October 11, 2019
Announcements

Yale Cancer Answers Continues for 12th Year on WNPR
I am proud to announce that Yale Cancer Answers, our weekly radio show on WNPR, celebrates its 12th anniversary on Monday! Yale Cancer Center has produced a weekly radio show for the last 14 years, first launching on WTIC before moving to Connecticut's largest NPR network in 2006 and launching Yale Cancer Answers in its current form in 2007.

We are extremely grateful to AstraZeneca for providing production support to WNPR for the program, which will continue with their support for the third year in 2020. The program is hosted by Dr. Anees Chagpar and Dr. Steve Gore, and airs weekly on Sunday evening at 7:30pm. For more information or to listen to the archived content, search on our web archive or subscribe through iTunes.
GynOnc Welcomes Drs. Andikyan and Altwerger

Smilow Cancer Hospital is pleased to welcome Dr. Vaagn Andikyan and Dr. Gary Altwerger to our Gynecologic Oncology Program to care for women with gynecologic malignancies. Dr. Andikyan joins us from the University of Vermont where he was an Assistant Professor and most recently the Director of Gynecologic Oncology at Western Connecticut Health Network. He is a graduate of I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy and completed his residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, a research fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and a fellowship at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Gary Altwerger joins the faculty after completing fellowship in gynecologic oncology Yale as Senior Fellow. He is a graduate of the University of Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and completed his residency at Yale New Haven Hospital where he received the John H. Meehan-Clifford R. Miller Award for Academic Excellence (2012-2016) and the Yale School of Medicine Resident Teaching Award (2014-2015).

State of Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital

On Tuesday, October 15 at noon, Dr. Charles Fuchs will present an update on Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital's cancer research and clinical enterprise during Grand Rounds. Please plan to attend in the Smilow Auditorium, or login to watch online.
CME Programs
Please join us for upcoming CME Symposiums hosted by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital to learn more about Esophageal Cancer on November 1, Men's Health on November 6, and Lung Cancer on November 7. The programs are free, but registration is required.

Notables

 Marcus Bosenberg, MD, PhD, and Aaron Ring, MD, PhD, were awarded a $3.8 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to develop a new cytokine-based immunotherapy for melanoma. In addition to research funding, the award will establish Drs. Bosenberg and Ring as members of the Immuno-Oncology Translational Network (IOTN), a science network established by the Cancer Moonshot Initiative devoted exclusively to discovering and evaluating novel immune-based approaches to treat and prevent adult cancers.

Three Yale Cancer Center researchers were awarded grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through its High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program. The awards fund highly innovative and unusually impactful biomedical or behavioral research proposed by extraordinarily creative scientists. Valentina Greco, PhD, received a NIH Director's Pioneer Award to support her project, "Defining the role of the mutational burden in healthy aging." Mandar Deepak Muzumdar, MD, and Noah Palm, PhD, each received an NIH Director's New Innovator Award. Dr. Muzumdar will use the funds to support his project, "Defining tumor cell and host adaptations in cancer progression" and Dr. Palm will investigate his proposal, "A forward chemical genetic screen to illuminate the dark matter of the bioactive microbiota metabolome."

Peter Glazer, MD, PhD, Chairman of the Department of Therapeutic Radiology, has announced several new leadership positions in the department. Congratulations to the following faculty on their new roles:
Yale Cancer Center was highlighted by SWOG at their annual meeting last week for being one of 5 SWOG Lead Academic Partner and Member Site top accruers in 2018 to SWOG managed trials. Thank you to our Principal Investigators and CTO staff for their dedicated efforts!

This past Sunday, October 6 and Monday, October 7, Drs. Patricia LoRusso and Roy Herbst hosted a review of progress on research Yale is undertaking in collaboration with AstraZeneca to better understand mechanisms driving cancer progression and drug resistance. This highly valuable collaboration spans all levels of research, from basic science to clinical trials, and promises to bring cutting edge, next-generation therapies to our patients.
Yale Cancer Center researchers show genetic mutations in advanced lung cancer may predict improved outcomes

According to new findings by Yale Cancer Center scientists, higher levels of genetic mutations in a tumor biopsy are linked to improved clinical outcomes in patients using pembrolizumab (Keytruda) to treat non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

The study suggest that oncologists will soon be able to match the use of pembrolizumab to lung cancer patients who will benefit most from the agent, the first checkpoint inhibitor to be developed and used in cancer treatment.

Learn More >>

Development Update

Barry R. Schaller. Through the generosity of Justice Schaller's friends and family the fund has raised over $25,000 in support of Dr. Amer Zeidan's leukemia research at Yale Cancer Center.

Read More >>

Recently on Yale Cancer Answers, Mr. Brescia, a patient under the care of Dr. Barbara Burtness in the Head & Neck Cancers Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital, shares his personal cancer journey. Tune in to listen to Mr. Brescia's message and learn how his choice to participate in clinical trials improved his course of treatment.

Read More >>

Today we salute Maura Harrigan, lead dietitian and certified specialist in oncology nutrition for our
Jennifer Moliterno MD, FAANS, Co-Director of our Brain Tumor Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital is surrounded by our Neurosurgical Oncology team as she holds a $150,000 donation from the Lovemark Foundation.

In 2017, Jamie Lovemark, a PGA golfer, and his wife, Tiva, established the Lovemark Fund for Brain Tumor Patient Support at Smilow Cancer Hospital to provide financial assistance for patients with brain tumors as a way to help ease the burden during what can be an extraordinarily challenging time. Since its inception, the Lovemark Foundation has donated $350,000 to the Lovemark Fund, all of which has been directly provided to patients and has

Cancer Survivorship Clinic and for the Lifestyle, Exercise and Nutrition (LEAN) study. Maura rode 25 miles in Closer to Free Ride in honor of all the LEAN study participants. The LEAN study is a randomized trial that measures the impact of weight management through healthy eating and exercise on breast cancer outcomes. Over 420 women have participated in LEAN, and each ribbon includes their first name.

Yale Cancer Center is currently enrolling women who are beginning chemotherapy for breast cancer, into the LEAN study.

Happy Physician Assistant week to the over 131k certified PAs making a difference in patients’ lives every day - especially to those caring for our patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital! Thank you for all you do!
made an extraordinary difference in their lives. We are beyond grateful to Jamie, Tiva and the Lovemark Foundation for their continued compassion, generosity, and support for our patients!

Yale Cancer Center Annual Award Nominations

Nominations for Annual YCC Awards: Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce our call for nominations for our annual awards in the areas of excellence in research and clinical care. Each award will be announced at the Yale Cancer Center Conclave in January. The nomination deadline for all awards is Friday, November 1st.

Yale Cancer Center Research Prizes: Research Prizes will be awarded in support of excellence in the areas of basic science, clinical science, translational science, and population science. Awards will be chosen in each area to recognize a paper that is considered to have had the greatest impact on the field this year. The nominee must be a current member of Yale Cancer Center and science in the publication must be cancer-focused. To be eligible, the nominee must also be either the first or last author of the publication. Please submit a PDF of the publication (publication date must be between October 2018 to October 2019) along with the category it should be considered for via email to anna.raso@yale.edu

Yale Cancer Center Award for Clinical Excellence: This award will be given to the physician who best exemplifies excellence in clinical care including super clinical skills, use of a patient- and family-centered approach to care, and inclusion of a multi-disciplinary care model. Nominee must be a current member of Yale Cancer Center. Please nominate yourself or a peer and send a brief nomination letter (one-page maximum) via email to anna.raso@yale.edu

Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award: Yale Cancer Center recognizes the achievements of one of our senior members through our annual Lifetime Achievement award. Nominee must be a current member of Yale Cancer Center. Please send nomination suggestions for the award via email to anna.raso@yale.edu

Ruth McCorkle Oncology Advanced Practice Provider Award: This annual award from Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital recognizes the contributions of our Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant colleagues who contribute so

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

Did you know October is #LiverCancerAwareness Month? Read about why our #LiverCancer Program leader .@MarioStrazzabosco is dedicated to fighting this potentially deadly disease and how new research and treatments are helping patients.

@CraigMCrews talked to @BW about his pioneering research that is advancing new technology to help fight #cancer by targeting proteins long considered 'undruggable'.

#BreastCancerAwareness Month, find out what increases your risk for the disease and when
much to oncology patient care. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for this award. Nominations are due for the Ruth McCorkle Award to Dawn Kapinos by November 30, 2019. Nomination Form >>

**Employee Profile: Ann Paluzzi**

A smiling face, reassurance, and a helpful hand. A self-described people person, Ann Paluzzi is the first person you see entering the 15th floor of Smilow's North Pavilion many nights. Ann is there to help anyone in the unit - from patients and visitors, to nurses and PCAs, and for the last eight years, she has enjoyed every moment.

"I love answering the call bell," says Ann of the button patients can press when they need assistance or have a request. "Whether it’s getting a glass of water for a patient or helping them get to the bathroom, I am always ready to help."

And Ann does just that. In addition to answering the call bell, she calls nurses when patient meds arrive, she faxes information to rehab facilities or to the VNA if a patient is transitioning to home care. She prepares welcome packages for the PCAs to give to patients, she helps nurses if they need an extra lunch or commode ordered, and so much more. Perhaps most importantly, Ann is a steadfast resource to the visiting families.

"Knowing that I am the first person they (families) see when they come to our floor - sometimes arriving before even the patient is released from the OR, I always want to provide them with a pleasant experience," says Ann. "Being calm and patient, it makes the nature of the surgery their family member just endured easier to accept. Since I work during the night shift, family members often will come by and talk while taking a break from being in the room. They’ll talk and ask questions, and I always try to remind them to take care of themselves, too."

Thank you to Dr. Marcela del Carmen @MassGeneralMDs@harvardmed for presenting @YaleCancer Grand Rounds today addressing physician well-being in an academic medical practice.

To help continue building our international leadership in #immunobiology and #cancerimmunology, we are pleased to announce @MarcusBosenberg as the new interim director of @Yale_CIO!

Our #cancer researchers met @SWOG meeting in Chicago to share ideas about #clinicaltrial concepts and ongoing studies. YCC is a lead academic partner and accrual site for clinical trials that bring new treatments to patients every year.

@BarbaraBurtness was interviewed by @practiceupdate concerning her ESMO19 research using brachytherapy to treat #headandneckcancer.

Congratulations to @aaronmring and...
"Ann has been instrumental in the safety of our patients at night," shared Cara Henderson, RN, BSN, CMSRN, Patient Service Manager. "On NP15 we have many patients that can't speak and need alternate ways to communicate, and Ann prioritizes patient needs at the desk to ensure that every single patient is safe and participates in our response time initiative. Not only is Ann a dedicated employee, she is also thoughtful and kind and goes above and beyond for the staff as well."

Previously, Ann worked in the box office of the New Haven Coliseum and the Bridgeport Arena, helping guests buy tickets and choose their seats for events. She has always enjoyed helping, a trait instilled in her by her parents when she was a child.

"We are all here for the same purpose: to get patients well, provide a good experience, and help get patients home soon."

### Recent Publications

**Balloon-Assisted Transarterial Chemoembolization Segmentectomy: An Alternative Strategy in the Treatment of Hypovascular Oligometastatic Liver Metastases.**

Stein SI, Madoff DC.


[Read More >>](#)

**Digital Inference of Immune Microenvironment Reveals "Low Risk" Subtype of Early Lung Adenocarcinoma.**

Kurbatov V, Balayev A, Saffarzadeh A, Heller DR, Boffa DJ, Blasberg JD, Lu J, Khan SA.


[Read More >>](#)

**A Semiquantitative Scoring System May Allow Biopsy Diagnosis of Pulmonary Large Cell Neuroendocrine Carcinoma.**

Baine MK, Sinard JH, Cai G, Homer RJ.


[Read More >>](#)

**Balloon-Assisted Blood Pressure Reduction in the Downstream Vascular Compartment to Avoid Nontarget Embolization during Transarterial Chemoembolization from the Inferior Phrenic Artery.**

Stein SI, Madoff DC.

Physician Experience and Risk of Rituximab Discontinuation in Older Adults With Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
Huntington SF, Hoag JR, Wang R, Zeidan AM, Giri S, Gore SD, Ma X, Gross CP, Davidoff AJ.

Belatacept Reduces Skin Cancer Risk in Kidney Transplant Recipients.
Wang M, Mittal A, Colegio OR.

Loss of thymidine kinase 1 inhibits lung cancer growth and metastatic attributes by reducing GDF15 expression.
Malvi P, Janostiak R, Nagarajan A, Cai G, Wajapeyee N.

VSTM2A suppresses colorectal cancer and antagonizes Wnt signaling receptor LR6.

Lynch Syndrome: Widening the Net.
Llor X.

γ-6-Phosphogluconolactone, a Byproduct of the Oxidative Pentose Phosphate Pathway, Contributes to AMPK Activation through Inhibition of PP2A.

Integrated Proteogenomic Characterization of HBV-Related Hepatocellular Carcinoma.
Read More >>

Molecular imaging of extracellular tumor pH to reveal effects of loco-regional therapy on liver cancer microenvironment.
Read More >>

A selective small-molecule inhibitor of macrophage migration inhibitory factor-2 (MIF-2), a MIF cytokine superfamily member, inhibits MIF-2 biological activity.
Read More >>

Complications associated with immunotherapy for brain metastases.
Tran TT, Jilaveanu LB, Omuro A, Chiang VL, Huttner A, Kluger HM.
Read More >>

New metabolic imaging tools in neuro-oncology.
Corbin ZA.
Read More >>

Qigong Exercise and Tai Chi in Cancer Care.
Chang PS, Knobf T.
Read More >>

Effect of decision-making resources on satisfaction with decision to undergo contralateral prophylactic mastectomy (CPM).
Huang J, Chagpar A.
Read More >>

NKS recently recognized Sarah Mooney and Natalie Schmitt from the Clinical Trials Office! Sarah and Natalie, who are both Clinical Research Assistants, recently joined the Gastrointestinal Oncology team. Upon starting their positions, they both faced a large backlog of work on top of their ongoing responsibilities including multiple data locks from industry sponsors. They worked incredibly hard and met all the sponsor’s requirements for the data locks, exceeding expectations while staying up to date on all their additional tasks. Sarah and Natalie entered a difficult situation and continuously go above and beyond what is expected of them.

Thank you, Sarah & Natalie!

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.
Funding Opportunities

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Pioneering Ideas and a Culture of Health
The goal of this funding opportunity is to explore; to look into the future and put health first as we design for changes in how we live, learn, work and play; to wade into uncharted territory in order to better understand what new trends, opportunities and breakthrough ideas can enable everyone in America to live the healthiest life possible.

**Application Deadline:** October 15, 2019
[Learn More >>]

Pfizer Biosimilars Education in Solid Tumors
The goal of this RFP is to support the prudent (safe and effective) use of biosimilar drugs in the treatment of solid tumors, in particular colorectal cancer, and HER2+ breast cancer.

**Application Deadline:** October 16, 2019
[Learn More >>]

Pfizer PARP-inhibitors in Prostate Cancer
Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on increasing the understanding of PARP inhibitors and the future of their use in the treatment of advanced prostate cancer.

**Application Deadline:** October 30, 2019
[Learn More >>]

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant
This pilot funding opportunity is for Yale Assistant Professors to support innovative work in the broad fields of basic, translational, clinical and population prevention/control cancer research.

**Application Deadline:** November 11, 2019
[Learn More >>]

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Exploration (Round 24)

Yale Center for Immuno-Oncology Dean’s Symposium
October 11; 8:30 AM
M.S. Harkness Memorial Auditorium
Charles Fuchs, MD, MPH | Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD | Lieping Chen, MD, PhD | Katerina Politi, PhD | David Rimm, MD, PhD | David G. Schatz, PhD | Mario Sznol, MD | Greg Delgoffe, PhD | Drew Pardoll, MD, PhD | Cornelia Trimble, MD | Anna Wu, PhD
[Learn More >>]

Yale Chemical Biology Fall Retreat
October 11; 11:00 AM
West Campus Conference Center
Jason Crawford, PhD | Wendy Gilbert | Seth Herzon | Samie Jaffrey | Douglas Rothman, PhD | Benjamin Turk, PhD | Josien van Wolfswinkel, PhD, MSc
[Learn More >>]

Smilow Screening & Prevention Informational Table
October 13; 10:00 AM
140 Legion Avenue, New Haven
Rydas 4 Righteousness Christian Motorcycle Ministry
[Learn More >>]

Yale Cancer Answers
October 13; 7:30 PM
WNPR
Skin Cancer Awareness
Kathleen Cook Suozzi, MD
[Learn More >>]
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 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 Deadlines:** 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 >>](#)

---

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

Learn More >>
of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs.

**Application Deadline:** December 19, 2019

Learn More >>

**YSPH/YCC CPC Research Program**

**October 23; 12:00 PM**

60 College Street; LEPH 216

**Social & Economic Determinants of Breast Cancer Survivorship**

Lorraine Dean, ScD

Learn More >>

**Grand Rounds for Non-Clinicians**

**October 23; 12:00 PM**

55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium

TBD

Learn More >>

**Pathology Grand Rounds**

**October 24; 12:30 PM**

Fitkin Memorial Pavilion Auditorium, LMP 1094

**How I do this? NGS and “Precision Oncology”**

Neal Lindeman, MD

Learn More >>

**Diagnostic Radiology Grand Rounds**

**October 24; 12:30 PM**

The Anlyan Center Auditorium

**Oncologic Imaging in the Era of Immunotherapy**

Rony Avritscher, MD, FSIR

Learn More >>

**Yale Cancer Center Seminar**

**October 24; 1:00 PM**

Hope Memorial Building, H-103

**Are You There God? It’s Me, ‘BRCAness’**
Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar
October 24; 2:30 PM
Orchard Medical Center, 107-109
Learn More >>

Revive! Your Life after Cancer
October 24; 4:00 PM
Smilow Cancer Care Center-Torrington
Learn More >>

Submissions
Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Communications