February 8, 2019

Announcements

YCC Hosts Cancer Student Interest Group
Yale Cancer Center scientists and physicians hosted members of Yale School of Medicine's Cancer Student Interest Group for a "Speed Dating" style event earlier this week, which gave the students time to briefly meet several members of Yale Cancer Center. Each interaction provided the students time to learn about different areas of cancer research and patient care, and exposed them to new opportunities. Thank you to all of the faculty who participated!

Bladder Cancer CME Dinner
Yale Urology, Smilow Cancer Hospital, and Yale Cancer Center will host a CME dinner highlighting advances in the medical and surgical treatment of bladder cancer on Wednesday, March 13 in Southport. Learn More >>

Liver Cancer Symposium
Please join colleagues from the Smilow Cancer Hospital Liver Cancer Program for a CME Symposium on Friday, March 1 at the Yale West Campus Conference Center to
discuss the changing landscape of hepatocellular carcinoma. The program is free, but registration is required.

Learn More >>

**Notables**

The Yale Cancer Center Radiotherapy and Radiobiology Research Program is proud to welcome Christopher Tien, PhD. Dr. Tien is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Therapeutic Radiology and lead of the physics brachytherapy division. Dr. Tien works primarily with Shari Damast, MD and Melissa Young, MD, PhD on gynecological brachytherapy.

His clinical responsibilities for brachytherapy include treatment planning for patients and quality assurance.

Dr. Tien's research concentrates on clinical and translational research for the brachytherapy program. His most recent endeavor was the implementation of a model-based dose calculation algorithm and the commissioning process, which was presented at the plenary session of the American Brachytherapy Society's annual meeting. The work won the Judith Stitt award, which is presented to the best physics submission.

Act of Kindness in the Fight Against Cancer

Read More >>

Super Bowl Dream to Come True For Patriots Fan Fighting Cancer

Read More >>

Meet Henry, a Patient who Prioritized His Health and Quality of Life When Facing Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer

Read More >>

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook
Canhua Xiao, PhD has been appointed to the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program. Dr. Xiao is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing. The focus of Dr. Xiao’s scholarship has been cancer-related psycho-neurological symptoms, their inflammatory mechanisms, and patient-reported outcomes. Her goal is to improve the quality of life and long-term survival of patients with cancer through multidisciplinary research and the development of evidence-based interventions. Dr. Xiao’s recent work has shown associations between cancer-related fatigue and inflammation at the peripheral protein and mRNA gene expression levels.

Her funded research will further examine the association between persistent fatigue and long-lasting inflammation that may involve epigenetic changes secondary to cancer and its treatment. Additionally, Dr. Xiao’s recent pilot work indicates that increased physical activity levels may reduce inflammation and consequently cancer-related fatigue.

Employee Profile: Gisela Boxleitner

Latest Posts:
Anita Adler was looking for new options for her stage IV lung cancer in 2013 and found Dr. Scott Gettinger. Several clinical trials later, she has shown a complete response to treatment and is celebrating 80!

Yale Cancer Center is proud to welcome Ye Grace Chen, PhD and Gloria Huang, MD to its membership. Dr. Chen is an Associate Research Scientist in the Department of Immunobiology at Yale. Her research focuses on RNA biology and its implications for our understanding of cellular processes and abilities to harness novel tools in the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Dr. Huang is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and a board-certified gynecologic oncologist. Her laboratory studies how genetic alterations and the host microenvironment influence cancer progression and response to treatment.
The Integrative Medicine (IM) Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital helps to complement cancer treatment and to address the serious physical and emotional symptoms often experienced by patients before, during, and after therapy treatment. As the only full-time licensed massage therapist, Gisela Boxleitner is also the coordinator of the IM Program, and provides direct patient care. In her role as coordinator, Gisela collaborates daily with the IM team to assure the best service delivery to all patients. Gisela also participates in several programs, committees, and activities outside of the IM Program.

In 1999, after operating her own massage business for twenty years, Gisela started as the first massage therapist on staff at YNHH. In 2011, she began working full time and took on more responsibilities as coordinator of the program, such as starting an internship for massage therapy, coordinating volunteers, organizing various classes (Qigong, Tai Chi), and establishing the Smilow Wellness Workshops. However, her main focus and passion remains caring for patients. “Smilow is unique in the fact that these services are offered for free. We are a small team, but we all work together to make sure patients are offered these vital services. As an inner city hospital, we work with patients that may have never been exposed to our services. To be able to offer that to someone when they are going through the most stressful time of their life, is a real blessing,” said Gisela.

Dr. Gary Soffer, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, sees patients who have been referred for a consultation in Integrative Medicine. He commented, “Gisela’s steadfast commitment to Integrative Medicine at Smilow has been paramount to its success. She is devoted to bringing services like massage, Tai Chi, meditation, and yoga to all of our patients in spite of their resources. Her work has allowed patients to add a depth and sense of meaning to what can otherwise be a harrowing experience.”

Today, on #WorldCancerDay, we celebrate the advances that have been made in cancer research, treatment, and care, and pledge to continue our work together to find new options for our patients and their families.

Thank you to Dr. Elan Gorshein for a fantastic presentation for the Shoreline ElderCare Alliance (SEA) yesterday on cancer care and treatment and the mission of Smilow Cancer Hospital and
Linda Penn, BSN, RN, Manager for Integrative Medicine and the Boutique at Smilow, commented, "Gisela’s seemingly endless energy, commitment to sharing her skills, and passion to give patients the best possible care make her an obvious choice to receive this recognition. Gisela’s compassionate care makes a difference at Smilow every day!"

#OOTBThanks

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Stephen Baeder, a Clinical Research Assistant in the Clinical Trials Office at Yale Cancer Center. When a new colleague started on his team, Stephen took the time to make sure she was trained on various tasks associated with her position as well as having her shadow him any time he worked on a task she had not yet seen. Stephen also took the initiative to create a packet of training materials to make sure she would be able to come up to speed as quickly as possible. There are many occasions where Stephen goes above and beyond, but this is just one example of his commitment to his team. Thank you, Stephen!

Funding Opportunities
Accelerating Colorectal Cancer Screening and follow-up through Implementation Science
The purpose of this FOA is to promote research in colorectal cancer screening, follow-up, and referral-to-care in regions of the United States where screening rates are below national standards.

Application Deadline: February 11, 2019

Learn More >>

Utilizing the PLCO Biospecimens Resource to Bridge Gaps in Cancer Etiology and Early Detection Research
This FOA encourages the submission of applications that propose to advance research in cancer etiology and early detection biomarkers, utilizing the advantages of the unique biorepository resources of the NCI-sponsored Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer (PLCO) Screening Trial.

Application Deadline: February 11, 2019

Learn More >>

Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN): Cancer Immunoprevention Research Projects
This FOA is associated with the Beau Biden Cancer MoonshotSM Initiative that is intended to accelerate cancer research. Specifically, this FOA intends to create a translational science network devoted exclusively to immunotherapy approaches to treat and prevent adult cancers.

Application Deadline: February 11, 2019

Learn More >>

Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN): Immuno-engineering to Improve Immunotherapy (i3) Centers
This FOA is associated with the Beau Biden Cancer MoonshotSM Initiative that is intended to accelerate cancer research. The purpose of this FOA is to develop Immuno-engineering to Improve Immunotherapy (i3) Centers, as new components of the Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN).

Application Deadline: February 11, 2019

Learn More >>

Smilow Cancer Hospital has launched a Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell Therapy Program to provide another treatment option for patients with some blood cancers. CAR T-cell therapy reprograms a patient’s own T-cells to target tumor antigens and is only available at a few select hospitals nationally.

Read More >>

Thank you to our local, New Haven community barbershops, who helped spread awareness of men’s health, blood pressure screening, and cancer screenings during Yale’s 10th annual Men’s Health Day. Our Screening and Prevention program and the Yale African American Affinity Group recently visited each shop to deliver thanks. We will see you all again in June!

Read More >>
The NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award
The purpose of the NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award (F99/K00) is to encourage and retain outstanding graduate students recognized by their institutions for their high potential and strong interest in pursuing careers as independent cancer researchers.

Application Deadline: February 22, 2019
Learn More >>

Yale Scholars in Implementation Science (YSIS) Career Development Program
The YSIS Career Development Program is an NIH-funded K12 program within the Yale Center for Implementation Science at the Yale School of Medicine. Funded by the NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, it is designed to train junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows late-stage dissemination and implementation science.

Application Deadline: March 1, 2019
Learn More >>

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant
We are pleased to offer this ACS Institutional Research Grant pilot funding opportunity to Yale Assistant Professors to support innovative work in the broad fields of basic, translational, clinical and population prevention/control cancer research.

Application Deadline: March 1, 2019
Learn More >>

2019 YCC Pilot Internal Grants
Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the 2019 Pilot Internal Grants competition. These grants will support innovative basic, clinical, computational, population and epidemiology, prevention/control, and translational cancer research.

Submission Deadline: March 3, 2019
Learn More >>

Sontag Foundation Distinguished Scientist Award

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

- Anita Adler was looking for new options for her stage IV lung cancer in 2013 and found Dr. Scott Gettinner. Several #clinicaltrials later, she has shown a complete response to treatment and is celebrating 80!

- Today, on .@WorldCancerDay, we celebrate the advances that have been made in cancer research, treatment, and care, and pledge to continue our work together to find new options for our patients and their families.

- Our own Kim Torelli will be at #SuperBowlLIII to cheer on the .@Patriots thanks to the support of her colleagues & friends and with a little help from .@NFL. Kim has worked on the 14th floor of Smilow Cancer Hospital for 10 years, and is also a patient.

- He may have done it again. Lieping Chen, MD, PhD, believes he has found another transformational key to treating cancer, an antibody to block a protein called Siglec-15, which he and his lab discovered causes mischief to the tumor microenvironment.

- Learn about #CNStumors and why the incidence of #brainmetastasis associated #cancer deaths is rising, from Dr. Don Nguyen

- Smilow Cancer Hospital has launched a CAR T-Cell Therapy Program. CAR T-cell therapy reprograms a patient's own T-cells to target tumor antigens and is only available at select hospitals nationally.
The DSA seeks to provide 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 13, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)

**Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities**

These funding opps are to support innovative, high-impact research with clinical relevance that will accelerate progress to end breast cancer for Service members, Veterans, and the general public.

- **Breakthrough Award - Level 1 & 2:** The intent of the Breakthrough Award is to support promising research that has high potential to lead to or make breakthroughs in breast cancer. **Letter of Intent Due:** March 14, 2019
- **Breakthrough Fellowship Award:** The Fellowship Award supports recent doctoral or medical graduates in pursuit of innovative, high-impact breast cancer research during their postdoctoral fellowship. **Letter of Intent Due:** March 14, 2019
- **Era of Hope Scholar Award:** The Era of Hope Scholar Award supports individuals early in their careers who have demonstrated significant potential to effect meaningful change in breast cancer. **Letter of Intent Due:** March 14, 2019
- **Innovator Award:** The Innovator Award supports visionary individuals who have demonstrated exceptional creativity, innovative work, and paradigm-shifting leadership in any field including, but not limited to, breast cancer. **Preproposal Due:** March 12, 2019
- **Distinguished Investigator Award:** The Distinguished Investigator Award enables established visionary leaders from any field to pursue innovative ideas that could accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer. **Preproposal Due:** March 12, 2019

[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

[Learn More >>](#)

**Calendar**

**Yale Cancer Answers**

February 10 7:30PM
WNPR

*The Treatment of Sarcomas*

Gary Friedlaender, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

**Pharmacology Mini Symposium**

February 11; 9:30AM

TAC N107

*The Biology of Endocrine FGF’s: From Basic Mechanisms to Therapeutic Opportunities*

Steven Kliewer, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**Radiobiology & Radiotherapy Research Program**

February 11; 11AM

SHM I-304

*The Program Virus and Other Infection-associated Cancers (VOIC) - An Overview*

Walther Mothes, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar**

February 11; 12PM

BCMM 206/208

*Tissue-specific Characterization of the Chromatin Landscape in Schmidtea Mediterranea*
NCCN Preclinical and Clinical Studies of CDK4 and 6 Inhibition with Abemaciclib for Breast Cancers
NCCN has received a $2 million research grant from Eli Lilly and Company to support the performance of preclinical, clinical and correlative studies of abemaciclib in the treatment of breast cancer.
**RFP Due:** March 22, 2019
Learn More >>

Charles H. Hood Foundation Child Health Research Awards Program
The intent of this Award is to support newly independent faculty, provide the opportunity to demonstrate creativity, and assist in the transition to other sources of funding. Research projects must have direct relevance to child health.
**Application Deadline:** March 28, 2019
Learn More >>

Recent Publications

**Epigenetic therapy combinations in acute myeloid leukemia: what are the options?**
Bewersdorf JP, Shallis R, Stahl M, Zeidan AM.
Read More >>

**Disparities in broad-based genomic sequencing for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer.**
Riaz F, Presley CJ, Chiang AC, Longtine JA, Soulos PR, Adelson KB, Herbst RS, Nussbaum NC, Sorg RA, Abernethy AP, Agarwala V, Gross CP.
J Geriatr Oncol. 2019 Feb 1
Read More >>

**Ramucirumab with cisplatin and fluoropyrimidine as first-line therapy in patients with metastatic gastric or junctional adenocarcinoma (RAINFALL): a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial.**

David Taylor
Telomere Regulation in Schmidtea Mediterranea
Brian Jones
Learn More >>

Pathology Research in Progress Talks
**February 12; 9:30AM**
TAC N-107
Sounak Ghosh Roy, PhD
Learn More >>

YCC Grand Rounds / Blanche Tullman Lecture
**February 12; 12PM**
Park Street Auditorium
Human Natural Killer Cells: From Bench to Clinic
Michael Caligiuri, MD
Learn More >>

Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School Hosts:
**February 12; 4PM**
Sterling Law 121
Rosemary Harrison, Anna Kaltenboeck, and Ameet Sarpatwar
Learn More >>

Monthly Palliative Care Conference
**February 12; 4PM**
Fitkin 618
Improving Value of Care for Older Adults: Cost Analyses of a Home-Based Palliative Care
Ashley Parks
Depressed in the ICU: 88 Year-old male with Respiratory Failure
Asmita Paudyal
Learn More >>

Pediatric Grand Rounds

CD28H expression identifies resident memory CD8+ T cells with less cytotoxicity in human peripheral tissues and cancers.

MRI findings in trigeminal neuropathy: bilateral Meckel’s cave lesions.

Health-Related Quality of Life in KEYNOTE-010: a Phase 2/3 Study of Pembrolizumab Versus Docetaxel in Patients With Previously Treated Advanced, PD-L1-Expressing NSCLC.

Pathology of spontaneous and immunotherapy-induced tumor regression in a murine model of melanoma.

piRNA-8041 is downregulated in human glioblastoma and suppresses tumor growth in vitro and in vivo.

February 13; 12PM
Fitkin Amphitheatre
Life After Childhood Cancer: The Journey Forward
Nina Kadan-Lottick, MD
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Center Signal Transduction Research Seminar
February 13; 12PM
SHM I-116
Massively Parallel Human Systems Biology in Synthetic Organisms
Jesse Rinehart, PhD
Learn More >>

Genetics Department Research in Progress
February 13; 12:15PM
SHM I-304
Elias Quijano and Jessica Moore
Learn More >>

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
February 14; 9:00AM
Smilow LL 505
RT in Locally Advanced NSCLC: What Does Heart Dose Mean?
Gabrielle Welch, MD
Learn More >>

YSPH Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases Seminar Series
February 14; 12PM
47 College Street, 106A
Linda Niccolai, PhD, Nicole Deziel, PhD, MHS, and Danya Keene, PhD
Learn More >>

Pathology Grand Rounds
February 14; 12:30PM
Fitkin Auditorium
Illuminating Contributions of the Inflammatory Microenvironment to Metastasis
Mikala Engelblad, PhD
Learn More >>
Challenges with Novel Clinical Trial Designs: Master Protocols.
Clin Cancer Res. 2019 Jan 29.
Read More >>

Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: Socioeconomic Discrepancies, Contemporary Treatment Approaches and Survival Trends from the National Cancer Database.
Uhlig J, Sellers CM, Cha C, Khan SA, Lacy J, Stein SM, Kim HS.
Read More >>

Is Proton Therapy a "Pro" for Breast Cancer? A Comparison of Proton vs. Non-proton Radiotherapy Using the National Cancer Database.
Front Oncol. 2019 Jan 14;8:678.
Read More >>

Persistent disparities in breast cancer surgical outcomes among hispanic and African American patients.
Mets EJ, Chouairi FK, Gabrick KS, Avraham T, Alperovich M.
Read More >>

Imaging of HER2 with [89Zr]pertuzumab in Response to T-DM1 Therapy.


Smilow Screening and Prevention Program Information Table
February 21; 11AM
Saint Raphael Campus
National Cancer Prevention Month
Learn More >>

Pathology Grand Rounds
February 21; 12:30PM
Fitkin Auditorium
Building a Career as a Clinician Scientist
Nita Ahuja, MD, MBA
Learn More >>

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar
February 21; 2:30PM
Orchard Medical Center 107-109
Learn More >>

Smilow Screening and Prevention Program Information Table
February 22; 11AM
YNHH cafe
National Cancer Prevention Month
Learn More >>

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Communications