August 2, 2019

Announcements

U.S. News Ranks Smilow Cancer Hospital

I am very pleased to inform you that, as part of the 2019 ranking, cancer services at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center are now ranked 45th in the nation. We are also happy to announce that Yale New Haven Hospital is on the Honor Roll, placing our hospital among the most elite healthcare institutions in the nation.

These improvements in our ranking reflect the commitment and accomplishments of our clinicians, researchers, administrators, and staff, who each day work together to ensure that our hospital is the preeminent provider of cancer care for patients and families regionally, nationally, and internationally. Today, 45% of new patients diagnosed with cancer in our state are cared for by a Smilow Cancer Hospital.
physician and care team, with over 235,000 outpatient office visits at our locations in 2018. At the same time, our research enterprise continues to advance ground-breaking discoveries, with over $125 million in total cancer research funding awarded to sustain our cancer research goals.

While we are pleased with this latest trend in our Cancer Hospital's ranking, we will continue to drive efforts to ensure that our ranking truly reflects the incredible strengths of Smilow Cancer Hospital, our Care Centers, and Yale Cancer Center. In collaboration with Yale New Haven Health and Yale Medicine, we will remain steadfast to our resolve that we receive a ranking consistent with our place as world renown center of excellence in cancer care and research.

There are very few NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers that can report such impressive clinical and research growth, and we are so proud to be part of our wonderful community. Thank you all for your continued commitment to our patient care and cancer research mission. We look forward to working with each of you in the coming year, and to sharing more exciting news with you in celebration of your dedication to Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center.

David Madoff, MD Appointed Vice Chair in Radiology & Biomedical Imaging

News 8 On Call: what you need to know about Sarcoma, a rare cancer
Read More >>

Smilow Cancer Hospital recognized among the nation’s best for cancer care
Read More >>

Banning tobacco sales to people under age 21 reduces smoking
Read More >>
Please welcome Dr. David C. Madoff, Professor of Radiology and Vice Chair for Clinical Research in the Department of Radiology & Biomedical Imaging to Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Madoff has a strong background in clinical care and has joined the Liver Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital to care for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. In addition, Dr. Madoff treats patients with metastasis to the liver, or secondary liver cancer, and is available for consultation and to collaborate with providers on patient care. His clinical interests are wide-ranging, and have included visceral vascular, hepatobiliary, and genitourinary interventions, various embolotherapy and percutaneous ablative/biopsy techniques, and many other specialized therapies within the realm of Interventional Oncology. In particular, Dr. Madoff is world-renowned for his work on preoperative portal vein embolization, a technique used to improve the safety of major hepatic resection. This technique is based on the liver’s ability to regenerate and has been used in patients with primary and metastatic hepatobiliary cancer to increase the size of the anticipated liver remnant before surgery. Without this procedure, many patients with potentially resectable disease would not be eligible for curative resection.

Dr. Madoff earned his B.A. from Emory University and his M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. He completed both his internship in Internal Medicine and residency in Radiology at SUNY at Stony Brook and his fellowship training in Vascular and Interventional Radiology at The University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center. He was a faculty member in the Section of Interventional Radiology at MD Anderson Cancer Center for a decade before joining New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center in 2011. While at Weill Cornell, Dr. Madoff served as Division Chief of Interventional Radiology from 2011 to 2015 and Vice Chair for Academic Affairs from 2015 to 2019.

Neal Fischbach, MD, Assistant Director of Clinical Research for Care Centers

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Neal Fischbach to the position of Assistant Director of Clinical Research for the Care Centers in the Clinical Trials Office. Dr. Fischbach has shared a compelling vision for advancing innovation in research in community-based settings and for creating even greater alignment among investigators in New Haven and Care Centers. We welcome him to the CTO physician leadership team of Dr. Scott Gettinger (Assistant Director of the CTO for Medical Oncology), Dr. Thomas Prebet (Assistant Director of the CTO for Hematology), and Dr. Stephanie Halene (Assistant Director of the CTO for the CRSL), who are working together with Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital leadership, principal investigators, and our clinical trials staff to help propel our clinical research efforts.

I would like to reiterate my appreciation to Dr. Kert Sabbath for his tremendous record of leadership in clinical research at the Care Centers and in the CRWG. Dr. Sabbath will

Meet Mario Sznol, MD, Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), and Co-Director of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Program. Dr. Sznol is also president of the Society of Cancer Immunotherapy, a prestigious leadership position nationally, that recognizes the success he has had in bringing immunotherapy treatments from our labs to our patients over the last decade.

Thank you to Yale Dermatology, our Screening & Prevention Program team, and the entire staff at the Smilow Cancer Care Center in Trumbull who helped with our free skin cancer screening
continue to concentrate on his clinical practice and research at the Waterbury Care Center. Under his leadership, the growth of clinical research in our Care Centers has been nothing short of phenomenal, allowing us to offer countless more options for patients seeking the most advanced therapies. Please join us in thanking Dr. Sabbath.

We are delighted that Dr. Fischbach has accepted this challenge, and know that he will partner with Dr. Anne Chiang, Chief Network Officer, our Care Center faculty, and our DART leaders to continue the positive trajectory of clinical research in our 14 Care Centers.

Save the Date: Hematological Malignancies Symposium
Please join our colleagues at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Saint Francis for an education event focused on hematological malignancies on Friday, November 15 at the Connecticut Convention Center from 8am - 4pm. The program is free, but registration is required. The program will include a fellows' research competition for Connecticut Hematology/Oncology fellows.

Learn More >>

Notables

**Frederick Wilson, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and Genetics, has been awarded a **2019 Clinical Scientist Development Award** from the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**. Dr. Wilson will use the award of $495,000 over three years to continue his research on targeted therapies for NSCLC and melanoma, and acquired resistance.

**Dr. Sanjay Aneja**, Assistant Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and a member of Yale Cancer Center’s Radiobiology & Radiotherapy Research Program, recently presented at the

Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Research Program is proud to welcome Jonathan Leventhal, MD. Dr. Leventhal leads the Onco-Dermatology Clinic at Smilow Cancer Hospital where he provides dermatologic care for our patients. In addition, he also treats patients with melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, merkel cell carcinoma, as well as genetic syndromes, which predispose patients to the development of skin cancer.

The safety of turf fields is a concern for many. Dr. Vasilis Vasiliou, Chair of Environmental Health Sciences at the Yale School of Public Health, discusses the latest research into turf field safety and impact on players today on Yale Cancer Answers. Tune in to Connecticut Public Radio or download the podcast from iTunes this
NRG Oncology Digital Health Workshop and at their Translational Science Workshop on "Radiomics."

Thank you to Zenggang Pan, MD, PhD, for his astuteness and amazing commitment to help with some very difficult diagnostic cases at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The most impressive recent example was for a patient who was transferred to Smilow from a local hospital with the diagnosis of Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis. A bone marrow performed locally 12 days prior was read as non-diagnostic and returned unevaluated from the NIH. Dr. Pan made the diagnosis in a day - on a Friday evening our hematology team knew to begin definitive treatment for an aggressive intravascular B-cell lymphoma on Saturday.

Thank you to our entire Pathology faculty dedicated to Smilow! It is extraordinary and it has never been better! We are very fortunate to be able to treat our patients based on diagnoses established by this incredibly talented and committed team.

Jose DeJesus, Community Health Educator for Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital's Screening and Prevention Program, has been named Co-Chair of the Yale Latino Networking Group.

Roy Herbst, MD, PhD, joined other mentors for the ASCO/AACR Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop to work with fellows from across the country to learn best practices writing clinical trials. Yale's Thuy Tran, MD, PhD, joined Dr. Herbst for the experience.

Employee Profile: Namgyal Choephel

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

Have questions about #Sarcoma? Watch an interview about this rare #cancer with Dr. Hari Deshpande by @jocelynmaminta tonight at 5:30pm on @WTNH!

We're proud to announce #Smilow Cancer Hospital is ranked one of the best hospitals for #cancer care in the country by @usnews!

New research by @YSPH shows banning tobacco sales to people under 21 helps to reduce smoking!

Smilow Cancer Hospital's Dr. Jeremy Kortmansky will discuss the treatment of Gastrointestinal Cancers on today's Yale Cancer Answers. Tune in to Connecticut Public Radio at 7:30pm to hear him review the latest advances, and clinical trial options.

Meet Mario Sznol, MD @MSznol Professor of Medicine and Co-Director of our Cancer Immunology Program. Dr. Sznol's leadership has successfully transitioned many
For the last 17 years, Namgyal Wangmo Choephel has been the go-to person for staff and patients on NP 14, the Gynecologic Oncology floor of Smilow Cancer Hospital. Nam is a Care Associate, formerly known as a PCA, and she is a well-respected and integral part of the Gyn-Onc team.

On a daily basis, Nam cares for short and long-term patients, whether they are recovering from surgery or are in for chemotherapy or radiation treatment. She monitors vital signs, EKGs, drains, prepares blood work, and helps patients with baths and getting up and walking after surgery. Time on the 14th floor is special to Nam, and she considers it a privilege to be able to provide hands-on, bedside care to patients.

Nam is beloved among her coworkers and patients, and the feeling is mutual. “I feel very blessed to have great co-workers - many of whom I have worked with over the last 17 years, and who are extremely intelligent, and I always look up to them. We have a great group and work well as a team, and this carries through to all of our patients and their families.”

Her manager, Sarah Infantino, agrees and says of Nam, “Nam consistently delivers excellent, compassionate care to our patients and families, but she goes beyond that to proactively address patient issues and concerns, as well as problem solve and trouble immunotherapy treatments from our labs to our patients.

New research by @MSznol and Dr. Scott Gettinger in @JAMAOnc shows promising results for certain #melanoma#renalcancer#lungcancer patients. “This first multidose #clinicaltrial of immunotherapy drug nivolumab shows 5 year survival rates”- said Dr. Sznol.

Watch Dr. Tomer Avraham .@tavraham33 talk to @jocelynmaiminta@wtvh about the recall of textured Allergan #breastimplants and what women need to know about their #cancer risk.

Thank you to .@yalederm, our Screening & Prevention Program team, and the entire staff at the #Smilow Cancer Care Center in Trumbull who helped with our free #skincancer screening last night. #earlydetection

Reporter .@JocelynMaimita interviews Dr. Tomer Avraham @Tavraham33 about Allergan #breastimplant recall due to #cancer risk and advice for women. Watch the story @WTNH tonight at 5:30!

At the .@US_FDA request, Allergan issued a recall for textured breast implants linked to a rare #cancer. Dr. Tomer Avraham @tavraham33 recommends women check with their physicians if they have any safety concerns.

“I told myself how lucky I was that there were treatments that could take care of my cancer.”- #Sarcoma survivor Leslie Riley. Read about her #cancer journey.

Dr. Vasilis Vasiliou, Chair of Environmental Health Sciences at @YaleSPH discusses the latest research into #turf field safety and impact on players today on Yale Cancer Answers. Tune in to @wnpr at 7:30pm, or download the podcast from iTunes this week.

The .@theNCI released a new report sharing all NCI-Designated Cancer Centers’ commitment to global oncology research and
A three-time nominee and recipient of the PCA of the Year award, Nam embodies the spirit and characteristics you wish to find in a caregiver. In fact, not only do the patients get attached to Nam (and vice versa), often the families of the patients Nam cares for also experience the same bond and feel sad to leave at discharge.

"I love what I do," says Nam. "When I wake up, I make the best of the day. I am happy to be working and happy for the day, and I believe in the saying: 'Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.'"

Funding Opportunities

Enhancing Academic-Community-Patient Partnerships in Metastatic Breast Cancer Care

National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with Pfizer Global Medical Grants (Pfizer) to offer a new grant opportunity for improving care for patients with metastatic breast cancer (MBC). The intent of this RFP is to encourage investigators at NCCN Member Institutions to submit proposals describing concepts for developing best practices and collaborative oncology care models between academic centers and referring community providers. The overarching goal is to leverage the expertise and resources of NCCN-designated cancer centers to improve quality and outcomes across the continuum of care for all MBC patients.

**Application Deadline:** August 28, 2019

[Learn More >>]

Calendar

Hematology Research Seminar Series
**August 2; 11:45 AM**
Brady Memorial Laboratory, Brady Auditorium, B-131
*Germline Predisposition to Hematopoietic Malignancies*
Lucy Godley, MD, PhD
[Learn More >>]

Smilow Screening & Prevention Informational Table
**August 4; 6:00 AM (All Day Event)**
Coe Memorial Park, Torrington
*The Tour of Litchfield Hills*
[Learn More >>]

Yale Cancer Answers
**August 4; 7:30 PM**
WNPR
*Social and Health Equity: A YSM Student Perspective*
Max Jordan, Nguemeni Tiako
[Learn More >>]

Smilow Screening & Prevention Informational Table
**August 6; 5:00 PM**
Lincoln-Bassett Community School, New Haven
[Learn More >>]

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar
**August 8; 2:30 PM**
Orchard Medical Center, 107-109
[Learn More >>]

Yale Cancer Answers
**August 11; 7:30 PM**
WNPR
*Treatment Advances for Pancreatic Cancers*

[Learn More >>]
**Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network (CP-CTNet): CP-CTNet Sites (UG1)**

Through this FOA, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) proposes and will support the Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network (CP-CTNet).

**Application Deadline: August 29, 2019**

[Learn More >>](#)

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**Novel Technology Tools to Facilitate Research Using Next Generation Patient-derived Cancer Models (U01)**

Through this FOA, the NCI will support the development of technology tools that will facilitate, accelerate, and/or enhance research using advanced human-derived next generation cancer models, such as organoids, conditionally reprogrammed cells, and others.

**Application Deadline: August 30, 2019**

[Learn More >>](#)

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**Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program**

This FOA encourages applications for the Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program for the purpose of supporting the research activities during the early stage careers of independent clinical researchers. The program offers the opportunity for a unique bridge between the NIH intramural and extramural research communities and contains two phases. In the first phase, Lasker scholars will receive appointments for up to 5-7 years as tenure-track investigators within the NIH Intramural Research Program with independent research budgets. In the second phase, successful scholars will receive up to 3 years of NIH support for their research at an extramural research facility; or, the scholar can be considered to remain as an investigator within the intramural program.

**Application Deadline: August 30, 2019, by 5:00 PM**

[Learn More >>](#)

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**Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar**

**August 15; 2:30 PM**

Orchard Medical Center, 107-109

[Learn More >>](#)

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**Submissions**

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**

Director, Public Affairs and Communications

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**Jill Lacy, MD**

[Learn More >>](#)
Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Technologies for Low-Resource Settings (R43/R44)

This FOA encourages Small Business Innovation Research grant applications from small business concerns proposing commercially-directed research for the development of cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment technologies to improve cancer outcomes in low- and middle-income countries, and low-resource settings in the US.

**Application Deadline:** September 5, 2019

Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in Hematology/Oncology

This program supports innovative scientific research that will advance knowledge in the field of Hematology/Oncology and provide support for research career development. The awards provide financial support to 3 junior faculty researchers in Canada or the United States a for a 2-year period.

**Application Deadline:** September 6, 2019

National Cancer Institute Youth Enjoy Science Research Education Program (R25)

The over-arching goal of this NCI R25 program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research workforce.

**Application Deadline:** September 25, 2019
Susan G. Komen Career Catalyst Research Grant

The topic area for the FY20 Career Catalyst Research Award is Redefining Metastatic Breast Cancer through Liquid Biopsy. The goal of this focus area is to support outstanding research seeking to use liquid biopsy techniques to improve treatment, detection, and understanding of metastatic breast cancer which will lead to a reduction in breast cancer deaths by 2026. Komen requests Letters of Intent for research projects that address one of the following focus areas:

- Refining treatment of metastatic breast cancer
- Early detection of metastatic breast cancer

Applications that fit the focus areas as detailed in the LOI Announcement and include studies that address metastatic breast cancer disparities, or leverage data science to better understand and treat metastatic breast cancer are highly encouraged. The award provides funding up to $450,000 (direct and indirect costs combined) over 3 years.

Application Deadline: September 25, 2019

Learn More >>

Defense Health Program - Department of Defense Melanoma Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19)

The FY19 Defense Appropriation provides $10 million (M) to the Department of Defense (DoD) Melanoma Research Program (MRP) to support innovative, high-impact melanoma research.

The FY19 MRP Focus Areas are listed below:
* Precursor Lesions, Melanomagenesis, Host Factors, and the Tumor Microenvironment (e.g., melanoma instigators, ultraviolet [UV] exposure, other instigators)
* Melanoma Primary Tumor Evolution (e.g., dormancy, heterogeneity, metabolism, epigenetic dysregulation, cell death)
* Therapeutic Prevention
* Minimal Residual Disease
* Rare Melanomas (e.g., uveal, acral, leptomeningeal disease, pediatric, adolescent and young adult [AYA], mucosal)

The MRP challenges the research community to redefine the concept of prevention and has issued a FY19 MRP Challenge Statement that should be considered when responding to the FY19 MRP Focus Areas and funding opportunities.

**LOI Deadline:** October 2, 2019

Learn More >>

Maximizing the Scientific Value of Existing Biospecimen Collections (R21)
The purpose of this FOA is to invite R21 applications to stimulate exploratory research relevant to the mission of the FDA - Center for Tobacco Products using existing (publicly available) biospecimens currently stored in repositories in the United States.

**Application Deadline:** October 8, 2019

Learn More >>

Secondary Analyses of Existing Datasets of Tobacco Use and Health (R21)
The purpose of this FOA is to invite R21 applications proposing the innovative analysis of existing (publicly available) nationally representative U.S. cross-sectional and longitudinal data, to investigate novel scientific ideas and/or to generate new models, systems, tools, methods, or technologies that have the potential for significant impact on biomedical or biobehavioral research in areas relevant to the FDA- Center for Tobacco Products.

**Application Deadline:** October 8, 2019

Learn More >>

Recent Publications

Association Between Ownership of Imaging Equipment and Appropriateness of Staging Positron-Emission Tomography in Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.
Temozolomide sensitizes MGMT-deficient tumor cells to ATR inhibitors.
Jackson CB, Noorbakhsh SI, Sundaram RK, Kalathil AN, Ganesa S, Jia L, Breslin H, Burgenske DM, Gilad O, Sarkaria JN, Bindra RS.
Read More >>

The landscape of novel and complementary targets for immunotherapy: an analysis of gene expression in the tumor microenvironment.
Gaffney SG, Perry EB, Chen PM, Greenstein A, Kaech SM, Townsend JP.
Read More >>

Robust semiparametric gene-environment interaction analysis using sparse boosting.
Wu M, Ma S.
Read More >>

A comparison of benign positional vertigo and stroke patients presenting to the emergency department with vertigo or dizziness.
Hanna J, Malhotra A, Brauer PR, Luryi A, Michaelides E.
Read More >>

Calculation of delivered composite dose from Calypso tracking data for prostate cancer: And subsequent evaluation of reasonable treatment interruption tolerance limits.
Read More >>
APC Mutational Patterns in Gastric Adenocarcinoma are Enriched for Missense Variants with Associated Decreased Survival.
Rubinstein JC, Khan SA, Christison-Lagay ER, Chac C.
Read More >>

Histiocytic and Dendritic Cell Neoplasms.
Pan Z, Xu ML.
Read More >>

Glutathione deficiency-elicited reprogramming of hepatic metabolism protects against alcohol-induced steatosis.
Read More >>

Laparoscopic Hysterectomy Route, Resource Use, and Outcomes: Change After Power Morcellation Warning.
Desai VB, Wright JD, Lin H, Gross CP, Sallah YH, Schwartz PE, Xu X.
Read More >>

Robotic type II B posterior exenteration for recurrent vaginal cancer.
Khadraoui W, Zeybek B, Mutlu L, Menderes G.
Gynecol Oncol. 2019 Jul 22.
Read More >>

Five-Year Survival and Correlates Among Patients With Advanced Melanoma, Renal Cell Carcinoma, or Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Treated With Nivolumab.
Topalian SL, Hodi FS, Brahmer JR, Gettinger SN, Smith DC, McDermott DF, Powderly JD, Sosman JA, Atkins MB, Leming PD, Spigel DR, Antonia SJ,

