his dedicated assistance in setting up a new employee. Our new employee commented on how impressed she was that Jason was able to get her up and running on her first day and even made time to check in her over the course of that first week to make sure she wasn't experiencing any issues. Jason, who is often called upon to address numerous issues all across campus at the same time, always makes a steadfast effort to get these IT issues solved as soon as possible for his colleagues. His help is truly appreciated and widely recognized. Thank you, Jason!

Yale Cancer Center's #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS program is a staff recognition initiative to show appreciation to employees who have exemplified an above-and-beyond effort or an outstanding contribution to the team. All nominations should be submitted to the Director's Office c/o Anna Raso.

Funding Opportunities

Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research-Research Fellowship
The JCC Fund will support the funding of three-year postdoctoral Fellowships, selected by its Board of Scientific Advisers from among the best young scientists. The JCC Fund supports between twenty-five and thirty new three-year Fellowships each year.
Application deadline: February 1, 2019
Learn More >>

Core Infrastructure and Methodological Research for Cancer Epidemiology Cohorts (U01)

It was great to talk to @jaybradner about the history of #PROTACs and #targetedproteindegradation after his @YaleCancer Ground Rounds talk today. Thanks Jay for the visit and stimulating seminar.

Congratulations to I. George Miller, Jr., MD, @YaleCancer Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Dr. Miller joined @YaleMed in 1969 and was the first ever to show a #virus could cause #cancer.

Calendar

Yale Cancer Answers
January 27; 7:30PM
WNPR
Radon and its Impact
Allison Sullivan
Learn More >>

Radiobiology & Radiotherapy Research Program
January 28; 11AM
SHM I-304
Alkylating Agents Synthetically Sensitize MGMT-deficient Tumor Cells to ATR Inhibitors
Christopher Jackson
Learn More >>

Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar
January 28; 12PM
BCMM 206/208
Recruitment of Epigenetic Modifiers by Piwi/piRNA Pathway Components
Qin Yan, PhD
Learn More >>

Lymphoma Research Foundation Symposium
January 28; 6PM
Courtyard Yale New Haven
Ask the Doctor: Updates on Lymphoma and Treatment Options
Francine Foss, MD
This FOA encourages grant applications for support of the core functions of Cancer Epidemiology Cohorts (CECs), as well as methodological research.

**Application Deadline:** February 5, 2019

[Learn More >>]

**Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN): Cancer Immunoprevention Research Projects (U01)**

This FOA is associated with the Beau Biden Cancer MoonshotSM Initiative that is intended to accelerate cancer research. The purpose of this specific FOA is to expand Cancer Immunoprevention Research Projects as components of IOTN, which also includes Cancer Immunotherapy Research Projects.

**Application Deadline:** February 8, 2019

[Learn More >>]

**Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN): Cancer Immunotherapy Research Projects (U01)**

This FOA is associated with the Beau Biden Cancer MoonshotSM Initiative that is intended to accelerate cancer research. The purpose of this FOA is to expand organ site-specific Cancer Immunotherapy Research Projects as components of IOTN.

**Application Deadline:** February 8, 2019

[Learn More >>]

**Accelerating Colorectal Cancer Screening and follow-up through Implementation Science**

The purpose of this FOA is to promote research in colorectal cancer screening, follow-up, and referral-to-care in regions of the United States where screening rates are below national standards.

**Application Deadline:** February 11, 2019

[Learn More >>]

**Utilizing the PLCO Biospecimens Resource to Bridge Gaps in Cancer Etiology and Early Detection Research**

This FOA encourages the submission of applications that propose to advance research in cancer etiology and early detection biomarkers, utilizing the advantages of the unique biorepository resources of the NCI-

[Learn More >>]

**Pathology Research in Progress Talks**

**January 29; 9:30AM**

TAC N-107

[Learn More >>]

**YCC Grand Rounds**

**January 29; 12PM**

Park Street Auditorium

*Human Papillomaviruses: from basic mechanisms to a new antiviral paradigm*

Dan DiMaio, MD, PhD

*Molecular Hallmarks of Tumor-Stromal Interactions in Brain Metastasis*

Don Nguyen, PhD

[Learn More >>]

**Digestive Diseases and Yale Liver Center Research Seminar Series**

**January 29; 5PM**

TAC 247

*Illuminating the impact of Western-type diets on inflammation with zebrafish*

Sofia de Oliveira, PhD

[Learn More >>]

**Symposium in Honor of José Costa, MD**

**January 30; 2PM**

Hope 216

*The 'Triple Thread' in Translational Medicine- Clinical Observation, Quantitative Modeling, and Experimentation*

Jon Morrow, PhD, MD

[Learn More >>]

**State Chest Conference**

**January 30; 3PM**

Fitkin Auditorium

*Year in Review: Interventional Pulmonology*

Erin DeBiasi, MD and Sandip Saha

[Learn More >>]

**Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

**January 31; 9AM**
sponsored Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer (PLCO) Screening Trial.

**Application Deadline:** February 11, 2019
[Learn More]>

**Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN): Cancer Immunoprevention Research Projects**
This FOA is associated with the Beau Biden Cancer MoonshotSM Initiative that is intended to accelerate cancer research. Specifically, this FOA intends to create a translational science network devoted exclusively to immunotherapy approaches to treat and prevent adult cancers.

**Application Deadline:** February 11, 2019
[Learn More]>

**Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN): Immuno-engineering to Improve Immunotherapy (i3) Centers**
This FOA is associated with the Beau Biden Cancer MoonshotSM Initiative that is intended to accelerate cancer research. The purpose of this FOA is to develop Immuno-engineering to Improve Immunotherapy (i3) Centers, as new components of the Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN).

**Application Deadline:** February 11, 2019
[Learn More]>

**The NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award**
The purpose of the NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award (F99/K00) is to encourage and retain outstanding graduate students recognized by their institutions for their high potential and strong interest in pursuing careers as independent cancer researchers.

**Application Deadline:** February 22, 2019
[Learn More]>

**Yale Scholars in Implementation Science (YSIS) Career Development Program**
The YSIS Career Development Program is an NIH-funded K12 program within the Yale Center for...
Implementation Science at the Yale School of Medicine. Funded by the NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, it is designed to train junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows late-stage dissemination and implementation science.

**Application Deadline:** March 1, 2019
[Learn More >>](#)

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**Sontag Foundation Distinguished Scientist Award**
The DSA seeks to provide career and research support to early career scientists who demonstrate outstanding promise for making scientific and medical breakthroughs in the field of brain cancer research.

**Application deadline:** March 13, 2019
[Learn More >>](#)

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**Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities**
These funding opps are to support innovative, high-impact research with clinical relevance that will accelerate progress to end breast cancer for Service members, Veterans, and the general public.

- **Breakthrough Award - Level 1 & 2:** The intent of the Breakthrough Award is to support promising research that has high potential to lead to or make breakthroughs in breast cancer. **Letter of Intent Due:** March 14, 2019
- **Breakthrough Fellowship Award:** The Fellowship Award supports recent doctoral or medical graduates in pursuit of innovative, high-impact breast cancer research during their postdoctoral fellowship. **Letter of Intent Due:** March 14, 2019
- **Era of Hope Scholar Award:** The Era of Hope Scholar Award supports individuals early in their careers who have demonstrated significant potential to effect meaningful change in breast cancer. **Letter of Intent Due:** March 14, 2019
- **Innovator Award:** The Innovator Award supports visionary individuals who have demonstrated exceptional creativity, innovative work, and paradigm-shifting leadership in any field including, but not limited to, breast cancer. **Preproposal Due:** March 12, 2019
- **Distinguished Investigator Award:** The Distinguished Investigator Award enables established visionary leaders from any field to pursue innovative ideas that could accelerate progress to end breast cancer for Service members, Veterans, and the general public. **Preproposal Due:** March 12, 2019

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**WNPR**
Surgical Care of Lung Cancer
Andrew Dhanasopon, MD
[Learn More >>](#)

**Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**
**February 4; 11AM**
BCMM 206/208
MutSy-Induced DNA Conformational Changes Provide Insights into its Role in Meiotic Recombination
Sudipta Lahiri
[Learn More >>](#)

**Integrative Cell Signaling and Neurobiology of Metabolism (ICSNM) Lecture Series**
**February 5; 11AM**
BML 131
Hypoxia, Metabolism, and Tumor Progression
M. Celeste Simon, PhD
[Learn More >>](#)

**YCC Grand Rounds**
**February 5; 12PM**
Park Street Auditorium
Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD and Caroline Johnson, PhD
[Learn More >>](#)

**Blavatnik Fund For Innovation at Yale Event**
**February 6; 4:30**
TAC Auditorium
Cancer Drug Discovery: Role of the University / Hospital, Biotech and Pharma to Improve Patient Outcomes
Thomas Lynch, MD
[Learn More >>](#)

**Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**
**February 7; 9AM**
Smilow LL 505
Quality and Safety in Radiation Oncology
Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation Fellowship Award
The Foundation encourages all theoretical and experimental research relevant to the study of cancer and the search for cancer causes, mechanisms, therapies and prevention. Awards are made to institutions for the support of the Fellow under direct supervision of the Sponsor.

**Application Deadline:** March 15, 2019

Recent Publications

**Non-acylated Wnts Can Promote Signaling.**
Speer KF, Sommer A, Tajer B, Mullins MC, Klein PS, Lemmon MA.

**A randomized trial of decision support for tobacco dependence treatment in an inpatient electronic medical record: clinical results.**

**A highly efficient and faithful MDS patient-derived xenotransplantation model for pre-clinical studies.**

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**
Director, Public Affairs and Communications
Phase 1 study of PSMA ADC, an antibody-drug conjugate targeting prostate-specific membrane antigen, in chemotherapy-refractory prostate cancer.
Prostate. 2019 Jan 20.
Read More >>

Wang SY, Chen T, Dang W, Mougalian SS, Evans SB, Gross CP.
Read More >>

Use of archival versus newly collected tumor samples for assessing PD-L1 expression and overall survival: An updated analysis of KEYNOTE-010 trial.
Read More >>

Differences in patterns of care and outcomes between grade II and grade III molecularly defined 1p19q co-deleted gliomas.
Read More >>

Wagging the long tail of drivers of prostate cancer.
Cannataro VL, Townsend JP.
Text Messaging in Oncology: A Review of the Landscape.
Mougalian SS, Gross CP, Hall EK.

TQuest, A Web-Based Platform to Enable Precision Medicine by Linking a Tumor's Genetic Defects to Therapeutic Options.

Are we witnessing the start of a therapeutic revolution in acute myeloid leukemia?
Bewersdorf JP, Stahl M, Zeidan AM.

Binding of FANCI-FANCD2 Complex to RNA and R-Loops Stimulates Robust FANCD2 Monoubiquitination.

Automated Generation of CONSORT Diagrams Using Relational Database Software.
O'Leary T, Weiss J, Toll B, Brandt C, Bernstein SL.