June 21, 2019

Announcements

Cancer Biology Training Program Mentors
I would like to express my appreciation to the physicians who have spent countless hours mentoring our PhD predocs and postdocs in Yale Cancer Center’s Cancer Biology Training Program over the last three years. Without the leadership of David Stern, PhD, and the mentorship of our engaged faculty, the program would not fulfill our vision or attract the applicants we have. Our Cancer Center considers teaching and training a priority, and the Yale Cancer Biology Training Program represented a highly valued element in the strong showing for Education in the recent competing renewal of our Cancer Center grant.

Thank you to the following faculty for their time and efforts. We appreciate your support. Barbara Burtness, Michael Cecchini, Anees Chagpar, Paul Eder, James Farrell, Scott Gettinger, Sarah Goldberg, Steve Gore, Stephanie Halene, Michael Hurwitz, Harriet Kluger, Gary Kupfer, Jill Lacy, Asher Marks, Saral Mehra, Dan Petrylak, Andrea Silber, Mario Strazzabosco, and Juan Vasquez.

Lilly Oncology Provides Support
Eli Lilly and Company, Lilly Oncology, has given a generous sponsorship of $180,000 over three years to support a Medical-Legal Partnership Program as well as Oncology Patient Navigation Training. The
training initiative conducted in the first year will enable non-clinically licensed staff working in outreach education, screening, and prevention to become certified Oncology Patient Navigators for Smilow Cancer Hospital.

With Gratitude to Kert Sabbath

I would like to express my great appreciation to Kert Sabbath, MD, who is stepping down as Director of the Care Center Clinical Research Working Group after leading our clinical trials research efforts for our Care Center Network for the last seven years. During this time, Kert has provided guidance and direction to successfully achieve our mission of offering high-impact clinical trial options to our patients in the community. Our Care Centers now enroll 25% of our total accrual to clinical trials, an increase from 11% five years ago, as participation from the Care Centers continues to expand. 32 faculty from our Care Centers have enrolled patients on clinical trials during FY19. We are grateful for Kert's tremendous leadership during our developing stages of growth, Kathy Uscinski's management, our physicians and nurses in the Care Centers, and the entire clinical trials operation for ongoing their support of our efforts.
Luminary Award Nominations
Please take time to recognize and nominate your colleagues who consistently exceed performance expectations and deliver high quality cancer care for our patients, families and the health system through community service, optimization and innovative solutions, patient experience, leadership and research initiatives. The Smilow Luminary Award seeks nominations of individuals or teams who exceed our standards of excellence.
Learn More >>

Notables

Congratulations to **Craig M. Crews, PhD**, who was recently appointed as the **John C. Malone Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology**. Dr. Crews is a renowned scientist who has made important contributions to the field of cancer research, including the creation of two successful biotech companies.
Learn More >>

**Xiaolei Su, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Cell Biology and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Research Program, received a **Child Health Research Grant from the Charles Hood Foundation** to support his research into the Mechanism of Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) Signaling.

**Lynn Tanoue, MD**, Professor of Medicine (Pulmonary), has been named Chair of the **Assembly of Thoracic Oncology**.

**Noah Palm, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Immunobiology and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Virus and Other Infection-associated Cancers Research Program, has been named a **2019 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences**. He will receive four years of funding to continue his...
research on decoding the diverse impacts of the microbiota on human health and disease.

Sarah Eder Infantino, MS, RN, OCN, APSM has been promoted to Patient Services Manager of NP14. In her new role, Sarah will provide overall clinical leadership focused on enhancing positive patient/family experiences and collaborate with our physicians and multidisciplinary team to promote service excellence and quality outcomes for NP14.

At the recent Medical Oncology and Hematology Fellows’ graduation, the David Fischer Teaching Awards were presented to Sarah Mougalian, MD for medical oncology and to Alfred Lee, MD, PhD for hematology.

Congratulations to Yale Cancer Center’s COPPER team and Smilow Cancer Hospital for their selection as the Yale Medicine Delivery Network Winner at the 2019 Safety, Quality and Experience Conference hosted by Yale Medicine.
and Yale New Haven Health. Their abstract, *Evaluating the Impact of the Oncology Extended Care Clinic on Emergency Department Visit Rates*, authored by Tannaz Sedghi and colleagues, was selected for the honor.

(left to right) Maureen Canavan, PhD, MPH, Tracy Carafeno, MS, BSN, CNML, Bonnie Gould Rothberg, MD, PhD, MPH, Kerin Adelson, MD, Tannaz Sedghi, MPH

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, and Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin, PhD, participated in a briefing on Capitol Hill last week hosted by AACR to highlight the impact of e-cigarettes and nicotine on youth and young adults. Dr. Herbst, who also serves as AACR’s Chair of Tobacco Products and Cancer Subcommittee, moderated the panel, which included Dr. Krishnan-Sarin, among others. They are pictured here with Margaret Foti, PhD, MD, CEO of AACR.

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital hosted our annual Review of Advances in Oncology with Highlights from the ASCO annual meeting today. Hosted by Dr. Roy Herbst with a keynote address by Dr. Ken Anderson from Dana-Farber, leaders from all of our cancer programs presented the latest information on cancer treatment and clinical trials to community.
The Palliative Care Research Retreat, "Moving Forward: Building an Interprofessional Center for Palliative Care Research at Yale" was held on Tuesday, June 4 at the West Campus Conference Center. The primary retreat objectives were to identify research themes around which to structure a grant proposal for an interprofessional palliative care research center at Yale and to foster connections among the Yale palliative care and symptom science communities. The event was dedicated to Dr. Ruth McCorkle, Florence Schorske Wald Emerita Professor of Nursing, in recognition of her contributions to palliative care research and mentoring. Dr. R. Sean Morrison, Director of the National Palliative Care Research Center, gave the Keynote Address and held a special session for junior faculty and fellows. Scientific posters were on display throughout the event.

Yale Cancer Answers featured a discussion on legislative efforts to help support cancer patients and cancer prevention with Bryte Johnson of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Connecticut - ACS CAN. Tune in to Connecticut Public Radio to...
Employee Profile: Rebecca Bartomeli

After attending a Gyn-Onc job fair 10 years ago and learning about an Infusion Nurse job opening in the Women's Infusion Clinic, Rebecca Bartomeli has never looked back: "I feel really lucky—I love my job, I love my co-workers, and our patients are my constant inspiration."

Rebecca is a Clinical Nurse 3 in the Women’s Infusion Clinic located in NP 1, where she administers IV treatments and performs assessments for patients with breast and gynecologic cancers. While many patients who come through the clinic respond to their treatment, there is a subset who advance into end of life care.

"It is a privilege to carry women from their first chemo to end of life," says Rebecca. "To go along this intimate journey with them and see them at their most vulnerable, it is very special, and each and

In a new study including Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital researchers, the cancer immunotherapy drug pembrolizumab (Keytruda), increased survival for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a disease once considered an aggressive, and uniformly fatal cancer.

"This represents a tectonic shift in the treatment of lung cancer," said study co-author Joseph Paul Eder, MD. "Five years ago, no one with this advanced cancer would have survived. Now that we have patients with progression free survival for at least five years, we can consider them cured."
every patient carries themselves with such grace and dignity."

It is an impossible job without her coworkers she says. In the tough moments, they raise each other up, and on happier days, they carry on as a normal work family. Similarly with their patients, they form close bonds - "a professional friendship," she says, where they get to know each other's families, and they share recipes and stories about their kids.

Overall, says Rebecca, "Being a part of Smilow is like being with the best friend everyone wants to be around, and this is a sentiment shared by patients and employees. Smilow sets a high standard and everyone makes a concerted effort to make it easy for the patients - when all scans and appointments take place on the same day. Anything that can make the cancer journey for patients easier, makes all the difference."

### Funding Opportunities

**Global Oncology Young Investigator Award (GO YIA): Implementation Science to Address Oncology Care in LMICs**

The Conquer Cancer Global Oncology Young Investigator Award (GO YIA) provides research funding to early-career investigators to encourage and promote quality research in global oncology and to develop the next generation researchers to address global health needs.

The project needs to be a research exercise - identifying training models, researching their outcomes, analyzing the outcomes of those models to select the most effective curriculum, and also researching the cost of creating sustainable models where they currently do not exist. The ideal grantee will have a mentor who is established, and will need to be within a team or be paired with a high-income institution working for a period of time in a lower resource setting.

**Application Deadline:** June 27, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)
Optimizing the Management and Outcomes for Cancer Survivors Transitioning to Follow-up Care

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is associated with the Beau Biden Cancer MoonshotSM Initiative that is intended to accelerate cancer research. This FOA solicits applications that develop and test models of care for adult survivors of cancer who are transitioning from active treatment to follow-up care. Through this FOA, the NCI intends to support multi-level interventions that enhance communication, collaboration, and coordination among oncology and non-oncology providers to improve cancer survivor outcomes.

Application Deadline: June 28, 2019
Learn More >>

Yale Spore in Skin Cancer Developmental Research Awards and Career Enhancement Awards

DRA and CEA projects must have promising translational research potential with application to human skin cancer. It is expected that they can evolve into projects with a clear translational component that are suitable for funding either within the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer or as R01 or equivalent grants.

Developmental Research Program Awards will support a broad spectrum of innovative pilot projects applicable to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment.

Career Enhancement Program Awards will support new investigative cutaneous oncologists and other scientists committed to multidisciplinary studies investigating the relevance of biological discoveries in human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment, and enhance the careers of individuals who are already productively investigating this field.

DRP-eligible investigators include established and junior investigators (faculty appointment higher than
Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate). They include faculty who currently lead skin cancer programs but wish to test an idea clearly distinct from current or pending grants or may lead programs not directed at skin cancer, but be interested in exploring the applicability of their expertise to skin cancer.

CEP funds are often awarded to faculty within five years of appointment as Assistant Professor. Previous recipients of SPORE DRP and CEP funds are generally ineligible to be P.I.s of new projects within 3 years of completion of their previous funding.

**Application Deadline: July 1, 2019**

Learn More >>

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NCCN/AstraZeneca Quality of Care & Clinical Care Pathways in Unresectable Stage III/Stage IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals (AstraZeneca) to offer a new opportunity to improve patient care and outcomes in advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

The intent of this RFP is to encourage NCCN Member Institutions to submit LOIs describing concepts for developing, implementing, and evaluating healthcare provider performance and/or healthcare quality improvement initiatives to enhance patient care and outcomes in unresectable stage III NSCLC patients and stage IV NSCLC patients receiving first line therapy.

**Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline: July 9, 2019**

Learn More >>

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Susan G. Komen Career Catalyst Research Grant

The topic area for the FY20 Career Catalyst Research Award is Redefining Metastatic Breast Cancer through Liquid Biopsy. The goal of this focus area is to support outstanding research seeking to healthy, and to help the men in your life stay on top of their health.

We are proud to be the first in CT to be awarded @ASTRO_org Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEx) for Smilow Cancer Hospital sites in New Haven/Hamden Guilford/Trumbull/Waterford. Recognizing our rad onc is delivered w the highest safety & quality standards in the industry.

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**Calendar**

**Yale Cancer Center, The Tommy Fund, & Yale New Haven's Children Hospital Host**

**June 23; 12:00 PM**

The Carriage House, Edgerton Park, Hamden

*Still Growing Strong: A Celebration of Survivorship*

Learn More >>

**Yale Cancer Answers**

**June 23; 7:30 PM**

WNPR

*Gamma Knife for Brain Metastases*

Veronica Chiang, MD, FAANS

Learn More >>

**Seminar: Immunotherapy Strategies for Pancreatic Cancer**

**June 24; 11:00 AM**

Boyce Center for Molecular Medicine, BCMM 206/208

Daniel Laheru, MD

Learn More >>

**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

**June 25; 12:00 PM**

55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium

*Slow and Steady Wins the Race? Epigenetic therapy in solid tumors*

Nilofer Azad, MD

Learn More >>

**Yale Center for Implementation Science (YCIS) and Center for Methods in Implementation and Prevention Science (CMIPS) Grand Rounds Series**

**June 25; 12:00 PM**
use liquid biopsy techniques to improve treatment, detection, and understanding of metastatic breast cancer which will lead to a reduction in breast cancer deaths by 2026. Komen requests Letters of Intent for research projects that address one of the following focus areas:

* Refining treatment of metastatic breast cancer
* Early detection of metastatic breast cancer

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** July 10, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)

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### Imaging, Biomarkers and Digital Pathomics for the Early Detection of Premetastatic Aggressive Cancer

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will support the development of state-of-the-art projects that include imaging, biomarkers, digital pathomic and other -omic integration strategies for improving current approaches for the earliest detection of premetastatic aggressive cancer as well as identifying precancerous lesions that will subsequently demonstrate an aggressive phenotype.

**Application Deadline:** July 10, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)

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### Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research

The Foundation funds cutting-edge research in the fields of leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers of the blood. Funds support promising scientists who are applying novel and state-of-the-art techniques to address fundamental problems in their genesis and treatment. Of interest are innovative clinical and basic science research that will lead to novel therapeutic approaches that could replace, or be used in combination with existing effective therapies. Focus is on projects for cancer prevention, detection and treatment that are most likely to be translated into clinical trials within a 3-5 year period.

**Application Deadline:** July 16, 2019

[Learn More >>](#)
Tobacco Regulatory Science
The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to invite R01 applications to support biomedical and behavioral research that will provide scientific data to inform regulation of tobacco products to protect public health.

Application Deadline: July 19, 2019
Learn More >>

NCCN/AstraZeneca Quality of Care Evaluations in Advanced Ovarian Cancer
National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals (AstraZeneca) to offer a new funding opportunity for improving patient care and outcomes in Stage III, Stage IV and recurrent epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC). The intent of this RFP is to encourage investigators at NCCN Member Institutions to submit letters of intent (LOIs) describing concepts for developing, implementing, and evaluating initiatives to improve patient outcomes in Stages III/IV and recurrent EOC. Studies aimed at enhancing the quality of multiple aspects of patient interaction and management throughout the clinical care continuum will be eligible. Special consideration will be given to "outside the box" innovative projects, with a special focus on optimizing testing and effectiveness of new healthcare-related paradigms.

Application Deadline: July 22, 2019
Learn More >>

Recent Publications

Brd4 and P300 Confer Transcriptional Competency during Zygotic Genome Activation.
Read More >>

Putting Cell Competition under the Microscope.
Levinsohn J, Myung P.
**Telomere Maintenance-Associated PML Is a Potential Specific Therapeutic Target of Human Colorectal Cancer.**

**B cell depletion or absence does not impede anti-tumor activity of PD-1 inhibitors.**

**Afatinib vs Placebo as Adjuvant Therapy After Chemoradiotherapy in Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck: A Randomized Clinical Trial.**

**Prognostic Case Volume Thresholds in Patients With Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma.**

**Prognostic markers for immunodeficiency-associated primary central nervous system lymphoma.**
A phase 1b, multicenter, open-label, dose-finding study of eribulin in combination with carboplatin in advanced solid tumors and non-small cell lung cancer.

High-plex predictive marker discovery for melanoma immunotherapy treated patients using Digital Spatial Profiling.
Toki MI, Merritt CR, Wong PF, Smithy JW, Kluger HM, Syrigos KN, Ong GT, Warren SE, Beechem JM, Rimm DL.
Clin Cancer Res. 2019 Jun 12.

Obesity-associated, but not obesity-independent, tumors respond to insulin by increasing mitochondrial glucose oxidation.
Rabin-Court A, Rodrigues MR, Zhang XM, Perry RJ.