March 20, 2020

Announcements

COVID Response
The emergence of COVID-19 has presented a great challenge to Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center over the past two weeks, but we are so proud of the work led by countless individuals throughout our organization to meet that challenge. While we all join together to find the best way to care for our patients and our own families during this time, we are constantly reminded of the resilience and dedication of our nurses, physicians, scientists, lab staff, pharmacists, social workers, administrators, and entire staff at SCH and YCC.

I want to thank Kevin Billingsley, MD, and Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC, for their outstanding leadership, along with all of the 62 members of our Response Team who have worked tirelessly to ensure our patient care responds to the changing daily environment. I am extremely grateful to each of you for rising to the occasion and working together to find new solutions to patient care, research, and our daily work. We hope the daily Smilow/YCC COVID email updates and weekly Town Hall meetings are providing the information you need to help everyone manage patient care and research responsibilities. Please join us for a virtual Schwartz Rounds on Tuesday at noon for an interactive discussion focused on coping mechanisms. In addition, the most updated information can be found on the Yale New Haven Health website and on Yale University’s site.
Voting Ends Today
Today is the last day to support Smilow Cancer Hospital 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.

Dr. Nikolai Podoltsev Appointed Duffy Firm Chief on NP11
I am pleased to announce that Nikolai Podoltsev, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology), has been appointed the Duffy Firm Chief of Education for North Pavilion 11, our inpatient hematology unit. In his new role, Nikolai will partner closely with Dr. Thomas Prebet, Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology), our Medical Director and Firm Chief for Operations and Quality. Working in collaboration with our nursing leadership team, the firm chiefs will ensure the highest standards of clinical and educational excellence within our inpatient care units. Dr. Thomas Duffy commented on Nikolai’s appointment, “With his encyclopedic knowledge of myeloproliferative- myeloleukemic disorders and his splendid clinical skills, Nikolai represents the very model of a modern physician. His colleagues and trainees will profit immeasurably from his masterful teaching skills. Nikolai excels not only as a physician scientist but he also represents a fine role model for the many students and mentees who seek out his company.”

Deadlier Colon Cancer Develops Differently in Women and Men
Read More >>

Ancient Chinese Medicine Unlocks New Possibilities for Cancer Treatment
Read More >>

How T Cells Make Sure They Have Quiet Time
Read More >>
Dr. Mehra Golshan Named Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Surgical Services

Please join us in welcoming Mehra Golshan, MD, MBA, FACS, as inaugural Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Surgical Services at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, and Professor of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Golshan will join our surgical leadership team and faculty on June 1. In his new role as Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Golshan will work on behalf of Smilow Cancer Hospital to coordinate and expand oncology surgical services throughout the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center Network and the Yale New Haven Health System.

Additionally, Dr. Golshan will serve as Interim Director of the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Chief of Breast Surgery for Yale Medicine, Brigid Killelea, MD, MPH, FACS - who held the interim position for the past two years - will transition to a new leadership role within the Department of Surgery. Dr. Golshan brings extensive leadership experience to our Center. He is currently the Dr. Abdul Mohsen and Sultana Al-Tuwaijri Distinguished Chair in Surgical Oncology, Director of the Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship, having trained dozens of the country's leading breast surgeons, and Chair of the Cancer Committee for the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center. Dr. Golshan has served as Director of Breast Surgical Services, and Medical Director of International Oncology Programs in Boston over his nearly 17 years at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Learn More >>
Dr. Alfred Lee Named Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Director

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Alfred Lee, MD, PhD, as the incoming Director of Yale Cancer Center's Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program. An Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology), Alfred joined the Yale Cancer Center faculty in 2011 from Harvard Medical School. Alfred is a three-time winner of the Yale Cancer Center David S. Fischer Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring of Fellows. In 2016, he was awarded the Charles W. Bohmfalk Prize for Teaching in the Basic Sciences by Yale School of Medicine and in 2018, the Fred Kantor Teacher of the Year Award by the Internal Medicine Residency Program. In addition, the Yale University Graduate & Professional Student Senate recognized him with an Inspiring Yale Award in 2018. Alfred's mentorship and passion for education and his national reputation as an innovator in medical education will provide an excellent foundation as Director of our Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program and its 26 fellows.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Jill Lacy, MD, Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), who after 23 years of extraordinary leadership will be stepping down as Director of our Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program. Under Jill's guidance, our Fellowship Program has emerged as one of the finest oncology training programs in our country. During her tenure, Jill has improved the ranks of our fellowship and led the highly successful effort to combine our hematology and medical oncology training programs. Moreover, under Jill's leadership, our training program has greatly expanded opportunities for basic, translational, population, and clinical research. Jill's mentorship of our fellows and engagement as Director of the program for over two decades is unparalleled. We are extremely grateful for her continued dedication to our patients, fellows, and entire organization.

M. Sung Lee, MD, has been appointed Interim Medical Director of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Greenwich. In his new position, Dr. Lee will work closely with Dr. Dickerman Hollister, Jr., who has led the medical oncology care in Greenwich for nearly 40 years. Dr. Lee has practiced medical oncology and hematology in Greenwich since 2001. His clinical interests include caring for patients with hematologic and thoracic malignancies.

M. Sung Lee, MD, has been appointed Interim Medical Director of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Greenwich. In his new position, Dr. Lee will work closely with Dr. Dickerman Hollister, Jr., who has led the medical oncology care in Greenwich for nearly 40 years. Dr. Lee has practiced medical oncology and hematology in Greenwich since 2001. His clinical interests include caring for patients with hematologic and thoracic malignancies.

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19, Yale New Haven Health has opened a call center for patients and the community. Healthcare professionals from the health system are available to speak with you Monday - Friday, 7 am - 7pm, as well as specialized weekend hours for this week. The Yale New Haven Health COVID-19 call center can be reached at 833-ASK-
Notables

The United States Department of Defense (DoD) has named Sidi Chen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Genetics in the Systems Biology Institute and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Genomics, Genetics, and Epigenetics Research Program, as a recipient of its Era of Hope Scholar Award - an award that supports individuals early in their careers who have demonstrated significant potential to effect meaningful change in breast cancer. The award comes with a four-year grant, with a total dollar amount of $5 million.

Yale Cancer Center has awarded two Yale Discovery Fund applications for 2020. Congratulations to this year's awardees:

Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, and W. Mark Saltzman, PhD: Beyond the BBB: Exploiting NAD metabolic defects in glioma using CNS-directed nanoparticles

Joseph Contessa, MD, PhD, David Rimm, MD, PhD, and Barbara Burtness, MD: STING: biomarker and therapeutic target in HNSCC

Grace Chen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Immunobiology and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Research Program, has been awarded the prestigious Rita Allen Foundation Scholar Award. The Rita Allen Foundation Scholars program funds basic biomedical research in the fields of cancer, immunology, and neuroscience.

Jeffrey Ishizuka, MD, DPhil, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Research Program, has been awarded a K08 Award from the National Institutes of Health to support his project, Triggering Innate Immunity in Tumor Cells to Overcome Resistance to Immunotherapy.
Rong Fan, PhD, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and Jiangbing Zhou, PhD, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Biomedical Engineering, have been awarded a Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative R01 Award to support their project Ex Vivo Analysis of Human Brain Tumor Cells in a Microvascular Niche Model.

Learn More >>

Employee Profile: Bobby Jean-Baptiste

Bobby Jean-Baptiste in Environmental Services (EVS) for Smilow Cancer Hospital, is responsible for cleaning the floors for the Multispecialty Clinics and Infusion areas on the seventh floor, which covers a large area. Although according to Bobby, the biggest part of this job is making sure that patients feel comfortable coming into a place that becomes like a second home to them.

Many patients come several times a week to the outpatient clinic, and Bobby gets to know a lot of them, and their families. When Bobby started two years ago, he didn’t realize the life-changing connections he would make, and how the entire team would become like family. Bobby does not take his job lightly, and is reminded of his father who passed from cancer five years ago, every day. He is currently in culinary school, and would love to remain a part of the Yale family after he graduates.

recognized as a master educator and clinician and brings decades of clinical oncology experience to NP12. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Prsic and Dr. Eder!

Dr. Xavier Llor recently discussed the importance of screening for colorectal cancer in honor of #coloncancerawarenessmonth on Yale Cancer Answers. Tune in to hear important information on screening guidelines, and urge your loved ones to schedule their appointments.

Read More >>
"This is an amazing place to work and everyone has been so supportive of me," said Bobby. "Yes, my main job is to make sure the floors are clean, but if I can take a minute out of my day to grab a wheelchair, or take care of something that will make someone else's day better, I will do it, because it makes my day better too. The days go more smoothly when you approach them with a friendly and positive attitude."

Karen Reyes Benzi, an RN on NP7, commented, "Bobby has been a valuable asset since joining our team. He is friendly and professional and takes great pride in making our area clean, which was extremely important during recent inspections. He is great with the patients, and respectful of their space."

Recent Publications

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

Locoregional Therapy, Immunotherapy and the Combination in Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Future Directions.
Dendy MS, Ludwig JM, Stein SM, Kim HS.
Read More >>

MicroRNA34a expression affects breast cancer invasion in vitro and patient survival via downregulation of E2F1 and E2F3 expression.
Han R, Zhao J, Lu L.
Read More >>

Hypoxia-induced acetylation of PAK1 enhances...
Autophagy and promotes brain tumorigenesis via phosphorylating ATG5.
Read More >>

Hassett MJ, Li H, Burstein HJ, Punglia RS.
Read More >>

Sex Differences in Colon Cancer Metabolism Reveal A Novel Subphenotype.
Read More >>

Atezolizumab + bevacizumab in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC): Safety and clinical activity results from a phase Ib study.
Lee KH, Hsu CH, Lee MS, Ryoo BY, Verret W, He AR, Kwan A, Liu B, Iizuka K, Stein S.
Read More >>

Pilot trial of YIV-906 with neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy (CRT) in patients with locally advanced rectal cancer.
Read More >>

KEYNOTE-061: Phase 3 study of pembrolizumab vs paclitaxel for previously treated advanced gastric or gastroesophageal junction (G/GEJ) cancer.
Shitara K, Özgüroğlu M, Bang YJ, Di Bartolomeo M, Mandalà M, Ryu MH, Fornaro L, Olesiński T,
Shallis RM, Podoltsev NA, Gowda L, Zeidan AM, Gore SD.
Read More >>

Screening Breast Ultrasound: Update After 10 Years of Breast Density Notification Laws.
Butler RS, Hooley RJ.
Read More >>

Advances in quantitative immunohistochemistry and their contribution to breast cancer.
Yaghoobi V, Martinez-Morilla S, Liu Y, Charette L, Rimm DL, Harigopal M.
Read More >>

Primary dural lymphomas: Clinical presentation, management, and outcome.
Cancer. 2020 Mar 16.
Read More >>

Isoform-resolved correlation analysis between mRNA abundance regulation and protein level degradation.
Read More >>

Yale Cancer Answers
March 29; 7:30 PM
NPR
Soy Foods Linked to lower rates of fractures in breast cancer survivors
Evelyn Hsieh Donroe, MD, PhD
Learn More >>

Smilow Town Hall
March 29; 5:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Zoom: https://zoom.us/s/421546627;
Phone: (203) 432-9666 ID: 421 546 627
Weekly COVID-19 Update
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH Physician-in-Chief | Lori C. Pickens, MHA Senior Vice President & Executive Director | Kevin G. Billingsley, MD Chief Medical Officer | Kim Slusser, MSN, RN Vice President for Patient Services
Learn More >>

Smilow Town Hall
April 2; 5:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Zoom: https://zoom.us/s/421546627;
Phone: (203) 432-9666 ID: 421 546 627
Weekly COVID-19 Update
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH Physician-in-Chief | Lori C. Pickens, MHA Senior Vice President & Executive Director | Kevin G. Billingsley, MD Chief Medical Officer | Kim Slusser, MSN, RN Vice President for Patient Services
Learn More >>

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Com
The emerging role of proton therapy for esophagus cancer.
Jethwa KR, Haddock MG, Tryggestad EJ, Hallemeier CL.
J Gastrointest Oncol. 2020 Feb;11(1):144-156.

Liver-first approach to stage IV colon cancer with synchronous isolated liver metastases.
Kurbatov V, Resio BJ, Cama CA, Heller DR, Cha C, Zhang Y, Lu J, Khan SA.
J Gastrointest Oncol. 2020 Feb;11(1):76-83.

Severe functional limitation due to pain & emotional distress and subsequent receipt of prescription medications among older adults with cancer.
Presley CJ, Canavan M, Wang SY, Feder SL, Kapo J, Saphire ML, Sheinfeld E, Kent EE, Davidoff AJ.

Detecting Lung Cancer Trends by Leveraging Real-World and Internet-Based Data: Infodemiology Study.

Long-Acting BMS-378806 Analogues Stabilize the State-1 Conformation of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV-1) Envelope Glycoproteins.
Funding Opportunities

**Charles H. Hood Foundation Child Health Research Awards Program**
The intent of this Awards Program is to support newly independent faculty, provide the opportunity to demonstrate creativity, and assist in the transition to other sources of research funding.

**Application Due:** March 27, 2020
Learn More >>

**The Harrington Scholar-Innovator Award**
This Award recognizes physician-scientist innovators throughout the US and Canada, whose research has the potential to change standard of care. The Scholar-Innovator Award provides research and drug development support to help bridge the gap between basic discovery and the clinical realm.

**Letter of Intent Due:** March 27, 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-Stewart 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 >>
Alex's Lemonade Stand Familial RUNX1 Grant Program
The RUNX1 Research Program is dedicated to advancing areas of research of particular importance to families affected by familial platelet disorders (FPDs) leading to acute myeloid leukemia (AML) due to germline RUNX1 mutations with the ultimate goal of developing effective therapies to prevent the onset of AML.

**Application Due:** April 1, 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 >>]

Pfizer Patient Education in Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) Competitive Grant Program
Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on advancing patient education about CML and improving the patient's ability to make informed decisions about their care.

**Application Deadline:** April 7, 2020
[Learn More >>]

Pfizer MAPK inhibition in Melanoma RFP
Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will
focus on increasing the understanding of MAPK pathway inhibitors and their use in the treatment of melanoma.

**Application Deadline:** April 15, 2020

[Learn More >>

**Prostate Cancer Foundation 2020 PCF Challenge Awards**

The PCF is pleased to announce a Request for Team Science Applications for PCF Challenge Awards for investigations of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer. These awards will be funded depending on the level of innovation in applications received.

**Application Due:** April 17, 2020

[Learn More >>

**Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Career Enhancement Program (CEP)**

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

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

[Learn More >>

**Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Developmental Research Program (DRP) Award**

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

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

[Learn More >>

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

Application Deadline: April 29, 2020
Learn More >>

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

Application Deadline: April 30, 2020
Learn More >>

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

Application Deadline: May 4, 2020
Learn More >>

The Mark Foundation Emerging Leader Award
This Award provides grant support to early career investigators conducting high-impact, high-risk cancer research. This award is intended to support highly promising projects for which other sources of funding are not readily available or for a separate innovative endeavor that will allow the applicant to pursue a distinct and novel research direction.

Letter of Intent Due: May 10, 2020
Learn More >>

Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance
Collaborative Research Development Grant
This Grant provides funds for large ovarian cancer research projects that involve several investigators within one institution or collaborations between...
groups in multiple institutions.

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

Learn More >>

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

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

**Application Deadline:** May 21, 2020

Learn More >>

**2020 Associazione Mia Neri Foundation Onlus Pediatric Oncology Grants**

The Associazione Mia Neri Foundation Onlus will fund a basic research project in the field of pediatric brain tumors with a 100,000 € grant over a two-year period.

**Application Deadline:** May 31, 2020

Learn More >>

**Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Psychosocial Family Impact Grants**

These Grants focus on psychosocial and behavioral health outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer and their families.

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

Learn More >>

**Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Psychosocial Launch Grants**

These Grants focus on psychosocial and behavioral health outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer and their families.

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

Learn More >>

**Breast Cancer Alliance Young Investigator Grant**

To encourage a commitment to breast cancer research, Breast Cancer Alliance invites clinical doctors and research scientists whose primary focus
is breast cancer and who are in the early stages of their careers, to apply for funding for the Young Investigator Grant.

Application Deadline: July 24, 2020

Learn More >>