November 8, 2019
Announcements

Care Center Opens in Westerly

I was pleased to join the leadership of Yale New Haven Health, Westerly Hospital, and Smilow Cancer Hospital as we celebrated the opening of our 15th Care Center at Westerly last week. Drs. Robert Legare and Rebecca Vanasse-Passas are now seeing their patients in our newly renovated space at Westerly Hospital and we look forward to collaborating with them on the care of their patients. Thank you to both of them, Mary Ann Nash, Dr. Anne Chiang, Art Lemay, and many others who have dedicated their efforts to a seamless transition for the patients in the Westerly area.
Palliative Care Conference
Please join our Palliative Care Program for a special CME program on Wednesday, November 13 at Yale West Campus at 4pm. Titled, Why Be Afraid, the program will use theatrical devices to tell the story of how palliative medicine is supportive of curative care in the medical setting.
Learn More >>

Hematological Malignancies Symposium
Smilow Cancer Hospital at Saint Francis and Yale Cancer Center invite you to join colleagues and experts in hematological malignancies from around the nation on Friday, November 15 at the Connecticut Convention Center. The program is free, but registration is required.
Learn More >>
Fellows Research Competition >>

Imaging Mass Spectrometry and Omics Symposium
Yale School of Public Health will host a one day Imaging Mass Spectrometry and Omics Symposium on Friday, November 22 in the Winslow Auditorium with colleagues presenting from Yale and around the country.
Learn More >>
Register >>

Notables
The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) annual meeting begins this weekend and will feature several presentations from Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital faculty. Mario Sznol, MD, is president of SITC this year and Marianne Davies, DNP, AOCNP, is on the annual meeting committee. For a full list of presentations from Yale, please check our website.

Nita Ahuja, MD, current Chief of Surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital and Chair of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine, has been appointed as Surgeon-in-Chief of Yale New Haven Hospital. Dr. Ahuja’s responsibilities in this role include serving as executive co-sponsor of the Yale New Haven Health System’s Surgical Services...
Executive Committee (SSEC) and as Chair of the YNHH Surgical Services Governance Committee (SSGC).

Congratulations to our **Hematology team, Steven Gore, MD**, Principal Investigator, and our **Clinical Trials Office**. Our participation in *ECOG’s A Phase III Randomized Trial of Blinatumomab for Newly Diagnosed BCR-ABL-Negative B Lineage Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Adults* led to Yale having the third highest accrual site, an accomplishment that was celebrated at the recent ECOG meeting.

**Daniel Boffa, MD**, Professor of Surgery (Thoracic Surgery), has been appointed **Chair of the Commission on Cancer (CoC) Quality Integration Committee** and to the CoC Executive Committee.

Congratulations to **Marianne Davies** and **Vanna Dest**, who were honored during Advanced Practice Provider week with honors by Yale New Haven Health. Marianne was awarded the **2019 APP Publishing Award**, which highlights clinically practicing APP who has made significant advancements by publishing or implementing their research efforts or quality initiatives to the gain of YNHH patients or staff. Vanna was honored with the **2019 Gratitude Award** in recognition of her leadership of the APP Week Planning Committee as well as her contributions to the APP field and support of her colleagues.

**Jill Lacy, MD**, Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), has been appointed to the **Dean’s Faculty Advisory Council** to represent Yale Cancer Center.

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

The **Thoracic Oncology Program** co-hosted a **Lung Cancer Retreat** with Mount Sinai last week at Greenwich Hospital to focus on opportunities in collaborative research. Co-chaired by Sarah Goldberg, MD, and Fred Hirsch, MD, the program featured presentations from both institutions and an opportunity to network and brainstorm future research projects.
Congratulations to the following faculty in Medical Oncology and Hematology who were promoted this year: Scott Gettinger, MD, Professor; Sarah Goldberg, MD, MPH, Associate Professor; Lucia Jilaveanu, MD, PhD, Associate Professor; Joseph Kim, MD, Associate Professor; Nikolai Podoltsev, MD, PhD, Associate Professor; Tara Sanft, MD, Associate Professor; Stacey Stein, MD, Associate Professor; and Amer Zeidan, MBBS, Associate Professor.

Dr. Nita Ahuja has announced the following promotions of Smilow Cancer Hospital/ Yale Cancer Center members in the Department of Surgery: Justin Blasberg, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Thoracic Surgery; Daniel Boffa, MD, Professor of Thoracic Surgery; Anees Chagpar, MD, MBA, MPH, Professor of Oncology; Sajid Khan, MD, Associate Professor of Oncology; Saral Mehra, MD, MBA, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology.

Dr. Peter Glazer announced the following appointments and promotions in Therapeutic Radiology: Joseph Contessa, MD, PhD, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology in the Traditional Track; James Yu, MD, MHS, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology in the Clinician Educator Track; Brian Wang, PhD, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology in the Clinician Educator Track, and Kimberly Johung, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology in the Clinician Educator Track.
Cancer Immunology is proud to welcome Jeanne Hendrickson, MD, Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pediatrics. Dr. Jeanne Hendrickson is a pediatric hematologist/oncologist and the Medical and Facility Director of the Smilow Apheresis Clinic. Her primary clinical and research interests are focused on transfusion medicine and alloimmunization as a complication of PRBC transfusion. The research aspects are relevant for supportive care of patients requiring multiple PRBC transfusions. Because of her role in leading and coordinating the apheresis and cell collections, Dr. Hendrickson will be a key participant in all cell therapy protocols for Yale Cancer Center.

Research Highlights

The checkpoint inhibitor pembrolizumab offers patients with advanced head and neck cancers longer survival time, according to a new global study led by Yale Cancer Center. The data was published in the journal The Lancet.

The findings show overall survival was significantly improved through a phase 3 study for participants with previously untreated recurrent or metastatic head and neck cancers, compared to the standard therapy. "This research demonstrates that use of this checkpoint inhibitor, with or without chemotherapy, should be the first drug used for these types of cancers," said the study’s lead
investigator, Barbara Burtness, MD. "This is a very positive advance in treatment for our patients."

Learn More >>

A survey of U.S. hematology-oncology fellows suggests medical school plays an important role in shaping their interest in pursuing careers in hematology, particularly when students are exposed to hematology and oncology as part of core clerkships in internal medicine and pediatrics. The study, funded by the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and published last week in Blood Advances, also indicates that having a hematologist as a mentor during medical education and training is associated with an increased likelihood of fellows specializing in hematology when they complete their hematology-oncology fellowship.

"These findings give us a better understanding of why trainees pursue hematology and suggests ways we can be proactive to ensure the supply of hematologists keeps up with demand, particularly in non-malignant blood diseases, such as sickle cell disease, hemophilia, and other bleeding and clotting disorders," said Alfred Lee, MD, PhD.

Learn More >>

**Employee Profile: Naralys Sinanis**

Representatives from the Smilow Breast Center traveled to West Haven to meet with Mayor Nancy Rossi along with Tony Cordone and Beth Sabo from the West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Program. Tony and Beth presented a check for $34,000, the proceeds from the 19th annual Icy Plunge in January.

The Program has supported breast cancer patients since 2003 and has been responsible for approximately $500,000 in donations. We are so grateful to Beth and her colleagues for their extraordinary generosity and spirit that has accompanied each gift through the years to help and comfort and support our breast cancer patients.
In 2016, Smilow Cancer Hospital/Yale Medicine were selected by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the Oncology Care Model (OCM) program. OCM supports and encourages higher quality, more coordinated cancer care with lower costs. As the OCM Program Manager, Naralys "Nara" Sinanis oversees Smilow’s participation in this model as well as all of the care model’s requirements, ensuring Smilow stays within the guidelines set by the CMS.

Nara works closely with Smilow's OCM Executive team, helping to set goals to support our participation in the care model. Such goals can include reducing hospitalizations and visits to the emergency department. Day to day, Nara also works with tumor registry staff, data analysts, and care coordinators across our Network to track clinical and quality measures and to assess opportunities for improvement. Nara is responsible for reporting performance data to CMS and staying up to date on changes to the model's requirements.

"As the manager of this complex program, Naralys has taken ownership of every aspect of implementation and execution--from understanding complex patient eligibility criteria, developing novel billing workflows, overseeing quality reporting, and most importantly supervising implementation of new clinical programs," said Kerin Adelson, MD, Chief Quality Officer and Associate Chief Medical Officer for Smilow Cancer Hospital. "She built workgroups with stakeholders from across the YNHH and Yale Medicine. Using revenue from OCM to fund clinical infrastructure, Naralys has overseen the opening of our Oncology Extended Care Center - open 16 hours a day, 7 days a week - the development of a care management program and launch of Via Oncology clinical decision support which required a complex EPIC integration."

"Our success in this program is clear through steady improvements in hospital admission rates, ED visits, and reductions in use of post-acute care," continued Dr. Adelson. "Our primary motivation in electing to participate in this program was to improve patient care and learn about how to succeed in a value-based environment. Our financial success in the program is an added bonus. We have earned maximal quality points in all performance periods so far and
this has led to significant performance-based payments. None of this would have been possible without Naralys' dedication and commitment to care transformation."

"Our OCM team genuinely cares about quality improvement and making a difference for our patients and families," said Nara. "It's energizing to receive positive feedback from patients and providers about our care coordinators and our extended care clinic. To me, that feedback is the most compelling data we have to show that this program is truly enhancing care."

Recent Publications

**Immunotherapy for head and neck cancer: Recent advances and future directions.**
Cramer JD, Burtness B, Ferris RL.
Oral Oncol. 2019 Nov 1;104460.
[Read More >>]

**Pembrolizumab alone or with chemotherapy versus cetuximab with chemotherapy for recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (KEYNOTE-048): a randomised, open-label, phase 3 study.**
[Read More >>]

**Strengths and limitations of large databases in lung cancer radiation oncology research.**
Jairam V, Park HS.
[Read More >>]

**Neuroendocrine Tumors of the Gastrointestinal Tract and Pancreas.**
Patel N, Barbieri A, Gibson J.
[Read More]>

**Serum gamma-glutamyltransferase and the overall survival of metastatic pancreatic cancer.**
Xiao Y, Yang H, Lu J, Li D, Xu C, Risch HA.
Characterization of NCS1-InsP3R1 interaction and its functional significance.
Nguyen LD, Petri ET, Huynh LK, Ehrlich BE.

Transmissible inflammation-induced colorectal cancer in inflammasome-deficient mice.
Hu B, Friedman G, Elinav E, Flavell RA.
Oncoimmunology. 2018 May 7;8(10):e981995.

Increased expression of TET3 predicts unfavorable prognosis in patients with ovarian cancer—a bioinformatics integrative analysis.
Cao T, Pan W, Sun X, Shen H.

Hepatocellular carcinoma: Impact of academic setting and hospital volume on patient survival.
Uhlig J, Sellers CM, Khan SA, Cha C, Kim HS.

An Update to Changing Patterns of Anal Carcinoma in the United States.
Mahal AR, Johung KL, Mahal BA, Nguyen PL, Yu JB.

A novel regulator of ER Ca2+ drives Hippo-mediated tumorigenesis.

Molecular biology and evolution of cancer: from discovery to action.
Patterns of pain medication use associated with reported pain interference in older adults with and without cancer.
Read More >>

Decker RH, Blasberg JD.
Read More >>

Lymph Node Status: In Reply to Carr.
Heller DR, Jean RA, Khan SA.
Read More >>

Appendiceal Carcinoid Tumors: In Reply to Sugarbaker.
Heller DR, Jean RA, Khan SA.
Read More >>

Funding Opportunities

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Exploration (Round 24)
The GCE initiative funds innovative ideas that could lead to new vaccines, diagnostics, drugs, and other technologies targeting diseases that claim millions of lives every year, as well as improvements and innovations in agriculture development and other priority areas of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
Application Deadline: November 13, 2019
Learn More >>

Melanoma Research Alliance Team Science Award
The MRA is pleased to announce a Special Opportunity for a Team Science Award (TSA) focused on In-transit Melanoma Research. This is an additional Special Opportunity above and beyond those already highlighted in first and second release of MRA's 2019/20 RFP.

**Application Deadline:** November 13, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)

**Melanoma Research Alliance Awards 2019**

*Pilot Award
*Young Investigator Award
*Astro-MRA Young Investigator Award in Radiation Oncology
*Dermatology Foundation and MRA Melanoma Detection/Preventative Mid-Career Award

These RFP's are soliciting high-impact pre-clinical, translational, and early clinical research from scientists and clinicians around the world. It calls for ideas that have the potential to lead to near-term clinical application in melanoma prevention, detection, diagnosis, staging, and treatment.

**Application Deadline:** November 18, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)

**The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Single-Cell Analysis of Inflammation**

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative invites applications for two-year collaborative pilot projects focused on the role of inflammation in maintaining health and triggering disease.

**Application Deadline:** November 19, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)

**The Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Development Award**

This award provides grants to junior physician scientists to facilitate their transition to independent clinical research careers.

**Application Deadline:** November 19, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)

**Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in Low and Middle Income Countries (R21/R33)**

The purpose of this FOA is to encourage exploratory/developmental research applications that propose to study the development, validation, feasibility, and effectiveness of innovative mobile health (mHealth) interventions or tools specifically suited for low- and
middle-income countries that utilize new or emerging technology, platforms, systems, or analytics.

**Application Deadline:** November 19, 2019  
[Learn More >>]

**U.S.-Israel Binational Foundation BSF Research Grants**
The U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) promotes scientific relations between the U.S. and Israel by supporting collaborative research projects in a wide range of basic and applied scientific fields, for peaceful and non-profit purposes.

**Application Deadline:** November 20, 2019  
[Learn More >>]

**2019 Class of '61 Cancer Research Award**
This annual Award recognizes significant accomplishment in cancer research at Yale University by a young member of the faculty, coupled with the expectation for future outstanding contributions to our understanding of the causes of cancer and to the development of novel cancer treatments.

**Application Deadline:** November 22, 2019  
[Learn More >>]

**2020 NCCN Young Investigator Award**
Through the YIA Program, the NCCN Foundation invites proposals from early career investigators with innovative ideas and an interest in improving the quality, effectiveness, efficiency and accessibility of care provided to cancer patients.

**Deadline for Application:** December 2, 2019  
[Learn More >>]

**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

[Learn More >>]
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 >>
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](#)
Movember Men's Health Fair
Learn More >>

Free Prostate Cancer Screening Event
November 14; 5:00 PM
Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, 2-013
Movember Men's Health Fair
Learn More >>

Yale Cancer Center Presents - Lung Cancer Symposium
November 14; 5:00 PM
55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium
The Promise of Personalized Medicine for Lung Cancer
Scott Gettinger, MD | Lynn Tanoue, MD, MBA | Daniel Boffa, MD | Frederick Wilson, MD, PhD | Roy H. Decker, MD, PhD | Robert Homer, MD, PhD | Ami Rubinowitz, MD | Erin DiBiasi, MD | Kevin Kim, MD | Polly Sather | Halley Robinson, LCSW | Kelly Derosier, RN | Emily Duffield, APRN
Learn More >>

4th Annual Hematologic Malignancies Symposium
November 15; 8:00 AM
Connecticut Convention Center
Thomas Duffy, MD | Amer Zeidan, MBBS | Jorge Cortes, MD | Sagar Lonial, MD, FACP | Keiron
Yale Cancer Answers
November 17; 7:30 PM
WNPR
Healthy Eating and the Holidays
Courtney McGowan & Heidi Larson
Learn More >>

MB&B Special Seminar
November 18; 10:00 AM
Bass Center, 305
Better Together: Long-Distance Interactions Between RNA Polymerases via DNA Supercoiling
Sangjin Kim, PhD
Learn More >>

The Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies Presents
November 18; 4:00 PM
Peabody Museum
Novel Approaches to Combating Therapeutic Resistance
Hesper Rego, PhD | Jessica Cunningham | Elsa Hanses | Joshua Weitz
Learn More >>

Genetics Clinical Grand Rounds
November 19, 10:15 AM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, SHM I-304
Preti Jain, PhD
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds - Calabresi Memorial Lecture

November 19; 12:00 PM
55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium
Cancer Control in the 21st Century
Otis Brawley, MD

Yale Cancer Center Seminar

November 20; 12:00 PM
Fitkin Memorial Pavilion Auditorium, LMP 1094
Targeting the Tumor Microenvironment in Breast Cancer
Yara Abdou, MD

Smilow Screening and Prevention Informational Table

November 21; 11:00 AM
Yale New Haven Hospital St. Raphael Campus
National Lung Cancer Awareness Month Event

Pathology Grand Rounds

November 21; 12:30 PM
Fitkin Memorial Pavilion Auditorium, LMP 1094
New Soft Tissue Fusion Tumors - Diagnostic and
Therapeutic Significance
Markku Miettinen, MD
Learn More >>

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

Lung Cancer Screening Panel Discussion
November 21; 6:00 PM
Westerly Hospital, Nardone Conference Center
Louis Mazzarelli, MD
Learn More >>

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Communications