January 10, 2020

Announcements

Kevin Billingsley, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Kevin Billingsley to Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital this week. As our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Billingsley is responsible for clinical cancer care across YCC, SCH, and our Care Centers as well as clinical program development for cancer services throughout Yale New Haven Health. Among his many responsibilities, he will oversee quality and patient safety initiatives, evaluate and optimize our multidisciplinary team structure, assist with facilities and space planning, support our research mission, and interact and coordinate with Yale New Haven Hospital’s clinical leadership structure.

Dr. Billingsley joined Yale from Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) where he served as Medical Director of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Chief of Surgical Oncology, and the Hedinger Professor of Surgical Oncology. He is an international leader in the clinical care and research of hepatobiliary cancers, and served as co-director of the Liver Tumor Program at OHSU. We will announce Meet & Greets News Center

from the desk of
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief
Smilow Cancer Hospital
for you to stop in and introduce yourself to Dr. Billingsley later this month.

**YCC’s Collaborative Partnership with YCCI**

Funded through an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI) is in its 14th year at Yale School of Medicine and leads our clinical research efforts by streamlining research support activities for all clinical departments throughout the School. Yale Cancer Center's Clinical Trials Office (CTO) is closely aligned with YCCI and benefits from infrastructure support provided through YCCI’s resources, including OnCore system support, budgeting, quality assurance and protocol monitoring, multicenter trial project management, education and training initiatives, community outreach and engagement, Medicare coverage analysis and clinical trial activation efforts. Additionally, YCCI administratively manages components of YCC's Comprehensive Cancer Support Grant, such as the Protocol Review Committee and Data and Safety Monitoring Committee. These efforts are successful due to the collaborative partnership between the YCC CTO and YCCI. The leadership of YCC is grateful for the collaboration between our CTO and YCCI and will continue to find ways to partner together to streamline our efforts and improve our processes in order to improve timelines to activation and responsiveness for our study participants.

**Tobacco Treatment Program Expands Services**

The Yale Tobacco Treatment Program has received a grant to test a referral from EPIC to SmokeFreeTXT, the National Cancer Institute's free tobacco texting program. With the help of the Epic Bridges and the Ambulatory teams, an e-referral option has been added to a new tobacco treatment Smartset for oncology providers to increase the number of oncology patients who are treated for tobacco use. With the Smartset, oncology providers can refer their patients to this texting program, in addition to referring patients for the Smilow Tobacco Treatment Program and ordering tobacco pharmacotherapies. A referral can also be placed by providers typing "Smokefree" into the Add Order box in EPIC.
SmokefreeTXT is a free, evidence-based text message tobacco intervention, developed as a component of the National Cancer Institute's larger Smokefree.gov initiative. Patients can use the program on their own. It removes the many barriers of in-person treatment. The 8-week program provides encouragement, advice, and tips to help smokers who are trying to quit. In the SmokefreeTXT program, users receive 3-5 messages per day and can also receive additional real-time quit support by texting one of SmokefreeTXT's keywords (e.g., CRAVE).

For more information, please contact Quitsmoking@ynhh.org or 203-688-1378.

Notables

Hongyu Zhao, PhD, Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and the Ira V. Hiscock Professor of Biostatistics and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Genetics Genomics, and Epigenetics Research Program, was recently presented the Pao-Lu Hsu Prize at the 11th International Chinese Statistical Association conference in Hangzhou, China.

The Genetics, Genomics, and Epigenetics Research Program welcomes Farren Isaacs, PhD. Dr. Isaacs is an Associate Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology. His laboratory is focused on developing foundational genomic and biomolecular technologies to probe and enhance the understanding of natural biological systems. Their approach is designed to integrate biology, chemistry, and bioengineering through the construction of genes, networks and whole genomes alongside quantitative models to reveal

An Overview of Immunotherapy in Head and Neck Cancer

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook

Latest Posts:

Dr. Daniel Petrylak shares, "...that's why I fight cancer: To see families that would be otherwise split, united to see their grandchildren graduate high school or college."

Join us for a discussion on the developing connection between bacteria and colon cancer with Dr. Seth Herzon from Yale Cancer Center on Yale Cancer Answers. The program
complex biological processes. In turn, they utilize these insights to program and evolve organisms with new biological function. With a background in bioengineering, Dr. Isaacs has training and expertise across diverse research areas, which include molecular biology, genomics, computational biology, and molecular engineering.

**Gerald Shulman, MD, PhD**, was recently appointed to the **Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program**. Dr. Shulman is a Professor of Medicine and Cellular Molecular Physiology. He has an exceptional record of achievement in pioneering new approaches for in vivo studies of metabolism, mainly in understanding insulin-resistant diabetes. He has a growing interest in understanding metabolic dysregulation in cancer, and is expanding his own work in this area. He will be an important contributor to the strategic Yale Cancer Center goal of understanding and therapeutically exploiting cancer metabolism.

**Employee Profile: Jocelyn Walls**

is available for download on iTunes through our podcast this week.

To fully recover, many patients will need the help of occupational and physical therapists following cancer treatment. Linda Grenus, OT, and Scott Capozza, PT, discuss the assistance they provide to our patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and provide resources to listeners on Yale Cancer Answers. Tune in online or download the podcast through iTunes.

Congratulations to Tara Sanft, MD, who has been appointed the inaugural Chief Patient Experience Officer for Smilow
When people learn that Jocelyn Walls is an Oncology Social Worker, their first reaction is that it must be upsetting to hear from cancer patients for a living, but since she started in oncology in 2004, Jocelyn has only ever found it to be rewarding and uplifting.

Currently the only Oncology Social Worker serving the adult population at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Greenwich, Jocelyn works with all patients, however the largest population that she sees is breast cancer patients. The majority of patients are newly diagnosed or undergoing treatment, but Jocelyn has found there is a need for post-treatment support services as well and she offers a monthly post-treatment support group for breast cancer patients. She also worked to create a parent packet for patients with young children that provides them with resources and guidance on how to navigate the challenges of raising children while undergoing treatment for cancer.

"I try to keep myself educated on all treatments that patients may be receiving and the possible side effects. It helps me to know ahead of time what physical challenges they will face during treatment and how that may impact them emotionally. When I meet with a patient I try to keep an open mind, because they are always surprising me with a new perspective or challenge I wasn’t aware of," said Jocelyn.

Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Manager of Oncology Social Work at Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented, "Jocelyn is an asset to oncology social work. She is clinically excellent, warm, and compassionate. It is so good that the patients in Greenwich have Jocelyn on their side, counseling, supporting, and guiding them, to enable them to manage the cancer trajectory with..."
It is a pleasure to work with Jocelyn - and I am so glad she is on our team!"

YCC #OOTB Thanks Trisha Burrello

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Trisha Burrello, a Clinical Trials Team Manager in our Clinical Trials Office. Recently, when data on a trial needed to be urgently updated, Trisha's effort to make this happen immediately was commendable. Thank you, Trisha-your continued support and hard work is appreciated!

Yale Cancer Center's #OOTBTHANKS 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.

Recent Publications

**Exposing Hidden Targets: Combining epigenetic and immunotherapy to overcome cancer resistance.**
Olino K, Park T, Ahuja N.
[Read More >>]

**Fine-mapping of 150 breast cancer risk regions identifies 191 likely target genes.**
[Read More >>]

Angela Wilson and her colleagues from Frontier Communications' Dispatch Regional Center in New Haven presented a check to Smilow's Jacqueline Crenshaw from their fundraising efforts in October. Their support is directed toward breast cancer screening and the new mammography van being planned for Smilow Cancer Hospital. Raffles, luncheons, games, and company-offered time off contributed to the total raised, and we are very grateful to everyone at Frontier for their enthusiasm and engagement!

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

[Follow us on twitter]
Applications of transcatheter embolotherapy in preparation for liver transplantation and resection.
Lin EY, Cornman-Homonoff J, Odisio BC, Madoff DC.

Dermatologic conditions in women receiving systemic cancer therapy.
Ferreira MN, Ramseier JY, Leventhal JS.

Lifestyle Factors and Risk of Myeloproliferative Neoplasms in the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study.

Adapting Research Protocols in Response to E-Cigarette, or Vaping, Product Use Associated Lung Injury (EVALI): A Response to CDC Recommendations for E-Cigarette Trials.
Davis DR, Fucito LM, Kong G, Jackson A, Bold KW, Baldassarri SR, Krishnan-Sarin S, O'Malley SS.
Nicotine Tob Res. 2020 Jan 6.

"Radiotherapy for older women (ROW)"; A risk calculator for women with early-stage breast cancer.
Wang SY, Abujarad F, Chen T, Evans SB, Killelea BK, Mougalian SS, Fraenkel L, Gross C.
Effect of Diaphragmatic Breathing on Procedural Anxiety During Transrectal Prostate Biopsy.
Grinberg AS, Sellinger J, Sprenkle PC, Bandin AJ, Nawaf CB, Syed JS, Leapman MS.
Urology. 2019 Dec 29.

Crystal structures of p120RasGAP N-terminal SH2 domain in its apo form and in complex with a p190RhoGAP phosphotyrosine peptide.
Jaber Chehayeb R, Stiegler AL, Boggon TJ.

Sacituzumab Govitecan, an Antibody-Drug Conjugate targeting trophoblast cell-surface antigen 2 (Trop-2), shows cytotoxic activity against poorly differentiated endometrial adenocarcinomas in vitro and in vivo.

Transfer RNA methyltransferase gene NSUN2 mRNA expression modifies the effect of T cell activation score on patient survival in head and neck squamous carcinoma.
Lu L, Gaffney SG, Cannataro VL, Townsend J.
Oral Oncol. 2019 Dec 26;101:104554.

The minimal that kills: Why defining and targeting measurable residual disease is the "Sine Qua Non" for further progress in management of acute myeloid leukemia.
Structured sparse logistic regression with application to lung cancer prediction using breath volatile biomarkers.
Zhang X, Zhang Q, Wang X, Ma S, Fang K.
Read More >>

Hypomethylating agent (HMA) therapy use and survival in older adults with Refractory Anemia with Excess Blasts (RAEB) in the United States (USA): a large propensity score-matched population-based study.
Read More >>

Somatic PRKAR1A mutation in sporadic atrial myxoma with cerebral parenchymal metastases: a case report.
Read More >>

Funding Opportunities

YCCI Scholar Awards
The YCCI Scholar Awards 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.
Letter of Intent Due: January 13, 2020
Learn More >>

Communication and Decision Making for Individuals with Inherited Cancer Syndromes (U01)

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
January 14; 12PM
Park Street Auditorium
Elucidating and Targeting Non-oncogenic Dependencies in Human Malignancies at the Single-cell Level
Andrea Califano, PhD
Learn More >>

Cancer Microbiology Research Program Seminar
January 14; 1PM
Hope 216
Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Tale of Heterogeneity and Controversy
Tamar Taddei, MD
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Center Seminar
January 15; 12PM
FMP 132
PATCHwork: Piecing Together the Value of Advanced Care Planning in Patients with Chronic Hematologic Disease
Sharl Azar, MD
Learn More >>

Cancer Immunology Seminar
January 15; 12PM
BCMM 206
Mechanism of Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) Signaling
Xiaolei Su, PhD
Learn More >>

Surgical Research Seminar
January 15; 4PM
BML 131
Controlled-Release and Targeted Drug Delivery Systems: Collaborative Research Between Surgeons and Engineers
W. Mark Saltzman, PhD
Learn More >>
Through this FOA, the NCI invites the submission of applications requesting support for projects that will be conducted to develop, test, and evaluate interventions and implementation approaches, or adapt existing approaches, to improve cancer risk communication between patients with an inherited susceptibility to cancer (and their families) and providers so that affected individuals can make informed clinical risk management decision.

**Application Deadline:** January 21, 2020

Learn More >>

2020 Yale Cancer Center Team Challenge Award

YCC is pleased to announce the 2020 Team Challenge Award, a new internal grant program focused on advancing the work of teams who seek to address a fundamental research priority that aligns and/or has the potential to successfully extend YCC strategic priorities.

**Internal LOI Deadline:** February 3, 2020

**Internal Application Deadline:** April 1, 2020

Learn More >>

Program to Assess the Rigor and Reproducibility of Extracellular Vesicle-Derived Analytes for Cancer Detection (R01)

This FOA encourages research projects that focus on innovative research in the isolation and characterization of extracellular vesicles (EVs) and their cargo for discovery of predictive biomarkers for risk assessment, detection, diagnosis and prognosis of early cancer.

**Application Deadline:** February 5, 2020

Learn More >>

Innovative Biospecimen Science Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R21)

This FOA solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on the early-stage development of highly innovative technologies that improve the quality of the samples used for cancer research or clinical care.

**Application Deadline:** February 21, 2020

Learn More >>
Innovative Molecular and Cellular Analysis Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R21)
This FOA solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on the early-stage development of highly innovative technologies offering novel molecular or cellular analysis capabilities for basic or clinical cancer research.
**Application Deadline:** February 21, 2020
[Learn More >>]

Advanced Development and Validation of Emerging Biospecimen Science Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R33)
This FOA solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on further development and validation of emerging technologies that improve the quality of the samples used for cancer research or clinical care.
**Application Deadline:** February 21, 2020
[Learn More >>]

Advanced Development and Validation of Emerging Molecular and Cellular Analysis Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R33)
This FOA solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on further development and validation of emerging technologies offering novel capabilities for targeting, probing, or assessing molecular and cellular features of cancer biology for basic or clinical cancer research.
**Application Deadline:** February 21, 2020
[Learn More >>]

NCI Small Grants Program for Cancer Research for Years 2020, 2021, and 2022
This FOA supports small research projects on cancer that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources.
**Application Deadline:** February 24, 2020
[Learn More >>]
NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00)

The purpose of the NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Fellows (K99/R00) program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented, NCI-supported, independent investigators.

**Application Deadline:** February 26, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

Revision Applications for Validation of Biomarker Assays Developed Through NIH-Supported Research Grants (R01)

The purpose of this FOA is to encourage revision applications (formerly called "competing revisions") from currently funded NCI R01 research projects. The applicants should propose projects that are expected to accelerate the pace of translation of NCI-supported methods/assays/technologies to the clinic.

**Application Deadline:** February 28, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

DoD Breast Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities FY20

The FY20 Defense Appropriation Act is providing funding to the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) 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 Levels 1 and 2** - Letter of Intent Due March 12, 2020
- **Breakthrough Award Level 3** - Preproposal due March 13, 2020
- **Breakthrough Award Level 4** - Preproposal due March 13, 2020
- **Era of Hope Scholar Award** - Letter of Intent due March 12, 2020
- **Innovator Award** - Preproposal due March 13, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center Seminar

**January 24; 12PM**

WWW 208

*Contributing Chapters to Trousseau's Tales; lessons learnt, current endeavors and future directions*

Rushad Patell, MBBS, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

**Submissions**

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**
Director, Public Affairs and Communications
Co-infection and Cancer (R21 and R01)
The purpose of this FOA is to enhance mechanistic and epidemiologic investigations addressing the roles of co-infection.

**Application Deadline (R21):** March 17, 2020  
**Application Deadline (R01):** March 6, 2020

[Learn More >>]