January 22, 2021

Announcements

Dr. Rachel Greenup Appointed Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology
We are pleased to announce that Rachel Adams Greenup, MD, MPH, FACS, has been appointed as Associate Professor of Surgery (Oncology) and Section Chief of Breast Surgery for the Department of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine. In her new role, Dr. Greenup will provide breast surgical oncology leadership across the Smilow Cancer Hospital Network and Care Centers. Dr. Mehra Golshan shared, "Dr. Greenup is the rare triple threat in surgery bringing compassionate, patient-centered breast cancer care, outcomes research, and her extensive leadership capabilities. This will be an asset to our hospital and for our patients. I am excited to welcome her to Smilow Cancer Hospital and to Yale Cancer Center and look forward to working together."

Dr. Greenup will join Yale on February 15 from Duke University where she is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Population Health Sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine and Duke Cancer Institute. She currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Duke Surgical Center for Outcomes Research and is a core faculty member for the Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy. She founded and co-directs the Duke Breast Cancer Outcomes Research Group.

Learn More

Notables

Michael DiGiovanna, MD, PhD, has been promoted to Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology). Dr. DiGiovanna earned his MD and PhD degrees at Yale and continued his post-graduate training at Yale, taking a step towards the leadership level of the department. He has specialized in medical oncology and has been an influential figure in the medical field for years.

Read More

News Center

Lawrence + Memorial Hospital Accepts Gift From Sails Up 4 Cancer

Use of Commercial Genomic Testing for Prostate Cancer ‘Highly Variable’ in the United States
PhD degrees at Yale and continued his post-graduate training at Yale, including his fellowship in medical oncology, before joining the faculty in 1997. “Mike’s commitment to the care of patients with breast cancer, advancements in breast cancer research including the earliest studies of HER2/neu, and dedication to our mission to educate the future generation of oncologists is unmatched. We are pleased to be able to recognize his efforts and are grateful for his continued efforts at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital,” said Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology.

Robert Bona, MD, has been appointed Professor of Medicine (Hematology). Dr. Bona joined Yale Cancer Center in July to lead Smilow Cancer Hospital’s Benign Hematology Program and to serve as Medical Director of the Hemophilia Treatment Center for the Department of Pediatrics. “Bob’s appointment to Professor serves as a recognition of his clinical and research accomplishments in the field of benign hematology. His leadership of our inaugural program has already made a positive impact in the care of our patients, and will continue to influence our Hematology Program in the coming years,” said Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD, Chief of Hematology.

Jun Deng, PhD, DABR, FAAPM, FInstP, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and Associate Director for Physics Research and Education, has been awarded a multi-institutional collaborative project entitled “Dynamic Multiscale Digital Twin for a Lung Cancer Patient” from the National Cancer Institute in December 2020.

Chrystal Starbird, PhD, a postdoc in the Cancer Biology Institute laboratory of Kathryn Ferguson, PhD, has won one of the inaugural Rising Black Scientist Awards from CellPress. Her winning essay will be published in the February 18, 2021 issue of Cell.

Yimeng Gao, PhD, has been selected by the American Society of Hematology to receive a Scholar Award to study hematopoietic development and RNA m6A modification. One of ASH’s most prestigious research award programs, the ASH Scholar Awards financially support fellows and junior faculty dedicated to careers in hematology research as they transition from training programs to careers as independent investigators.

Mark Lemmon, PhD, FRS, David A. Sackler Professor of Pharmacology, Associate Cancer Center Director for Basic Science at Yale Cancer Center, and Co-director of the Cancer Biology Institute, has recently been named Chair of the Editorial Board for the Biochemical Journal.

Luisa F. Escobar-Hoyos, PhD, and Mandar D. Muzumdar, MD, have been selected as 2021 recipients of the Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award. Dr. Escobar-Hoyos, Assistant Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, will continue her study into “Understanding RNA splicing in tumor cell adaptation and anti-tumor immunity” and Dr. Muzumdar, Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology, is focused on “Targeting endocrine-exocrine signaling in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma progression.”

Mehra Golshan, MD, MBA, FACS, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Smilow Cancer Hospital, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to study health systems in the United Kingdom. “This is a great honor for Mehra and is an example of the many ways that we support our faculty in their professional development,” said Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology.

Chrystal Starbird, PhD, a postdoc in the Cancer Biology Institute laboratory of Kathryn Ferguson, PhD, has won one of the inaugural Rising Black Scientist Awards from CellPress. Her winning essay will be published in the February 18, 2021 issue of Cell.
Mehra Golshan, MD, MBA, FACS, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Surgical Services at Smilow Cancer Hospital, Clinical Director of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Breast Cancer Program, and Professor of Surgery (Oncology) at Yale School of Medicine, and Tara Sant, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), Chief Patient Experience Officer, and Medical Director, Survivorship Clinic, presented at an International Cancer Survivorship Conference on the Pursuit of Quality Care January 15-16. Dr. Golshan presented on “The Management of Surgical Complications During Cancer Survivorship” and Dr. Santf shared on “Health Behavior after Cancer” and “Gynecological Symptoms after Cancer Treatment.”

Mehra Golshan, MD, MBA, FACS, presented at the 13th Breast – Gynecological & Immunooncology International Cancer Conference virtually in Egypt this week.

Employee Profile: Shaila Diaz

Before joining Yale Cancer Center as Senior Administrative Assistant to Dr. Charles S. Fuchs, Shaila Diaz spent 10 years at Yale New Haven Hospital. This experience helped prepare her to navigate both the University and Hospital in supporting Dr. Fuchs and his dual role as Director of Yale Cancer Center and Physician-in-Chief of Smilow Cancer Hospital.

When COVID first began and patients were moved to virtual visits, Shaila reached out to make sure they could access MyChart and helped them prepare for their video visits. She is also responsible for managing Dr. Fuchs’ calendar and making sure everything is in order before meetings, as well as triaging calls that come in to the Director’s Office.

“Often, we receive calls from patients that are hoping to get an appointment, or have other time sensitive needs. I take pride in being able to reassure them that I am here for them and will make sure they reach the appropriate person,” said Shaila. “I try to go above and beyond, like all of us do, when interacting with our patients.”

Shaila commented that she misses the daily interactions with her team and the supportive atmosphere in the office, but increased communication has become a priority amongst everyone as they continue to juggle working remotely, as well as family obligations. Anna Raso, Administrative Services Supervisor at Yale Cancer Center, commented, “Shaila’s calm nature and stellar organization skills make her a vital member of the Director’s Office team. She is constantly brainstorming ways to improve efficiencies in the office, and her positive attitude has been a true asset to the team.”

Meet Dr. Kevin Billingsley, Chief Medical Officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center and gastrointestinal cancers surgeon, and listen to his recommendations and advice for cancer patients and their families.

Watch Now

Dr. Marissa King explores the role of social networks for cancer survivors and caregivers and the impact the pandemic has had on how people connect. Tune in now to our latest episode of Yale Cancer Answers!
constantly brainstorming ways to improve efficiencies in the office, most notably in relation to Dr. Fuchs' busy schedule. Her previous experience and knowledge has helped her grow into an invaluable resource to our entire team and she is always willing to help."

Recent Publications


Venetoclax for the Treatment of Elderly or Chemotherapy-ineligible Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia: a Step in the Right Direction or a Game Changer?


Read More

Duong SL, Barbiero FJ, Nowak RJ, Baehring JM (2021)

Neurotoxicities Associated with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy

*Journal of Neuro-Oncology*, Online ahead of print.

Read More

Burtness B.

Precision Radiotherapy: Reduction in Radiation for Oropharyngeal Cancer in the 30 ROC Trial.


Read More


Five-Year Outcomes From the Randomized, Phase III Trials CheckMate 017 and 057: Nivolumab Versus Docetaxel in Previously Treated Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer

*Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Online ahead of print.

Read More


Efficacy of Pembrolizumab Monotherapy for Advanced Gastric/Gastroesophageal Junction Cancer with Programmed Death Ligand 1 Combined Positive Score (greater than or equal to) 10


Read More

Vitale I, Yamazaki T, Wennerberg T, Sveinbjörnsson B, Rekdal Ø, Demaria S, Galluzzi L (2021)

Targeting Cancer Heterogeneity with Immune Responses Driven by Oncolytic Peptides

*Trends in Cancer*, Online ahead of print.

Read More


Doctor@Home: Through a Telemedicine Co-production and Co-learning Journey

Read More

Special thanks to @BillingsleyMD, Chief Medical Officer, for his leadership

Join @kotharishalin, Dr. Francesca Montanari, @Tarsheen2 & Dr_AmerZeidan this Friday at Noon for @YaleCancer #ASH20 Highlights CME Series discussing #Lymphoid Malignancies.

Register to join @BillingsleyMd @MarioStrazzabos this Thursday at 6pm for a CME series @SmilowCancer #LiverCancer program to discuss "Evolving Surgical Strategies in Liver Cancer."

Register now to hear @MehraGolshan talk about "Management of Surgical Complications during #Survivorship" at 1:45pm tomorrow at the virtual International #Cancer Survivorship Meeting.

Congratulations to Dr. Mandar Muzumdar @Muzumdarlab & Dr. Luisa Escobar-Hoyos for being awarded 2021 @DamonRunyon Innovation Awards for their novel approaches to fighting #pancreaticcancer.

Today @TaraSanftmd talks about "Health Behavior after Cancer" at the International #Cancer Survivorship Meeting sponsored by Al Faisal University & the Saudi Council for Health Specialties.

Congratulations to @Dr_Yimeng on his prestigious 2021 @ASH_hematology Scholar Award to fund basic/translational #blooddisorders research.

Register to join @NataliaNeparid1 @Terri_ParkerMD & @BarNoffar this Friday at Noon for @YaleCancer #ASH20 Highlights CME Series.

Join us at Noon today for @YaleCancer Virtual Grand Rounds. Dr. Edward Snyder presents "Transfusion-Associated GVHD Role of Pathogen Reduction & Blood Irradiation" & KrishnanSarin talks about #ECigarettes.

.@MClark_GYO, gynecologic oncologist @SmilowCancer Care Center in Waterford and @lmhospital, will discuss the role of surgery for women at high-risk of developing #ovariancancer today on Yale Cancer Answers.
Olanzapine for the Prophylaxis and Rescue of Chemotherapy-induced Nausea and Vomiting: a Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, Cumulative Meta-analysis and Fragility Assessment of the Literature
Supportive Care in Cancer, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Burtness B, Contessa J (2021)
Hypoxia-Guided Therapy for Human Papillomavirus-Associated Oropharynx Cancer
Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Oral Oncology, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Creating and Validating a Predictive Model for Suitability of Hospital at Home for Patients With Solid-Tumor Malignancies
JCO Oncology Practice, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Funding and Award Opportunities

Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) in Human Cancers for Years 2021, 2022, and 2023 (P50)
Through this FOA, the NCI and National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) invite applications for P50 Research Center Grants for Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE)
Application Deadline: January 25, 2021
Read More

Cancer Research Education Grants Program
The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of the NCI R25 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 research needs.
- Curriculum or Methods Development (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) Read More
- Courses for Skills Development (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) Read More

Calendar

Yale ASH 2020 Highlights
January 22; 12:00 PM
Lymphoid Malignancies
Shalin Kothari, MD | Francesca Montanari, MD | Tarsheen Sethi, MD, MSCI
Learn More

Yale Cancer Center Special Seminar
January 22; 12:00 PM
Early Palliative Care Services and End-of-Life Care in Medicare Beneficiaries with Hematologic Malignancies: a Population-based Retrospective Cohort Study
Vinay Rao, DO
Learn More

Developmental Therapeutics Research Program Seminar
January 22; 1:00 PM
Regulation of Oncogenic MAP Kinase Signaling Networks
Benjamin Turk, PhD
Learn More

Yale Cancer Answers
January 24; 7:30 PM
NPR
COVID Vaccine and Cancer Patients
Kerin Adelson, MD
Learn More

Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program
2021 Packard Fellowships in Science and Engineering Program
A highly prestigious and competitive program that recognizes future leaders in the disciplines of physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, astronomy, computer science, earth science, ocean science, and all branches of engineering

**Application Deadline:** January 28, 2021

Through this FOA, the NCI and NIEHS invite applications to support innovative scientific research in new prospective cohorts that addresses knowledge gaps in cancer etiology and carcinogenesis processes with a focus on environmental exposures.

**Application Deadline:** January 29, 2021

DeLuca Awards
The DeLuca Center for Innovation in Hematology Research was formed thanks to a generous donation by the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation. Each year a total of 5 Pilot Awards and 1 Career Development Award will be awarded to investigators who are participating in hematologic based research.

**Pilot Award:** intended to support collaborative hematology based research.

**Application Deadline:** February 1, 2021

Utilizing In Vitro Functional Genomics Advances for Gene-Environment (G x E) Discovery and Validation (R01)
The purpose of this FOA is to solicit applications that fully integrate recent innovative advances of in vitro functional genomics tools/technologies and approaches for environmental health and toxicology research. The overall goal of this NIEHS led initiative is to generate proof-of-principle studies incorporating these new in vitro approaches, together with well characterized exposures, to further our understanding of gene-environment (G x E) interactions in complex human disorders.

**Application Deadline:** February 1, 2021

Chance for Life - Pediatric Cancer Initiatives
This opportunity funds research that drives new, innovative treatments for Pediatric Cancers especially in the area of pediatric neuro-oncology.

**Letter of Intent Due:** February 5, 2021

Music and Health: Understanding And Developing Music Medicine (R01)
2021-2023 Clinical Investigator Award for Under-Represented Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Surgeons
This award is part of the SSO Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board’s work to ensure inclusion of the brightest minds and keenest talents in surgical oncology research. Applications are reviewed and selected by members of the SSO Research Committee.
Application Deadline: February 8, 2021
Read More

AACR Research Funding Opportunities
- Cancer Disparities Research Fellowships - Application Deadline: February 9, 2021
- Career Development Awards for Tumor Treating Fields Research - Application Deadline: February 9, 2021
- Tumor Treating Fields Research Grants - Application Deadline: February 9, 2021
Read More

Clinical Translation of Activated Optical Fluorescence Methods and Technologies for Sensitive Cancer Detection in Vivo (R01)
The purpose of this FOA is to bring a highly sensitive imaging technology capable of detecting very small (1-3 mm³) tumors in vivo to clinical utility.
Application Deadline: February 10, 2021
Read More

Music and Health: Understanding And Developing Music Medicine (R21)
Application Deadline: February 16, 2021
Read More

These FOAs are intended to: (1) increase our understanding of how music affects the brain when it is used therapeutically and/or (2) use that knowledge to better develop evidence-based music interventions to enhance health or treat specific diseases and disorders.

Assay Validation of High Quality Markers for Clinical Studies in Cancer (UH2/UH3)
Through these FOAs, the NCI invites applications to support the validation of molecular/cellular/imaging markers and assays for cancer detection, diagnosis, prognosis, monitoring, and prediction of response or resistance to treatment, as well as markers for cancer prevention and control.
Application Deadline: February 18, 2021
Read 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 22, 2021
Read More

January 28; 7:00 PM
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH | Kevin Billingsley, MD, MBA, FACS | Kerin Adelson, MD | Kim Slusser, MSN, RN | Ohm Deshpande, MD
Learn More

Yale Cancer Center Presents Hematology Special Seminar
January 29; 11:00 AM
Hemophilia and Bone Health
Colleen Ciccosanti, DO, MPH
Learn More

Yale ASH 2020 Highlights
January 29; 12:00 PM
Myeloid Malignancies
Nikolai Podoltsev, MD, PhD | Rory Shallis, MD
Learn More

Yale Cancer Answers
January 31; 7:30 PM
NPR
VATS and Surgical Management of Thoracic Malignancies
Andrew Dhanasopon, MD
Learn More

Pediatric Grand Rounds
February 1; 12:00 PM
Schwartz Rounds: It's a Family Affair: The Impact of Caring for Chronically Ill Siblings and the Family Dynamic
Learn More

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
February 2; 12:00 PM
Anne Chiang, MD, PhD and Francesca Montanari, MD
Learn More

Yale Center for Immuno-Oncology Seminar Series
February 2; 4:00 PM
Tullia C. Bruno, PhD
Learn More

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Seminar
February 4; 2:30 PM
Learn More

Smilow Town Hall
February 4; 5:00 PM
An Update from Smilow Cancer Hospital
Charles Fuchs, MD, MPH | Nita Ahuja, MD, MBA, FACS | Kim Slusser, MSN, RN | Kevin Billingsley, MD, MBA, FACS | Lisa Shomsky, MBA, BSN, CNML
Learn More
Advanced Development and Validation of Emerging Molecular and Cellular Analysis Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R33)
This FOA invites 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 22, 2021

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 22, 2021

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 22, 2021

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. The objective of this award is to facilitate a timely transition of these fellows from their mentored, postdoctoral research positions to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions.
**Application Deadline:** February 26, 2021

NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00 - Independent Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)
The purpose of the NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00) program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented, NCI-supported, independent investigators. The program will provide independent NCI research support during this transition to help awardees to launch competitive, independent research careers.
**Application Deadline:** February 26, 2021

Submissions
Please submit your recent publications, awards, and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**
Director, Public Affairs and Communications
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 Researchers (K99/R00) program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented, NCI-supported, independent investigators. The objective of this award is to facilitate a timely transition of these fellows from their mentored, postdoctoral research positions to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions.
**Application Deadline:** February 26, 2021

Career Development Award: intended to provide early career clinical or laboratory-based investigators in Hematology, the opportunity to focus on research to advance patient care, therapies, and outcomes.
**Letter of Intent Due:** March 1, 2021

JH Milstone Fund 2021
This FOA supports early stage investigators and innovative research and education in thrombosis, thrombolysis and hemostasis. Proposals may focus on any aspect of thrombosis, thrombolysis and hemostasis – including biochemistry, genetics, clinical evaluation and testing, quality improvement and treatment. Please contact Richard Carr for more information.
**Letter of Intent Due:** March 1, 2021

The Mark Foundation Endeavor Awards
These grants are awarded to teams of three or more investigators to generate and integrate data from diverse lines of research and transform those insights into advances for cancer patients that could not be achieved by individual efforts.
**Application Deadline:** March 1, 2021

International Research Scientist Development Award (IRSDA) (K01)
The purpose of this Award is to provide support and protected time (three to five years) to advanced postdoctoral U.S. research scientists and recently-appointed U.S. junior faculty for an intensive, mentored research career development experience in a low- or middle-income country leading to an independently-funded research career focused on global health.
**Application Deadline:** March 9, 2021

Department of Defense (DoD) Breast Cancer Awards
- **Breast Cancer, Breakthrough Award Levels 1 and 2** - Application Deadline - March 11, 2021, Read More
- **Breast Cancer, Era of Hope Scholar Award** - Application Deadline: March 11, 2021, Read More
- **Breast Cancer, Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award** - Application Deadline: March 12, 2021, Read More
Social and Behavioral Intervention Research to Address Modifiable Risk Factors for Cancer in Rural Populations (R01)
The purpose of this FOA is to solicit applications to develop, adapt, and test individual-, community- or multilevel interventions to address modifiable risk factors for cancer in rural populations.
**Application Deadline:** March 15, 2021

Cellular Cancer Biology Imaging Research (CCBIR) Program (U54)
The NCI invites applications for Cellular Cancer Biology Imaging Research (CCBIR) Centers. The Centers will develop and test enabling imaging technologies at the cellular and organ scales driven by specific fundamental questions in cancer biology. The overall purpose of the CCBIR initiative is to facilitate innovation in advanced imaging technologies that could be applied to fundamental basic and pre-clinical research problems in cancer biology.
**Application Deadline:** March 18, 2021

Cancer Grand Challenges Program
The NCI and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) are partnering to fund the Cancer Grand Challenges program. Cancer Grand Challenges will fund novel ideas by multidisciplinary research teams from around the world that offer the potential to advance bold cancer research and improve outcomes for people affected by cancer. These nine challenges are aimed at solving complex problems in cancer research, which, if solved, could have a transformative impact towards progress.
**Application Deadline:** April 22, 2021