September 4, 2020

Announcements

Dr. Elizabeth Berger Joins Breast Center
We are pleased to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Berger, Assistant Professor of Surgery (Oncology) to The Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Berger received her Medical Degree from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine where she was also a Clinical Research Scholar. She recently completed a fellowship in Breast Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and was selected as the Breast Cancer Alliance Fellow while at Memorial Sloan Kettering. She received her Master of Science in Health Services and Outcomes Research from Northwestern University and did a General Surgery Residency at Loyola University Medical Center.

Dr. Berger was an American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Scholar-in-Residence from 2014 to 2016. Her focus at the ACS was on breast cancer research and outcomes. Her research focuses on improving health outcomes for women with breast cancer, including perioperative surgical quality, cancer care quality measure development, and assessment of national accreditation in breast cancer surgery. Dr. Berger has published in several high impact journals such as JAMA, Annals of Surgery, and the Journal of the American College of Surgeons, as well as contributed chapters to several surgical textbooks. She has also served on national quality committees, including a member of the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC).

T-TARE Awarded
Elias Lolis, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology, has been awarded a Yale Cancer Center T-TARE Award to support his project, "CXCR5-targeted CAR-T for Aggressive T Cell Lymphomas." In alignment with the collaborative, translational focus of the T-TARE Program, Dr. Lolis will collaborate with Samuel Katz, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology, Francine Foss, MD, Professor of Medicine (Hematology), and Jason Cai, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging. The goal of the T-TARE Program, led by Roy Herbst, MD, PhD, Associate Cancer Center Director for Translational Research, and Edward Kaftan, PhD, Associate Director for Translational Research Administration, is to support research that will develop into a multi-investigator grant submission to the National Cancer Institute, such as a Program Project Grant or SPORE grant.

YCC Team Challenge Awards Presented
Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the 2020 Team Challenge Award recipients. The Team Challenge Awards are a new internal grant program focused on advancing the work of teams who seek to address a fundamental research priority that aligns and/or has the potential to successfully extend YCC strategic priorities. This year’s funding was awarded to:

News Center

'No One is Immune': Boseman’s Death Shows Colon Cancer Affecting Young and Black Americans
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When COVID-19 and Cancer Collide: What Nurses Should Know
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Grand Rounds Reconvenes on Tuesday
Please join us on Tuesday, September 8th as we kick off Grand Rounds at noon with a presentation on the State of Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. We will meet weekly at noon for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year and look forward to a variety of clinical and scientific presentations.

Ned Sharpless to Join Smilow Town Hall
On Wednesday, September 16 at 5pm, Ned Sharpless, MD, Director of the National Cancer Institute, will join us for our first Smilow Town Hall of the fall semester to talk about the NCI’s priorities for the coming year and collaborations with NCI Comprehensive Cancer Centers during the COVID pandemic. Please mark your calendars to join us via Zoom. As background, the NCI recently released their annual budget plan for consideration to the legislature, which focuses on accelerating cancer research and features four special scientific topics: cancer drug resistance, molecular diagnostics for cancer treatment, obesity and cancer, and cancer survivorship. The plan summary is available online for your review.

Margaret Gilshannon, MHA, Named Senior Director of Finance & Administration for Integrated Business Operations
Yale School of Medicine leadership is moving toward a business support model that will standardize the business operations of clinical departments by integrating these functions across multiple departments under one integrated business operation. Consistent with that directive, Yale Cancer Center will begin moving forward with integrating departmental business operations with the Department of Pathology.

With this integration, Margaret Gilshannon, MHA, Senior Director of Finance & Administration for the Department of Pathology will formally expand her role to provide strategic administrative leadership to Yale Cancer Center and will work to align the administrative and financial processes and infrastructure in the department to the expanded group. Margaret has been appointed Senior Director of Finance & Administration for the Department of Pathology and Yale Cancer Center.

This integration is part of a broader initiative across YSM Business Operations to create a standard organizational infrastructure that will create opportunities for administrative and financial support structures and subject matter expertise that streamlines processes and meets financial, operational, and strategic support needs to integrate and implement a cross-departmental infrastructure.

Cross-departmental integration of business operations will enable all departments to share administrative and financial support resources while maintaining academic autonomy. Departments will benefit from having a greater depth of staff and subject matter experts while eliminating single points of failure. With this new support structure, we...
will be able to effectively support the growth and development of our clinical, research, and education missions.

I fully support this integration of business operations and look forward to a smooth transition. We are truly pleased to welcome Margaret to our Yale Cancer Center team.

**EPIC Storyboard**

We are pleased to offer several Epic drop-in sessions to work directly with John Murray, Principal Trainer and Instructional Designer. Sessions are available every Tuesday from 1-3pm to help go through the new layout of storyboard and address additional personalization needs. Please sign up for sessions through the Doodle Poll or email John Murray directly.

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**Notables**

**Meena Moran, MD**, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and Director of the Breast Radiotherapy Program, has been appointed **Vice Chair of the NCCN Breast Cancer Panel**. The Panel is charged with establishing the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) for Breast Cancer, a free resource for patients and a highly access resource around the world. The breast guidelines were downloaded more than 619,000 times in 2019.

**Carrie Lucas, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Immunobiology and a member of the Cancer Immunology Research Program, has been awarded the **Christina Fleischmann Award to Young Women Investigators** from the International Cytokine and Interferon Society. This award is dedicated to the memory of outstanding interferon research scientist Christina Fleischmann, and recipients are young women investigators who demonstrate excellence in cytokine, chemokine and interferon biology. Dr. Lucas leads a laboratory devoted to discovering new and translationally relevant principles of immunology by defining and studying novel monogenic human immune disorders.

**Aaron Ring, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Immunobiology and a member of the Cancer Immunology Research Program, has won the **International Cytokine and Interferon Society Milstein Young Investigator Award**. Recipients of this award are young investigators who have received their PhD or MD in the last 10 years, and have demonstrated notable contributions to either basic or clinical research.

**The Genetics, Genomics, and Epigenetics Research Program** is proud to welcome **C. Patrick Lusk, PhD**, and **Minghao Zhong, MD, PhD**, to its program. Dr. Lusk is an Associate Professor of Cell Biology. His lab’s primary interest is to understand the fundamental mechanisms that establish and maintain the biochemical identity of the nucleus. Dr. Lusk has been examining the nuclear envelope, nuclear pore complexes (NPCs), and nuclear transport since his graduate work. This pioneering work has played an important role in establishing new conceptual paradigms in the field and is fueling interest in exploring the relevance of this pathway to cancer.

Dr. Zhong is an Associate Professor of Pathology. He is a physician-scientist with major interests in decoding the molecular blueprints of cancers and developing novel cancer therapeutics. During his residency, Dr. Zhong studied a unique subtype of renal cell carcinoma (RCC), Xp11 translocation

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September is Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month, and annually nearly 12,000 men and 35,000 women are diagnosed with thyroid cancer, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Our Endocrine Program team is devoted to providing compassionate, state-of-the-art care to patients with evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of both cancerous and benign tumors of the thyroid and parathyroid, as well as adrenal glands, pituitary gland, hypothalamus, and pancreas.

We are pleased to announce that Catherine Wei, MD, was recently appointed Instructor of Medicine (Hematology), and Kathleen Fenn, MD, named Instructor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Trumbull.

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and it’s important to note that early detection is critical to long-term survival. Prostate Cancer is the second most common type of cancer afflicting men in the
Out of the Blue Thanks!

Yale Cancer Center & Smilow Cancer Hospital’s #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized the following employees from the Halene lab: Rana Gbyli, Research Assistant; Padmavathi Mamillapalli, Research Assistant 1 MS; and Amisha Patel, Research Assistant.

This team, who runs the Hematology tissue bank and helps out the Clinical Research Support Lab (CRSL) wherever possible without hesitation, was recently recognized when they rose to the challenge to process samples from patients diagnosed with COVID. They diligently created safe practices to process these samples and maintain a safe work environment. At the same time, they continued to support valuable clinical trial research that could not be paused. As a result, important insights have been gained about COVID coagulopathy, platelet dysfunction, and other disease pathophysiology. They also made large quantities of disinfectant and provided 70% ethanol spray bottles for disinfection of surfaces to anyone who needed it outside of their own laboratory to stay safe and keep the Yale work environment clean. Thank you for your incredible efforts!

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.

Recent Publications


Trant, A. A., Walz, L., Allen, W., DeJesus, J., Hatzis, C., & Silber, A. United States, and Yale Urology and Yale Cancer Center are home to many preeminent researchers in the area of prostate cancer, providing patients access to the most advanced drug and treatment therapies available in New England at Smilow Cancer Hospital.


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### Funding Opportunities

**COVID Gap Funding**

The purpose of this RFP for COVID supplemental funding is to provide...
Secondary Analysis and Integration of Existing Data to Elucidate the Genetic Architecture of Cancer Risk and Related Outcomes (R01 and R21)

Through these FOAs, the NCI along with the NHGRI and NIDCR encourages submission of applications proposing to conduct secondary data analysis and integration of existing datasets and database resources, with the ultimate aim to elucidate the genetic architecture of cancer risk and related outcomes.

**Application Deadlines:** October 5, 2020 (R01) and October 16, 2020

AACR-AstraZeneca Stimulating Therapeutic Advances through Research Training (START) Grants

These unique three-year grants of $225,000 provide postdoctoral or clinical fellows with the opportunity to conduct research in both academia and industry. Proposals should focus on DNA Damage Response or epigenetics in cancer. Selected fellows will spend one year at an AstraZeneca facility.

**Application Deadline:** October 6

2021 Szent-Györgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research

This annual prize honors scientists who have made an original discovery or breakthrough in scientific understanding that has had a lasting impact on the cancer field and a direct impact of saving people’s lives.

**Deadline:** October 15, 2020

Fertility Status as a Marker for Overall Health (R01 and R21)

The purpose of this FOA is to support research that explores the premise that fertility status can be a marker for overall health.

**Application Deadline:** October 19, 2020

NCI Clinical and Translational Exploratory/Developmental Studies (R21)

This FOA supports preclinical and early phase clinical research, as well as correlative studies, directly related to advancements in cancer treatment, diagnosis, prevention, symptom management, or reduction of cancer health disparities

**Application Deadline:** October 20, 2020

Aging, Cancer-Initiating Cells, and Cancer Development (U01)

Through this FOA, the NCI and National Institute on Aging will promote research to advance the understanding of the mechanistic factors and cellular interactions during aging that contribute to cancer initiation.

**Application Deadline:** October 27, 2020

Visualization Methods and Tools Development for Enhancing Cancer Moonshot Data (R33 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The purpose of this FOA is to stimulate the development of new cancer data visualization methods and tools that have the potential to make data aligned with the Cancer Moonshot more explorable and interpretable by the broader cancer research community

**Application Deadline:** October 30, 2020

Innovative Research in Cancer Nanotechnology (IRCN) (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
This FOA encourages applications promoting transformative discoveries in cancer biology and/or oncology through the use of nanotechnology.

**Application Deadline:** November 4, 2020

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### NCI Outstanding Investigator Award (R35)

The objective of the NCI OIA is to provide long-term support to accomplished investigators with outstanding records of cancer research productivity who propose to conduct exceptional research.

**Application Deadline:** November 6, 2020

Read More >>

### NCI Pediatric In Vivo Testing Program (U01)

This FOA is for Research Teams to form the NCI Pediatric in Vivo Testing Program (henceforth termed the Ped-In Vivo-TP).

**Application Deadline:** November 9, 2020

Read More >>

### 3D Technologies to Accelerate HTAN Atlas Building Efforts (UH2)

Through this FOA, the NCI, as a part of its Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot Initiative, invites submission of applications requesting support for projects that will accelerate cancer research.

**Application Deadline:** November 9, 2020

Read More >>

### Core Infrastructure Support for Cancer Epidemiology Cohorts (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Through this FOA, the NCI encourages grant applications for support of the core functions of Cancer Epidemiology Cohorts (CECs), as well as methodological research. This FOA is intended to support the maintenance of existing CECs infrastructure and resource sharing with broader scientific communities.

**Application Deadline:** November 12, 2020

Read More >>

### DoD Rare Cancers Research Program

These FOAs aim to greatly improve outcomes for people with rare cancer through discovery and community building, and expansion of knowledge across the cancer landscape.

- **Concept Award – Letter of Intent Due:** November 12, 2020
- **Idea Development Award – Letter of Intent Due:** November 12, 2020
- **Resource and Community Development Award – Letter of Intent Due:** November 12, 2020

Read More >>

### The NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award (F99/K00)

The purpose of the NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award (F99/K00) is to encourage and retain outstanding graduate students recognized by their institutions for their high potential and strong interest in pursuing careers as independent cancer researchers.

**Application Deadline:** November 18, 2020

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### Limited Competition: Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (U24 Clinical Trial Required)

The purpose of this limited competition FOA is to continue support for the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study as a resource enabling broad studies on the long-term effects of cancer and its associated therapies on survivors of pediatric and adolescent cancers.

**Application Deadline:** November 18, 2020

Read More >>
Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network (U19)
The overall goal of this FOA is to improve the treatment of adult glioblastoma (GBM) by developing novel effective agents that can cross the blood brain barrier (BBB) and testing them in the clinic.
**Application Deadline:** November 19, 2020
[Read More >>](#)

Alex's Lemonade Stand RUNX1 Early Career Investigator Grant
The RUNX1 Early Career Investigator grant is a 3-year award designed to fund research in strategies leading to the development of therapies to prevent the transition from pre-leukemia to leukemia for patients with RUNX1-FPD.
**Application Deadline:** December 16, 2020
[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 >>](#)

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 mm³) tumors \textit{in vivo} to clinical utility.
**Application Deadline:** February 10, 2021
[Read More >>](#)