February 21, 2020

Announcements

U.S. News Best Hospitals Voting

With your help, we can continue to push our reputation score higher in U.S. News & World Report’s annual Best Hospital’s Guide. I hope we can work together to improve our reputation score, and our ranking.

Please support our institution by participating in this year’s survey. Online voting for reputation scores is open through Doximity or on the Doximity app. I encourage each of you to take a few minutes to vote and support cancer services at Smilow Cancer Hospital. When making your selection, you can type Smilow or Yale and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven (New Haven, CT) will appear for you to select.

Pamela Kunz, MD
Named Leader of Gastrointestinal Cancers Program

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Pamela L. Kunz, MD, as Leader for the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center and Director of GI Medical Oncology within the Section of Medical Oncology. We look
forward to working with Dr. Kunz and our entire Gastrointestinal Cancers Program to continue to expand the impact of our clinical, research, educational, and outreach initiatives in GI Cancers, including a broad program in colorectal cancers.

Dr. Kunz will join Yale in July from Stanford University School of Medicine where she is currently Director of the Stanford Neuroendocrine Tumor Program, Leader of the Endocrine Oncology Research Group, and Director of the Neuroendocrine Tumor Fellowship. Beyond her record of accomplishment in GI Oncology, Dr. Kunz is an international leader in the clinical care of patients with neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) and is advancing the field through clinical trials and translational science that are defining the next generation of therapies for patients with this rare diagnosis.

Learn More >>

**Anca Bulgaru, MD Joins Waterford Care Center**

Please welcome Dr. Anca Bulgaru, who has been appointed an Assistant Professor in Clinical Medicine (Medical Oncology) and cares for patients at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Waterford, CT. Dr. Bulgaru has more than 15 years of experience in a fast-paced community practice and provides compassionate and dedicated patient-centered care. She has a particular interest in breast cancer, high-risk management, including genetic risk assessment, as well as survivorship care. All are welcome to an Open House on Tuesday, February 25 from 5-7pm at the Waterford Care Center to meet Dr. Bulgaru and the entire team at the Care Center.

Learn More >>

**Closer to Free Launch**

Scientists find many gene 'drivers' of cancer, but warn: Don't ignore 'passengers'

Read More >>

Yale Cancer Center Study Shows Long-Term Survival Benefit for Certain Patients with Advanced Lung Cancer

Read More >>

Yale Cancer Center Scientists Find Ally in Fight Against Brain Tumors: Ebola

Read More >>
It's time to start thinking about September and our 10th Closer to Free Ride! Join us on March 5th at the Stony Creek Brewery in Branford for a special launch party from 5-8pm to register for this year's ride. Attend to receive your "I'M IN" shirt, and to celebrate a very special year for the Closer to Free Ride!

Learn More >>

Notables

Yanixa Quinones-Aviles, a second-year PhD student in the laboratory of Dr. Mandar Muzumdar at Yale Cancer Center and the Department of Genetics, and a member of the Cancer Biology Institute and Yale Cancer Center's T32 Cancer Biology Training Program, has been selected as one of only 40 fellows across the United States and Puerto Rico for the Yale Ciencia Academy for Career Development. The Yale Ciencia Academy is a competitive year-long program that provides graduate students with opportunities for mentoring, peer support, and networking to develop skills for career advancement.

On January 17, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens conferred a Doctor Honoris Causa (Honorary Doctorate in Medicine) to David Rimm, MD, PhD, Professor of Pathology and Medicine (Medical Oncology). Dr. Rimm has a long history of working with faculty from the University of Athens and has trained many PhD students and medical post-doctoral fellows from the University of Athens.

Congratulations to Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology and Associate Cancer Center Director for Translational Research. Dr. Herbst has been selected as a candidate for the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Board of Directors. All AACR members are eligible to vote and express their support until March 16.

Brigid Killelea, MD, MPH, FACS, Associate Professor of Surgery (Oncology), has been appointed Vice Chair of the Training - Breast Programs Subcommittee for the Society of Surgical Oncology.
The **National Comprehensive Cancer Network** (NCCN) has funded **Cary Gross, MD** to support a research collaboration with **Elena Ratner, MD**, and **Dena Schulman-Green, PhD**, to develop new approaches to identify patients with unmet social needs and connect them with resources in their own communities. The project is titled, "CommunityRx-Cancer: An IT-enhanced Patient Navigation Program for Social Determinants of Health in Advanced Ovarian Cancer."

More than a dozen members of the Smilow Cancer Hospital **Thoracic Oncology Program** are attending the **2020 IASLC Lung Cancer Targeted Therapies Meeting**, co-chaired by **Roy Herbst, MD, PhD**. Review the full agenda.

Our **Hematology Program** celebrated at their second annual **Team Appreciation Event** earlier this week at The Ballroom at LoRicco Tower in New Haven. The evening was fun way to recognize our Hematology faculty, nurses, clinical staff, clinical trials office team, laboratory personnel, and administrative staff for all the hard work that they do throughout the year. Hosted by **Dr. Amer Zeidan, Dr. Stephanie Halene** and **Dr. Kevin Billingsley** also gave remarks. **Dr. Steven Gore** was recognized and thanked for the countless contributions he has made since joining Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital in 2013. Special recognition and thanks to this year's event committee: **Dr. Zeidan, Richard Carr, Jennifer Horn**, and **Larissa Hall**, who seamlessly organized an amazing evening for the Hematology Program.

Social Workers **Brian Jin** and **Angela Khairallah** joined us on Yale Cancer Answers to discuss meaning centered psychotherapy for patients with cancer. Download our podcast through iTunes.

Dr. Joseph Kim and Dr. Daniel Petrylak are at American Society of Clinical Oncology's #GU20meeting presenting new research from clinical trials available at Smilow Cancer Hospital for men with metastatic prostate cancer. We're grateful for the cutting-edge research available to our patients, because of the research they and so many of our physicians are doing!

Thank you to Dr. Ethan Basch from UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center for presenting the Iris Fischer Memorial Lecture today at
The Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program welcomes Wei Wei, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics. Dr. Wei's current research focuses on the development of early phase clinical trial designs, with particular interest in continuous monitoring of toxicity-efficacy outcomes and model-based definitions of clinical benefit. Dr. Wei developed a statistical method to redefine trial eligibility for adjuvant trials based on residual risk calculated from a multivariate model. Dr. Wei has extensive collaborations with Yale Cancer Center investigators in developing protocols for phase I and phase II clinical trials and has established a track record of publishing in high impact journals.

“I fight cancer because my Mom is a survivor and I want to pay it forward” - Sam, a Smilow Cancer Hospital Nurse.

Congratulations to Dr. Julius Chapiro, who was awarded a $100,000 research grant from the Society of Interventional Oncology for his project titled, “Molecular Imaging of the Immuno-Metabolic Crosstalk to Guide Combination Therapies of Liver Cancer.” His research will be done in our Interventional Oncology Laboratory in collaboration with Nikhil Joshi, PhD, from the Yale Center for Immuno-Oncology and Daniel Coman, PhD, from the MR Research Center.
Raul Hernandez-Ramirez, PhD, also joins the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program. Dr. Hernandez-Ramirez is an Associate Research Scientist in the department of Biostatistics and has been involved in cancer research for over a decade. Dr. Hernandez-Ramirez's cancer research contributions have focused on the etiology of cancer in people living with HIV, breast cancer, and gastric cancer. More recently, he has been working on some ideas to both continue conducting research related to cancer in people living with HIV and begin new research on prevention of cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers with a focus on Mexico and U.S. Hispanic populations. Dr. Hernandez-Ramirez was recently selected from a range of applicants to participate in the NCI's hosted Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Cancer (TIDIRC) Facilitated Course. The two-day course will take place at the NCI in August.

Employee Profile: Carolyn Truini

Karen Benzi Reyes, RN, presented Renee Muse with a special Smilow Cancer Hospital Veteran Recognition Coin last week in honor of her service in the Army. Renee works in our Breast Center and, like Karen, who is a Navy Veteran, she is one of many Veterans at Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Care Center Network now giving back to our patients. Thank you both!
Carolyn Truini, Coordinator for Smilow Cancer Hospital's Department of Operations, started in oncology over 20 years ago. When an opportunity arose in the newly opened Smilow Cancer Hospital, Carolyn jumped at the chance to continue working with oncology patients and the team at Yale.

As the liaison between support services and physicians, staff, and nurses, Carolyn handles tasks both large and small on a daily basis. She often participates in projects to improve patient flow as with a project for more efficient visits for patient blood draw. Previously blood draws were done immediately before a patient's appointment, which often delayed the rest of their day. Now, with an appointment time scheduled, patient flow has been greatly improved. If someone needs a new computer, if there are space issues, or if something needs to be fixed, Carolyn sees it through until the job is done.

"Smilow is in a different stage than when we opened," commented Carolyn. "Ten years out there are things that need replacing, and space is becoming more of a concern. I try to find ways to manage all of these things so that patient care is never impacted. The one thing that hasn't changed about Smilow is the focus on our patients and their families. For many people our building becomes a second home, and we are a building where patients are often receiving the best and worst news of their life. We want our environment to reflect the care that we provide and make sure that our staff is supported as well."

In 2019, Carolyn received one of the inaugural Smilow Luminary Awards of Excellence, which is given to those who consistently exceed performance expectations and deliver high-quality cancer care for patients, families, and the health system throughout the year. Todd Wilcox, Manager of Operations at Smilow Cancer
Hospital, commented, "The wealth of knowledge Carolyn has ascertained during her time at Smilow Cancer Hospital is truly unmatched. Her compassion for the patients and staff is evident as she make her rounds on the floors of Smilow with a smile on her face and offering a warm greeting to those she meets. Carolyn is a valued person on the Operations team and I am lucky to work with her."

#OOTB Thanks!

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Amanda Ralabate, a Clinical Research Nurse, and Barbara Johnson, a Clinical Research Coordinator, from the Clinical Trials Office! Over the past year, Amanda and Barbara have worked closely with Iovance to have our site marked as a "Center of Excellence." As a result, Iovance even approached our site, including Amanda and Barbara, to have a round table discussion to understand how we as a site are doing this so well. By cultivating a strong working relationship with the sponsor, Amanda and Barbara have made it possible to offer our patients new cutting-edge therapies not previously available to our institution.

Thank you, Amanda & Barbara!

Schulam @Yale_Urology are presenting at a @YaleMed Discovers Symposium in Florida to present the latest innovations and advances in cancer research, treatment and care.

In a new review @sciencedirect @mleapman explains the need to improve ways to reduce active surveillance in men with #prostatecancer who are less likely to continue to benefit.

Thank you to @Dr_AmerZeidan and @Cecchini_OncMD for today's Grand Rounds presentations on treatment for #myeloidmalignancies and #GastrointestinalCancer.

At GU20, @DanielPetrylak is interviewed by @OncLive about the latest research advances for #prostatecancer and #bladdercancer.

We are very pleased to announce @PamelaKunzMD has been appointed Leader of our #GastrointestinalCancers Program @SmilowCancer @YaleCancer and Director of GI Medical Oncology!

New practice changing research @BloodAdvances led by Dr. Alfred Lee & @GeorgeGoshuamd shows using rituximab for inpatients with thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura, a rare #blooddisorder, produces cost savings for hospitals.

Social Workers Brian Jin and Angela Khairallah join us on Yale Cancer Answers today at 7:30pm on @wnpr to discuss meaning centered psychotherapy for patients with cancer. Tune in or download our podcast through @iTunes
YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS celebrates Shelby DeCarlo, a Clinical Research Nurse, and Ebony Williams, a Clinical Research Coordinator, from the Clinical Trials Office! Shelby and Ebony were commended for their incredible contribution during a recent FDA audit, especially regarding the fantastic documentation for our patient visits, which led to an extremely successful inspection. Without their tireless effort, which included hours spent re-assessing the subject charts to ensure that all notes were complete, the audit would not have been as successful.

Thank you, Shelby & Ebony!

Yale Cancer Center's #OOTBTHANKS program is a staff recognition initiative to show appreciation to employees who have exemplified an above-and-beyond effort or an outstanding contribution to the team. All nominations should be submitted to the Director's Office c/o Anna Raso.

Recent Publications

Daily Cannabis Users with Sickle Cell Disease Show Fewer Admissions than others with Similar Pain Complaints.
Curtis SA, Brandow AM, DeVeaux M, Zelterman D, Devine L, Roberts JD.
Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research. 2020 Feb 12.
Read More >>

New findings in @VirologyJ shows Dr. Anthony van den Pol and colleagues using elements of Ebola, one of the world's deadliest viruses, to help treat lethal brain tumors.

New research led by @DanielPetrylak to be presented today at #GU20 shows treatment with the immunotherapy drug sip-T is promising in patients with advanced #prostatecancer

Dr. Joseph Kim is presenting new research today at #GU20 showing the drug combination of cediranib and olaparib improves survival for patients with metastatic #prostatecancer

Thank you to @EthanBasch1 @UNC_Lineberger for giving the annual Iris Fischer lecture during today's Grand Rounds on patient reported outcomes in #oncology

Calendar

Developmental Therapeutics Research Program Seminar
February 21; 1:00 PM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, SHM-I304
Challenges and Opportunities in Brain Tumor Therapeutics
Antonio Omuro, MD
Learn More >>

Smilow Informational Table
February 22, 4:00 PM
Payne Whitney Gym
Yale Women's Basketball - Play4Kay Pink Game for Breast Cancer Awareness
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Answers
Unconventional oil and gas development and health outcomes: A scoping review of the epidemiological research.
Deziel NC, Brokovich E, Grotto I, Clark CJ, Barnett-Itzhaki Z, Broday D, Agay-Shay K.
Environ Res. 2020 Mar;182:109124.
Read More >>

Kovvuru, S., Castillo, Y. C., Huttner, A., Nowak, R. J., & Roy, B.
Clinical characteristics of fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 antibody-related polyneuropathy: a retrospective study.
Kovvuru S, Castillo YC, Huttner A, Nowak RJ, Roy B.
Read More >>

Cardiotoxicity in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant: Keeping the Beat.
Read More >>

Transdisciplinary Research in Energetics and Cancer early career investigator training program: first year results.
Irwin ML, Lowry D, Neuhausser ML, Ligibel J, Schmitz K, Patterson RE, Colditz G, Li F, Nebeling L.
Transl Behav Med. 2020 Feb 17.
Read More >>

Mechanistic Links between Obesity, Insulin, and Cancer.
Perry RJ, Shulman GI.
Trends Cancer. 2020 Feb;6(2):75-78.
Read More >>

Risk factors for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in the northeast of the United States: results of a case-control study.
Dietary patterns and thyroid cancer risk: a population-based case-control study.
Read More >>

The EGFR-ZNF263 signaling axis silences SIX3 in glioblastoma epigenetically.
Oncogene. 2020 Feb 13.
Read More >>

Androgen Deprivation Therapy and Cognitive Function in Prostate Cancer.
Kluger J, Roy A, Chao HH.
Read More >>

Management of Pneumonitis and Neuropathy in Patients Receiving PD-1-Based Therapy for Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer.
Davies MJ, Chiang AC.
JCO Oncol Pract. 2020 Feb;16(2_suppl):4s-9s.
Read More >>

Leveraging effect size distributions to improve polygenic risk scores derived from summary statistics of genome-wide association studies.
Song S, Jiang W, Hou L, Zhao H.
Read More >>

Glucosylsphingosine but not Saposin C, is the target antigen in Gaucher disease-associated gammopathy.
Read More >>

Read More >>

Funding Opportunities

**Agilent Early Career Professor Award**
The purpose of the Agilent Early Career Professor Award is to promote and encourage excellent research enabling measurements of importance to Agilent Technologies and the world.
**Nomination Deadline:** February 28, 2020
Learn More >>

**Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Advanced Light-Sheet Microscopy Program**
The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation’s mission is to provide funding for promising technologies, particularly in cutting edge instrumentation and interfaces between disciplines.
**Application Deadline:** March 6, 2020
Learn More >>

**Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation Grants**
We invite innovative and transformative research proposals in NETs to help bring the field closer to more effective therapies. We offer four different neuroendocrine cancer research grants (Accelerator, Investigator, Pilot, and Mentored Awards) with cancer research grants ranging from $100,000 to $1.2 million.
**Letters of Intent Deadline:** March 9, 2020
Learn More >>

**Yale School of Medicine and FDA’s Office of Minority Health and Health Equity Diversity Day**
February 28; 8:30 AM
M.S. Harkness Memorial Auditorium
Patient Centered Approach to Care and Research
Learn More >>

**Smilow Informational Table**
February 28; 11:00 AM
Yale New Haven Hospital
National Cancer Prevention Month Event
Learn More >>

**Digestive Diseases GI Core Curriculum Lecture Series**
February 28; 1:00 PM
The Anlyan Center, S-247
Reproducibility in Research
Michael Nathanson, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

**Yale Cancer Center Seminar**
March 2; 11:00 AM
Farnam Memorial Building, FMB-115
Regulation of Immune Cell Fate Decisions by Cellular Metabolism
Santosh A. Vardhana, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

**Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**
March 2; 11:00 AM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, SHM I-304
Imaging New Antibodies in Triple Negative Breast Cancer
Bernadette Marquez-Nostra, PhD
Learn More >>

**HTI Seminar Series Presented by the Yale Center for Immuno-Oncology**
March 3; 4:00 PM
The Anlyan Center, N-203
Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Award
This award provides funding to basic scientists and clinicians who conduct research with the potential to significantly impact the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of one or more pediatric cancers.
**Application Deadline:** March 16, 2020
[Learn More >>]

Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation Fellowship Award
The Foundation encourages all theoretical and experimental research relevant to the study of cancer and the search for cancer causes, mechanisms, therapies and prevention.
**Application Deadline:** March 16, 2020
[Learn More >>]

Sontag Foundation Distinguished Scientist Award
This award provides career and research support to early career scientists who demonstrate outstanding promise for making scientific and medical breakthroughs in the field of brain cancer research.
**Application Deadline:** March 16, 2020
[Learn More >>]

Yale Cancer Center-Advanced Training Program for Physician-scientists Award
YCC-ATPP is a two-year T32 training program that provides salary and research funds for two third-year Hematology/Oncology (Hem/Onc) fellows each year who are strongly committed to be independent physician-scientists performing basic, translational, clinical, or outcomes research in a cancer-related field.
**Application Deadline:** March 16, 2020
[Learn More >>]

Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation MDS Research Fund: Early Career Awards and Established Investigator
This fund will expand the foundation's investments in support of cutting-edge MDS research and related...
programs that will lead to the future standards of care and ultimately cure.

Letters of Intent Due: March 20, 2020

Learn More >>

Prostate Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Awards

The Prostate Cancer Foundation champions investment in human capital to fast-forward solutions for prostate cancer with the ultimate goal of ending death and suffering from metastatic prostate cancer.

Application Deadline: March 23, 2020

Learn More >>

Human Frontier Science Program Research Grants (Program Grants & Young Investigators)

HFSP Research Grants support innovative basic research into fundamental biological problems with emphasis placed on novel and interdisciplinary approaches that involve scientific exchanges across national and disciplinary boundaries

Letters of Intent Due: March 30, 2020

Learn More >>

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: March 31, 2020

Learn More >>

Cancer Research Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship

The CRI Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship Program supports qualified young scientists at leading universities and research centers around the world who wish to receive training in fundamental immunology or cancer immunology.

Application Deadline: April 1, 2020

Learn More >>

Breast Cancer Alliance Exceptional Project Grant
Breast Cancer Alliance invites clinical doctors and research scientists at any stage of their careers whose primary focus is breast cancer to apply for an Exceptional Project Grant. This award recognizes creative, unique, and innovative research.

**Letter of Intent Due:** April 5, 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 >>]

**NCI Program Project Applications**

This FOA from NCI invites applications for investigator-initiated Program Project (P01) applications. The proposed Program may address any of the broad areas of cancer research, including (but not limited to) cancer biology, cancer prevention, cancer diagnosis, cancer treatment, and cancer control.

**Application Deadline:** May 25, 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 >>](#)