February 5, 2021

Announcements

Annual Award Winners Celebrated at Virtual Conclave
Yale Cancer Center’s annual Conclave was celebrated virtually on Tuesday, January 26 to honor the great scientific and clinical accomplishments of 2020, and to underscore the devotion of our scientists, physicians, providers, and staff through an unprecedented and challenging year.

David Fischer, MD, was presented with the Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award by Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., MD. Dr. Fischer was the first medical oncologist to practice in New Haven, beginning in 1967, and as Dr. DeVita stated, “his fingerprints are all over just about everything cancer-related in Connecticut since.” Dr. Fischer wrote and published the first Cancer Chemotherapy Handbook, along with Tish Knobf, RN, PhD, and he later published a formative paper in the Journal of Clinical Oncology to improve the chemotherapy treatment process and safety for patients. He was on the committee to help establish The Connecticut Hospice, the first hospice in the country and continued to be actively involved throughout his career. In 1994, he joined Yale Cancer Center and began his service as Vice-Chair of the Cancer Committee in 1996. Dr. DeVita summarized his remarks stating, “David has been an effective and tireless advocate for Yale Cancer Center, including for the new building [Smilow Cancer Hospital].” Please take a moment to watch accolades shared from others in gratitude of Dr. Fischer.

Yale Cancer Center

from the desk of
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief
Smilow Cancer Hospital

News Center

A closer look at the impact of COVID-19 on cardio-oncology

Yale Cancer Center Study Shows Aspirin & Intermediate Dose Anticoagulation Improves Survival for Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients

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The Yale Cancer Center Awards for **Excellence in Clinical Care** were presented to two outstanding physicians at Smilow Cancer Hospital: **Shari Damast, MD**, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, and **Thomas Prebet, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology). Dr. Damast was highlighted for her incredible coordination between services for radiation therapy for patients and spearheading the development of a novel program of high-dose brachytherapy for women with cervical and endometrial cancer. She was commended for her “compassion and commitment” to patient care. Dr. Prebet was recognized for his work as a dedicated clinician, one with hope and optimism as well as a brilliant teacher, mentor, and an expert in myeloid malignancies. He was heralded as a “true triple threat” in academic medicine.

The **Ruth McCorkle Advanced Practice Provider Award** was presented by Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC, Vice President of Patient Services at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and Vanna Dest, APRN, Senior Program Manager for Advanced Practice at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Vanna began by sharing reflections of Ruth, the “Godmother of Oncology Nursing,” who recognized the importance and contributions of APPs. Kim continued by announcing this year's award winner, **Jacqueline Dibble, FNP-BC, APRN**, an advanced practice provider with the Smilow Cancer Hospital Head & Neck Cancers Program. Jackie was noted as a skilled clinician with excellent procedural skills and abundant knowledge to guide patients with head and neck cancers who “keeps her focus on her patients and is a role model in every sense of the word.”

Two new awards were presented at Conclave this year: the **Yale Cancer Center Award for Mentorship Excellence** to Cary Gross, and the **Yale Cancer Center Award for Clinical Excellence** to Shari Damast and Thomas Prebet. The awards were presented in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field of oncology.
Cancer Center Award for Mentorship Excellence to Cary Gross, MD, and Yale Cancer Center Award for Teaching Excellence to Paul Eder, MD. Dr. Gross, Director of the Cancer Outcomes Public Policy and Effectiveness Research (COPPER) Center and Professor of Medicine (General Medicine) and Epidemiology was cited as “navigating the art of mentorship effectively as the ultimate teacher and coach with timeless energy, respect, and humor.” Dr. Eder was recognized as a faculty member who teaches at all levels and who best exemplifies a culture of teaching and excellence by ensuring trainees acquire the skills they need to develop as outstanding health practitioners, scientists, and researchers. He accepted the award with thanks noting, “It was a privilege to be taught by some of the greatest fathers and mothers in medicine, and the most important focus is on our patients.”

The Class of 1961 Cancer Research Awards were presented to Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, and Don Nguyen, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology and Medicine (Medical Oncology). They were honored for their significant accomplishments in cancer research at Yale University as young members of the faculty, coupled with the expectation for future outstanding contributions to the causes of cancer and the development of novel cancer treatments.

The Yale Cancer Center Population Science Research Prize was presented to Nicole Deziel, PhD, MHS, Associate Professor of Epidemiology (Environmental Health). Dr. Deziel was given her award for her work on the study “Exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls and organochlorine pesticides and thyroid cancer in Connecticut women,” published in Environmental Research and subsequent publication, “Exposure to Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers and a Polybrominated Biphenyl and Risk of Thyroid Cancer in Women: Single and Multi-Pollutant Approaches,” in the journal Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention.

The Yale Cancer Center Translational Science Research Prizes were presented to Aaron Ring, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Immunobiology, for his paper in Nature, “IL-18BP is a secreted immune checkpoint and barrier to IL-18 immunotherapy,” and Peter Glazer, MD, PhD, Robert E. Hunter Professor and Chair of Therapeutic Radiology and Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, for their study, also in Nature, “Oncometabolites suppress DNA repair by disrupting local chromatin signaling.”

The Yale Cancer Center Clinical Science Research Prize was awarded to Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Ensign Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), Professor of Pharmacology, Chief of Medical Oncology, and Associate Cancer Center Director for Translational Research for two New England Journal of Medicine manuscripts, “Atezolizumab for First-line Treatment of PD-L1–selected Patients with NSCLC,” and “Osimertinib in Resected EGFR-Mutated Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer.”

The Yale Cancer Center Basic Science Research Prize was presented to Akiko Iwasaki, PhD, Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology. Dr. Iwasaki was cited for her fundamental contributions to our understanding of virus-host interactions and the development of immunotherapies for viral infections and cancer.

“The global pandemic has presented new challenges in our work to accelerate the prevention, early detection & treatment of cancer. Nonetheless, we have remained steadfast to the care of our patients & advancing the mission of discovery & research.” - Dr. Charles Fuchs, Director of Yale Cancer Center.
Anne Chiang, MD, PhD, and Jeremy Kortmansky, MD, Appointed to Leadership Roles

As Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Smilow Cancer Hospital Network continue to mature, we are pleased to announce the promotion of two key faculty leaders: Anne Chiang, MD, PhD, to Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Chief Integration Officer and Jeremy Kortmansky, MD, to Associate Chief Medical Officer for Network Medical Services and Chief Network Officer. In their new roles, both Dr. Chiang and Dr. Kortmansky will partner with the Smilow leadership team to further expand Smilow multidisciplinary cancer services across the Network, with a goal to more seamlessly link our Care Centers to our main campus through robust Smilow-wide programs.

In her new role as Chief Integration Officer reporting to the Smilow Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Chiang will continue to partner with the Vice President of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Network and in collaboration with the Associate Chief Medical Officer for Network Medical Services and Chief Network Officer, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Surgical Specialty Services, and Associate Chief Medical Officer for Radiation Oncology Services to integrate and grow oncology programs throughout the Yale New Haven Health System and with Trinity Health of New England. Dr. Chiang’s priorities include service line strategic planning, program expansion, clinical integration, volume growth, expansion of research capabilities, and facilitative leadership in the execution of the Smilow Signature of Care throughout the Yale New Haven Health System Delivery Networks and at Trinity Health of New England locations. Each of the Oncology Service Line Medical Directors in the Delivery Networks will report to Dr. Chiang.

As Chief Network Officer, Dr. Kortmansky will oversee the Medical Specialty Services for our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers. The

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"I tell my patients to have hope. Over 25 years, I have seen the treatment of lung cancer go from a disease where the tumor has spread, to an era where we have immunotherapies & targeted therapies helping patients live longer," Dr. Roy Herbst, commenting on the occasion of #worldcancerday2021.

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Genetics, gender, and even botched timing on the part of the immune response all appear important in the development of COVID-19. Learn how Akiko Iwasaki, PhD, is leading research to help us better predict who is likely to sail through a bout with COVID-19 and who may need targeted lifesaving care.
Specialty Services for our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers. The Medical Oncology Medical Directors of each of the Care Centers will report to Dr. Kortmansky and he will have oversight over recruitment and onboarding of new medical and hematology faculty, while focusing on mentorship, clinical operations, market assessment, and strategic planning for the medical specialty services within the Care Centers. Dr. Kortmansky’s clinical practice experience at the North Haven Care Center, oncology expertise, knowledge of the CT oncology landscape, collaborative vision, and thoughtful leadership will provide critical contributions to the continued success of our Smilow Cancer Hospital Network.

Please join us in thanking Anne and Jeremy for their contributions to Smilow Cancer Hospital’s success and congratulating them on their new leadership roles. The leadership team at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center is committed to working together with them to support their efforts to ensure Smilow quality cancer care is available to all patients throughout our Network.

Edward Kaftan, PhD, Named Assistant Cancer Center Director for Translational Science

Yale Cancer Center announces the promotion of Dr. Edward Kaftan to Assistant Cancer Center Director for Translational Science. In this role, Dr. Kaftan will be the Lead Scientist for the Office of Translational Research overseeing other members of the team in the execution of translational research priorities, and will be responsible for critically important initiatives to lead and support the growth and development of our capabilities in translational science. Dr. Kaftan has collaborated with Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Associate Director For Translational Research for the last 6 years to advance our Center’s translational research goals. These include both the SPORE in Lung Cancer and Head and Neck Cancer SPORE, development of several other submitted grants and future SPORE applications, oversight of the Translational-Targeted Areas of Research Excellence (T-TARE) process that begun 10 years ago, and other emerging team science initiatives.

“Dr. Kaftan has a strong scientific background and solid track record of academic and industry success in the study of cell biology and signaling. He is an essential member of our team and his contributions and leadership have been critical to our success in securing several multimillion-dollar grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and industry partners, as well as the management of these grants and our T-TARE program,” Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology and Associate Cancer Center Director for Translational Research.

Edward Kaftan, PhD

Congratulations to Chrystal Starbird, PhD, a postdoc in the Cancer Biology Institute laboratory of Kathryn Ferguson, PhD. Chrystal has won one of the inaugural Rising Black Scientist Awards from CellPress. Her winning essay will be published in the February 18, 2021 issue of Cell!

Congratulations to Michael DiGiovanna, MD, PhD, who has been promoted to Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology). Dr. DiGiovanna earned his MD and PhD degrees at Yale and continued his postgraduate training at Yale, including his fellowship in medical oncology, before joining the faculty in 1997. “Mike’s commitment to the care of patients with breast cancer, advancements in breast cancer research including the earliest studies of HER2/neu, and dedication to our mission to educate the future generation of oncologists is unmatched. We are pleased to be able to recognize his efforts and are grateful for his continued efforts at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital,” said Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology.

Edward Kaftan, PhD

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Congratulations to Chrystal Starbird, PhD

Recipient of an inaugural Rising Black Scientist Award from CellPress

Read More

Congratulations to Michael DiGiovanna, MD, PhD

Dr. Michael DiGiovanna
Oncology and Associate Cancer Center Director for Translational Research, said. Our investment of $1.5 million in the T-Tare program has translated into over $40M of cancer funding and more importantly a culture of translational research and direct to patient investigation. “We are thrilled Ed will grow this program even further along with the critical translational initiatives of the Center.”

**Sajid Khan, MD, to Lead New Surgical Oncology Section**

Dr. Sajid Khan has been appointed Section Chief of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) and Mixed Tumors in the Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery. The establishment of the new section brings to fruition many years of program development in gastrointestinal cancer care at Yale. In his new role, effective March 1, 2021, Dr. Khan will be responsible for further developing patient access across the health system, together with partners at the Smilow Cancer Hospital, the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers, and Yale Cancer Center.

Dr. Khan joined the Yale School of Medicine Faculty in 2013. He has since established a busy clinical practice for his expertise in the management of melanoma, benign and malignant diseases of the liver, pancreas and biliary tree. His NIH-funded, clinical translational research, studies variability in tumor biology based on ethnicity and sex. He was promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery (Oncology) in 2019.

**Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers Launched**

As we focus on expanded access to multidisciplinary cancer care throughout the Smilow Cancer Hospital Network, the leadership of Smilow Cancer Hospital will strategize with each of our cancer programs to redesign and launch 15 new Centers for Cancer Care. We are pleased to announce the first of these Centers, the Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers, led by Pamela Kunz, MD. This new Center will work across programs, disciplines, and sites of Smilow Cancer Hospital Care to achieve excellence in clinical practice, research innovation, and advancement of trainees in our GI cancer disciplines across the diverse group of GI malignancies.

Dr. Kunz will be joined by a multispecialty Leadership Cabinet including James Duncan (Radiology and Biomedical Imaging); Dhanpat Jain (Pathology and Digestive Diseases); Priya Jamidar (Digestive Diseases); Kimberly Johung (Therapeutic Radiology); Jeremy Kortmansky (Medical Oncology); John Kunstman (Surgical Oncology); Jill Lacy (Medical Oncology); Maureen Major-Campos (Patient Care Services); Joseph Mendes (Digestive Diseases); Mandar
In addition, this new Center will support the development of key disease-specific GI Cancer programs in Pancreas Cancer with Co-Leaders: Jill Lacy (Medical Oncology) and Mandar Muzumdar (Medical Oncology, Cancer Biology); Advanced Hepatobiliary Diseases with Co-Leaders: Sajid Khan (Surgical Oncology), David Madoff (Interventional Oncology), Stacey Stein (Medical Oncology); Colorectal-Anal Cancer with Co-Leaders: Michael Cecchini (Medical Oncology), Xavier Llor (Digestive Diseases), Vikram Reddy (Colorectal Surgery); and Neuroendocrine Tumors with Co-Leaders: Pamela Kunz (Medical Oncology), Darko Pucar (Nuclear Medicine). In addition, we will be reorganizing our GI Cancer Tumor Boards to better meet the needs of our patients. Our single GI Cancer Tumor Board will be split into Upper GI/Pancreas/NETs, led by Stacey Stein and Colorectal/Anal, co-led by Anne Mongiu, Haddon Pantel, and Amit Khanna. The Liver Cancer Tumor Board will continue to be led by Mario Strazzabosco.

As planned, the Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers will advance important scientific priorities in GI cancers, inclusive of clinical and translational research, population sciences research, basic science research, and integrate research opportunities uniquely relevant to our catchment area population, the residents of Connecticut. Our research innovations will flourish while we simultaneously ensure we are providing the very best in cancer care to our patients throughout the Smilow Cancer Hospital Network and Yale New Haven Health delivery networks. Please reach out to Kevin Vest, MBA, Vice President for Disease Centers, with questions on the new model and plans moving forward for future multidisciplinary centers.

Clarence Sasaki, MD, Retires from Clinical Practice

After more than five decades, Clarence T. Sasaki, MD, Charles W. Ohse Professor of Surgery (Otolaryngology), has retired from his clinical practice. Dr. Sasaki’s prominent career is distinguished by his passion for the academic mission, and as a champion of surgical leadership at Yale. He was the longest serving Chief of Otolaryngology, serving more than 30 years between 1981 and 2012.

“Dr. Sasaki’s legacy as a master surgeon and educator will continue to impact future generations of surgeons for years to come,” said Dr. Lewis First, Dean of the School of Medicine. “His contributions to the field of otolaryngology, his impact on academic medicine, and his dedication to patient care have been truly remarkable.”
will continue to impact future generations of Otolaryngologists with the annual Clarence T. Sasaki Lectureship, and through his research. We are grateful for his many contributions to the Department of Surgery,” said Dr. Benjamin Judson, Division Chief of Otolaryngology. Dr. Sasaki continues his tenure with emeritus status, and with a new appointment in the Division of Otolaryngology as a Senior Research Scientist.

**iLab Announces New Core**

As of February 1st, iLab, a web-based, core facility management platform used by over 200 research institutions worldwide, is now available via the YCC Functional Genomics Core in addition to the Rapid Case Ascertainment, Yale Center for Precision Cancer Modeling, and Biostatistics Shared Resources. The program launched on December 14th with great success and Yale Cancer Center members have begun requesting services. More information is available on the YCC iLab website. Please contact Joseph Salemme with questions or sign in to iLab now.

**NCCN Conference**

One of the benefits of institutional membership in NCCN is that all staff employed at NCCN Member Institutions receive free registration to the NCCN 2021 Virtual Annual Conference, which will take place March 18 – 20, 2021 and will feature over 35 educational sessions covering a range of topics including updates to NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology; new and emerging therapies, controversies in treatment, and best practices in the delivery of oncology care; issues surrounding HPV vaccination; racial disparities in guideline-adherent cancer care; and more.

The three-day virtual event will also include a mix of challenging case reviews, interactive polling, moderated Q&A, and the chance to view the NCCN Virtual Poster Exhibition Hall.

To register for the NCCN 2021 Virtual Annual Conference, visit NCCN.org/conference2021-summary. To view the complete agenda, click here.

**Notables**

**Amer Zeidan, MBBS**, Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology), has been appointed Director of CME for the section of hematology. In his new role, he is overseeing physician education planning, both internally and externally. We are grateful for his leadership, and have already benefited from his foresight and organization with the launch of the Yale ASH 2020 CME Seminar Series, a six-week education session featuring hematology faculty from January 15-February 19.
The Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Program (BMSF DCTCDP) has announced its National Advisory Committee (NAC) Members, including Yale Cancer Center’s Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology and Associate Cancer Center Director for Translational Research. The BMSF DCTCDP is a 2-year program designed to support the career development of early stage investigator (as defined by NIH) physicians underrepresented in medicine, or, physicians who have a demonstrated commitment to increasing diversity in clinical research, to become independent clinical trial investigators who are engaged in advancing health equity through their research and mentoring. Applications will be accepted through July 2, 2021. Learn more, and access the application.

Valentina Greco, PhD, Carolyn Walsh Slayman Professor of Genetics, has received the 2021 Momentum Award from the International Society for Stem Cell Research, which recognizes the exceptional achievements of an investigator whose innovative research has established a major area of stem cell-related research with a strong trajectory for future success. Dr. Greco was also recently named 2021 president-elect of the Society of Investigative Dermatology.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society highlighted Amer Zeidan, MBBS, as a “trailblazing researcher” in their 2020 Annual Report for contributing to unstoppable research during a challenging year.

Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, has received a grant for $150,000 from The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation to support his team’s research on targeting NAD metabolism in pediatric brain tumors.

Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine (Hematology) and Chief of Hematology, was awarded a 2-year, $250,000/year grant by the Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation entitled “Exploiting DNA repair defects in IDH mutant MDS via combination therapies.” Together, Dr. Halene and Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, and their respective labs will leverage their expertise in Myelodysplasia and DNA repair research to develop novel combination therapies targeting the DNA damage repair defect inherent to IDH mutant neoplasias. The ultimate goal is to identify the most effective therapeutic strategies to advance to the clinic to eradicate the malignant clone.

Beth Jones, PhD, MPH, presented at the AACR Virtual Meeting on COVID-19 and Cancer earlier this week on “Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) barriers as Predictors of Intent to Vaccinate for COVID-19 in a vulnerable population.”

Vikram Reddy, MD, PhD, has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Surgery (Colon and Rectal Surgery). Since joining the Yale School of Medicine Faculty in 2009, Dr. Reddy has established a national reputation for his expertise in chronic inflammatory bowel disease and the laparoscopic management and screening of anorectal cancer. He was appointed to the role of

Join us at noon today for @YaleCancer virtual Grand Rounds. @AnneChiangmd presents "Transformation and Quality: Building a Cancer Network" and Dr. Francesca Montanari discusses "Post Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorders."

A new study by @AjayMalhotraRad in the Journal of the American College of Radiology shows standardizing imaging evaluation after livercancer treatment could save more than $575 million annually.

New research led by Dr. Markus Müschen @MuschenLab & team discovered a mechanism to overcome drug-resistance in B-cell AcuteLymphoblasticLeukemia. The study was published today in @PNASNews.

Celebrating our commitment to safety, compassionate care & research excellence! Thank you to Dr. Akkiko Iwasaki @VirusesImmunity for helping to highlight world-class cancer care @SmilowCancer & @YaleCancer.

Dr. Andrew Dhanasopon will review how our thoracic surgery team uses VATS for patients with lungcancer on today’s Yale Cancer Answers at 7:30pm on @wnpr.

Thanks to a $2.8 million grant from @NIH, read how @MarcusBosenberg & Dr. Kathryn Miller-Jensen are understanding through "cellular chatter" when a patient’s tumor could be analyzed and respond to treatment.

We are pleased to announce that Mark Lemmon, PhD @LemmonFerguson has recently been named Chair of the Editorial. Board for the Biochemical Journal @PPPublishing Dr. Lemmon is leader of our Cancer Biology Institute @YaleWestCampus.

Calendar

Yale ASH 2020 Highlights
February 5; 12:00 PM
Pediatric Leukemia & Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia
Nina Kadan-Lottick, MD, MSPH & Nikolai Podoltsev, MD, PhD
Learn More

Yale Cancer Answers
Employee Profile: Sandra Johnson

Since joining Yale New Haven Hospital more than 31 years ago as a Unit Hostess, Sandra Johnson has always put patients first and has never hesitated to offer a helping hand.

As a Patient Care Associate (PCA) with Gynecologic Oncology, Sandra meets with patients, checks on them, and attends rounds. Throughout her shift, she stops in to chat and makes sure patients are comfortable and have everything they need. She also checks vital signs, performs EKGs and finger sticks, and places orders for lab work. Pre-COVID, when her unit was located on NP 14, she assisted GynOnc patients who were admitted for chemotherapy or were recovering from surgery, as well as those who were transitioning to end-of-life care. “My patients become family and we become their family,” Sandra says. Her compassion was inherited from her mother, Eujenny Schloss Anderson, an Environmental Associate at YNHH for 37 years, who believed in treating everyone with kindness.

“It’s impossible not to notice Sandra’s amazing way with her patients,” says Brianna Lutz, BSN, RN, OCN, Assistant Patient Services Manager. “She truly forms special bonds with all of her patients and treats them all as her own family members. Even on our busiest days, Sandra takes the time to make every patient feel like they are her only patient. She is exceptional.”

Since March 2020 when COVID-19 really began to impact Connecticut and Yale New Haven Hospital, Sandra was asked to support the Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic (SREC) as a Clinical Secretary. She continues to enjoy the frequent interactions with patients, helping direct them to where they need to go. Originally, this assignment was only supposed to be for six weeks, but Sandra will be manning the front desk of the clinic through the duration of COVID.

Brianna continues, “Sandra is the face of our clinic and you can often find her helping to walk patients to the correct destination if they’ve gotten lost in the relocation. Sandra never hesitates to jump into her position and help out.”

Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program
February 8; 11:00 AM
Investigating Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor Use in Mutant IDH Cancer
Jonathan Dow
Learn More

Pathology Research in Progress Talk
February 9; 9:30 AM
Robert Means, PhD & Kenneth Hoehn, DPhil
Learn More

Human and Translational Immunology Seminar Series
February 9; 4:00 PM
Single-cell Antigen-specific Activation Landscape of CD19 CAR T Cell Infusion Product Predicts Clinical Response and Relapse in Patients with ALL
Rong Fan, PhD
Learn More

Yale Cancer Center Seminar
February 10; 12:00 PM
Providing Palliative Care for Patients with Cancer: Challenges and Rewards
Serife Eti, MD, FAAFP, FAAHPM
Learn More

Yale General Internal Medicine Clinical Conference Meeting
February 11; 7:30 AM
Elizabeth H. Holt, MD, PhD & Jonathan Kirsch, MD
Learn More

Pathology Grand Rounds
February 11; 12:30 PM
Drug and Drug Target Discovery for Friedreich Ataxia using Random shRNA Selection
Robert Wilson, MD, PhD
Learn More

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Seminar
February 11; 2:30 PM
Learn More

Smilow Wellness Workshops Presents
February 11; 4:00 PM
Managing Stress and Building Resilience During...
gotten lost in the relocation. Sandra never hesitates to jump into her ‘PCA’ shoes and help out drawing labs (she is simply the best “stick”) and getting EKGs for patients in SREC. Recently, Sandra has taken on the responsibility of mailing out pulse oximeters to COVID-positive oncology patients receiving daily monitoring calls – she even walks the packages to FedEx herself to ensure timely delivery! She is air traffic control for a busy clinic that is learning to navigate a new normal. Sandra makes every patient feel at ease as she greets them and we would be lost without her!"

#OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS to Katarzyna Kanarek!

Yale Cancer Center & Smilow Cancer Hospital’s #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Katarzyna (Kathy) Kanarek, Supervisor from the Clinical Trial Tissue Services (CTTS) Laboratory. Kathy went above and beyond to put a potential clinical trial patient first! While the CTTS was scheduled to be closed in observance of the University recess, Kathy reported to work to fulfill an urgent tissue request needed for eligibility when the patient consented to a clinical trial during this time. Kathy moved mountains to coordinate the various steps of the process including tissue pathology review and shipment in an expedited manner to ensure it was received by the sponsor’s lab before they too closed for the holiday. Kathy’s efforts made it possible to screen this patient for the clinical trial showcasing her dedication to Yale Cancer Center and its patients. Thank you, Kathy!

Yale Cancer Center & Smilow Cancer Hospital’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. If you are interested in submitting a nomination, please complete this nomination form and return it to the Director’s Office c/o Anna Raso.

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Submissions

Please submit your recent publications, awards, and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Communications

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Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
February 16; 10:15 AM
Peining Li, PhD

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Yale Cancer Center Seminar
February 16; 12:00 PM
Charles Fuchs, MD, MPH

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Pathology Grand Rounds
February 18; 12:30 PM
Ruslan Medzhitov, PhD

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Cancer Genetics and Prevention Seminar
February 18; 2:30 PM

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GI Cancer Program Meeting Series
February 18; 4:15 PM

Learn More

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2021
February 18; 5:00 PM

Learn More

Colon Cancer Screening
Xavier Llor, MD, PhD

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Patterns of Treatment with Everolimus Exemestane in Hormone Receptor-positive HER2-Negative Metastatic Breast Cancer in the Era of Targeted Therapy
Breast Cancer Research.
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Valerian and Valeric Acid Inhibit Growth of Breast Cancer Cells Possibly by Mediating Epigenetic Modifications
Scientific Reports.
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Drugging the 'Undruggable' MYCN Oncogenic Transcription Factor: Overcoming Previous Obstacles to Impact Childhood Cancers
Cancer Research, Online ahead of print.
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Biomarker Discovery in Immunotherapy-treated Melanoma Patients with Imaging Mass Cytometry
Clinical Cancer Research, Online ahead of print.
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A Randomized Trial of Physical Activity for Cognitive Functioning in Breast Cancer Survivors: Rationale and Study Design of I Can! Improving Cognition After Cancer
Contemporary Clinical Trials, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Radiation Therapy for Small-Cell Lung Cancer: ASCO Guideline Endorsement of an ASTRO Guideline
Journal of Clinical Oncology, Online ahead of print.
Read More
Ren M, Zhang S, Zhang Q, Ma S (2021)

Gaussian Graphical Model-based Heterogeneity Analysis via Penalized Fusion
Biometrics, Online ahead of print.
Read More
Song E, Mao T, Dong H, Boisserand LSB, Antila S, Bosenberg M, Vihola J. The oncology journal A (2021)
Publisher Correction: VEGF-C-driven Lymphatic Drainage Enables Immunosurveillance of Brain Tumours

Read More

Non-coding RNA Crosstalk with Nuclear Receptors in Liver Disease

Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA) - Molecular Basis of Disease, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Management of Refractory Ascites Due to Portal Hypertension: Current Status

Radiology, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Genomic Testing in Patients with Metastatic Castration-resistant Prostate Cancer: A Pragmatic Guide for Clinicians

European Urology, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Effectiveness of Eribulin in Metastatic Breast Cancer: 10 Years of Real-World Clinical Experience in the United States

Advances in Therapy, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Exome Sequencing Identifies SLIT2 Variants in Primary CNS Lymphoma

British Journal of Haematology, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Intermediate-dose Anticoagulation, Aspirin, and In-hospital Mortality in COVID-19: a Propensity Score-matched Analysis

American Journal of Hematology, Online ahead of print.
Read More

Funding and Award Opportunities

Yale Cancer Systems Biology - 2021 Pilot Grants
We are soliciting applications from Yale researchers who will pursue
We are soliciting applications from Yale researchers who will pursue either independent projects or collaborative work with one or more CaSB@Yale labs. Contact Benita Palmer for more information.

**Application Deadline:** February 10, 2021

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**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 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
Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists at the Yale School of Medicine (FRCS)
Made possible by a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and funding from the Yale School of Medicine, the FRCS program provides supplemental research support to early-career physician-scientists and scientists who face significant caregiving demands. The goal of the program is to retain such scientists in the research enterprise.

**Application Deadline:** February 25, 2021

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ASTRO Residents/Fellows in Radiation Oncology Biology Seed Grant
This grant is designed to fund novel projects, and support residents or fellows who are interested in radiation-oncology related basic science, or clinical research.

**Application Deadline:** February 26, 2021

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ASTRO Residents/Fellows in Radiation Oncology Seed Grant
This grant is designed to fund novel projects, and support residents or fellows performing biological research in radiation oncology and/or cancer focused sciences.

**Application Deadline:** February 26, 2021

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ASTRO-AAPM Physics Residents/Postdoctoral Fellows Seed Grant
This grant is a joint effort to advance the field of radiation oncology through the support of talented early-career scientists performing physics and radiation oncology-related research. The aim of this grant is to support the next generation of researchers.

**Application Deadline:** February 26, 2021

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ASTRO-BCRF Career Development Award to Cure Breast Cancer
The aim of the CDA is to support the next generation of researchers and to significantly improve outcomes and quality of life for breast cancer patients.

**Application Deadline:** February 26, 2021

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ASTRO-PCF Career Development Award to End Prostate Cancer
The aim of the CDA is to support the next generation of researchers and to significantly improve outcomes and quality of life for prostate cancer patients.

**Application Deadline:** February 26, 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
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

DeLuca Awards

The DeLuca Center for Innovation in Hematology Research was formed thanks to a generous donation by the Frederick 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.

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

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

The Mark Foundation Endeavor Awards

These grants are awarded to teams of three or more investigators to generate and integrate data from diverse lines of research and
transform those insights into advances for cancer patients that could not be achieved by individual efforts.

**Application Deadline: March 1, 2021**

**International Research Scientist Development Award (IRSDA) (K01)**
The purpose of this Award is to provide support and protected time (three to five years) to advanced postdoctoral U.S. research scientists and recently-appointed U.S. junior faculty for an intensive, mentored research career development experience in a low- or middle-income country leading to an independently-funded research career focused on global health.

**Application Deadline: March 9, 2021**

**Department of Defense (DoD) Breast Cancer Awards**
- **Breast Cancer, Breakthrough Award Levels 1 and 2 - Application Deadline:** March 11, 2021, [Read More](#)
- **Breast Cancer, Era of Hope Scholar Award - Application Deadline:** March 11, 2021, [Read More](#)
- **Breast Cancer, Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award - Application Deadline:** March 12, 2021, [Read More](#)
- **Breast Cancer, Innovator Award - Application Deadline:** March 12, 2021, [Read More](#)
- **Breast Cancer, Breakthrough Award Level 3 - Application Deadline:** March 12, 2021, [Read More](#)
- **Breast Cancer, Breakthrough Award Level 4 - Application Deadline:** March 12, 2021, [Read More](#)

**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**

**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**

**Alex’s Lemonade Stand 2021 Reach Grant**
The purpose of the Reach Grant is to advance ALSF’s mission to find cures and better treatments for childhood cancers by providing support...
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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