Smilow Cancer Hospital Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Tomorrow, October 26, marks 10 years since our first patient was treated at Smilow Cancer Hospital! We have so much to celebrate, and much to be thankful for over the last decade of growth, accomplishment, and achievement at Smilow Cancer Hospital, Yale Cancer Center, and at our Care Centers. The tremendous success in patient growth and care and advances in cancer treatment in care are all because of the outstanding physicians, scientists, nurses, caregivers, and staff we have throughout our hospital, cancer center, and entire cancer enterprise. I thank each and every one of you and over the next year, I look forward to sharing many opportunities to reflect on our success, celebrate our progress, and plan for our future during a year-long campaign for Smilow10!

National Academy of Medicine

I am extremely proud to announce that four Yale Cancer Center members have been elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one of the highest honors in our field. Please join me in congratulating Nita Ahuja, MD, MBA; Jorge Galán, DVM, PhD; Akiko Iwasaki, PhD; and David G. Schatz, PhD, on this tremendous achievement. These distinguished faculty members are among 100 new members who were selected for
their outstanding contributions to the field of medicine nationally.

Smilow Luminary Awards

I was pleased to join Marna Borgstrom and Lori Pickens last week for the presentation of the first annual Smilow Luminary Awards of Excellence to nearly 50 of our exceptional staff members. The Awards honor people who consistently exceed performance expectations and deliver high-quality cancer care for patients, families and the health system throughout the year. The award categories are:

**Community Service**
Honors members of the organization that have aided the cancer community in extraordinary ways.

**Optimization/Innovative Solutions**
Honors members of the organization who develop or support developments in innovation or optimizing a system or process.

**Leadership**
Honors members of the organization that demonstrate leadership in patient safety and quality improvement.

**Patient Experience**
Honors members of the organization who go above and beyond to provide an excellent cancer care experience for our patients and families.

Our 2019 Awardees are:

**Community Service**
Jose DeJesus, Debra Nadaskay, Elena Ratner, MD

**Optimization**
Lynnanne Selezan

**Leadership**
Carolyn Truini, Julie Papascoe, Leigh Rooney
Brian Jin, Shannon Ramos

**Patient Experience**

| Rachel Abraham | Kelly Ford | Andrea Lucibello |
| Michelle Armellino | Pamela Fitzgerald | Sabrina Paradis |
| Denise Armstrong | Cheryl Gaffney | Halley Robinson |
| Susan Beno | Antoinette Graziano | Jessica Rodriguez |
| Stephanie Cerrieto | Briana Gregoire | Edward Schwartz |
| Hannah Chatillon | Amberlie Hoydic | Constance Smith |
| Jennifer Cohen | Brian Jin | Jessica Stein |
| Evelyn Corporan | Angela Khairallah | Michael Stevenson |
| Susan Crawford | Christin Knowlton, MD | Mary Strauss |
| Vanna Dest | Johanna LaSala, MD | Lee Tremback |

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**News 8 On Call: Men Get Breast Cancer Too**
Read More >>

**Yale Cancer Center Scientists Build Genomic Research Platform to Help Treat Cervical Cancer**
Read More >>

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Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook

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**Latest Posts:**

We appreciate the caring support of our medical assistants each and every day, but want to take a moment to thank and celebrate them this week during Medical Assistants Week. Here are a few, familiar
Esophageal Cancer Symposium
Please join us for an Esophageal Cancer CME Symposiums hosted by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital on November 1 at Yale West Campus. The program is free, but registration is required.
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 >>

Notables

Antonio Omuro, MD, Professor of Neuro-Oncology and Director of the Brain Tumor Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, has been named Chair of Yale Cancer Center's Protocol Review Committee II. Dr. Omuro has previous leadership experience on protocol review committees and knowledge of the CCSG requirements for protocol review and monitoring. We look forward to his additional leadership at Yale Cancer Center.

Herta Chao, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), presented the Department of Internal Medicine's inaugural The Second Century of Women at Yale: Emerging Leaders in Internal Medicine Medical Grand Rounds on "Cognitive Side Effects of Cancer Therapy" last week.

Peter Glazer, MD, PhD, and W. Mark Saltzman, PhD, have received a new grant in collaboration with colleagues at
Carnegie Mellon University from the National Institutes of Health’s Somatic Cell Genome Editing (SCGE) Program.

Lynn Savic, MD, a postdoctoral research fellow in Yale Interventional Oncology, received a Radiological Society of North America Trainee Research Prize for her work on Novel Molecular Imaging Biomarkers for Immune Response to Liver Cancer Therapy.

The Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program is proud to welcome Harry R. Aslanian, MD. Dr. Aslanian is a Professor of Medicine (Digestive Diseases) and serves as the Director of Endoscopic Ultrasound and of the Yale Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship as part of the Smilow Interventional Endoscopy Group. His clinical activities are focused on the diagnosis and management of pancreas and biliary disorders, including pancreas cysts, pancreas cancer, cholangiocarcinoma and indeterminate biliary strictures; dysplasia in the setting of Barrett's esophagus, the staging and treatment of early esophageal cancer, endoscopic palliation of strictures related to esophageal, pancreas and colon cancer; endoscopic resection of early esophageal, gastric, and colon cancer and the management of colon polyps. The majority of Dr. Aslanian’s practice is related to the staging, diagnosis, or prevention of gastrointestinal cancers.

Research Highlights

Ting Yi was unexpectedly diagnosed with a cyst in her bile duct that needed to be removed immediately by surgery. “I have a PhD science background and did post-doctoral work at Yale, and so I had a lot of questions, very technical questions, for Dr. [Charles] Cha,” she said.

During Ting’s eight-hour surgery, Dr. Cha sat at a console and used a joystick to manipulate the three robotic arms plus a dual-channel camera arm, which provides a 3D magnification of the surgical site. He pressed a foot pedal to switch between the arms. “There’s a misconception that robotic surgery is something automated,” Dr. Cha said. “There is nothing automated about it.”
A therapy developed by Yale Cancer Center researchers stimulates immune cells to shrink or kill tumors in mice, according to a new study published in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*. The therapy is effective alone or in combination with existing cancer immunotherapies, and it appears to have lasting effects, the researchers said.

The research team, led by Yale Cancer Center members Akiko Iwasaki, PhD, and Anna Pyle, PhD, examined whether a synthetic RNA molecule developed to fight viruses could also trigger an immune response against tumors. The molecule, called Stem Loop RNA 14 (SLR14), was specifically designed to activate a gene that detects viruses and other threats in cells.

The 2019 11th Annual Beach Jam for Breast Cancer, held in August at the Westbrook Elks Club, raised $25,000 for patient assistance at the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The Beach Jam is attended by hundreds of people every year and has provided nearly $200,000 for breast cancer patient support since its inaugural year, and we are very grateful for the tremendous effort and spirit that is poured into each event.
Cancer cells are masters at avoiding detection, but a new system developed by Yale Cancer Center scientists can make them stand out from the crowd and help the immune system spot and eliminate tumors that other forms of immunotherapies might miss, the researchers reported in the journal *Nature Immunology*.

The new system reduced or eliminated melanoma and triple-negative breast and pancreatic tumors in mice, even those located far from the primary tumor source, the researchers report. This is an entirely new form of immunotherapy,” said Sidi Chen, PhD, assistant professor of genetics and senior author of the study.

**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 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 >>

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On .@CPTVOline's program Life Lessons tonight at 8pm our experts talk about cancer care, including the use of complementary therapies and where to find emotional support.

.@SidiChen shared his latest research on @NakedScientists podcast showing how a gene boost can unmask #cancer cells and help provide a target for the immune system.

Good news for patients in Connecticut needing advanced radiation treatment for cancer! @ynhhealth is partnering with @HartfordHealthC to bring @ProtonINTL's #protonbeam therapy to our patients.

Watch our #cancer experts on .@CPTVOline's program Life Lessons tomorrow at 8pm to learn about risk factors, early detection and latest treatments.

Thank you to our Grand Rounds speakers today @PJAnanthmd talking about pediatriccancer end of life care and Dr. Rachel Perry explaining #obesity and breaking the link to #cancer.

Congratulations to Yale Cancer Center members .@NitaAhujaMD, Dr. Jorge Galán, .@VirusesImmunity Dr. Akiko Iwasaki, and Dr. David G. Schatz on their election to @theNAMedicine! It's one of the highest honors in medicine.

Men get #breastcancer
Employee Profile: Danielle Welz

For a patient who has been newly diagnosed with cancer, the first visit with their care team can be overwhelming. Danielle Welz, Ambulatory Care Associate in The Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, tries to make that visit a little less daunting. She is often the first person a patient meets, and she strives to set a positive tone from the start.

In addition to making sure patients and their family members are comfortable and have everything they need, Danielle also takes vitals and assists with in-office procedures like punch biopsies, core biopsies, seromas, and aspirations.

“When patients come in they are nervous. They are here to find out more about their prognosis and care plan. Most of the time they leave with a sense of reassurance and it’s a privilege to be able to play a small role in that,” said Danielle. “We follow patients for many years, and you build relationships with them. It’s an amazing feeling to see women come in after finishing treatment, and they are starting to look and feel like themselves again.”

Danielle has been in her current role for two years, and enjoys working with this patient population. She commented that it is not always a good outcome, and everyone handles things differently, but she tries to be what each person needs in that moment. Camille Servodidio, Program Manager for Women’s Oncology Services, commented, "Danielle delivers patient-centered care and listens to her patients. She is a strong patient advocate and demonstrates compassion and empathy in her daily interactions with patients."

Recent Publications

Seronegative autoimmune autonomic ganglionopathy from dual too! Watch Dr. Andrea Silber explain to @JocelynMaminta@WTNH the warning signs as early detection is critical.

@YaleCancer team who presented their latest research during the Interventional Oncology & Immuno-Oncology session yesterday during the @DDInterventions meeting in NYC.

We are so proud to honor 50 awardees at our 1st annual Smilow Cancer Hospital Luminary Awards of Excellence. These staff members exceed performance expectations and help to deliver high quality cancer care for our patients & families.

In honor of #NationalMammographyDay, remember to schedule your annual #mammogram! Early detection saves lives!

Physical therapist @ScottCapozza, a #cancer survivor, talks to @cure_magazine about how movement can help with side effects and cancer recovery for patients.

A new technique is giving better insight into cells and #cancer biology. Learn more with @RongFan8@YaleCancer Grand Rounds! Watch his presentation online.

A newly developed #genomics research platform may help fight #cervicalcancer. New research @PNASNews led by Dr. Alessandro Santin has
immune checkpoint inhibition in a patient with metastatic melanoma. Phase Ib trial of gemcitabine with yttrium-90 in patients with hepatic metastasis of pancreatobiliary origin.


Modeling of implementation of the new Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network/United Network for Organ Sharing policy for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma.


Trusting the GPS: Going Home.


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.


Deep learning based on standard H&E images of primary melanoma tumors identifies patients at risk for visceral recurrence and death.


Read More >>

Impact of contralateral lymph nodal involvement and extranodal extension on survival of surgically managed HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancer staged with the AJCC eighth edition.
Read More >>

Identification and Validation of a Novel Biologics Target in Triple Negative Breast Cancer.
Read More >>

Whole-exome sequencing of cervical carcinomas identifies activating ERBB2 and PIK3CA mutations as targets for combination therapy.
Read More >>

Seronegative autoimmune autonomic ganglionopathy from dual immune checkpoint inhibition in a patient with metastatic melanoma.
Read More >>

Phase III Randomized Trial of Chemotherapy With or Without Bevacizumab in Patients With Recurrent or Metastatic Head and Neck Cancer.
Read More >>
Immune cell PD-L1 co-localizes with macrophages and is associated with outcome in PD-1 pathway blockade therapy.
Read More >>

Multiplexed activation of endogenous genes by CRISPRa elicits potent antitumor immunity.
Read More >>

Robotic Tumor Debulking Off External Iliac Vessels For Management of Recurrent Ovarian Cancer.
Mutlu L, Khadraoui W, Khader T, Menderes G.
Read More >>

Applications of artificial intelligence in neuro-oncology.
Aneja S, Chang E, Omuro A.
Read More >>

Quantitative assessment of CMTM6 in the tumor microenvironment and association with response to PD-1 pathway blockade in advanced-stage non-small-cell lung cancer.
Read More >>

Inpatient pain management in sickle cell disease.
Zassman SM, Zamora FJ, Roberts JD.
Read More >>

Fertility preservation in gynecologic cancers.
Taylan E, Oktay K.
Read More >>

Intratumoral delivery of RIG-I agonist SLR14 induces robust antitumor responses.
Jiang X, Muthusamy V, Fedorova O, Kong Y, Kim DJ, Bosenberg M, Pyle AM, Iwasaki A.
A Semiquantitative Scoring System May Allow Biopsy Diagnosis of Pulmonary Large Cell Neuroendocrine Carcinoma.
Baine MK, Sinard JH, Cai G, Homer RJ.
Read More >>

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.
Read More >>

Funding Opportunities

**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)**
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 >>

**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 >>

**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**
November 5; 12:00 PM
55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium
Donna Spiegelman, ScD and Andrew Xiao, PhD

Learn More >>

**Cell Biology Seminar Series**
November 5; 1:00 PM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, SHM C-428
Gregg Gundersen, PhD

Learn More >>

**Yale Cancer Center Seminar**
November 5; 1:00 PM
Sterling Hall of Medicine, SHM I-304

Understanding Leukemic and Immune Cell Factors shaping GVL
Pavan Bachireddy, MD

Learn More >>

**CBDS Seminar Series**
November 6; 4:00 PM
The Anlyan Center Auditorium, N-203

Evaluating Cancer Drivers with HotMAPS
Rachel Karchin, PhD

Learn More >>

**Advances in Men’s Health - Updates in Urology CME Dinner**
November 6; 5:00 PM
Artisan Restaurant at the Delamar Hotel, Southport
Stanton Honig, MD | Preston Spernkle, MD | Michael S. Leapman, MD | David G. Hesse, MD | Thomas V. Martin, MD | Daniel S. Kellner, MD | Jamie A. Cavallo, MD, MPHs

Learn More >>
**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 >>](#)

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**Pathology Grand Rounds**

**November 7; 12:30 PM**

Fitkin Memorial Pavilion Auditorium, LMP 1094

*Regulation of Cardiac Gene Expression and Function by miRNAs*

Da Zhi Wang, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**Yale Stem Cell Center 11th Annual Retreat (Day 1)**

**November 7; 1:30 PM**

West Campus Conference Center

Marcus Bosenberg, MD, PhD | Grace Chen, PhD | Rong Fan, PhD | Valentina Greco, PhD | Marc Hammarlund, PhD | Lilian Kabche, PhD | Haifan Lin, PhD | In-Hyun Park, PhD | Valerie Reineke, PhD | Lauren Sansing, MD, MS, FAHA, FANA | Nenad Sestan, MD, PhD | Kaelyn Sumigray, PhD | Josien van Wolfswinkel, PhD, MSc

[Learn More >>](#)