May 18, 2018

Announcements

Celebrating our Nurses
It was an honor to join Catherine Lyons, RN, MS, Vice President of Patient Services, at our 9th Annual Oncology Nursing Awards and Breakfast last week. Cathy is an exceptional leader who teaches us the meaning of superior world-class care, and helps us to achieve the highest level of excellence at Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Care Centers. I recognize that all of our nurses provide excellent care every day throughout the year, and each are making a difference in our battle against cancer. Thank you for all you do for our patients and for Smilow Cancer Hospital - I appreciate every one of you.

2018 Awards were presented by Cathy Lyons to:

Oncology Nursing Award for Clinical Excellence: Robin Esposito, RN, Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at North Haven
Yale Cancer Center Joins AACR Project GENIE Consortium
Read More >>

WHRY funds study to enable early detection, treatment of ovarian cancer
Read More >>

New cancer immunotherapy drugs rapidly reach patients after approval
Read more >>

Free head and neck screenings at Yale New Haven Hospital
Read More >>
Claire Puklin Award for Outstanding Urologic Nursing: Lori Johnson, RN, Pediatric Urology, joined by Peter Schulam, MD, PhD, Chair of Urology

Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation Scholarship: Ashley Risdon, RN, NP 11

A promising new cancer drug has hit a major setback, raising questions about whether the field is moving too fast
Read More >>

Men Less Likely to get Genetic Testing
Read More >>

Latest Posts:

Please join us for an evening of discussion with two of our renowned brain tumor experts for an understanding of the most effective and comprehensive ways to manage and treat brain tumors. We will explore our comprehensive, patient-focused strategies using current state-of-the-art surgical techniques and clinical trials, as well as cutting-edge additions, including targeting the underlying genetic abnormalities in tumors with...
Lori Pickens Named Executive Director of Smilow

I am pleased to announce that Lori Pickens will join our Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center team on August 6 as Senior Vice President and Executive Director of Smilow Cancer Hospital. Lori is currently the Associate Vice President for Oncology Services at Duke University Health System, Associate Dean and Administrator of the Duke Cancer Institute at Duke University School of Medicine, and the Service Line Executive of the Cancer Care Collaboration with Wake Medical Health System. She will assume the leadership responsibilities currently held by Abe Lopman, who will retire on October 1 after 10 years of remarkable leadership at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Lori is a nationally recognized leader in cancer center administration, and has a proven track record of developing successful multidisciplinary oncology programs, robust ambulatory networks, and partnering with senior administrative and clinical leadership. Her background as a successful administrator at a major cancer center will further enhance our high standards of excellence in clinical advanced precision medicine. Finally, we will focus on ways we can help optimize support for patients and their loved ones as they undergo diagnosis and treatment.

Call 888-700-6543 or register online.

Read More >>

Please join Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital faculty and friends for a dessert reception in celebration of the 54th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

Read More >>

Pediatric Cancer Survivors of all ages and their families are welcome to our annual Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Picnic!

Rain or shine, come connect with other families and hang with your amazing doctors and nurses!

Read More >>
outcomes, cancer research, patient experience, employee engagement, education, and network development. I look forward to working with Lori to advance the mission of our Center. Please join me in welcoming Lori to our Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center community this summer.

**Annual Retreat a Success**
Thank you to all of those who attended our Annual Retreat earlier this week. Now that we have completed our very successful renewal of the CCSG, our Annual Retreat focused on many of the key strategic initiatives that we will develop over the next five years. During the day, we heard outstanding presentations and plans for the Cancer Therapeutic Accelerator Program (CTAP), the new Obesity and Cancer Working Group, our new Center for Immuno-Oncology, and Precision Oncology & Cancer Genome Discovery. In addition, we received updates on a number of vital initiatives, including CTO, Tomorrow, Today (CTOTT), the Functional Genomics Core, the Translational Research Core, and the Center for Precision Cancer Modeling. Our lunch session yielded new ideas for potential projects, many of which I hope will evolve into applications for Yale Cancer Center Innovation Awards. Please note, notification of intent to apply for the Innovation Awards is due Monday, May 21. A special thank you to Dr. Richard Flavell, who provided an insightful keynote lecture on intestinal tumor development to close our day.

**Yale at ASCO**
Yale Cancer Center is looking forward to another exciting American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting, beginning on June 1. If you are attending the meeting, please let Anne Doerr, Director of Media Relations, know you will be in Chicago. A list of Yale participation is below. In addition, we are hosting a Dessert Reception on Sunday evening at 8:30pm at the Hilton Chicago. I hope you will join us.

**Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter**

**Standing ovation at the recent symposium & reception to honor pioneering hospice, palliative care, & oncology nurse, Dr. Ruth McCorkle who is retiring after a distinguished career, 20 years of which have been at Yale.**
Dr. Cecchini to Join GI Program

Michael Cecchini, MD, will join the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital on July 1. A past recipient of our Annual Fellows Award for Outstanding Research in Medical Oncology, Dr. Cecchini will complete his fellowship in the Yale Medical Oncology-Hematology Fellowship Program next month.

Dr. Cecchini received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed his residency at Yale New Haven Hospital. During his fellowship, he received a Young Investigator Award from the Conquer Cancer Foundation to support research on metastatic gastric cancer.

Head and Neck Screenings a Success

I would like to take a moment and thank the physicians and volunteers who participated in this year’s Head and Neck Cancer Screenings. Our teams conducted free head and neck cancer screenings at Greenwich Hospital, the Park Avenue Medical Center, Yale New Haven Hospital, and Lawrence + Memorial Hospital and screened over 300 people. 32 participants required referrals to our specialists for further evaluation. Thank you again to the entire team from our Head and Neck Cancers Program and our volunteers!

Notables

Yale Cancer Center, along with Dr. Vincent DeVita, Jr., Dr. Patricia LoRusso, Dr. Joan Steitz, and Dr. Lieping Chen, were honored at a dinner in Hartford last week by the World Affairs Council of Connecticut as their 2018 Luminary Award recipient in recognition of global leadership in cancer research and innovation. Please take a few minutes to watch the video they prepared for the evening.

YCC: Pioneering the Future of Global Health >>

Craig Crews, PhD, the Lewis Cullman Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, and Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacology, is a recipient of the Khorana Prize, from the Royal Society of Chemistry. The Khorana Prize recognizes outstanding achievement award for research at the chemistry and life science interface.
Dr. Hari Deshpande, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) has been named a co-chair of the Via Oncology Pathways Sarcoma Medical Oncology Committee. He joins Dr. Warren Chow from City of Hope leading the committee, which is charged with the development of pathways for the treatment of patients with Sarcomas.

#OOTB Thanks Marion Miller & Kadisha Recalde

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized administrative assistant Marion Miller for her amazing support in closing a lab recently. Completing all tasks with a smile on her face, her colleagues witnessed her helping in any way she could during this move. Some of these tasks included cleaning the space, throwing stuff out, shredding documents, directing the cleaning crew, organizing painters, requesting leaks in sinks to be fixed, and even handing out water to cleaning crew and movers. Suffice it to say, Marion’s help was invaluable to this project. Thank you, Marion!

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Kadisha Recalde, Accountant II, for her amazing hard work and dedication on several recent grant submissions. The faculty that she supports have described her as always being pleasant and helpful, even in time sensitive situations. Thank you, Kadisha!
Yale Cancer Center’s #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS 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.

**Employee Profile: Sandy Sabia**

Officially, Sandy Sabia’s title is Support Coordinator, but behind the scenes, she is the grease that keeps the wheels turning for the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Torrington. Among her many tasks, Sandy supports staff and physicians with system issues - troubleshooting anything that comes up relating to the phones, email, and EPIC. She also sets up staff and nursing meetings, manages physician templates and schedules, creates reports for the Care Center as well as other sites, helps to resolve patient care issues, and supports Roberta Sterling, RN, MSN, MPH, Clinical Program Manager. She may not always be visible to patients who visit, but Sandy is the silent person in the background improving workflows, processes, and handling tasks that help her colleagues excel in their jobs.

Director for the Smilow Cancer Hospital Survivorship Clinic to discuss the unique challenges and opportunities associated with #survivorship.

Our new international comparison of #lungcancer care found plenty of opportunity for improvement in both the US and England.

### Calendar

**Developmental Therapeutics Research Seminar**
May 18; 1PM
Hope 216

**Big Data Approaches to Advance Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Treatment, and Biology**
Charles Fuchs, MD, MPH

[Learn More >>](#)

**Smilow Screening & Prevention Informational Table**
May 19; 1PM
Cornell Scott - Hill Health Center
Arts & Ideas Festival / Hillfest

[Learn More >>](#)

**Smilow Screening & Prevention Informational Table**
May 20; 4PM
Stetson Branch Library
Arts & Ideas Festival/Dixwell Freddy Fixer Neighborhood

[Learn More >>](#)

**Smilow Screening & Yale Cancer Answers**
May 20; 7:30PM
WNPR
“There are days that I can honestly say I could not do my job without Sandy’s expertise and support,” said Roberta. She continued, “Sandy is an essential member of the Smilow Torrington team and has been for over 23 years. She has a vast knowledge regarding IT, coding, scheduling, reporting, and many other things. She is insightful, and has an excellent knowledge of the overall workflow in the office. She is a key coordinator in many major site projects, including the phone system conversion and recent site renovations. The title of Support Coordinator does not even begin to do justice for everything that Sandy does every day.”

Ultimately, Sandy loves her job because every day is different. "I enjoy the people the most - the staff, physicians, and patients, and especially that my job is different every single day," she explained. "I'm able to adapt to change easily and I'm always ready to help when needed."

Funding Opportunities

Yale Cancer Innovation Awards
YCC is requesting individual or team proposals for projects that have direct relevance to cancer research. This program is designed to support projects with the potential to significantly impact our understanding of and/or approaches to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer.

Notification of Intent: May 21, 2018
Application Deadline: June 18, 2018
Learn More >>

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation Research Fellow Award Program
The MMRF seeks proposals for the 2018 Research Fellow Award Program, an initiative supporting researchers at the post-doctorate/medical fellow or junior faculty levels working under the supervision or guidance of a research mentor in the multiple myeloma field.

Application Deadline: May 25, 2018
Learn More >>

The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Emerging Leader Awards
These signature three-year academic grants totaling $750,000 will provide support to early career investigators conducting high-risk, high-impact cancer research.

Letters of Intent Due: June 4, 2018
Pew-Stewart Scholars Program for Cancer Research
Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the internal competition for the Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research Program. The Program supports assistant professors of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of a cure for cancer.

**Deadline for Applications:** June 5, 2018

Epidemiologic Research on Emerging Risk Factors and Liver Cancer Susceptibility - R01
The purpose of this FOA is to promote epidemiologic research investigating novel and innovative hypotheses on emerging risk factors and their interplay with established risk factors associated with the development of liver cancer in the United States.

**Application Deadline:** June 5, 2018

NIH Integration of Imaging and Fluid-Based Tumor Monitoring in Cancer Therapy-R01
This FOA seeks research project (R01) grant applications describing projects that integrate imaging and fluid-based tumor monitoring (liquid biopsy) assays during cancer therapy in patients to determine the optimal use of those modalities.

**Application Deadline:** June 5, 2018

NIH End-of-Life and Palliative Care Health Literacy: Improving Outcomes in Serious, Advanced Illness-R01/R21
This FOA seeks to stimulate research focused on identification of the key barriers to effective end-of-life and palliative care (EOLPC) health literacy in diverse settings and populations.

**Application Deadline:** June 5, 2018

NIH Biology of Lung, and Head and Neck Preneoplasias- R01/R21
This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) seeks applications investigating mechanistic and biological aspects of preneoplasia leading to lung, and head and neck (HN) cancers.
Application Deadline: June 5, 2018
Learn More >>

NIH Food Specific Molecular Profiles and Biomarkers of Food and Nutrient Intake, and Dietary Exposure-R01
The purpose of this FOA is to promote research on food specific molecular signatures and biomarkers of dietary consumption and to promote collaborative interactions among NIH and the USDA-NIFA supported nutrition researchers.
Application Deadline: June 11, 2018
Learn More >>

Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation for Cancer Research Grants
The Foundation funds cutting-edge research in the fields of leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers of the blood. Funds support promising scientists who are applying novel and state-of-the-art techniques to address fundamental problems in their genesis and treatment.
Internal Deadline: June 11, 2018
Learn More >>

Alex’s Lemonade Stand Psychosocial Grants
ALSF is committed to addressing the psychosocial and behavioral health outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer and their families. These Grants fill a direct need for research funding by supporting studies that aim to explain and/or improve psychosocial outcomes of those affected by childhood cancer.
Letters of Intent Due: June 11, 2018
Learn More >>

U.S. Tobacco Control Policies to Reduce Health Disparities - R21 and R01
The purpose of this FOA is to support observational or intervention research focused on reducing health disparities in tobacco use in the United States.
Application Deadline: June 13, 2018
Learn More >>

Epidemiologic Research on Emerging Risk Factors and Liver Cancer Susceptibility - R21
The purpose of this FOA is to promote epidemiologic research investigating novel and innovative hypotheses on emerging risk

Prasanna Ananth, MD, MPH
Learn More >>

Pathology Research in Progress Talks
May 29; 9:30AM
TAC N-107
Yale Genome Editing Center: Services and Resources for Creating and Cryopreserving Genetically Altered Mice
Timothy P Nottoli, PhD
TBA
Britta Kunkemoeller
Learn More >>

Kavli Institute for Neuroscience Workshop
May 29; 1PM
Hope 216
Single Cell Genomics in Neuroscience
Guilin Wang, PhD, In-Hyun Park, PhD, Smita Krishnaswamy, PhD, Marc Hammarlund, PhD, and Steve McCarroll, PhD
Learn More >>

YCC Grand Rounds/Iris Fischer Memorial Lecture
May 29; 12PM
55 Park Street
TBA
Lewis C. Cantley, PhD
Learn More >>

Human and Translational Immunology Seminar
May 29; 4PM
TAC N-203
Disentangling Host and Microbial Contributions to Drug Metabolism
Andrew Goodman, PhD
Learn More >>
factors and their interplay with established risk factors associated with the development of liver cancer in the United States.

**Application Deadline:** June 16, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

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**NIH Exploratory Grants in Cancer Epidemiology and Genomics Research-R21**

This FOA invites applications for research on cancer epidemiology, genomics, and risk assessment.

**Application Deadline:** June 16, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

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**NIH Diet and Physical Activity Assessment Methodology-R21**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages innovative research to enhance the quality of measurements of dietary intake and physical activity.

**Application Deadline:** June 16, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

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**NIH Exploratory Grant Award to Promote Workforce Diversity in Basic Cancer Research-R21**

This FOA represents the continuation of an NCI program to enhance the diversity of the pool of the cancer research workforce.

**Application Deadline:** June 19, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

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**Research Answers to NCI's Provocative Questions - R21 and R01**

The purpose of this FOA is to support research projects designed to solve specific problems and paradoxes in cancer research identified by the NCI Provocative Questions initiative.

**Application Deadline:** June 29, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

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**Robert E. Leet and Clara Guthrie Patterson Trust Mentored Research Award: Clinical, Health Services and Policy Research**

Two-year Awards of $90,000 ($45,000 per year) will be awarded to applicants working in Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

**Application Deadline:** July 3, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)
Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award

Designed to provide support for the next generation of exceptionally creative thinkers with "high-risk/high-reward" ideas that have the potential to significantly impact our understanding of and/or approaches to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of cancer.

**Application Deadline:** July 6, 2018

Learn More >>

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Program in Innovative Therapeutics for Connecticut's Health (PITCH)

With a grant from the State of Connecticut's Bioscience Innovation Fund, this three-year, $10 million-dollar program, provides translational research resources to generate prototype therapeutics that address unmet clinical needs. Contact francine.carland@yale.edu for more information.

**Application Deadline:** July 15, 2018

Learn More >>

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**Recent Publications**

**Comparative Effectiveness of Thermal Ablation, Surgical Resection, and Active Surveillance for T1a Renal Cell Carcinoma: A Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER)-Medicare-linked Population Study.**

Xing M, Kokabi N, Zhang D, Ludwig JM, Kim HS.


Read More >>

**Exploratory Analysis of Brigatinib Activity in Patients With Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase-Positive Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer and Brain Metastases in Two Clinical Trials.**


Read More >>

**Extracorporeal Photochemotherapy Drives Monocyte-to-Dendritic Cell Maturation to Induce Anti-Cancer Immunity.**


Cancer Res. 2018 May 15.

Read More >>
Genome-wide association analysis identifies a meningioma risk locus at 11p15.5.
Neuro Oncol. 2018 May 12.
Read More >>

Genomic Heterogeneity and the Small Renal Mass.
Read More >>

Adjuvant therapy in major salivary gland cancers: Analysis of 8580 patients in the National CancerDatabase.
Cheraghlou S, Kuo P, Mehra S, Agogo GO, Bhatia A, Husain ZA, Yarbrough WG, Burtness BA, Judson BL.
Read More >>

Treatment delays in laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma: A national cancer database analysis.
Morse E, Fujiwara RJT, Judson B, Mehra S.
Read More >>

Distinctive features of gastrointestinal stromal tumors arising from the colon and rectum.
J Gastrointest Oncol. 2018 Apr;9(2):231-240.
Read More >>

Adherence to American Cancer Society Guidelines on Nutrition and Physical Activity in Female Cancer Survivors: Results From a Randomized Controlled Trial (Yale Fitness Intervention Trial).
Park SH, Knobf MT, Kerstetter J, Jeon S.
Read More >>
Hyperbilirubinemia following lenalidomide administration.
Azmy V, Neparidze N.
Read More >>

The genetic and molecular pathogenesis of myelodysplastic syndromes.
Shallis RM, Ahmad R, Zeidan AM.
Read More >>

PTEN Regulates Non-Homologous End Joining by Epigenetic Induction of NHEJ1/XLF.
Sulkowski PL, Scanlon SE, Oeck S, Glazer PM.
Read More >>