December 18, 2020

Announcements

Francesca Montanari, MD
Providing Hematology Expertise in Greenwich

Dr. Francesca Montanari has joined the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Greenwich as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine (Hematology) and cares for patients with hematologic malignancies. Dr. Montanari joined Yale Cancer Center from New York Presbyterian Hospital – Columbia University Medical Center, College of Physicians and Surgeons where she was Assistant Professor of Medicine & Experimental Therapeutics in the Department of Medicine, Division of Experimental Therapeutics.

Dr. Montanari received her medical degree from the University of Pavia in Italy where she graduated magna cum laude and completed both her residency and fellowship at New York University School of Medicine, where she was awarded the Fellow of the Year teaching award. She currently has several research studies focused on relapsed/refractory hematologic and lymphoid malignancies.

Holiday Cheer!
A highlight of our month was the Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital holiday party last week. While we were not able to celebrate in grand style together at the Peabody Museum as in past years, we did gather virtually and share messages of hope, strength, and cheer, along with music and other fun surprises. Thank you to Dean Nancy Brown and Marna Borgstrom for joining us and to the many members of our faculty and staff who sent messages to our teams. If you missed the event, you can watch online.

In Memoriam: Linda Mowad, RN
It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Linda Mowad, RN, former director of Yale Cancer Center’s Cancer from the desk of Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center and Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer Hospital

News Center

Pandemic Depression: an action plan

YCC Members Take Home Top Awards at Yale Lifesciences PitchFest 2020

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Mowad, RN, former director of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Information Service Office, and our inaugural institutional representative to the Connecticut Cancer Partnership. Linda launched Yale's Cancer Information Service (CIS) office on behalf of the National Cancer Institute in 1976 and continued to lead the Service through many technology transitions, innovations, and partnerships until her retirement 35 years later. Through her dedicated career and volunteer positions in the cancer prevention and control arena, Linda's contributions will be felt in Connecticut long into the future. Please keep Linda's family in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn their beloved mother and grandmother.

**Closer to Free Fund Matching Gift Challenge**

A Matching Gift Challenge for friends of Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center has been established by All American Waste, a local, family-owned business that is invested in the cancer care and research that we do. Giving back to the community has always been a core value of All American Waste's ownership and they are excited to offer this matching challenge for others in the community to help give patients a better chance to beat their cancer. Any gift you make between now and December 31st to the Closer to Free Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar – up to $25,000 – by All American Waste. [Learn More]

**iLab Launches**

YCC’s Office of Research Affairs is excited to announce that iLab, a web-based, core facility management platform used by over 200 research institutions worldwide, is now available to the YCC community through our Rapid Case Ascertainment, Yale Center for Precision Cancer Modeling, and Biostatistics Shared Resources. The program launched on December 14th and Yale Cancer Center members have automatically been entered into the iLab system and can begin using it to request services or schedule equipment usage from these shared resources. More information is available on the YCC iLab website. Please contact Joseph Salemme with questions.

**Notables**

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology and Associate Cancer Center Director for Translational Research at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital, has been selected as the 2020 Clinical Research Award recipient by the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) for significantly and positively impacting oncology patients, their families, and the broader oncology community. The ACCC is one of the largest education and advocacy organizations for the cancer care community. [Learn More]

Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS, a co-chair of President-elect Biden’s COVID-19 advisory board, will also lead a new White House task force dedicated to health equity. At Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital, Dr. Nunez-Smith is Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity and Chief Health Equity Officer & Deputy Chief Medical Officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and Associate Cancer Center Director for Community Outreach and Read More

Gene Expression Testing Varies Substantially by Region for Prostate Cancer

Watch Now

New Immunotherapy Treatment for Lung Cancer

Watch Now

Yale Cancer Center Study Shows Caplacizumab Not Cost Effective for Rare Blood Disorder

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Sabrina Browning, MD, Instructor of Medicine (Hematology), has been selected as the recipient of Yale Cancer Center’s Forget Scholar for 2020. The Forget Scholar award was established in 2015 through contributions of several individuals in honor of Dr. Bernard Forget, renowned hematologist and scientist who made pioneering contributions to the study of red cells, hemoglobin, and the genetics of blood disorders. The annual award is given to a deserving individual who is transitioning from their fellowship to an academic career in hematology by way of salary support.

Carrie Redlich, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine (Occupational Medicine) and of Environmental Health Sciences, has received the 2020 Harriet Hardy Award presented by New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (NECOEM). Dr. Redlich gave her award lecture presentation on December 3 to the NECOEM annual conference. It was titled The Changing Landscape of Work-related Lung Diseases.

James Hansen, MD, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, was recently awarded two grants to support his research, including a Breast Cancer Research Program Breakthrough Award from the Department of Defense for use of a modified autoantibody against breast cancer brain metastases and a NIH NINDS R01 grant for targeting glioblastoma with a nuclear-penetrating anti-DNA antibody.

Jean L. Bolognia, MD, Professor of Dermatology, is one of six people who have been named 2020 Giants of Dermatology by Dermatology Times. The program recognizes leading physicians and researchers in the field of dermatology whose landmark successes, ongoing inspiration, and career-long dedication redefine what is possible for this specialty.

Congratulations to YCC members Joseph Contessa, MD, PhD, Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, and W. Mark Saltzman, MD, PhD, for receiving top cash awards at this year’s Yale Lifesciences PitchFest 2020. Dr. Contessa received the award for Highest Potential Impact for his work in Developing Therapeutic OST Inhibitors and Drs. Bindra and Saltzman received the award for Most Innovative Breakthrough for their work in Redefining the Blood-brain Barrier. Learn More

NCCN News

The NCCN 2021 Virtual Congress: Breast Cancer with Updates from the 2020 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS), presented in partnership with Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, will provide expert insights on the current standard of care for patients with breast cancer. The Congress will also include the latest clinical research updates from the 2020 SABCS to assist clinicians in formulating breast cancer management strategies.

The event will take place on Friday, February 12, 2021 from 10:30 AM

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook

Learn about our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Westerly, RI, which offers leading edge technologies, resources, and expertise throughout Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut. Our Westerly location provides access to state-of-the-art radiation and surgical treatment, genetic testing, and clinical trials in partnership with Yale Cancer Center, along with a comprehensive suite of services.

Nina Kadan-Lottick, MD, MSPH, Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Hematology/Oncology), has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the NCI-funded Children’s Oncology Group, which is responsible for strategic planning, resource allocation, performance monitoring, review of the Operations Office and the Statistics and Data Management Center. Thank you, Dr. Kadan-Lottick for your dedicated efforts on behalf of our littlest patients!
The event will take place on Friday, February 12, 2021 from 10:30 AM – 5:15 PM EST. Healthcare professionals from Member Institutions receive a discounted registration rate of $25 with complimentary registration for fellows and residents.

**Employee Profile: Kelly Ford**

Kelly Ford is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who works in Bereavement Support Services, a program under the Palliative Care Service, for families after a loved one has died, as well as patients undergoing radiation therapy at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Hamden. While these patient populations are very different, Kelly takes a similar approach when working with them.

“I think it’s important to give both populations permission to honor and understand their feelings,” she says. “Normalizing feelings, whether it’s a grieving family member who is struggling with if it’s okay to enjoy a happy moment, or if it’s a patient just starting radiation, who is scared of the unknown. Validating their feelings and reassuring that their emotions are ‘normal’ is where I start.”

Kelly has worked with the outpatient population for the last five years after covering multiple areas in inpatient social work for nine years prior. Seeing the process and helping patients and their families successfully navigate the health system and secure a simple resource could mean the world to them.

Kelly provides consultations and psycho-social support for patients starting and undergoing radiation treatment in the Hamden Care Center, and she leads virtual bereavement support groups, grief seminars, and at this time of year, the Hope for the Holidays program, which helps families manage their grief through the holiday season.

“Offering support when someone needs it most – when they may or may not have support from family and friends, that’s what I enjoy every day,” says Kelly

#OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS to Marion Miller!
Yale Cancer Center & Smilow Cancer Hospital's #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Marion Miller, Administrative Assistant, for going above-and-beyond in her role during the recent pandemic. Under normal circumstances, Marion Miller is the "go-to person" for the Yale Cancer Center community and that has become even more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. On a normal day, Marion's job as Administrative Assistant for Yale Cancer Center exposes her to many different departments, and various tasks throughout the Center. During her over 20 years of service at the university, she has established many crucial relationships in departments such as Facilities, TR&S (Transport, Receiving, & Storage), Telecom, ITS, & Security, in addition to many external vendors like WB Mason and BBI Technologies, that were a vital part of how our department was able to successfully navigate and adapt during these challenging times. Marion is serving as a crucial lifeline for faculty and staff, spending a few hours a week on-site organizing and distributing incoming mail and other urgent deliveries, in addition to assisting with other mission critical projects that have come up—like coordinating renovation needs when a flood damaged multiple offices, to name one example. From the onset of the pandemic, Marion was directly involved in figuring out how we could adapt the processes behind our normal daily functions in order to keep them going. Thanks to Marion's efforts the Cancer Center faculty and staff have been able to keep vital operational needs moving forward even though the majority of our team is still working remotely. She is literally our anchor to the campus during a time when we all feel as if we are floating aimlessly into the unknown. She is the definition of a team player and always happy to help anyone, anywhere, in any way. Thank you, Marion!

**Recent Publications**


**Calcium Metabolism and Breast Cancer: Echoes of Lactation?** *Current Opinion in Endocrine and Metabolic Research*

Hyperprogressive disease: A distinct pattern of progression to immune checkpoint inhibitors.

**Optimizing Care for Patients With Adverse Events From Immunotherapeutics.**
*Cancer Journal*, 537-542.

Newton BR, Chiang AC. (2020)
**Harnessing the Immune System to Tackle Small Cell Lung Cancer.**

Sanmamed MF, Eguren-Santamaria I, Schalper KA. (2020)
**Overview of Lung Cancer Immunotherapy.**

Goldberg SB, Herbst RS. (2020)
**Introduction by the Guest Editors.**

**Differential immunomodulatory Effect of PARP Inhibition in BRCA1 deficient and competent tumor cells.**
*Biochemical Pharmacology*, 114359.

Clinical and genomic factors associated with seizures in meningiomas
*Journal of Neurosurgery*, 1-10.

Shallis RM, Pollyea DA, Zeidan AM. (2020)
**Complete, yet partial: the benefits of complete response with partial haematological recovery as an endpoint in acute myeloid leukaemia clinical trials.**

D’Addario J. (2020)
**Cervical cancer.**

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Funding and Award Opportunities

Basser Center For BRCA External Research Grant Program - Basser Innovation Award
Research grant applications in basic science, prevention, early detection, or targeted therapeutics and relevant to the study of BRCA1/2 will be considered.
Letter of Intent Due: December 21, 2020
Read More

Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI) THRIVE
THRIVE fills a critical gap in funding for foundational research in support of future protective therapies, mitigation strategies and a next generation of therapy and therapy-support that will enhance the ability for cancer patients and survivors to THRIVE.
Letter of Intent Due: December 31, 2020
Read More

2021 K12 Immuno-Oncology Training Program (IOTP) Scholar Awards
We are pleased to solicit applications for the Yale Cancer Center (YCC) K12 Calabresi Immuno-Oncology Training Program (IOTP) Scholar Award for junior faculty to enhance research skills beyond the training provided during graduate and postgraduate training.
Application Deadline: January 4, 2021
Read More

NCI Research Specialist Awards
- Core-Based Award: Application Deadline - January 4, 2021
  This FOA invites grant applications in any area of NCI-funded cancer research. This FOA is specifically for core/shared resource/central scientific support scientists.
- Laboratory-Based Award: Application Deadline - January 4, 2021
  This FOA invites grant applications in any area of NCI-funded cancer research. This FOA is specifically for laboratory-based scientists.
Read More
Yale Head and Neck SPORE (YHN-SPORE) Career Enhancement Program
The CEP of the Yale Head and Neck SPORE has been established to educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in head and neck cancer. The CEP will provide support to promising junior investigators and/or establish investigators who have not previously conducted head and neck cancer focused research.

Application Deadline: January 5, 2021
Read More

Yale Head and Neck SPORE (YHN-SPORE) Developmental Research Program
The Yale Head and Neck SPORE’s DRP provides seed money to investigators to support studies with a strong translational component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated as, a full YHN-SPORE project or to generate preliminary data or evidence of collaboration for other new NIH grant applications.

Application Deadline: January 5, 2021
Read More

NCI Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award (CCITLA) P30 Administrative Supplement for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021
This award recognizes and supports outstanding clinical investigators who enable their cancer center’s NCI-funded clinical trials enterprise.

Application Deadline: January 11, 2021
Read More

The American Head and Neck Society will sponsor nine research grants for 2021 which are available through American Academy of Otolaryngology CORE.

- AHNS/AAO-HNSF Young Investigator Combined Award
- AHNS/AAO-HNSF Translational Innovator Award
- AHNS Pilot Grant
- AHNS Ballantyne Resident Research Pilot Grant
- AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section Eisai Research Award
- AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section Stryker Research Grant
- AHNS Presidential Request for Application Pilot Award on Mucosal Head and Neck Cancer Research
- AHNS Presidential Request for Application Pilot Award on Salivary Gland Cancer Research
- AHNS Presidential Request for Application Pilot Award on Basic and Translational Research

Full Application Deadline: January 15, 2021
Read More

Collaborative Approaches to Engineer Biology for Cancer Applications (U01)
This FOA invites applications to develop and apply innovative synthetic biology approaches to address challenges across the spectrum of cancer research.

Application Deadline: January 15, 2021
Read More

RFI Regarding Opportunities for New National Programs at the NCI's Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research
The purpose of this RFI is to seek input from members of the cancer research community on the most important needs and promising opportunities in cancer research that are difficult to address on an individual scale.

**Submission Deadline:** January 18, 2021

**NCCN Request for Proposals (RFP): Phase I/II Clinical and Correlative/Preclinical Trials of Decitabine and Cedazuridine for Hematologic Malignancies and Solid Tumors**
This RFP, made possible by a research grant from Taiho Oncology, Inc., is to support NCCN Member Institution faculty for the performance of clinical and correlative studies of decitabine and cedazuridine (DEC-C) in the treatment of hematologic malignancies and solid tumors.

**Application Deadline:** January 19, 2021

**Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) Incubator Program for New Cancer Sites (U01)**
The overarching goal of this FOA is to expand comparative simulation modeling approaches developed by CISNET to new cancer organ sites beyond the sites which have been previously funded (breast, colorectal, prostate, lung, esophageal, and cervical) under CISNET.

**Application Deadline:** January 20, 2021

**Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) in Human Cancers for Years 2021, 2022, and 2023 (P50)**
Through this FOA, the NCI and National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) invite applications for P50 Research Center Grants for Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE)

**Application Deadline:** January 25, 2021

**Cancer Research Education Grants Program**
The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of the NCI R25 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.
- Curriculum or Methods Development (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- Courses for Skills Development (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

**Read More**

**Due Dates:** January 25, 2021

Through this FOA, the NCI and NIEHS invite applications to support innovative scientific research in new prospective cohorts that addresses knowledge gaps in cancer etiology and carcinogenesis processes with a focus on environmental exposures.
DeLuca Awards
The DeLuca Center for Innovation in Hematology Research was formed thanks to a generous donation by the Fredrick A. DeLuca Foundation. Each year a total of 5 Pilot Awards and 1 Career Development Award will be awarded to investigators who are participating in hematologic based research.

Pilot Award: intended to support collaborative hematology based research.
Application Deadline: February 1, 2021
Read More

Career Development Award: intended to provide early career clinical or laboratory-based investigators in Hematology, the opportunity to focus on research to advance patient care, therapies, and outcomes.
Letter of Intent Due: March 1, 2021
Read More

Utilizing In Vitro Functional Genomics Advances for Gene-Environment (G x E) Discovery and Validation (R01)
The purpose of this FOA is to solicit applications that fully integrate recent innovative advances of in vitro functional genomics tools/technologies and approaches for environmental health and toxicology research. The overall goal of this NIEHS led initiative is to generate proof-of-principle studies incorporating these new in vitro approaches, together with well characterized exposures, to further our understanding of gene-environment (G x E) interactions in complex human disorders.
Application Deadline: February 1, 2021
Read More

2021-2023 Clinical Investigator Award for Under-Represented Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Surgeons
This award is part of the SSO Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board’s work to ensure inclusion of the brightest minds and keenest talents in surgical oncology research. Applications are reviewed and selected by members of the SSO Research Committee.
Application Deadline: February 8, 2021
Read More

Clinical Translation of Activated Optical Fluorescence Methods and Technologies for Sensitive Cancer Detection in Vivo (R01)
The purpose of this FOA is to bring a highly sensitive imaging technology capable of detecting very small (1-3 mm\(^3\)) tumors in vivo to clinical utility.
Application Deadline: February 10, 2021
Read More

Assay Validation of High Quality Markers for Clinical Studies in Cancer (UH2/UH3)
Through these FOAs, the NCI invites applications to support the validation of molecular/cellular imaging markers and assays for cancer.
Validation of molecular/cellular/imaging markers and assays for cancer detection, diagnosis, prognosis, monitoring, and prediction of response or resistance to treatment, as well as markers for cancer prevention and control.

**Application Deadline:** February 18, 2021

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**Innovative Molecular and Cellular Analysis Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R21)**

This FOA solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on the early-stage development of highly innovative technologies offering novel molecular or cellular analysis capabilities for basic or clinical cancer research.

**Application Deadline:** February 22, 2021

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**Advanced Development and Validation of Emerging Molecular and Cellular Analysis Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R33)**

This FOA invites grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on further development and validation of emerging technologies offering novel capabilities for targeting, probing, or assessing molecular and cellular features of cancer biology for basic or clinical cancer research.

**Application Deadline:** February 22, 2021

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**Innovative Biospecimen Science Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R21)**

This FOA solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on the early-stage development of highly innovative technologies that improve the quality of the samples used for cancer research or clinical care.

**Application Deadline:** February 22, 2021

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**Advanced Development and Validation of Emerging Biospecimen Science Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R33)**

This FOA solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on further development and validation of emerging technologies that improve the quality of the samples used for cancer research or clinical care.

**Application Deadline:** February 22, 2021

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**NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00)**

The purpose of the NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Fellows (K99/R00) program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented, NCI-supported, independent investigators. The objective of this award is to facilitate a timely transition of these fellows from their mentored, postdoctoral research positions to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions.

**Application Deadline:** February 26, 2021
NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00 - Independent Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)
The purpose of the NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00) program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented, NCI-supported, independent investigators. The program will provide independent NCI research support during this transition to help awardees to launch competitive, independent research careers.

Application Deadline: February 26, 2021
Read More

NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00)
The purpose of the NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00) program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented, NCI-supported, independent investigators. The objective of this award is to facilitate a timely transition of these fellows from their mentored, postdoctoral research positions to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions.

Application Deadline: February 26, 2021
Read More

JH Milstone Fund 2021
This FOA supports early stage investigators and innovative research and education in thrombosis, thrombolysis and hemostasis. Proposals may focus on any aspect of thrombosis, thrombolysis and hemostasis – including biochemistry, genetics, clinical evaluation and testing, quality improvement and treatment. Please contact Richard Carr for more information.

Letter of Intent Due: March 1, 2021

Social and Behavioral Intervention Research to Address Modifiable Risk Factors for Cancer in Rural Populations (R01)
The purpose of this FOA is to solicit applications to develop, adapt, and test individual-, community- or multilevel interventions to address modifiable risk factors for cancer in rural populations.

Application Deadline: March 15, 2021
Read More

Cellular Cancer Biology Imaging Research (CCBIR) Program (U54)
The NCI invites applications for Cellular Cancer Biology Imaging Research (CCBIR) Centers. The Centers will develop and test enabling imaging technologies at the cellular and organ scales driven by specific fundamental questions in cancer biology. The overall purpose of the CCBIR initiative is to facilitate innovation in advanced imaging technologies that could be applied to fundamental basic and pre-clinical research problems in cancer biology.

Application Deadline: March 18, 2021
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Cancer Grand Challenges Program
Cancer Grand Challenges Program
The NCI and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) are partnering to fund the Cancer Grand Challenges program. Cancer Grand Challenges will fund novel ideas by multidisciplinary research teams from around the world that offer the potential to advance bold cancer research and improve outcomes for people affected by cancer. These nine challenges are aimed at solving complex problems in cancer research, which, if solved, could have a transformative impact towards progress.

Application Deadline: April 22, 2021

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