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

June 7, 2019
Announcements

Radiation Oncology Receives APEx Accreditation

I am proud to announce that our radiation oncology team, under the leadership of Dr. Christin Knowlton, has received full accreditation from the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEx®) for four years. We are the first in the New England Region to be awarded the accreditation, which covers Smilow Cancer Hospital and our sites in Hamden, Guilford, Trumbull, and Waterford. This ensures that patients who choose Smilow Cancer Hospital for radiation oncology receive care delivered with the highest safety and quality standards in the industry. Congratulations to our entire radiation oncology team, and thank you for your tireless dedication to patient care, quality, and safety.

Groundbreaking Research Presented at ASCO

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital's presence at this year's ASCO annual meeting was exciting throughout the 5-day meeting. We had results from over 45 research studies shared during oral or poster presentations, including several headliners that will likely change the course of treatment for our patients. Barbara Burtness, MD, led a final analysis of the KEYNOTE-048 study of pembrolizumab as first-line therapy for recurrent/metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, which will presumably

News Center

Alessandro Santin recognized as 2019 ASCO leader in cancer care
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change the landscape of treatment for patients with head and neck cancers. For patients with bladder cancer, an area that has seen limited progress, Daniel Petrylak, MD, presented the results of a clinical trial using an exciting new drug, enfortumab vedotin monotherapy, demonstrating considerable activity in this patient population. And in a groundbreaking study presenting the impact of improved access to cancer care through the Affordable Care Act, Amy Davidoff, PhD, MS, shared data that showed a reduction of racial disparities in cancer care. Congratulations to these colleagues as well as the other dedicated YCC/SCH investigators who contributed to the 45 presentations and abstracts at the 2019 ASCO meeting.

Recognized as "Best Doctors"
I am honored to announce that Connecticut Magazine has named 70 Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital physicians to its 2019 Best Doctors guide. Published in the magazine's June issue, the Best Doctors list consists of 782 Connecticut physicians from 78 medical specialties. According to Connecticut Magazine, Best Doctors connects individuals facing difficult medical treatment decisions with the best doctors, selected by an impartial peer review to evaluate their diagnosis and treatment plans.

Notables
At the ASCO Annual meeting last week, Deborah Blythe Doroshow, MD, PhD, was awarded the Journal of Clinical Oncology Young Investigator Award from the Conquer Cancer Foundation to support her work, "Targeting DNA Damage Repair Mechanisms in

Yale Cancer Center Researchers Show Novel Drug Increased Survival for Bladder Cancer Patients
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Yale Study Finds Link Between Medicaid Expansion and Equity in Cancer Care
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ACA Linked to Reduced Racial Disparities, Earlier Diagnosis and Treatment in Cancer Care
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IDH1/2 Mutated Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinomas and Other Solid Tumors." Dr. Doroshow is mentored by Patricia LoRusso, DO and Roy Herbst, MD, PhD.

RNA Biology Workshop

Yale Cancer Center and the Yale RNA Center co-hosted the "Third Workshop on Splicing Factor Mutations and RNA Biology in Cancer" at the Yale School of Management on May 22 and 23. The event was organized by Drs. Stephanie Halene, Karla Neugebauer, and Manoj Pillai with assistance from Richard Carr. Sponsors included the Edward P. Evans Foundation, Yale Cancer Center, Yale Center for RNA Science and Medicine, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Basic and physician scientists from Australia, Europe, and the U.S. presented their cutting-edge research and exchanged ideas on this emerging field that interfaces basic biochemistry and cancer biology.

The first evening started with an exciting poster session by trainees and was followed by an opening keynote address by Dr. Joan Steitz, who captured the audience with her group’s work on viral non-coding RNAs. The following day, presentations by senior scientists and selected trainees covered the latest in RNA splicing factor mutations, development of drugs targeting mutant proteins, RNA regulators in stem

Immunotherapy Drug Shows Potential to Cure Advanced Lung Cancer
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A New Kind of Cancer Treatment is Triggering Diabetes in Some Patients. Scientists Still Don’t Know Why.
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There are no approved treatment options for patients with advanced bladder cancer after standard chemotherapy and immune treatments,
cells, novel RNA sequencing methods, advanced mouse models, and novel tools to study the non-coding transcriptome. Dr. Samie Jaffrey, Professor of Pharmacology at Weill Cornell Medical College, presented the closing keynote lecture highlighting the advances in regulation of RNA function by nucleotide methylation. The workshop served as a venue for forging new collaborations and deepened existing ones to advance our understanding of RNA biology in cancer, with the ultimate goal to translate these advances to better treatments for patients.

**Yale's Review of Advances in Oncology**
On Friday, June 14, Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital will host a Review of Advances in Oncology: Highlights from the ASCO® Annual Meeting. Please join us for a full day of presentations from our clinical programs, and a keynote presentation by Dr. Kenneth Anderson on Current and Future Myeloma Therapies, at Water's Edge in Westbrook, CT.

[Learn More >>](#)

**Yale Systems Biology Institute Symposium**
Please join the Yale Systems Biology Institute for a Symposium on Advances in Systems: Analysis of Aggressive Cancers on Monday, June 17 at the Yale West Campus Conference Center.

[Learn More >>](#)

but the results of a phase II clinical trial led by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital researchers demonstrates an effective treatment for this deadly disease.

"We really haven't had another therapy option for patients with urothelial or bladder cancer, so we're very excited about these findings," said study lead author Daniel P. Petrylak, MD. "We now have a therapy that can help people who don't benefit from checkpoint inhibitors, which is very gratifying."

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Join us for The Importance of Expertise and Experience in Acoustic Neuroma Management: A discussion of surgical, radiation and observation options for patients.

[Read More >>](#)
Dr. Roy Herbst, Chief of Medical Oncology, joined Greenwich Hospital President Norm Roth and MLB all-star Lee Mazzilli at the Swing into Survivorship Celebration at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Greenwich last night to celebrate June’s Cancer Survivor Awareness Month.

Employee Profile: Grayson Burdick

At the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Waterbury, Grayson Burdick preps patients for their appointments and monitors the office flow, helping to ensure everyone stays on time and patients are escorted into the right rooms. Taking vitals - blood pressure and pulse, and asking preliminary questions like name, date of birth, and pain screening are all part of being an Ambulatory Care Associate (ACA), and for the last year and a half in this role, Grayson has met and exceeded all expectations.

We are proud to announce that Connecticut Magazine has named 70 Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital physicians to its 2019 Best Doctors guide!

Yale Cancer Center scientists and Smilow Cancer Hospital physicians are here at #ASCO19! Our team is presenting more than 45 research studies to help improve cancer care for patients! #cancerfighters
After graduating from UConn with a degree in Allied Health Science and Psychology, Grayson wanted to explore his options for PA school, where he could train and become a physician assistant. To build clinical care hours and gain more experience with physicians and patients, he joined the Care Center in Waterbury as an ACA. Endearing, hardworking, and never hesitant to help, Grayson quickly became a staff and patient favorite.

Roberta Sterling, MSN, MPH, RN, CNML, Clinical Program Manager in Waterbury, says of Grayson, "He has been an outstanding addition to the our Smilow team in Waterbury. He is warm and personable and approaches every day with a smile. He is incredibly efficient, yet is still able to make every patient feel like they are his only focus at the time. Patients absolutely adore Grayson. He is intelligent and dedicated, and will definitely go far in life."

A native of Woodbury, Grayson used to be a volunteer EMT part-time, and he is the type of person who was born with a natural desire to help others.

"When a patient arrives, I always like to set the precedent on how their day goes, whether it's with a warm welcome, a smile, or trying to cheer up a patient who is down. We have a very busy clinic, but we are still able to maintain a friendly, family environment."

When Grayson was hired, he was upfront about his eventual desire to enroll in PA school. With that possibility looming, it has been bittersweet for everyone but this summer, Grayson will be taking the next steps in his career and will start school at the University of Florida. Congratulations, and thank you Grayson!

Good news from the National Cancer Institute this week! Overall, cancer death rates continue to decrease in men, women, and children for all major racial and ethnic groups, according to the Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer.

Congratulations to Michael DiGiovanna, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) who was awarded the Alvan R. Feinstein Award for outstanding teaching of clinical skills during Yale School of Medicine's commencement ceremonies last week. Dr. DiGiovanna was recognized for his efforts in the creation of the new medical school curriculum and the excellent feedback received by trainees on his mentorship. Thank you, Dr. DiGiovanna!
#OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Marissa Pierpont, a Lab Coordinator for the Clinical Research Support Laboratory, after she saved the day when a tissue sample was mistakenly shipped to the wrong location. As a result of Marissa's proactive efforts, the sample was rerouted to the correct lab, which prevented a deviation in the protocol for a patient. Thank you, Marissa!

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

**Paul Calabresi Career Development Award for Clinical Oncology (K12 Clinical Trial Optional) (PAR-19-242)**

The purpose of the Paul Calabresi Career Development Award for Clinical Oncology (PCACO) is to increase the number of clinician-scientists (M.D.s, D.O.s, PharmDs, nurses with PhDs, or equivalent) trained in clinical and translational cancer research, and to promote their career development as cancer researchers. This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) allows appointment of Scholars proposing to serve as the lead investigator of an independent clinical trial; or proposing a separate ancillary clinical trial to an existing trial; or proposing to gain research funding opportunities.
experience in a clinical trial led by another investigator, as part of their research and career development.

**Application Deadline:** June 18, 2019

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**Global Oncology Young Investigator Award (GO YIA): Implementation Science to Address Oncology Care in LMICs**

The Conquer Cancer Global Oncology Young Investigator Award (GO YIA) provides research funding to early-career investigators to encourage and promote quality research in global oncology and to develop the next generation researchers to address global health needs.

The project needs to be a research exercise - identifying training models, researching their outcomes, analyzing the outcomes of those models to select the most effective curriculum, and also researching the cost of creating sustainable models where they currently do not exist. The ideal grantee will have a mentor who is established, and will need to be within a team or be paired with a high-income institution working for a period of time in a lower resource setting.

**Application Deadline:** June 27, 2019

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**Yale Spore in Skin Cancer Developmental Research Awards and Career Enhancement Awards**

DRA and CEA projects must have promising translational research potential with application to human skin cancer. It is expected that they can evolve into projects with a clear translational component that are suitable for funding either within the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer or as R01 or equivalent grants.

Developmental Research Program Awards will support a broad spectrum of innovative pilot projects applicable to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment. Career Enhancement Program Awards will support new investigative cutaneous oncologists and other scientists committed to multidisciplinary studies investigating the relevance of biological discoveries in

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Dr. Sarah Goldberg discussing challenges using #Immunotherapy for Non-Small Cell #LungCancer at #ASCO19.

Being presented now #ASCO19 promising new research by Dr. Paul Eder showing #immunotherapy can help patients with advanced #lungcancer.

Congrats to Dr. Deb Doroshow and Dr. Hao Xie with @DrRoyHerbstYale for receiving Young Investigator awards from @ASCO at #ASCO19.

We’re here at #ASCO19! Getting ready to present more than 45 research studies to help improve #cancer care for patients!

@MSznol and Dr. Kevan Herold discussed efforts to help patients with the emerging side effects of #cancer#immunotherapy with @statnews.

@BarbaraBurtness talks to @cure_magazine about how #immunotherapy has become the lead treatment option for many patients with #headandneckcancer.

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**Calendar**

**Hematology Research Seminar Series**

June 7; 11:45 AM

Brady Memorial Laboratory, Brady Auditorium

Next Generation CAR T Cells for Treatment of Hematologic Malignancies

Learn More >>
human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment, and enhance the careers of individuals who are already productively investigating this field.

DRP-eligible investigators include established and junior investigators (faculty appointment higher than Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate). They include faculty who currently lead skin cancer programs but wish to test an idea clearly distinct from current or pending grants or may lead programs not directed at skin cancer, but be interested in exploring the applicability of their expertise to skin cancer.

CEP funds are often awarded to faculty within five years of appointment as Assistant Professor. Previous recipients of SPORE DRP and CEP funds are generally ineligible to be P.I.s of new projects within 3 years of completion of their previous funding.

Application Deadline: July 1, 2019 by 5:00 p.m.

Learn More >>

NCCN/AstraZeneca Quality of Care & Clinical Care Pathways in Unresectable Stage III/Stage IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals (AstraZeneca) to offer a new opportunity to improve patient care and outcomes in advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The Request for Proposals (RFP) outlines the scope and process that will be followed for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOI).

The intent of this RFP is to encourage NCCN Member Institutions to submit LOIs describing concepts for developing, implementing, and evaluating healthcare provider performance and/or healthcare quality improvement initiatives to enhance patient care and outcomes in unresectable stage III NSCLC patients and stage IV NSCLC patients receiving first line therapy.

Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline: July 9, 2019, 11:59 p.m. EST

Learn More >>

Survivor Journeys Hosts
June 8; 8:00 AM
1000 Hall of Fame Avenue, Max's Tavern Conference Room, Springfield, MA
Cancer Survivorship 101
Learn More >>

Survivorship Celebration - Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center, Trumbull
June 8; 10:00 AM
Park Avenue Medical Center, 5520 Park Avenue, Trumbull, CT
Neal Fischbach, MD and Bruce A. McGibbon, MD
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Answers
June 9; 7:30 PM
WNPR
Men's Health
Stanton Honig, MD
Learn More >>

Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program
June 10; 11:00 AM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, I-Wing, SHM I-304
Detection of Cancer Signatures in Cell-free DNA Using Compartmentalized PCR and Methylation Analysis
Chaitanya Kantak, PhD
Learn More >>

Epigenetics Interest Group Research Seminar
June 10; 12:00 PM
Boyer Center for Molecular Medicine, BCMM 206/208
Testing the Role of Bivalency in Plasticity of Cancer Cells by Targeted Editing of H3K4me3 and dCas9 Mediated Epigenetic Modulation of Chromatin Bivalency in Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells
Learn More >>
Recent Publications

Clamping Together Hemidesmosomes and Latching Them in Place.
Boggon TJ.
Read More >>

Temporal characteristics of NF-κB inhibition in blocking bile-induced oncogenic molecular events in hypopharyngeal cells.
Doukas PG, Vageli DP, Doukas SG, Sasaki CT.
Read More >>

Two well-differentiated pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor mouse models.
Read More >>

Positive Surgical Margins in Submandibular Malignancies: Facility and Practice Variation.
Benchetrit L, Morse E, Judson BL, Mehra S.
Read More >>

Health care expenses for treatment of acute myeloid leukemia.
Read More >>

Pathology Research in Progress Talks
June 11; 9:30 AM
The Anlyan Center, 1st floor, TAC Auditorium, N-107
Irina Krykbaeva and Gemma Moore, PhD
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
June 11; 12:00 PM
55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium
Tales of Genomic Instability and Oncogenic Herpesviruses: New Insights into Mechanisms Regulating Synthesis of Viral Structural Proteins
Gary Kupfer, MD and Ayman El-Guindy, PhD
Learn More >>

Human and Translational Immunology Seminar
June 11; 4:00 PM
The Anlyan Center, N-203
Immunotherapy in the Treatment of Pediatric Brain Tumors
Juan Vasquez, MD
Learn More >>

Comparative Medicine Special Seminar
June 12; 11:00 AM
Hope Memorial Building, H-110
Adipose Tissue Dysregulation and Insulin Resistance in Obesity
Jae Bum Kim, PhD
Learn More >>

YCC Seminar
June 12; 12:30 PM
Hope Memorial Building, H-110
Considering Investments for Highest Yield in Academic Immuno-Oncology Research
Learn More >>
Read More >>

JNCI Cancer Spectr. 2019 Jun;3(2):pkz017.
Read More >>

Flexibility sustains epithelial tissue homeostasis.
Tai K, Cockburn K, Greco V.
Read More >>

Outcomes of Serial Multiparametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Subsequent Biopsy in Men with Low-risk Prostate Cancer Managed with Active Surveillance.
Hsiang W, Ghabili K, Syed JS, Holder J, Nguyen KA, Suarez-Sarmiento A, Huber S, Leapman MS, Sprenkle PC.
Eur Urol Focus. 2019 May 27.
Read More >>

An International Perspective on Drugs for Cancer: The Best of Times, the Worst of Times.
Lehman R, Gross C.
Read More >>

Prolonged Response to Pembrolizumab in Spindle Cell Squamous Cell Carcinoma Metastatic to the Central Nervous System.
Liu Y, Fitzgerald B, Perry E, Pathak A, Chao HH.
Mario Sznol, MD
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Cancer Metabolism Interest Group Seminar
June 12; 1:00 PM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, B-Wing, Giarman Room, SHM B-201
Metabolic Pathways to Liver Cancer Stratification and Therapy
Weiping Han, PhD
Learn More >>

Cancer Biology Meeting
June 12; 4:00 PM
Brady Memorial Library, 137
Investigating T Cell Responses Using a Genetically Engineered Mouse Model
Kelli Connolly and Martina Damo
Learn More >>

The Importance of Expertise and Experience in Acoustic Neuroma Management
June 12; 5:30 PM
55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium
A Discussion of Surgical, Radiation and Observation Options for Patients
Jennifer Moliterno, MD, FAANS, John Kveton, MD and Yi An, MD
Learn More >>

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar
June 13; 2:30 PM
Orchard Medical Center, 107-109
Learn More >>

Yale’s Review of Advances in Oncology
June 14; 7:00 AM
Water’s Edge Conference Center, 1525 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook, CT
Highlights from the ASCO® Annual Meeting 2019
Kenneth C. Anderson, MD and multiple faculty presenters
Learn More >>
Diet and risk of glioma: targets for prevention remain elusive.
Walsh KM, Claus EB. Neuro Oncol. 2019 Apr 23.
Read More >>

Association between pre-diagnosis BMI, physical activity, pathologic complete response, and chemotherapy completion in women treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy for breast cancer.
Read More >>

The Role of Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging to Detect Cardiac Toxicity From Cancer Therapeutics.
Read More >>

Smilow Screening & Prevention Presents
June 15; All Day Event
Men's Health Day 2019
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Answers
June 16; 7:30 PM
WNPR
Legislative Opportunities for Cancer Control
Bryte Johnson
Learn More >>

Yale Systems Biology Institute and Cancer Systems Biology at Yale Presents
June 17; 8:00 AM
West Campus Conference Center
Symposium 2019: Advances in Systems Analysis of Aggressive Cancers
Learn More >>

YCC Seminar - Neuroendocrine Tumors
June 17; 10:00 AM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, B-Wing, Giarman Room, SHM B-201
From Clinical Advances to Translational Opportunities
Pamela L. Kunz, MD
Learn More >>

Biomedical Research Seminar
June 17; 12:00 PM
Fitkin Memorial Pavilion Auditorium, LMP 1094
Learn More >>

Pathology Research in Progress Talks
June 18; 9:30 AM
The Anlyan Center, 1st floor, TAC Auditorium, N-107
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
June 18; 12:00 PM
55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium
DNA Repair Variants and Cancer
Synthetic Lethal Strategies in the BRCA Setting: What we can learn from acquired resistance
Joann Sweasy, PhD and Megan C. King, PhD

Urology Hosts
June 20; 8:00 AM (All Day)
Hope Memorial Building, H-216
Bernard Lytton Visiting Professor Day

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Communications