July 24, 2020

Announcements

Smilow Town Hall

Please join us for a Town Hall meeting next Wednesday, July 29 at 4:30pm with Senator Chris Murphy and Lori Pickens, MHA, Senior Vice President and Executive Director of Smilow Cancer Hospital. Learn More >>

Grace Lee, MD, Appointed to Endocrine Surgery
I am pleased to welcome Dr. Grace Lee to the Endocrine Cancers Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital as an Assistant Professor of Surgery. Dr. Lee joins us from Tulane University School of Medicine where she was an Assistant Professor of Surgery. She received her Medical Degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and completed her residency at Brigham
and Women's Hospital, where she was also as NIH NRSA T32 & F32 Post-doctoral research fellow.

Dr. Lee’s clinical interests include minimally invasive endocrine surgery, transoral thyroid/parathyroid surgery, and radiofrequency ablation. Her research focuses on hospital readmission following elective adrenalectomy, thyroid and parathyroid surgery outcomes in diabetic patients, and thyroid cancer subtypes based on tumor size and discovery of sporadic medullary thyroid cancer after lobectomy, among other topics.

Dr. Sarah Goldberg Appointed Associate Director of Fellowship Program
Sarah Goldberg, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), has joined the leadership team for our Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program as an Associate Director. In this new role, Dr. Goldberg will oversee oncology training for our fellows and will continue as a mentor and advisor to numerous fellows in our program. Dr. Goldberg has an unparalleled track record of mentoring our fellows, and as such, was the 2020 recipient of the David S. Fischer Annual Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring of Fellows in Medical Oncology.

Dr. Goldberg will partner closely with Alfred Lee, MD, PhD, Director of the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program,
and Michael Hurwitz, PhD, MD, and Nikolai Podoltsev, MD, PhD, Associate Directors of the program. Together, the fellowship program leadership team will continue to focus on providing outstanding clinical, educational, and mentorship opportunities for our fellows, while expanding initiatives in clinical, translational, and basic research.

Three Physicians Join Breast Imaging Team
Smilow Cancer Hospital recently welcomed three new physicians to the Breast Center’s Breast Imaging Program through the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging.

Kiran Sheikh, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Radiology in Breast Imaging and joined Yale from Advanced Radiology Consultants in Stamford. Dr. Sheikh earned her Medical Degree from the University of Michigan Medical School and completed her residency in diagnostic radiology at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and a breast and body fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Yale Cancer Center Receives NCI Grant Renewal to Fund Clinical Trials
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Latest Posts:
We welcomed our new class of hematology and oncology fellows with a small party last week hosted by the leadership of the fellowship program and the section chiefs. Congratulations to each of you!

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Our #SmilowStar is Becky Halpern, RN, BSN, CMSRN, Assistant Patient Services Manager, who is the go-to person on our inpatient surgical oncology units and a clinical expert with all patient populations at Smilow Cancer Hospital. We can rely on Becky to manage any assigned task, and always with a positive attitude and a smile. Becky is forward thinking, and she consistently puts our patients at the center of all of her work, while continuing to be a huge advocate for our staff. She was instrumental in our inpatient move to the Saint Raphael Campus and recently led a successful move of surgical oncology back to Smilow on NP 14.
Dorothy Sippo, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Radiology, Breast Imaging, joins Yale after serving as an Assistant Professor of Radiology at the University of Vermont, at Johns Hopkins University, and most recently at Harvard Medical School. She earned her Medical Degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and a MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Sippo completed her residency in diagnostic radiology at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center and a fellowship in breast imaging and evidence-based imaging informatics at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She also was a fellow in medical education research at The Academy at Harvard Medical School.

Ross Varma, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, Breast Imaging, completed his fellowship in breast imaging at Moffitt Cancer Center in 2020 and will begin the Yale executive MBA program in July 2021. He earned his Medical Degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia.

The Yale Brain Tumor Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital partnered with the National Brain Tumor Society to honor Glioblastoma (GBM) Awareness Day for a virtual broadcast of leading research advances, patient support, and patient stories. Join Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, as he shares the current status of GBM research at Yale and the exciting progress being made.

Yale’s COVID-19 Research Resource Fund, which was built with generous contributions from Yale’s donors, has awarded funding to three pilot projects out of 44 submissions.

Of the three selected projects, two are led by pairs of Yale Cancer Center scientists: Karen S. Anderson, PhD, and William L. Jorgensen, PhD;
and completed his internship in internal medicine at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, CT, and his residency in diagnostic radiology at Mount Sinai West, Icahn School of Medicine. His research interests include radiology and healthcare operations, physician well-being, and graduate medical education.

Notables

Prasanna Ananth, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (Hematology/Oncology) and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, has been awarded a St. Baldrick's Scholar Award from the St. Baldrick's Foundation to support her research over the next two years to better define standards of high-quality end-of-life care for children with cancer and develop interventions to provide optimal care for children with incurable cancers.

The Office of Cooperative Research (OCR) at Yale University announced the 2020 Blavatnik Award recipients, which is made possible by a generous grant from the Blavatnik Family Foundation. This year's Yale Cancer Center awardees include:

- **Jeffrey Bender, MD**, received continued funding for a project to enhance miRNA target-based oligonucleotide therapy for the treatment of uveitis and other inflammatory disorders.
- **Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD**, was awarded funding for Athena Therapeutics.
- **Sidi Chen, PhD**, will use his award for MAEGI Medicine, a new paradigm of immune gene therapy.

A daily dose of nature promotes wellness and our Integrative Medicine team encourages you to explore moments in nature with tranquil awareness. Take a minute from your Monday to take in this beautiful woodland scene.

Jill Lacy, MD, Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), received the 2020 Rosemarie L. Fisher, MD, Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education. The annual award recognizes extraordinary accomplishment in Graduate Medical Education and is granted to a member of the Graduate Medical Education Community of Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale School of Medicine who has made substantial contributions to advance the training of residents and fellows. The award was established in 2017 and Dr. Lacy is the fourth recipient of the honor.
• **Barbara Ehrlich, PhD**, will use the funding to continue research on the rare Wolfram syndrome.

• **Peter Glazer, MD, PhD**, received funding for his work with antibody-mediated gene delivery and editing.

• **Ya Ha, PhD**, is targeting p53 mutation in human cancer.

• **Akiko Iwasaki, PhD**, has received monetary support for CynAxis, an immunological approach to provide drug access to the central nervous system (CNS).

• **Mark Lemmon, PhD, FRS**, will use his funding to further his research for drugging fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva (FOP).

**Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD**, Chief of Medical Oncology, Associate Cancer Center Director for Translational Research, is hosting the **21st Annual International Lung Cancer Congress** live webcast.

**Brianna Lutz, RN**, APSM for NP 12, the Smilow Extended Care Clinic, the Supportive Care Unit, and the Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic, and **Leigh Rooney, RN**, a staff nurse on NP 12 were awarded the prestigious Robin Baldini Scholarship from Yale New Haven Hospital.

**Congratulations, Dr. Lacy!**

**Read More >>**

Tune in to **Yale Cancer Answers on Connecticut Public** to hear Dr. Rachel Perry discuss her research and insight into the connection between obesity, insulin, and cancer.

**Read More >>**

Our **#SmilowStar** is **Erin Singleton**. As a Program Coordinator for Smilow Cancer Hospital, she has been instrumental in the success of several Smilow initiatives, including the launch of electronic depression and distress screening, and telemedicine. During our COVID-19 efforts, Erin created a comprehensive resource directory for Smilow faculty and staff, streamlining important policy and workflow information in an accessible and organized format. She is a highly organized, collaborative, and trustworthy team player who always follows through on her commitments. While most of her work is "behind the
The Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program is proud to welcome Robert Homer, MD, PhD, Professor of Pathology, to its membership. Dr. Homer's background includes training in both anatomic pathology, as well as cellular and molecular immunology. As Director of Thoracic Pathology at Yale, Dr. Homer has overall supervision of the clinical diagnostic pathology service. His research background includes a large number of conventional and transgenic murine models of various lung diseases including models relevant to asthma, emphysema, lung fibrosis, acute lung injury, various infectious lung models and most recently, lung cancer models, both purely murine and PDX based.

Employee Profile: Jeff Blood

Congratulations to Kurt Schalper, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology and Medicine (Medical Oncology), on his R37 Merit Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The 7-year award supports Dr. Schalper's groundbreaking work identifying novel pathways for cancer immunotherapy, which can be used to optimally select and treat patients with non-small cell lung cancer.

Employee Profile: Jeff Blood

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter
Many people may not think about where the wheelchair, bed, furniture, or much of the equipment they see and use in a hospital room comes from, but for Jeff Blood, Senior Procurement Coordinator for the Yale New Haven Health System Corporate Supply Chain Department, that is all he thinks about.

Having been in the Yale New Haven Health System for 44 years, Jeff has a unique perspective on hospital operations and needs. He has been actively involved in every expansion as the hospital grew from a single location in New Haven, to a system spanning several locations. Over the last 4½ decades, Jeff has worked in a least ten different positions from a volunteer in Patient Transport to his first job at 16 in Housekeeping, to now a Senior Procurement Coordinator ensuring that patient care units and nursing leadership have what they need on a daily basis to care for patients.

Jeff works closely with Smilow Cancer Hospital and when COVID-19 hit New Haven, he was instrumental in securing beds and equipment to support the expansions needed to care for this new patient population. It is no surprise that Jeff rose through the ranks over the years, as the history of his family is rooted here. His mother, Shirley Blood, was a pioneer in oncology at YNHH as Head Nurse in the mid 60’s on Hunter 5 and later as a Nursing Supervisor in Branford. This legacy of caring

Follow us on twitter

Join @DrRoyHerbstYale who will be co-chairing the 2020 @gotoPER virtual #gotoLCC discussing current research and treatment for #lungcancer.

@RanjitBindra will report in a live Virtual Town Hall starting at 10am today on the latest research and treatment for #Glioblastoma on behalf of the @NBTStweets for #GBMDay.

Research by@BarbaraBurtness & Dr. Benjamin Judson w/ @RobertFerrisMD thru eaonc in Oral Oncology shows novel process to credential surgeons to perform transoral surgery for #oropharyngeal cancer patients

Using technology pioneered by @YaleCancer scientists and @DrMayneFDAFood, new research by Dr. Brenda Cartmel shows #obesity is associated with lower skin carotenoid levels in #breastcancer survivors.

Tune in to Yale Cancer Answers today at 7:30pm @wnpr to hear Dr. Rachel Perry@RachelPerryLab1 discuss her research and insight into the connection between #obesity#insulinand #cancer.

We’re proud @theNCI has awarded a UM1 grant renewal to@YaleCancer for early phase investigator #clinicaltrials led by Dr. Patricia LoRusso for new #cancer therapies thru the Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network.

Congratulations to Lynn Wilson, MD, MPH @xrtldw winner of the Anthony Edward Kupka ’64 Distinguished Alumnus Award@london school The award is presented annually to an alumnus who has demonstrated service to Landon, his community, his profession, or his country.
has not skipped a generation with both of his children working within YNHHS as well.

"For me this is more than a job, it is a commitment of caring for patients, this community, and this organization" said Jeff. "I started here in 1976 and have built strong relationships along the way, which make my position and perspective unique. This is a world-class hospital and my job is to make sure it is world-class from the inside out; from the basement up. My goal is to get what is needed to support both the patient and caregiver."

Carlos Lourenco, System Director of Logistics & Materials at YNH commented, "Jeff's mixture of long experience, deep organizational knowledge, and commitment to patient care and customer service leave him uniquely qualified to make a significant impact on the patient care community. Jeff can foresee challenges and mitigate them effectively through his planning and networking. Leadership views Jeff as a key advisor in the acquisition, management, and even utilization of our bed fleet."

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We are excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith as @YaleCancer @SmilowCancer Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity and Chief Health Equity Officer.

Listen at 10:50am to@SanjayAnejaMD discuss "Applications of Deep Learning in Diagnostic Image Analysis" through @NASEM_Health's workshop on Digital Health Applications in Oncology.

Fitness expert Shana Schneider will join us on Yale Cancer Answers today at 7:30pm @wnpr to share tips and advice on exercise for cancer survivors during the #Covid_19 pandemic. Tune in this evening, or download our podcast through @iTunes

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**Recent Publications**


Jairam, V., Lee, V., Yu, J. B., & Park, H. S. **Nationwide Patterns of Pathologic Fractures Among Patients Hospitalized With Bone Metastases.**

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**Calendar**

**Phone Meditation hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine**
July 24; 1:00 PM
[Learn More >>]

**Yale Cancer Answers**
July 26; 7:30 PM
NPR
*Global Cancer Care and COVID-19*
Kaveh Khoshnood, PhD, MPH
[Learn More >>]

**Guided Imagery Meditation with Michele Grand LMT hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine**
July 27; 10:30 AM
[Learn More >>]

**Virtual T’ai Chi/Qigong hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine**
July 27; 3:00 PM
[Learn More >>]

**Phone Meditation hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine**
July 28; 12:30 PM
[Learn More >>]

**Zumba Gold hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine**
July 28; 1:00 PM
[Learn More >>]

**Restorative Yoga with Ellen McNally hosted by Smilow Integrative Medicine**
Dietary cholesterol drives fatty liver-associated liver cancer by modulating gut microbiota and metabolites.

Gut, gutjnl-2019-319664. Advance online publication.

Impact of healthcare worker shift scheduling on workforce preservation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Infection control and hospital epidemiology, 1-15. Advance online publication.

Autoimmune disease-related primary CNS lymphoma: systematic review and meta-analysis.

Using sigLASSO to optimize cancer mutation signatures jointly with sampling likelihood. 
[Read More >>]

*Oral oncology*, 110, 104797. Advance online publication. 
[Read More >>]

*Adoption of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors and Patterns of Care at the End of Life.* 
*JCO oncology practice*, OP2000010. Advance online publication. 
[Read More >>]

Panse, G., Cowper, S., Ko, C. J., & Subtil, A. 
*Cutaneous Involvement by Mantle Cell Lymphoma: Expanding the Spectrum of Histopathologic Findings in a Series of 9 Cases.* 
[Read More >>]

*Patterns of Opioid Prescribing among Medicare Advantage Beneficiaries with Pain and Cardiopulmonary Conditions.*
Funding Opportunities

**JH Milstone Fund Grant**
JH Milstone Fund will award a grant in 2020 to support early stage investigators and innovative research and education in thrombosis, thrombolysis and hemostasis. **Letter of Intent Deadline:** July 27, 2020

**2020 Yale Cancer Center Internal Pilot Grant Competition**
These grants will support all potential areas of innovative cancer research including basic, clinical, computational, population and epidemiology, prevention/control, implementation science and translational cancer research. **Application Deadline:** August 1, 2020

**DoD FY20 Kidney Cancer Research Program**
The KCRP focuses on the issues regarding prevention, detection, treatment, and the long-term effects of treatment for kidney
cancer for Service Members, Veterans, their families, and the American public.

Early Career Investigator Award - Letter of Intent Due: August 5, 2020

Translational Research Partnership Award - Letter of Intent Due: August 5, 2020

Learn More >>

Emergency Awards: RADx-UP Coordination and Data Collection Center (CDCC) (U24)
This emergency cooperative agreement FOA from the NIH provides an expedited funding mechanism as part of the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics-Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) initiative, a consortium of community-engaged research projects to understand factors that have led to disproportionate burden of the pandemic on the underserved and/or vulnerable populations so that interventions can be implemented to decrease these disparities.

Application Deadline: August 7, 2020

Learn More >>

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (Parent F32)
The purpose of this award is to support research training of highly promising postdoctoral candidates who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators in scientific health-related research fields relevant to the missions of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers.

Application Deadline: August 8, 2020

Learn More >>

NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings (Parent R13)
The purpose of the NIH Research Conference Grant (R13) is to support high
quality scientific conferences that are relevant to the NIH's mission and to the public health.

**Application Deadline:** August 12, 2020

Learn More >>

**NCI Emergency Administrative Supplements for Research and Training Continuity of Postdoctoral Fellows during COVID-19**

Current NCI funded Principal Investigators whose postdoctoral fellows have temporarily lost stipend support from a non-profit funder because of the COVID-19 global pandemic may apply for an administrative supplement to cover the postdoctoral fellow's salary plus applicable F&A for the time and effort devoted to the NCI funded grant.

**Application Deadline:** August 15, 2020

Learn More >>

**NCCN Pfizer Axitinib Request for Proposals (RFP)**

NCCN and Pfizer are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity seeking proposals to support NCCN Member Institution faculty utilizing axitinib. The overall aim is to develop innovative trials that will evaluate the role of axitinib in the treatment of melanoma, hepatocellular carcinoma, and colorectal cancer.

**Application Deadline:** August 12, 2020

Learn More >>

**Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program (Si2/R00)**

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.

**Application Deadline:** August 28, 2020

Learn More >>
Community Interventions to Address the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic among Health Disparity and Vulnerable Populations (R01)
This FOA encourages applications to implement and evaluate community interventions testing 1) the impacts of mitigation strategies to prevent COVID-19 transmission in NIH-designated health disparity populations and other vulnerable groups; and 2) already implemented, new, or adapted interventions to address the adverse psychosocial, behavioral, and socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic on the health of these groups. Application Deadline: August 28, 2020 Learn More >>

NCCN Pfizer Biosimilars Request for Proposals (RFP)
The intent of this RFP is to encourage NCCN Member Institutions and non-NCCN Member Institutions to submit proposals describing concepts and ideas that develop and validate enduring approaches that improve the safe and efficient adoption of biosimilars in oncology. Letter of Intent Due: September 9, 2020 Learn More >>

Aging, Cancer-Initiating Cells, and Cancer Development (U01)
Through this FOA, the NCI and National Institute on Aging will promote research to advance the understanding of the mechanistic factors and cellular interactions during aging that contribute to cancer initiation. Application Deadline: October 27, 2020 Learn More >>