COVID Response
I cannot thank our Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital physicians, nurses, caregivers, and staff members enough for your tremendous leadership and teamwork over the last couple of weeks. I am especially grateful to Kevin Billingsley, MD, and Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC, for their tremendous leadership, along with our Response Team members who continue to work to ensure our patient care responds to our changing daily environment. You have all come together and rallied on behalf of our patients through numerous challenges and an incredible number of changes.

In less than two weeks, we have moved three inpatient floors to the Yale New Haven Hospital Saint Raphael Campus, relocated our Extended Care Clinic to Yale New Haven Hospital’s East Pavilion, and transitioned care from our Care Center in Old Saybrook to Guilford; from the Care Center in Fairfield to Trumbull beginning on Monday; and soon from the Care Center in Orange to Derby. This weekend, our Breast Center and Gynecologic Oncology teams on NP1 will vacate Smilow and transition their outpatient care to the Shoreline Medical Center in Guilford. While all of these changes are happening, our Response Team is working non-stop to ensure the safety of our patients and providers during this unprecedented time.

Earlier this week, we hosted a public Patient and Family Forum to share updates on the status of COVID-19 and to answer questions from our community. Over 500 people joined the live event, and we continue to have viewers on
our website and through social media. Thank you to Dr. Kevin Billingsley, Dr. Tara Sanft, Dr. Jeremy Kortmansky, Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Maureen Raucci, RN, and Maggie Zampano, RN for their participation.

Watch Forum >>

Grand Rounds to Begin Virtually
Please join us on Tuesday, April 7 at Noon for Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds with Akiko Iwasaki, PhD, Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology and Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and Professor of Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology. Dr. Iwasaki will launch our weekly virtual Grand Rounds series presenting on "Immune Response to COVID19" via Zoom next Tuesday at 12:00pm.
Learn More >>

Drs. Prebet and Zeidan Appointed to New Leadership Positions
As our Hematology Program continues to expand our research efforts and number of clinical trials available to our patients, we are expanding our leadership in these areas as well. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Thomas Prebet, MD, PhD, as Disease Aligned Research Team (DART) Leader for Myeloid Malignancies and Amer Zeidan, MBBS, as Director of the Hematology Early Therapeutics Program. In these new roles, Dr. Prebet and Dr. Zeidan will work closely with Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD, Interim Chief of Hematology.

News Center

A conversation with Cathy Garcia, PhD, Working Remotely During COVID-19
Read More >>

Suspect Cells' 'Neighbor' Implicated in Colorectal Cancer
Read More >>

Meet Michael Cohenuram, MD
Read More >>
Dr. Prebet is an Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology) and is focused on developing clinical trials for myeloid malignancies and translational advances for patients with acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndromes. In his new role as DART leader for myeloid malignancies, he will oversee the clinical trial team for myeloid malignancies and work to develop a complete portfolio of trials for our patients.

Dr. Zeidan is an Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology) and is the Yale principal investigator for multiple NCI-sponsored and several phase I/II/III industry-sponsored clinical trials in myeloid malignancies. Dr. Zeidan is also chairing the steering committee for a large pharma-sponsored randomized trial of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). As Director of the Hematology Early Therapeutics Program, Dr. Zeidan will partner closely with Dr. Pat LoRusso, Associate Cancer Center Director for Experimental Therapeutics, to develop a comprehensive Phase I clinical trial portfolio for patients with hematologic malignancies.
Anthony J. Koleske, PhD, Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and Neuroscience and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program, has assumed the role of Deputy Dean for Scientific Affairs (Basic Science Departments) at Yale School of Medicine. A graduate of University of Wisconsin-Madison and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Koleske is internationally recognized for his work defining the Abl family kinases as regulators of the cytoskeleton and elucidating mechanisms that control neuronal development and connectivity.

Jessica Lewis, PhD and Gary Hunnicutt, PhD recently joined the Office of Research Affairs as Assistant Directors, and will be working to move team science forward at Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Lewis is focused on population science, and works closely with Dr. Melinda Irwin and the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program. Dr. Hunnicutt joins Yale from the NIH where he spent 10 years as a Scientific Review Officer and worked extensively on complex, multi-investigator applications.

Together, they will provide immediate administrative support for the YCC Team Challenge Award, which is a new internal grant program focused on powering innovation through team science. Their overarching role is to work with groups of scientists to advance their cancer-focused projects towards successful grant applications by providing support in both project management and grant preparation. Since her arrival in September, Dr. Lewis was instrumental in submitting a pre-SPOR application on cancer disparities, and a P30 application to bring a Nutrition and Obesity Research Center to Yale, which involves 22 YCC research members who study obesity and cancer. Dr. Lewis will help foster
collaborations between the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program and Disease Aligned Research Teams (DARTs) to promote translational research in this area. Dr. Hunnicutt, who started in February, will be integrated with teams of investigators, working with them to focus their efforts, move their projects forward, and craft competitive submissions.

Robert Garofalo, PhD, Associate Cancer Center Director, Research Affairs, commented, "We are very excited to have Drs. Lewis and Hunnicutt join our team. With their contributions, we will increase and strengthen our portfolio of multi-investigator grants and raise the impact of our team science at Yale Cancer Center. Their diverse perspectives and experience make them uniquely qualified for the task, and we look forward to our faculty having a chance to work with them."

Gary Hunnicutt, PhD and Jessica Lewis, PhD

Less than Half of Women in their 40s Screened for Breast Cancer Each Year
Read More >>

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook

Latest Posts:

“At Smilow, we are very cognizant of the fact that any day that our patients wait for treatment, it is another day of anxiety for them and their families. We want to reassure each of our patients that we are here for them.”
Kevin Billingsley, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Read More >>

Our team at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Saint Francis Hospital continues their dedicated care for our patients in both their Hartford and Glastonbury offices.
The Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program welcomes Franziska Bleichert, PhD, Assistant Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. Dr. Bleichert’s research broadly aims to understand the functional and organizational principles of nucleoprotein assemblies to define how they operate at a molecular level in complex biological systems. The long-term goal of Dr. Bleichert’s laboratory is to elucidate how the machinery responsible for initiating DNA replication in metazoans intersects with chromatin and chromatin-associated factors to regulate replication onset.

"COVID-19 doesn’t care about cancer, but we do! We are here for you!"

Sleep is an essential part of our lives, resting our mind and body, and it helps us recharge for tomorrow. If you are having trouble achieving restful sleep, our social work team recommends these helpful apps: iSleepEasy free and Shine.

We are so appreciative and awestruck by our doctors and caregivers and their tireless efforts to treat, heal, and comfort our patients each and every day, but especially during this difficult time. On this #NationalDoctorsDay, we would like to hear from you! Share your appreciation for our doctors in the comments below, or send them a virtual high five!
Zachary Corbin, MD, MHS, Assistant Professor of Neurology, has joined the Developmental Therapeutics Research Program. The goal of his research is to improve both the quality of life and longevity of patients suffering from neuro-oncologic disease. In the field of Neuro-Oncology, Dr. Corbin has combined his interests in cancer biology, clinical research, and neuroimaging. Dr. Corbin believes that emerging techniques in magnetic resonance spectroscopy combined with PET imaging provide a unique opportunity to observe the fundamental metabolic derangements that drive cancer.

Employee Profile: Bonnie Indeck

Dr. Helena Squicciarini from Women’s Health Connecticut of Trumbull has an office in the West Pavilion of the Park Avenue Medical Center, where our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center is in Trumbull. From her office window she saw patients arriving alone for their chemotherapy treatments at Smilow in the East Pavilion and decided to send them a message of love. When she arrived at her office the next day, the office across the way sent her a message back!

We are all in this together. Take care of each other.
Over the past 39 years Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, has been an integral part of the lives of our cancer patients and their family members. For the last 10 years, she has overseen the social work team at Smilow Cancer Hospital and at the Care Centers as Oncology Social Work Manager. When Bonnie first started, she was one of two social workers supporting the adult oncology population, and during her time that number has grown, as has the need. There are currently over 16.9 million cancer survivors in the United States.

Smilow, like many hospitals, is invested in the care of the entire patient. Through support groups, counseling, and coordinating with outside resources, social work provides a holistic perspective to a patient’s care plan and are an invaluable part of the care team.

"When I first started, there was a stigma associated with social work, and many people were hesitant to reach out. That has since changed and people expect to meet with us and seek us out as part of their care,” said Bonnie. "The fact that people let us into their lives at their most vulnerable is no small thing, and to be able to help them throughout the trajectory of their care has meant a lot to me."

Thank you to our Extended Care Clinic (ECC) team! They quickly moved our entire clinic so our patients will continue to have needed resources and to make space for incoming patients with #COVID_19. The ECC is available for our patients for urgent #cancer care instead of the emergency room.
What hasn't changed over the years, despite new advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, is that when people are diagnosed with cancer they find themselves scared and uncertain. Over the years, Bonnie has provided a support system to these patients as they navigate their diagnosis and eventual transition into life as a survivor.

Bonnie had planned to retire as of April 3, but has agreed to stay on during this challenging time to provide consistent care to patients. She commented, "The best thing we can do as a society is to follow guidelines to limit exposure to immunocompromised people like cancer patients, the elderly, or any other vulnerable person, by staying home and distancing ourselves. While we call it 'social distancing' what we really need to do is physically distance ourselves. It's important to continue to connect and reach out to help one another to still have that social bond." When Bonnie does in fact retire, the impact of her calming presence and incredible work will undoubtedly be missed.

Recent Publications

**Palliative care is underutilized and affects healthcare costs in ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms.**
[Read More >>]

**Targeted tumour theranostics in mice via carbon quantum dots structurally mimicking large amino acids.**
[Read More >>]

**How should radiologists incorporate non-imaging prostate cancer biomarkers into daily practice?**
[Read More >>]

Just one of our many amazing teams at Smilow Cancer Hospital working hard to take care of our patients. Please practice self quarantining and social distancing to help us provide safe and necessary care.

Share your photo with us and tell us who you stay home for.

Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin, PhD, Co-Leader of the Yale Tobacco Center for Regulatory Science, will discuss the dangers of vaping and potential cancer risk on Yale Cancer Answers. Please tune in to our podcast from
**Embolotherapeutic Strategies for Hepatocellular Carcinoma: 2020 Update.**
Read More >>

**Survival after checkpoint inhibitors for metastatic acral, mucosal and uveal melanoma.**
Read More >>

**Infirgratinib in upper tract urothelial carcinoma versus urothelial carcinoma of the bladder and its association with comprehensive genomic profiling and/or cell-free DNA results.**
Read More >>

**Multi-modality Treatment and Survival in Sinonasal Minor Salivary Gland Tumors.**
Read More >>

**Oligometastatic Disease and Interventional Oncology: Rationale and Research Directions.**
Read More >>

**Surgeon’s Perspective to Local Therapy in Oligometastatic Cancer.**
Read More >>

**Oligometastatic Disease and Local Therapies: A Medical Oncology Perspective.**
Local Ablative Therapies for Oligometastatic and Oligoprogressive Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer.
Jairam V, Park HS, Decker RH.

Prognostic and Predictive Biomarkers in Oligometastatic Disease.
Barnum KJ, Weiss SA.

Introduction by the Guest Editor: Oligometastatic Disease in Cancer.
Kim HS.

Kunst N, Long JB, Xu X, Busch SH, Kyanko KA, Richman IB, Gross CP.

Schizophrenia and Epigenetic Aging Biomarkers: Increased Mortality, Reduced Cancer Risk, and Unique Clozapine Effects.
Higgins-Chen AT, Boks MP, Vinkers CH, Kahn RS, Levine ME.

The life-threatening eruptions of immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy.
Coleman EL, Olamiju B, Leventhal JS.

Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy for Stage I Renal Cell Carcinoma: National Treatment Trends and Outcomes Compared to Partial Nephrectomy and Thermal Ablation.
Uhlig A, Uhlig J, Trojan L, Kim HS.

@politikaterina @YaleCancer scientist on working remotely due to COVID19.

We talked to breastcancer expert Dr. Lajos Pusztai, one of our @YaleCancer @SmilowCancer scientists working remotely due to COVID19. Read about how he’s meeting the challenge!

@DrRoyHerbstYale will co-moderate a #LungCancer town hall to support oncologists during the current COVID19 pandemic. @Annechiangmd and Dr. KurtSchalper will join as panelists.

Due to social distancing and concerns from COVID19, you won’t see most of our scientists in their labs @YaleCancer @SmilowCancer, but they're safely set up remotely and continuing their work to support cancerresearch!

New research led by @cpqYale in @JAMAIntMed shows breastcancer screening costs are high for women in the U.S. ages 40-49 and vary by region, but the benefits are still being debated.

Congrats to Dr. Kevin Kim. @yale_jr guest editor for The Cancer Journal. Dr. Kim helped to combine the work of biologists, translational scientists and oncologists including several @YaleCancer authors for the issue.

Calendar
Phone Meditation hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine
April 3, 12:30 PM
Call 888-398-2342, access code 3862125
Learn More >>
Investigations of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer. These science applications for PCF challenge awards for the prostate cancer foundation (PCF) are pleased to announce a request for team funding. Pfizer MAPK inhibition in melanoma RFP. Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on increasing the understanding of MAPK pathway inhibitors and their use in the treatment of melanoma. Application deadline: April 15, 2020.

Yale Cancer Answers
April 5, 7:30 PM
NPR
Fertility preservation and cancer
Pasquale Patrizio, MD, MBE, HCLD
Learn More >>

Virtual T'ai Chi/Qigong hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine
April 6, 3:00 PM
https://zoom.us/j/402346549
Learn More >>

Funding Opportunities
The Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research
The Pew Scholars Program for Cancer Research provides funding to young investigators of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of a cure for cancer. Letter of Intent Due: April 15, 2020
Learn More >>

Multicenter Study of Metastatic Lung Tumors Targeted by Interventional Cryoablation Evaluation (SOLSTICE).
Read More >>

Prostate Cancer Foundation 2020 PCF Challenge Awards
The PCF is pleased to announce a request for team science applications for PCF challenge awards for investigations of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer. These
awards will be funded depending on the level of innovation in applications received.

**Application Due:** April 17, 2020

Learn More >>

**Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Career Enhancement Program (CEP)**
The CEP of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer has been established to educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in lung cancer. The CEP will provide support of up to $50,000 to promising junior investigators and/or establish investigators who have not previously conducted lung cancer focused research.

**Letters of Intent Due:** April 24, 2020

Learn More >>

**Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Developmental Research Program (DRP) Award**
The DRP of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer provides seed money to investigators to support studies with a strong translational component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated as, a full Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer project. The purpose is also to generate preliminary data or evidence of collaboration for new NCI grant applications.

**Letters of Due:** April 24, 2020

Learn More >>

**NCCN Taiho Futibatinib Request for Proposals**
NCCN is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with Taiho Oncology, Inc., to offer a new opportunity for the design and performance of clinical and correlative studies of futibatinib, a fibroblast growth factor receptor antagonist, in the treatment of solid tumors.

**Application Deadline:** April 29, 2020

Learn More >>

**Elsa U. Pardee Foundation Research Grants**
The Elsa U. Pardee Foundation funds research to investigators in United States non-profit institutions proposing research directed toward identifying new treatments or cures for cancer.

**Application Deadline:** April 30, 2020

Learn More >>

**Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Development of Clinical Quality Measures to Improve Diagnosis RFP**
The purpose of this FO is to provide assistance in the form of grants for the development of innovative clinical quality measures that promote excellence in diagnosis of three categories of disease - acute vascular events, infections and cancer.

**Application Deadline:** May 4, 2020

Learn More >>

**Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance Collaborative Research Development Grant**

This Grant provides funds for large ovarian cancer research projects that involve several investigators within one institution or collaborations between groups in multiple institutions.

**Letter of Intent Due:** May 15, 2020

Learn More >>

**Toward Translation of Nanotechnology Cancer Interventions (TTNCI) (R01)**

This FOA is to enable the translation of nanotechnology-based cancer interventions relying on next-generation nanoparticle formulations and/or nano-devices.

**Application Deadline:** May 21, 2020

Learn More >>

**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

**Idea Development Award:** Pre-application (LOI)
Deadline: May 6

**Investigator-Initiated Translational Research Award:** Pre-Application (LOI) Deadline: May 6

Learn More >>

**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 >>
**Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Psychosocial Family Impact Grants**
These Grants focus on psychosocial and behavioral health outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer and their families.
**Letter of Intent Due:** June 15, 2020
[Learn More >>](#)

**Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Psychosocial Launch Grants**
These Grants focus on psychosocial and behavioral health outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer and their families.
**Letter of Intent Due:** June 15, 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 >>](#)