November 22, 2019

Announcements

7th Annual Smilow Network Research Summit
I was pleased to share in the enthusiasm of our Care Center Network colleagues at our annual Smilow Network meeting earlier this week. We had over 70 physicians attend from our 15 Care Center Network sites to hear updates on clinical research from Roy Decker, MD, PhD, Neal Fischbach, MD, and Joyce Tull, MSN, RN, and Anne Chiang, MD, PhD, and to participate in working breakout sessions to improve screening, access, accrual, and DART alignment.

In addition, awards were presented to Diane Eannotti, RN, BSN, CCRC, Clinical Research Nurse at our Trumbull and Fairfield Care Centers; Diana Irizarry, RN, CCRP, Clinical Research Nurse at our Waterbury Care Center; Patricia Brand, Clinical Research Coordinator at our Guilford Care Center; and Jannat Gill, BDS, MPH, CCRP, Clinical Research Coordinator at our Waterford Care Center. Each of these employees were recognized for their strong dedication to our clinical research mission during the last year during continued growth in clinical trial accruals from our Care Centers. Special thanks to Kathleen Uscinski, Jessica Goepfert, and Carl Brown for their leadership of the Care Center CTO team. Thank you to all of the Care Center Research staff for their passion and exceptional commitment to our patients!
CoC Accreditation
I am proud to announce that we were awarded a 3-year Accreditation with Commendation from the Commission on Cancer, a program of the American College of Surgeons. This unique honor is a testament of the outstanding quality care and commitment to innovation in clinical research the entire Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center team advances throughout all of our clinical programs across our Park Street Campus and our Care Centers. I would like to thank our Cancer Committee, chaired by Harold Tara, Jr., MD, the work of our Tumor Registrars, led by Teresita Vega, and the longstanding commitment of David Fischer, MD, for their combined work on the extraordinary reaccreditation process.

Joint Commission Survey
Last week, Yale New Haven Hospital hosted 14 surveyors for our triennial survey, which included Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Care Centers. The surveyors were extremely complimentary and often commented that we had best practices that should be shared nationally. The extraordinary care our teams deliver was demonstrated and validated throughout the week. I want to thank Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC, and her team for her leadership through this process, and our entire team for their efforts each and every day on behalf of our patients. Your dedication shined during the Joint Commission visit, just as it does every day.

Notables
Laura Morrison, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, has been elected to the Board of Directors for the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM).
Jennifer Kapo, MD, Chief of Palliative Care, and Melissa Weimer, DO, Assistant Professor of Medicine, recently presented at the Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA) National Meeting in Boston, MA on Survivor Story: Beating Cancer and Tapering Opioids.

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, presented the Waun Ki Hong Memorial Lecture at the AACR-Korean Cancer Association Joint Workshop on Precision Medicine last week on Personalized Therapy for Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: From BATTLE to Immunotherapy.

Congratulations to Hope Serra who was selected as the Ambulatory Care Associate Circle of Care Award recipient for the Yale New Haven Health System. Hope works in the Smilow Surgical Specialty Clinic at the Park Avenue Medical Center and was one of two ACAs awarded this inaugural honor at the Care Associates celebration for the Health System on Monday afternoon.

Monica Fradkin, MPH, BSN, CNML, and Lisa Shomsky, MBA, BSN, CNML, have been promoted to Smilow Regional Directors. In their new roles, Monica and Lisa will focus on strategic planning, business development, and strengthening programs and services by working with leadership of System Delivery Networks, Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Medicine. Monica will continue to lead the Smilow Care Centers in Torrington, Waterbury, Derby, Orange, North Haven, Guilford and Old Saybrook. In addition, she will work with local leadership to enhance cancer services within L+M Healthcare, which includes the Waterford and Westerly Care Centers. Lisa will continue her responsibility for Smilow at
Bridgeport oncology services, including the care centers at Trumbull and Fairfield, the breast centers and surgical specialties. In addition, she will assume leadership for the Smilow Cancer Hospital Program at Greenwich working with local leaders to focus on program expansion and the development of a new facility on that campus.

**Cancer Signaling Networks**
is proud to welcome **Shalin Kothari, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology). Dr. Kothari is currently working in the Katz Laboratory as a translational scientist, in addition caring for patients with lymphoma at Smilow Cancer Hospital and attending on the inpatient service. Broadly, his research involves the following areas of Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL): (1) interpretation of genomic data in the context of a response and resistance to targeted therapies, (2) development of experimental strategies to circumvent resistance after analysis of such data, and (3) collaborating with local and national experts towards execution of multi-faceted translational research projects. Dr. Kothari’s career goal is to use clinical skills and basic science knowledge to answer scientific questions focused on mechanistic understanding of lymphoma therapeutics, specifically for MCL, which has a large unmet need.

Last week, Saint Francis Hospital and Smilow Cancer Hospital hosted our 4th annual **Hematologic Malignancies Symposium** at the Connecticut Convention Center.

We were proud to host the 13th annual Paul Calabresi Memorial Lecture today during Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds with Dr. Otis Brawley, the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Oncology and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Brawley focused his lecture on trends in cancer diagnosis and treatment and socioeconomic disparities.

Our Clinical Trials Office gathered for their first annual potluck Thanksgiving on Friday! Thank you to the entire team for your dedicated efforts to help bring innovative new cancer therapies to our patients.

Two scientists at Yale Cancer Center are developing a new paradigm for immunotherapy. It could radically improve and expand current approaches by moving beyond checkpoint inhibitors that target specific biomarkers in a few types of cancer. Their research moves upstream of T-cells, beyond the adaptive immune system, to the ultimate command.
Dr. Amer Zeidan and Dr. Adam Boruchov

Dr. Thomas Duffy with our Hematology trainees

Research Highlight

“There is a desperate need for new therapies to improve the care of patients with advanced pancreatic cancer” - Dr. Mandar Muzumdar. In honor of pancreatic cancer awareness month, read how the Muzumdar Lab is leading research to treat the disease.
Yale study finds 'hyperhotspots' that could predict skin cancer risk

New research by Yale Cancer Center scientists reports the discovery of "hyperhotspots" in the human genome, locations that are up to 170-times more sensitive to ultraviolet radiation (UV) from sunlight compared to the genome average. Exposure to UV radiation is the major cause of skin cancer. Screening the hyperhotspots could offer a new means of predicting a person's skin cancer risk. The study was published in the November edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"These are 100 times more sensitive than other sites in the genome," said lead author Douglas Brash, senior research scientist in therapeutic radiology and dermatology and a member of the Yale Cancer Center.

Employee Profile: Susan Beno

Ever since she was an undergrad, Susan Beno, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker our Breast Center, has been interested in what motivates people and her goal has always been to work with oncology patients. After working two years in the Breast Center, she feels very fortunate to be working with this patient population and their families.

Not only does Susan aim to meet with newly diagnosed patients and assess their needs, but she follows them throughout treatment and as they transition into survivorship care. She uses her training in cognitive-behavioral interventions to help patients cope with the emotional impact of a cancer diagnosis.

"Every individual is unique in how they are impacted by a cancer diagnosis. For some, the diagnosis itself causes the

For the past 16 years, Dick Metz has experienced the ups and downs of a cancer diagnosis. He has had clean scans and bad scans, and has experienced joys and disappointments of therapy results, but he has never faltered. Mr. Metz's journey and care under the direction of Dr. Harriet Kluger illustrates the incredible strides that have been made in treating melanoma.

Meet Dr. Neal Fischbach, a medical oncologist who cares for patients at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Trumbull. "Our Care Center model allows me to provide care for our patients where we live while leveraging all the resources of Smilow Cancer
most anxiety, but for others it is talking with family, and practical issues like childcare," said Susan. "Distress screenings and depression screening via an iPad is something that was piloted by the Breast Center and can be vital to identifying patients who may need extra support. If we can identify the early signs of depression, for example, we can intervene sooner and work to mitigate the symptoms in a healthy way."

Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Manager of Oncology Social Work at Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented, "It is a pleasure to have Susan on the Oncology Social Work team - she has honed her clinical skills and is very easy to talk with, enabling patients and families to share their innermost thoughts with her. Susan is kind and compassionate and helps to improve the quality of life of those she works with."

YCC #OOTBThanks: Amelea Lowery

YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Amelea Lowery, a Senior Administrative Assistant at Yale Cancer Center. After attending a recent session of the "Creating an Inclusive Workplace for Transgender and Non-binary Colleagues" training course offered at Yale, she put what she learned into action right away. Amelea applied the takeaway from this course to a specific and easily solvable issue she identified on a series of instruction documents she encountered in her role supporting the recruitment efforts at the cancer center. Furthermore, she then took steps to bring that issue to the attention of the appropriate people in the department and offered to help amend the documents as necessary to be more inclusive. The necessary changes were

Hospital. People just starting their cancer journey can feel confident they are getting not only my opinion, but also those of our entire team of Medical and Surgical Oncologists, Radiation Oncologists, Pathologists, Radiologists, and Genetic Counselors."
implemented in less than a day due to Amelea’s proactive behavior. Thank you, Amelea!

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

Impact of Direct Acting Antivirals on Survival in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C and Hepatocellular Carcinoma.
Kamp WM, Sellers CM, Stein S, Lim JK, Kim HS.
Read More >>

PSMA ADC monotherapy in patients with progressive metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer following abiraterone and/or enzalutamide: Efficacy and safety in open-label single-arm phase 2 study.
Prostate. 2019 Nov 19.
Read More >>

Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers, Polybrominated Biphenyls, and Risk of Papillary Thyroid Cancer: A Nested Case-Control Study.
Read More >>

Contemporary Topics in Radiation Medicine: Skin Cancer.
Gao SJ, Decker RH.
Read More >>

False-Negative Histopathologic Diagnosis of Prostatic Adenocarcinoma.
Yang C, Humphrey PA.
Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2019 Nov 15.
Read More >>

Cause event was held at their Fitness Center on October 29th to motivate employees to be healthy, raise awareness for cancer, and support Smilow. Thank you, Sikorsky!

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

Congratulations to @lojomo22 on her election to the board for the @AAHPM!
Genomic sites hypersensitive to ultraviolet radiation.
Premi S, Han L, Mehta S, Knight J, Zhao D, Palmatier MA, Kornacker K, Brash DE.
Read More >>

Outcomes and relapse patterns of stage IB grade 2 or 3 endometrial cancer treated with adjuvant vaginal brachytherapy.
Int J Gynecol Cancer. 2019 Nov 12.
Read More >>

Incidence and Outcomes of Rare T cell Lymphomas from the T Cell Project: Hepatosplenic, Enteropathy Associated and Peripheral Gamma Delta T cell Lymphomas.
Read More >>

Targeted Therapy and Immunotherapy: Emerging Biomarkers in Metastatic Melanoma.
LoRusso PM, Schalper K, Sosman J.
Read More >>

HIV and cancer in the Veterans Health Administration System.
Sigel K, Park L, Justice A.
Read More >>

Funding Opportunities

Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation Physician-Scientist Training Award
The Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award is designed to encourage more physicians to pursue research careers.
Application Deadline: December 2, 2019
Learn More >>
Breast Cancer Alliance Breast Surgery Fellowship Grant
The mission of the BCA is to improve survival rates and quality of life for those impacted by breast cancer through better prevention, early detection, treatment and cure. To promote these goals, we invest in innovative research, breast surgery fellowships, regional education, dignified support and screening for the underserved.

Application Deadline: December 10, 2019
Learn More >>

Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) (U01)
This FOA invites multiple PD/PI applications for collaborative research projects using simulation and other modeling techniques for specific cancer types.

Application Deadline: December 10, 2019
Learn More >>

Alex's Lemonade Stand (Childhood Cancer) Young Investigator Award
This grant is designed to support scientists during their fellowship training or early in their research careers. Demonstration of outstanding mentorship and demonstration of a career plan that shows commitment to pediatric cancer investigation are critical components of a successful application.

Application Deadline: December 16, 2019
Learn More >>

Alex's Lemonade Stand (Childhood Cancer) Epidemiology Grant
Epidemiology awards will support investigators pursuing research studies in human populations using epidemiological approaches, in order to significantly contribute to the understanding of childhood cancers.

Application Deadline: December 16, 2019
Learn More >>

Informatics Technology for Cancer Research Education Center (UE5)
The overarching goal of this NCI UE5 program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the...
training of a workforce to meet the nation’s biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs.

**Application Deadline:** December 19, 2019

Learn More >>

**Yale Cancer Center K12 Calabresi Immuno-Oncology Training Program Scholar Awards**

We are pleased to solicit applications for the Yale Cancer Center (YCC) K12 Calabresi Immuno-Oncology Training Program (IOTP) Scholar Award for junior faculty to enhance research skills beyond the training provided during graduate and postgraduate training.

**Application Deadline:** January 3, 2020

Application Instructions >>

Learn More >>

Congratulations to @DrRoyHerbstYale for being awarded the prestigious Asclepios Award by @GO2Foundation for his pioneering work in #lungcancer research.

Dr. Alessandro Santin explained to @cure_magazine new research to identify genetic mutations that could drive #cervicalcancer and may help to treat it.

Thank you to Dr. Marilyn M. Li @Penn@ChildrensPhila for giving our Grand Rounds talk today about #Genomic profiling, big data and machine learning driving #precisioncancer care.

@BarbaraBurtness is leading the way to help transform treatments for #headandneckcancer. Her research helped persuade the FDA to approve pembrolizumab. The data were clear: Patients who received the drug did better than those who did not. https://

A review by @DrRoyHerbstyale and Joseph Schlessinger in @nresearchnews explains the first evidence of a #cancer treatment using a #KRAS inhibitor.

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**Calender**

YSFH Environmental Health Sciences Imaging Mass Spectrometry and Omics Symposium
November 22; 8:30 AM
Yale School of Public Health,
Winslow Auditorium
Richard A. Caprioli, PhD |
Erik N.K. Creesman, MD,
PhD, FSIR | Thomas Roddy,
PhD | Stephen Martin, PhD |
Lana Garmire, PhD | Presha
Rajbhandari, PhD | Vasilis
Vasiliou, PhD | Caroline
Johnson, PhD | Dr. Kirill
Veselkov | Naftali Kaminski,
MD
Learn More >>

Smilow Screening and
Prevention Informational
Table
November 22; 11:00 AM
Yale New Haven Hospital
National Lung Cancer
Awareness Month Event
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Answers
November 24; 7:30 PM
WNPR
Dealing with Side Effects
During the Holidays
David Sells, PhD
Learn More >>

Genetics Clinical Grand
Rounds
November 26; 10:15 AM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, I-304
Peining Li, PhD
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Answers
December 1; 7:30 PM
WNPR
Interventional Radiology and
Liver Cancer
David C. Madoff, MD, FSIR,
FACR, FCIRSE
Learn More >>
Yale Department of Genetics
Walter J. Burdette Trainee Symposium on Human Genomics
December 2; 9:00 AM
Brady Memorial Laboratory, BML-131
Dr. Eimear Kenny, Associate Professor and Director, Mount Sinai Center for Genomic Health
Gillian Belbin | Ida Surakka | Sumantra Chatterjee | Yen-Chen (Anne) Feng | Ryan Collins | Cigdem Sevim Bayrak | Zeynep H. Cohan Akdemir | Arthur S. Lee | Jose L. McFalone-Figueroa | Kymberleigh Pagel
Learn More >>

Yale Center for Implementation Science (YCIS) & Center for Methods in Implementation and Prevention Science (CMIPS) Grand Rounds
December 2; 12:00 PM
Hope Memorial Building, H-110
Using Data to Inform Just-in-Time Adaptive Intervention Development in Digital Health
Susan A. Murphy, PhD
Learn More >>

Smilow Screening and Prevention Informational Table
December 3; 8:30 AM
275 Research Parkway, Meriden
CT Cancer Partnership Annual Meeting
Learn More >>

Genetics Department Seminar Series
December 3; 11:30 AM
The Anlyan Center Auditorium, N-107
Brad Cairns, PhD
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
December 3; 12:00 PM
55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium
Mark Gerstein, PhD and Grace Chen, PhD
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Waterford Present - CME Lecture
December 3; 12:00 PM
L+M Hospital, Baker Auditorium
Oncology Updates for the Emergency Room Provider
Stephen Lattanzi, MD
Learn More >>

Celebrating the Life and Accomplishments of Ruth McCormick, PhD, RN
December 4; 5:00 PM
Beaumont Room
Learn More >>

Pathology Grand Rounds
December 5; 12:30 PM
Brady Memorial Laboratory, BML-131
Carcinoma of the Cervix: Update on Classification, Pathologic Evaluation and Staging
Carlos Parra-Herran, MD
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Center Seminar
December 5; 2:00 PM
Winchester Building, WWW208
Utilizing Patient-Reported Data to Develop and Implement Care Improvements for Patients with Cancer

Tara Kaufmann, MD, MS

Learn More >>

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Seminar
December 5; 2:30 PM
Orchard Medical Center, 107-109

Learn More >>

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Communications