March 22, 2019

Announcements

Smilow Cancer Hospital Treating Patients with CAR T-Cell Therapy

Under the leadership of Dr. Stuart Seropian and Dr. Iris Isufi, along with a team of caregivers and staff, I am proud to announce that our CAR T-Cell Therapy Program began treating patients earlier this year. CAR T-Cell therapy works by reprogramming a patient’s own T-cells to target tumor antigens. It has shown complete remission rates of 40 to 50 percent in adults with aggressive B-cell non-Hodgkin’s lymphomas who have failed other avenues of treatment and 80 to 90 percent in children with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Dr. Niketa Shah will soon launch the program for pediatric patients. To date, 8 patients have been treated (4 on FDA approved approaches and 4 on clinical trials) and the preliminary results have been very encouraging. We anticipate that we will be able to provide this exciting new therapy to an increasing number of patients. I want to thank our entire team for their hard work and dedicated efforts to launch this effort, and their tireless care of their patients going through treatment.

DeLuca Foundation Funds the DeLuca Center for Innovation in Hematology Research

I am extremely proud to announce a 5-year grant awarded by The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation to establish The DeLuca Center for Innovation in Hematology Research at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. This extremely generous and transformative gift will help translate groundbreaking research discoveries into practice-changing improvements in clinical care for our patients with blood cancers. The DeLuca Center marks a bold, new initiative at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital that will accelerate cancer research and embolden our battle against hematologic malignancies; I am extremely
appreciative of the Foundation's support of our efforts and look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months.

**Yale Cancer Center Annual Retreat**

Please join us on May 16 for our Annual Retreat: *Bringing Yale Cancer Center Science to the Clinic and Community*. This year, we invite trainees engaging in cancer research to participate in a poster session describing their cancer-relevant work. Poster prizes will be given for 1. Basic Science and Computational Research, 2. Translational Research, 3. Clinical Research, and 4. Population Science, Prevention and Outcomes Research.

[Register >>]
[Abstract Information >>]

**Doximity Voting Closes Wednesday!**

If you have not yet voted through Doximity for *U.S. News & World Report's* annual Best Hospitals Guide, please take a minute to login to your profile and vote. Voting closes Wednesday, March 27. It is important that our reputation through *U.S. News & World Report's* annual Best Hospitals Guide reflects the high level of care you provide to our patients, and represents the exciting research happening at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center.

[Vote Now >>]

**Breast Cancer CME Dinner**

Please join colleagues from the Smilow Cancer Hospital Breast Cancer Program and our Torrington Care Center for a CME Dinner on Wednesday, March 27 at Fairview Farms Golf Course in Harwinton to discuss *Demystifying the Risks and Genetics of Breast Cancer and a Review of Treatment Options*. The program is free, but registration is required.

[Learn More >>]

**Notables**

**Michael Leapman, MD**, Assistant Professor of Urology and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, has been awarded a **K08 Clinical Investigator Award** from the NIH to support his project, *Understanding the Adoption and Impact of New Risk Assessment Technologies in Prostate Cancer Care*. Dr. Leapman's research aims to better understand how prostate Antiretroviral Therapy Crucial in Preventing non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, YSPH Study Reinforces

[Read More >>]

HPV vaccine can prevent cancer, save lives

[Read More >>]

Katie Couric and Dr. Charles Fuchs share mission to stand up to colon cancer

[Watch >>]
MRI and genomic testing impact the management of prostate cancer.

Congratulations to Patricia LoRusso, DO, Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and Associate Director for Experimental Therapeutics, on her candidacy for the Nominating Committee for AACR.

The North American Vascular Biology Organization (NAVBO) will give its Earl P. Benditt Award to William Sessa, PhD, Alfred Gilman Professor of Pharmacology, Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Developmental Therapeutics Research Program. Dr. Sessa is honored for "his numerous contributions to our understanding of mechanisms regulating nitric oxide production in the vascular endothelium."

The Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging received special recognition from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services for Excellence in Person and Family Engagement with appreciation for exemplary practices to transform clinical practice and improve health outcomes.

The Developmental Therapeutics Research Program is proud to welcome Antonio Omuro, MD. Dr. Omuro is Chief of Neuro-Oncology at Yale Cancer Center and leader of the Brain Tumor Disease Aligned Research Team (DART). He is also leading the Brain Tumor Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital and working with Yale investigators on a NIH Brain Tumor Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) application. Dr. Omuro conducts clinical and translational research in brain tumors. His studies have focused on a wide range of clinical problems and diseases in this field.
Dhanpat Jain, MD has been appointed to the Genetics, Genomics and Epigentics Research Program. Dr. Jain is a Professor in the Department of Pathology. His research related to cancer is largely focused on the gastrointestinal system (GI), although he has collaborated on few research projects related to prostate cancer as well. Within the GI tract, Dr. Jain's research spans all sites in the GI tract, including the liver, colon, pancreas, esophagus and stomach, but liver cancer remains the area where he has contributed the most and he would like to continue his focus in the future.

Employee Profile: Joseph Ankrah

As a Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Joseph Ankrah works with patients of varying ages and disease types on the second floor of Smilow Cancer Hospital. He is involved with the scheduling of patients, as well as preparing and administering radioisotopes and conducting imaging procedures. Coming to the United States after a decade of service with the Ecowas Monitoring Group in Liberia, Joseph was looking for

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook

Latest Posts:

Dr. Charles Fuchs joined Katie Couric on The Today Show this morning to discuss the importance of getting screened for colon cancer.

Watch to learn more about the symptoms of colon cancer >>

Each day our surgeons are working together to find innovative ways to
a position that better suited his personality and has been at Smilow since it opened.

"This is a very humbling field," said Joseph. "About 85 percent of our patients are newly diagnosed or have a recurrence of cancer, and all have some degree of anxiety when they come in. I make it my mission to remind them that this is not the end for them, they have tomorrow, and nowadays the treatments available to them are providing many, many tomorrows."

Every treatment protocol is different and the field is constantly evolving. It requires constant training and education. Joseph works with radiologists providing iodine for thyroid cancer therapy, LutaThera for neuroendocrine tumors (NETs), radium to target prostate cancers with bone metastasis, and Y90 for carcinoid tumors.

Joseph also works with patients with melanoma, multiple myeloma, breast cancer, and other types of cancer and conducts PET scans, as well as PET axumin for prostate cancer and PET amyloid for brain tumors. He also helps with spect CT for brain scans, parathyroid scans, and bone scans.

Michele Pepe, CNMT BS, Senior Manager for Nuclear Medicine & PET CT Patient Experience in the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, commented, "Joseph provides the highest quality of care to our patients and families. I receive numerous accolades from patients expressing how great Joseph was in their care and how he made them laugh and forget why they were here. Joseph also comes in after hours to do phantom testing for clinical trials which cannot be performed during normal business hours due to the use of various radioisotopes."

#OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS: Madeline Droher

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Madeline Droher, a Clinical Research Assistant on the Lung team in the Clinical Trials Office. Since Maddie started in September 2018, she has been an essential member of the team, stepping in to help her teammates when needed. Most recently, Maddie helped resolve queries for an old trial that went through a change at the sponsor level and generated extra work for a team member. She also stepped in to help a team member enter data for an audit. Regardless of the challenge, Maddie is always willing and able to step in with a surgicaly remove brain tumors, and care for their patients. Learn more about the Brain Tumor Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and the innovative care our team provides.

Did you know? Colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable cancers? Screening is recommended for men and women who are over 50, or are African American and over 45, or have a family history of colorectal cancer. Please share this important information and urge your loved ones to schedule a screening.

Colleen Tompkins and Travis Smith from the North Haven Big Y World Class Market present a donation of $20,000 from the 12th Annual Partners of Hope Campaign to Camille Servodidio, Manager of the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Proceeds from the campaign support breast cancer screening, education, and treatment. Thank you to Big Y World Class Market!
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**

**Charles H. Hood Foundation Child Health Research Awards Program**

The intent of this Award is to support newly independent faculty, provide the opportunity to demonstrate creativity, and assist in the transition to other sources of funding. Research projects must have direct relevance to child health.

**Application Deadline:** March 28, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)

**NCI Awardee Skills Development Consortium: Research Education Short Courses (UE5)**

Possible signs of kidney cancer or renal cell cancer may be blood in the urine, a lump in your abdomen, and/or side pain that does not go away. Pay attention to changes in your body and make an appointment to see your doctor when things don't seem right.

[A busy morning for our Screening & Prevention Program at the Yale Hospitality Health Fair!](#)

Dr. Amer Zeidan recently presented important research concerning #myelodysplasticsyndrome at #ICKSH2019 in Korea!

[@GruppSteve joined us from @ChildrensPhila to present the](#)
The overarching goal of this NCI UE5 program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical cancer research needs.

**Application Deadline:** April 1, 2019

Learn More >>

**Innovative Molecular Analysis Technology Development for Cancer Research and Clinical Care (R43/R44)**

This FOA encourages Small Business Innovation Research grant applications from small business concerns proposing research for commercial development of novel cancer-relevant technologies.

**Application Deadline:** April 5, 2019

Learn More >>

**Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Technologies for Low-Resource Settings (R43/R44)**

This FOA encourages Small Business Innovation Research grant applications from small business concerns proposing commercially-directed research for the development of cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment technologies to improve cancer outcomes in low- and middle-income countries, and low-resource settings in the US.

**Application Deadline:** April 5, 2019

Learn More >>

**YCCI Scholar Award**

We are pleased to announce a request for applications for YCCI Scholar Awards, which provide salary and/or research funds to a select number of junior faculty members who are strongly committed to careers in clinical research, community-based research or translational research. Translational research includes basic science studies that are related to human disease, including studies that utilize animal models or in vitro studies such as cell cultures. The primary aim of these awards is to prepare the applicant for successful independent research careers, and emphasis will be placed on career development and mentoring plans. Awards will be for a total of 2 years.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** April 12, 2019

Learn More >>

**YCCI Clinical Junior Faculty Pilot**

Richard Frisbee III Lecture on CAR-T Cell Therapy yesterday. Thank you for your inspiring presentation.

Our Director @CharlesFuchsMD raising #ColonCancer awareness @TODAYshow@katiecouric this morning!

New research .@JNCCN led by Dr. Nikolai Podoltsev shows an underused treatment for a rare #bloodcancer can help save lives.

New #BiochemistryToBedside about larotrectinib, which was approved by the FDA in Nov 2018 to treat advanced solid tumors with NTRK gene fusions in adult and pediatric patients.

Possible signs of #KidneyCancer or #RenalCellCancer may be blood in the urine, a lump in your abdomen, and/or side pain that does not go away. Pay attention to changes in your body and see your doctor when things don't seem right.

Since our new clinic opened at @lmhospital in 2018, men with #prostatecancer now benefit from the newly-implemented MRI-US fusion biopsy program & robotic surgery experience Dr. Joseph Renzulli and Dr. Joseph Brito offer, keeping patients closer to home.

1) How to train your dragon? Go watch the movie. 2) How to train your immune system? Go get vaccinated. 2) is just as easy as 1), but gives a lifetime of protection against real killers for you and everyone around you.

#BeAHero#VaccinesWork

A #CancerPicks from 2002 by Lieping Chen @YaleCancer reported the expression of PD-L1_B7-H1 in tumor cells drives immune evasion https://rdcu.be/bsaui. The work of Dr Chen & colleagues set the foundation for the development of
YCCI invites applications from Yale clinical junior faculty.
This award is intended to support junior clinician educator faculty who are interested in developing research as a component of their academic life. We anticipate the awardees will be very active clinicians, who would benefit from a period of protected time and resources to pursue research ideas. The primary aim of these awards is to provide early career pilot support and to allow a career trajectory which successfully integrates clinical care and research. An emphasis will be placed on career development and mentoring plans, by successful senior clinical faculty capable of understanding the challenges of integrating very active clinical care with a robust translational research portfolio.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** April 12, 2019

**Request for Information to Better Facilitate Cancer Systems Epidemiology Research**
The NCI seeks broad input from members of the scientific community to identify areas of need and opportunities for interdisciplinary, systems science research focused on cancer risk and prognosis, particularly data analysis and interpretation when applying comprehensive analytical approaches, such as systems or computational modeling, to study of the etiology of cancer.

**Response Date:** April 30, 2019

**Biology of Bladder Cancer (R01/R21)**
This FOA encourages applications investigating the biology and underlying mechanisms of bladder cancer.

**Application Deadlines: (R01):** June 5, 2019 *(R21):** June 16, 2019

**Recent Publications**

*Immune checkpoint-based therapy in myeloid malignancies: a promise yet to be fulfilled.*
Bewersdorf JP, Stahl M, Zeidan AM.

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**Calendar**

**Yale Cancer Answers**
March 24; 7:30PM
WNPR
*Reconstructive Surgery for Melanoma and Skin Cancers*  
James Clune, MD

**Radiobiology & Radiotherapy Research Program**
March 25; 11:00AM
Boyer Center for Molecular Medicine, 206/208
*Regulation of Genome Stability and Homology-directed DNA Double-strand Break Repair by the Nuclear Periphery*  
Megan C. King, PhD

**Genetics Special Seminar**
March 25; 12:00PM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, I-Wing, 304
*Beyond the Usual Suspects: Genomic and Functional Approaches to Uncovering Novel Cancer Vulnerabilities*  
Srinivas Viswanathan, MD, PhD

**Yale Stem Cell Center Seminar Series**
March 25; 2:00PM
The Anlyan Center, TAC Auditorium, N107
*Dynamic Activation of Genes and Enhancers During Cell Differentiation*  
Karen Adelman, PhD

**Pathology Research in Progress Talks**
March 26; 9:30AM
**Systemic Management for Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Review of the Molecular Pathways of Carcinogenesis, Current and Emerging Therapies, and Novel Treatment Strategies.**
Saffo S, Taddei TH.
[Read More >>]

**Does sentinel lymph node status have prognostic significance in patients with acral lentiginous melanoma?**
Pavri SN, Han G, Khan S, Han D.
[Read More >>]

**Completion lymphadenectomy for a positive sentinel node biopsy in melanoma patients is not associated with a survival benefit.**
[Read More >>]

**Preoperative assessment of malignant potential of gastrointestinal stromal tumor by dual-time-point 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography imaging: Usefulness of standardized uptake value and retention index.**
[Read More >>]

**Increased risk of brain metastases in ovarian cancer patients with BRCA mutations.**
Ratner E, Bala M, Louie-Gao M, Aydin E, Hazard S, Brastianos PK.
Gynecol Oncol. 2019 Mar 12.
[Read More >>]

**Genetics Clinical Grand Rounds**
March 26; 10:15AM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, I-Wing, I-304
Peining Li, PhD
[Learn More >>]

**YCC Grand Rounds**
March 26; 12:00PM
Park Street Auditorium
YCC Shared Resources
David Calderwood, PhD and Ann Haberman, PhD
[Learn More >>]

**CNS Mets Oncology Conference**
March 26; 1:00PM
20 York St, North Pavilion, Smilow, 4-215B
[Learn More >>]

**Dermatology Grand Rounds Visiting Professor Lecture**
March 27; 10:00AM
Fitkin Auditorium
Regulatory T Cells in Skin
Michael Rosenblum MD, PhD
[Learn More >>]

**Grand Rounds for Non-Clinicians**
March 27; 12:00PM
55 Park Street
Oncology Rehabilitation: From Inpatient to Long Term Survivorship Care
Scott Capozza, PT
Rebecca Ipek, OTR
Michelle Minnocci, PT
[Learn More >>]
Endocrine Therapy-Related Symptoms and Quality of Life in Female Cancer Survivors in the YaleFitness Intervention Trial.

Examination of Independent Prognostic Power of Gene Expressions and Histopathological Imaging Features in Cancer.

Adrenocortical cancer cell line mutational profile reveals aggressive genetic background.

Nuclear cardiology in the context of multimodality imaging to detect cardiac toxicity from cancer therapeutics: Established and emerging methods.

Impact of Hydroxyurea on Survival and Risk of Thrombosis Among Older Patients With Essential Thrombocythemia.

Larotrectinib in NTRK-Rearranged Solid Tumors Published as part of the Biochemistry series "Biochemistry to Bedside".

March 27; 5:30PM
300 Hill Road, Harwinton, CT
Demystifying the Risk and Genetics of Breast Cancer and a Review of Treatment Options
Learn More >>

9th Annual Global Health Day
March 28; All Day Event
55 Park Street, 2nd Floor
The Role of Academic Institutions in Global Health
Sten H Vermund, MD, PhD
Ann Kurth, PhD, MPH, MSN, CNM, FAAN
Saad B Omer, MBBS, MPH, PhD
Learn More >>

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
March 28; 9:00AM
Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven, North Pavilion, LL (Lower Level), LL505
Advances in Prostate Radiation
James B. Yu, MD, MHS
Learn More >>

Immunobiology Seminar Series
March 28; 10:30AM
The Anlyan Center, TAC Auditorium, N107
RNA-Regulation of Inflammation
Jorge Henao-Mejia, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

Smilow Screening & Prevention Informational Table
March 28; 11:00AM
Yale New Haven Hospital Saint Raphael Campus
Colorectal Cancer Awareness
Learn More >>

Pathology Grand Rounds
March 28; 12:30PM
Synthetic lethality of a cell-penetrating anti-RAD51 antibody in PTEN-deficient melanoma and glioma cells.

Mutant and wild-type isocitrate dehydrogenase 1 share enhancing mechanisms involving distinct tyrosine kinase cascades in cancer.

Will deeper characterization of the landscape of immune checkpoint molecules in acute myeloid leukemia bone marrow lead to improved therapeutic targeting?

Endogenous development of Cystoisospora belli in intestinal and biliary epithelium of humans.

Yale School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Hospital Present
April 1; 12:00PM
Fitkin Auditorium
*The Nine Rules for Love, Grief, and Death of the Irish Wake*
Kevin Toolis
Learn More >>

Pathology Research in Progress Talks
April 2; 9:30AM
The Anlyan Center, 1st floor, at entrance, TAC Auditorium, N-107
Jocelyn Chen and Alanna Kaplan
Learn More >>

Genetics Clinical Grand Rounds
April 2; 10:15AM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, I-Wing, I-304
James McGrath, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

Schwartz Center Rounds
April 2; 12:00PM
Park Street Auditorium
Learn More >>

Genetics Department Research in Progress
April 3; 12:15PM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, I-Wing, I-304
Myles Alderman (Xiao Lab) & Bing Yang (Wang Lab)
Learn More >>

CBDS Seminar Series
April 3; 4:00PM
Brady Memorial Laboratory, Auditorium
*Learning the Secrets of Sequences with Deep Generative Models*
Debora S. Marks, PhD
Learn More >>

Pathology Grand Rounds
April 4; 12:30PM
Fitkin Auditorium
Molecular Pathology in the Diagnosis of Pediatric CNS Tumors
David Ellison, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Grand Rounds Lecture
April 4; 12:30PM
The Anlyan Center, first, Auditorium
MRI in Lung Cancer - Current Status and Experience
Dhiraj Baruah, MD
Learn More >>

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar
April 4; 2:30PM
Orchard Medical Center, 107-109
Learn More >>

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Communications