May 15, 2020

Announcements

COVID-19 Response
The last two weeks have seen a considerable decrease in the number of hospitalizations for COVID-19 throughout the Yale New Haven Health System. This encouraging trend has ushered in a new focus on recovery planning for Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. This will include several layers of monitoring and planning, in close collaboration with Yale New Haven Health and Yale Medicine’s clinical recovery efforts and Yale School of Medicine’s research recovery planning.

In addition to a Response and Recovery Team, led by Kim Slusser, RN, and Kevin Billingsley, MD, we have launched four additional Recovery Groups: Ambulatory (Anne Chiang, MD, PhD, and Maureen Major Campos, RN); Inpatient (Kerin Adelson, MD, and Tracy Carafeno, RN); Supportive Care and Specialty Programs (Jennifer Kapo, MD, and Sonia Grizzle); and Clinical Research (Roy Decker, MD, PhD, and Joyce Tull, RN). Each of these groups is closely aligned with the...
Monitoring and Recovery Team and have already held initial launch meetings to kick off their planning efforts.

We saw a 333% increase in Telehealth video and phone visits between March 15 and April 26, with over 2,000 visits the last week of April. In our next phase of planning and clinical care, we will continue our concerted efforts to care for patients using Telehealth, when possible, for follow-up and monitoring appointments. The clinical efficiency and patient satisfaction from these appointments have shown a dramatic benefit in the past two months, and will have a permanent role in our care model moving forward.

Over the next several weeks we hope to see significant progress in the planning and progression for our ambulatory, surgical, and inpatient care, as well as our research laboratories. Together, we know our Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center communities will continue to rally to ensure our patients have access to the care they need and our instrumental and valuable cancer research enterprise regains momentum. We appreciate each of our physicians, nurses, scientists, and staff who continually go above and beyond, and look forward to working with you in this next phase. Thank you all.

www.yalecancercenter.org/covid
Sarah Mougalian, MD, Promoted to Chief Ambulatory Officer

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Sarah Mougalian, MD, to Chief Ambulatory Officer of Smilow Cancer Hospital, effective June 1. Sarah was recently appointed as the inaugural Deputy Chief Ambulatory Officer for Smilow and quickly demonstrated her abilities as a resourceful, tireless, and very effective leader. Her dedicated efforts on behalf of our physicians, nurses, caregivers, and our patients have led to increased efficiencies in patient care delivery, improved operations, and several innovation advances. We are confident that Sarah's leadership and collaboration will continue to expand the breadth and depth of Smilow's Ambulatory practices as we continue to evaluate and plan for our Smilow near-term recovery and Smilow Cancer Hospital's

YNHH Receives Large Donation of PPE through Alumni
Read More >>

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook

Latest Posts:
Congratulations to Winsome Smith (Apheresis); Leigh Rooney (Inpatient Medical Oncology); and Kathy Dingus (Gynecologic Oncology), our 2020 Nightingale Award recipients! The Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing program recognizes nurses who "have made a significant impact on patient care and/or the nursing profession; gone 'beyond the call' in a clearly illustrated scenario; demonstrated excellence above what is normally expected; shown commitment to the community served in a way that is significantly above the norm; or achieved a life-long legacy in a particular arena." Thank you for your commitment to our patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital!
second decade of cancer care.

We are especially grateful to Benjamin L. Judson, MD, who has led our Ambulatory Services with great distinction, since 2015 as our first Chief Ambulatory Officer. Over the last five years, Ben has collaborated with our nursing and administrative teams to expand care in our outpatient clinics and build stronger, more impactful oncology care models. His leadership and vision have brought Smilow through transformational and unprecedented growth, and have strongly positioned each of our 13 Clinical Programs in Smilow Cancer Hospital. Ben was recently promoted to the important role of Chief of the Division of Otolaryngology (ENT) for the Department of Surgery. In his short tenure as Chief, he has already expanded the ENT clinical programs in the region to serve patients at Greenwich Hospital and on the Connecticut shoreline in Old Saybrook. In addition, Ben will continue to lead Smilow Cancer Hospital’s Head & Neck Cancers Program as Clinical Program Leader.

Please join us in congratulating Sarah on her new leadership role, and thanking Ben for his great contributions to our Cancer Enterprise and his continued leadership.

Rory Shallis, MD, Appointed Assistant Professor of Hematology

Dr. Roy Herbst led a caravan of faculty and staff to say goodbye to Dr. Erin Hofstatter, who is leaving to take a job with industry at the end of the week. Thank you, Dr. Hofstatter, for a decade of leadership and patient care at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Today we honor our Medical Assistants from NP4 and NP8, who quickly transitioned our practices to North Haven and have been resilient, dependable, and reassuring to our patients throughout the last month. Together, the group quickly helped to pack our clinic spaces early in April and unpack them in North Haven over the Easter holiday weekend to ensure we would be ready for the first patients on Monday, April 14. Since then, the team have been at their best, always ready and willing to help and, even more importantly, always encouraging and supportive of our patients. Thank you to each and every one of you, you truly are #SmilowStars!
On July 1, Rory Shallis, MD, will join Smilow Cancer Hospital as Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology). Dr. Shallis will see patients on NP 7 in Smilow Cancer Hospital, following his graduation from the Yale Medical Oncology-Hematology Fellowship Program. He received his medical degree from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and completed his residency training at Rhode Island Hospital- Brown University.

While completing his fellowship, he was mentored by former Director of Hematologic Malignancies, Dr. Steven Gore, and Dr. Amer Zeidan, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine (Hematology), and participated in several studies investigating myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). Dr. Shallis also participated in the K12 Calabresi Immuno-Oncology Training Program, which is designed to train junior

Our Survivorship Clinic is currently scheduling Telehealth visits for patients who have completed cancer treatment. Focused on meeting the unique needs of cancer survivors, the Clinic includes a Physical Therapist, Registered Dietitian, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and a Physician Assistant, who will meet with you one-on-one for a consultative visit. Following your Telehealth visit, you will receive an individualized Survivorship Care Plan.

We are so impressed by the #SmilowHearts you are sharing with us! Please continue to seek out hearts in your daily life and share them on social media with #SmilowHearts or email them to dana.brewer@ynhh.org
investigators to conduct patient-oriented cancer immunology and immunotherapy studies to accelerate the pace of these advances. We look forward to officially welcoming Dr. Shalallis to our faculty in July!

ONS Abstracts
While the Oncology Nursing Society Congress conference has been cancelled, we want to recognize our team members that had accepted abstracts for poster and podium presentations. Congratulations to the following members of our nursing team for their outstanding contributions to oncology care:

Improving Compliance in Key Safety Metrics by Implementing Nurse Scorecards
Primary Author: Paula Pike

A Multipronged Approach to Preventing 30-Day Readmission
Primary Author: Tracy Carafeno
Additional Authors: Lisa Barbarotta, Kimberly Severino, Kerin Adelson, Tara Sanft, Thomas Prebet

Palliative Care Competency Based Orientation (CBO) for the Palliative Advanced Practice Provider (APP)
Primary Author: Christina Holt
Additional Author: Leslie Blatt

Breast Medical Oncology Competency Based Orientation (CBO) for the Oncology Advanced Practice Provider (APP)
Primary Author: Michelle Corso
Additional Authors: Gineesha Abraham, Kate Daniels

Dr. Daniel Petrylak has led the way with his research to develop new therapies for patients with locally advanced or metastatic bladder cancer. In December, the FDA approved enfortumab vedotin, providing another therapy option for patients whose urothelial or bladder cancer had progressed after chemotherapy or immunotherapy.

Dr. Jun Lu, Associate Professor of Genetics, discussed the use of CRISPR gene editing technology in cancer research on Yale Cancer Answers. Tune in on Connecticut Public Radio or download the podcast through iTunes.
Our nursing teams continue to share your cards and tokens of love and support with our patients throughout Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital. Please take a few minutes this week to send a card to our team to give a patient in the hospital, many have been here for extended periods of time.

Since March 14, Yale New Haven Health has discharged 2,050 COVID+ patients back to their lives. Each time a patient is discharged, a short clip from Andra Day’s inspirational song “Rise Up” is played on the overhead paging system - a touching moment for everyone throughout the
a U.S. scientist or engineer. Dr. Miller is a member of Yale Cancer Center’s Developmental Therapeutics Research Program.

**Caroline Johnson, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at Yale School of Public Health and a member of Yale Cancer Center’s Cancer Microbiology Research Program, has received a four-year, $792,000 Research Scholar Grant from the American Cancer Society (ACS). Dr. Johnson will use the grant to understand metabolic heterogeneity in colorectal cancer.

**David C. Madoff, MD, PhD**, Professor of Radiology and Vice Chair for Clinical Research in the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging has been appointed as the Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital representative to the NCCN Kidney Cancer Panel.

**Suzanne Evans, MD**, has received notification that her paper, *Incident Learning in Radiation Oncology: A Review*, is in the top 10% of downloaded publications in the last year in *Medical Physics*. In addition, her paper *Standardizing Dose Prescriptions: An ASTRO White Paper* was just awarded top 20 downloads for 2019 in *Practical Radiation Oncology*, and *Peer Support: A needs assessment for social support from trained peers in response to stress among medical physicists* is listed as the #6 most downloaded in *Journal of Applied Clinical Science*.
Medical Physics’ 20-year history. Congratulations to Dr. Evans!

As we kick off National Nurses Week today, there’s no better way than to share a photo of many of the 14 nurses who volunteered to care for our patients in the newly created Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic. This Clinic launched on April 3 to safely test and triage Smilow Cancer Hospital patients with COVID-19 symptoms. Thank you for your selfless dedication to the safety and care of our patients!

Our Brain Tumor Center comprises experts from multiple disciplines as well as specialized nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, clinical trial coordinators and social workers - all working together to deliver the most effective, compassionate, and personalized care. The Center’s expertise covers all the critical components to successfully care for patients with brain tumors as well as an extensive program to improve patients’ quality of life before, during, and after treatment.

The Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program is proud to welcome Elizabeth Prsic, MD, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine (Palliative Care). Dr. Prsic specializes in medical oncology and palliative care, with a passion for supporting patients with advanced cancer and their caregivers. She is collaborating with Amy Davidoff, PhD, with an ongoing project examining symptom management medication use as well as cancer-directed therapies in patients with lung cancer at end-of-life in the home, non-hospice setting. Dr. Prsic is eager to further research contributions examining end of life care for patients with cancer, particularly utilization and intensity of care at the end-of-life.
Employee Profile: Marc Casey

Marc Casey, Systems Analyst for the YNHH Audio Visual Department, has always been interested in technology and ways to utilize it to enhance communication and education.

Seventeen years ago, Marc accepted a job with Saint Raphael Hospital and eventually moved over to the YNHH IT Department where he is responsible for supporting conferences and upkeep of equipment. Usually, Marc would attend meetings and events in person to provide technical support, but he has recently been providing virtual support to faculty and staff. He gives training sessions on how to use Zoom efficiently, and access all the capabilities it has to offer. In addition, he 'attends' larger meetings to make sure everything is running smoothly.

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

- How does #HIV hide from treatment? Reported today in .:=@ScienceTM @YaleCancer researchers led by @HoLabHIV discovered a molecular explanation for how the virus accomplishes this task.

- Thank you to .@mirwin_yale for her talk about the LEAN study for women with #breastcancer during #COVID19 and @KerinAdelsonMD presenting her work Redesigning Clinical Decision Support to Empower Patients at today's @YaleCancer virtual Grand Rounds.

- New research led by Dr. Kurt Schalper in @NatureMedicine shows #cancer patients with high serum interleukin-8 levels are less likely to benefit from #immune#checkpointinhibitors.

- Dr. Eric Meffre discusses immune-related adverse events associated with #cancer#immunotherapy during a recent grand rounds.

- Experiencing cancer from both sides. Our incoming Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Surgical Services . @MehraGols talks to @elemental about being a #cancer surgeon and a cancer survivor during #COVID19.

- New data led by Dr. Michael Alperovich in The Breast Journal shows lower socioeconomic status is associated w/lower breast reconstruction satisfaction & psychosocial well-being following #breastcancer treatment.

- Congratulations to .@Johnsonlab_Yale Dr. Caroline Johnson received an @AmericanCancer Research Scholar Grant to study metabolic heterogeneity #colorectalcancer.
including Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds.

"Since the introduction of Skype for Business, we have worked to lay the groundwork for virtual meetings. There's always a learning curve when new technology is introduced, and we've helped staff adapt by educating people on the advantages and limitations" said Marc. "I am hoping that this work prepared many clinicians and researchers to be able to continue their important work, virtually."

Marc has been instrumental in the successful transition to virtual meetings for the YNHHS, including Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds and our Smilow Cancer Hospital Patient and Family Forums, which recently went virtual using Zoom. Marc commented that it is the amazing support from his team that makes it possible to handle such a diverse group of departments and staff so efficiently.

Recent Publications

Passion, Perseverance, and Quantum Leaps: Lung Cancer in the Twenty-First Century.
Read More >>

Pulmonary Complications of Immunotherapy.
Read More >>

Lung Cancer Staging.
Tanoue LT.

Tune in to hear @Yale_IR discuss current approaches using interventional oncology for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma.

Thank you to @aaronmring for his talk titled "Humoral Immunity #Cancer Immunotherapy and #COVID19 and Dr. Eric Meffre for his presentation "Impaired B Cell Tolerance and Autoimmunity" at @YaleCancer Virtual Grand Rounds today.

Dr. Nadya Dimitrova discusses the need to gain a deeper understanding of LncRNAs in #CancerResearch during a recent Grand Rounds.

New research @Dr_AmerZeidan in Current Cancer Drug Targets investigates vaccines and #immunotherapy for #AML.

View @BrindaEmu’s @YaleCancer Grand Rounds to learn why #HIV-infected individuals are at higher risk for specific #cancers

Calendar

Phone Meditation hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine
May 15; 1:00 PM
Learn More >>

Developmental Therapeutics Research Seminar
May 15; 1:00 PM
Single Arm Neoadjuvant Phase I/II Study of MEDI4736 (anti-PD-L1 antibody) Concomitant with Weekly Nab-paclitaxel and Dose-dense Doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide (ddAC) Chemotherapy for Clinical Stage I-III Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)
Kim Blenman, PhD, MS
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Answers
May 17; 7:30 PM
NPR
Melanoma Research (Melanoma Awareness Month - May)
Jeffrey Ishizuka, MD
Learn More >>

Guided Imagery and Massage with Michele Grand hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine
May 18; 10:30 AM
Learn More >>
Read More >>

**PET/CT radiomics signature of human papilloma virus association in oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma.**
Read More >>

**Preparing for liver surgery with "Alphabet Soup": PVE, ALPPS, TAE-PVE, LVD and RL.**
Kim D, Cornman-Homonoff J, Madoff DC.
Read More >>

**Mitochondrial DNA Stress Signalling Protects the Nuclear Genome.**
Nat Metab. 2019 Dec;1(12):1209-1218.
Read More >>

**Applications of radiomics in precision diagnosis, prognostication and treatment planning of head and neck squamous cell carcinomas.**
Haider SP, Burtness B, Yarbrough WG, Payabvash S.
Read More >>
Enzymatic multifunctional biodegradable polymers for pH- and ROS-responsive anticancer drug delivery.
Read More >>

Direct-Acting Antivirals Improve Overall Survival in Interventional Oncology Patients with Hepatitis C and Hepatocellular Carcinoma.
Read More >>

Clinical outcomes and characteristics of patients with TP53-mutated acute myeloid leukemia or myelodysplastic syndromes: a single center experience.
Read More >>

Vaccine and Cell Based Therapeutic Approaches in Acute Myeloid Leukemia.
Read More >>

Funding Opportunities

Fast Funding for COVID-19 Science

Dean’s Workshop
May 21; 1:00 PM
Yale’s Modeling and Quantitative Science Response to COVID-19 Pandemic
Dean Nancy J. Brown, MD
Learn More >>

Guided Imagery and Massage with Michele Grand hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine
May 21; 1:30 PM
Learn More >>

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar
May 21; 2:30 PM
Learn More >>

Smilow Town Hall
May 21; 5:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting
COVID-19 Update
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH Physician-in-Chief | Kevin G. Billingsley, MD Chief Medical Officer | Kim Slusser, MSN, RN Vice President for Patient Services
Learn More >>

Neurology Morbidity and Mortality Conference
May 22; 12:00 PM
Learn More >>

Phone Meditation hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine
May 22; 1:00 PM
Call 888-398-2342, access code 3862125
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Answers
May 24; 7:30 PM
NPR
Obesity and Breast Cancer
Ania Jastreboff, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

Guided Acupressure - Allergies Points with Michele Grand LMT hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine
May 26; 11:00 AM
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
May 26; 12:00 PM
Mark Lemmon, PhD, FRS and Alfred Lee, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

Phone Meditation hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine
May 26; 12:30 PM
Call 888-398-2342, access code 3862125
Learn More >>

Zumba Gold hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine
If you are a scientist at an academic institution currently working on a COVID-19 related project and in need of funding, we invite you to apply for a Fast Grant.  
**Deadline:** Fast Grant decisions are made in under 48 hours. Apply Now!  
[Learn More >>](#)

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**Department of Defense Lung Cancer Research Program**

Supports innovative, high impact, lung cancer research. Multiple funding opportunities.  
**Concept Award:** Pre-application (LOI) Deadline: May 27

[Learn More >>](#)

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**Leslie H. Warner Postdoctoral Fellowships for Cancer Research**

The Fellowships will support promising trainees that are conducting innovative basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research with a Yale Cancer Center member.  
**Application Deadline:** June 1, 2020  
[Learn More >>](#)

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**Administrative Supplement to a Cancer Moonshot Coordinating Center (U24) to Support the Mechanisms of Cancer Drug Resistance and Sensitivity Network (DRSN)**

This NOSI intends to provide funding for one year to an existing Moonshot-associated U24 Coordinating Center to bring DRSN activities up to par with Cancer Moonshot-related policies and guidelines, facilitate DRSN collaborative research by providing analytic and organizational

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**Submissions**

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:  

**Renee Gaudette**  
Director, Public Affairs and Communications
infrastructure and expertise, provide data integration methods and data analysis support, and coordinate DRSN activities with other Cancer Moonshot networks and NCI programs.

**Application Deadline:** June 2, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

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**Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP)**

The PCRP seeks to promote highly innovative, groundbreaking research; high-impact research with near-term clinical relevance; the next generation of prostate cancer investigators through mentored research; and resources that will facilitate translational research.

**Early Investigator Research Award** - Letter of Intent due June 4, 2020

**Physician Research Award** - Letter of Intent due June 4, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

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**James S. McDonnell Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards**

The JSMF Fellowship is a unique opportunity for students with an interest in and an aptitude for complexity science who are in the final stages of completing their Ph.D. and looking to make a significant change in direction for their first postdoctoral fellowship.

**Application Deadline:** June 12, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

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**NIH Pathway to Independence Awards**

[Learn More >>](#)
The purpose of these awards is to facilitate a timely transition of outstanding postdoctoral researchers with a research and/or clinical doctorate degree from mentored, postdoctoral research positions to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions.

**Clinical Trial Required** - Application Deadline: June 12, 2020

**Clinical Trial Not Allowed** - Application Deadline: June 12, 2020

**Independent Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required** - Application Deadline: June 12, 2020

Learn More >>

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**DoD FY20 Melanoma Research Program**

MRP is invested in research focusing on the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of melanoma for the benefit of Service members, Veterans, their families, and the American public.

**Idea Award** - Letter of Intent Due: June 22, 2020

**Mid-Career Accelerator** - Letter of Intent Due: June 22, 2020

**Team Science Award** - Letter of Intent Due: June 22, 2020

**Technology Development Partnership Award** - Letter of Intent Due: June 22, 2020

**Translational Research Award** - Letter of Intent Due: June 22, 2020

**Translational Research Award Collaborator Option** - Letter of Intent Due: June 22, 2020

Learn More >>
Urgent Competitive Revision and Administrative Supplements on COVID-19
The NCI is issuing this Notice of Special Interest to highlight the urgent need for research on COVID-19 and the effects of its causative agent, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), on cancer, and vice versa.
Application Deadline: June 26, 2020
Learn More >>

Competitive Revision SBIR/STTR Supplements on COVID-19
The SBIR/STTR programs at the NCI are issuing this Notice of Special Interest to highlight the urgent need for the development of prophylactic, therapeutic and diagnostic for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
Application Deadline: June 26, 2020
Learn More >>

Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award
This award is designed to provide support for the next generation of exceptionally creative thinkers with "high-risk/high-reward" ideas that have the potential to significantly impact our understanding of and/or approaches to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of cancer.
Application Deadline: July 1, 2020
Learn More >>

The Hope Foundation for Cancer Research: SWOG/Hope Foundation Impact Award
The SWOG/Hope Foundation Impact Award is a funding program that encourages novel and innovative SWOG research by supporting early
and conceptual stages of these projects.  
**Application Deadline:** July 1, 2020  
[Learn More >>](#)

**FY20 Ovarian Cancer Research Program Proteogenomics Research Award**

This Research Award supports the use of proteomics and/or genomics to explore new concepts or theories in ovarian cancer. The award is intended to support the genomic and/or transcriptomic and/or proteomic analysis of currently available clinical specimens with a focus on answering biologic and pathophysiologic questions of clinical relevance in ovarian cancer.  
**Letter of Intent Due:** July 16, 2020  
[Learn More >>](#)

**Breast Cancer Alliance Young Investigator Grant**

To encourage a commitment to breast cancer research, Breast Cancer Alliance invites clinical doctors and research scientists whose primary focus is breast cancer and who are in the early stages of their careers, to apply for funding for the Young Investigator Grant.  
**Application Deadline:** July 24, 2020  
[Learn More >>](#)

**Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Conduct Global Cancer Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (D43)**

The purpose of this FOA is to establish an institutional program for mentored training in global cancer research.  
**Application Deadline:** July 24, 2020  
[Learn More >>](#)
2020 Yale Cancer Center Internal Pilot Grant Competition

These grants will support all potential areas of innovative cancer research including basic, clinical, computational, population and epidemiology, prevention/control, implementation science and translational cancer research.

**Application Deadline:** August 1, 2020

[Learn More >>]