November 13, 2020

Announcements

New Chief of Endocrine Surgery Appointed
Dr. Nita Ahuja has announced that Jennifer B. Ogilvie, MD, will join the Department of Surgery as Section Chief of Endocrine Surgery, beginning on December 1. Dr. Ogilvie joins Yale via New York University, where she practiced across the health system, and led several clinical research initiatives to evaluate disparities in surgical care. Her medical education research analyzes the impact of resilience and teamwork on patient quality and safety. In her new role, she will practice along with endocrine surgeons Dr. Courtney Gibson and Dr. Grace Lee at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Dr. Ogilvie has long identified with Yale and New Haven—growing up, her father Don Ogilvie was a founding associate dean at Yale School of Management. Dr. Ogilvie graduated from Yale University with a bachelor’s degree in American Studies before pursuing her medical degree at Harvard Medical School. Prior to her tenure at NYU, Dr. Ogilvie was an Assistant Professor of Surgery and Bioengineering at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, following her surgical residency and endocrine surgery fellowship training at the University of California, San Francisco.

Dr. Avanti Verma Joins Head & Neck Cancers Program
I am pleased to announce Avanti Verma, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery (Otolaryngology), has joined the Head & Neck Cancers from the desk of Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center and Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer Hospital

News Center

High-Tech Mammography Van Ready To Hit The Road
Helping Hospitalized Patients Vote
Dr. Verma’s clinical focus is on the surgical treatment of patients with both benign and cancerous tumors of the head and neck, including thyroid and salivary diseases. Her clinical practice ranges from advanced reconstruction to minimally invasive techniques such as robotic surgery to prioritize the aesthetic and functional outcome of her patients.

Dr. Verma completed her undergraduate studies here at Yale University. She went on to obtain her medical degree and complete her residency training in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at New York University. During her residency, she developed an interest in caring for head and neck cancer patients and was inducted into the esteemed Gold Humanism Honor Society. She continued her training at Emory University where she completed a fellowship in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology with Microvascular Reconstruction.

CT Lions Fund Eye Research
The Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation has awarded a grant to Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven and Yale Cancer Center. The 1-year, $135,000 award will fund uveal melanoma research by Renelle Lim, MD, Director of the Ocular Oncology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The grant will fund research to identify uveal melanoma when it affects the rest of the body and appears outside of the eye. Researchers will study the tumor mutations, looking for common components and discovering genetic makeup of the evolving melanoma. In addition to guiding and improving therapeutics, researchers hope that these advancements will lead to eye preservation and improvement in overall survival.

Notables

Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS, Associate Dean for Health Equity Research and Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity for Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital, has been named Co-Chair of President-Elect Joe Biden’s Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board. Learn More

Marianne Davies, DNP, MSN, RN, APRN, CNS-BC, ACNP-BC, AOCNP, FAAN, was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) in an online ceremony on Saturday, October 31. The FAAN is one of the highest awards for nursing.

George Goshua, MD, clinical fellow in the medical oncology service at the Yale Cancer Center, was inducted as a Fellow into the American College of Surgeons (FACS). The designation recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the surgical profession. Read More

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook
As a nurse practitioner with the Thoracic Oncology Program, #SmilowStar Marianne Davies, DNP, MSN, RN, APRN, CNS-BC, ACNP-BC, AOCNP, supports patients with lung cancer, managing their care from diagnosis through the trajectory of their illness. Whether going through standard therapies or clinical trials, she aims to keep patients safely on treatments for increased survival and quality of life. Read More
George Goshua, MD, clinical fellow in the medical oncology/hematology fellowship program, was selected as the Emergency Department’s Consultant of the Month to celebrate his compassion, professionalism, and teamwork with the ED staff. Thank you, Dr. Goshua, for your extraordinary representation of Smilow and care of patients in the ED.

Xavier Llor, MD, PhD, and Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS, will present at the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable 80% in Every Community Conference on November 16 and 17. Dr. Llor will participate in a session on State-Based Colorectal Cancer Screening Updates & Innovations and Dr. Nunez-Smith will participate in a discussion on Systemic Racism & Impacts to Health, Health Care, and Colorectal Cancer.

The Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program welcomes Guoping Cai, MD, Professor of Pathology. Dr. Cai evaluates values of biochemical or molecular markers for diagnosis of pancreatic adenocarcinoma and prognostic assessment of pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. Through his research, he found that identification of KRAS mutation as well as SMAD4 immunostaining in the biopsy specimens help render a diagnosis of pancreatic adenocarcinoma in cases with indeterminate biopsy.

In the study of lung cancers, Dr. Cai has studied the validity of molecular testing using cytological specimens such as fine needle aspirates and pleural effusion specimens. He is also interested in identifying morphologic features and molecular alterations underlying the mechanisms of acquired resistance in target-therapy or immunotherapy.

Employee Profile: Charlotte Beales

While working at Double H Ranch, a Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, throughout undergrad at Union College in NY, Charlotte Beales was introduced to the field of Child Life and knew that this was what she wanted to do. She received a Master’s degree in Child Life from the Bank Street College of Education and interned at two NY hospitals before becoming certified as a CCLS through the Association of Child Life Professions. When she started with thoracic in 1999, she joined the team because this population of patients needed the most additional supportive intervention and management, said Marianne. “I was the first nurse practitioner in outpatient care in the clinic and now there are more than 60 advanced practice providers – which is just incredible.”

Her colleagues in Thoracic Oncology shared, “Over the last six months, since Smilow and the rest of the hospital made drastic changes to ensure the safety of patients and providers from COVID-19, Marianne has worked tirelessly serving the needs of the thoracic medical oncology team. She has worked fully on-site since the beginning of the pandemic, while also covering for two colleagues who have been on maternity leave over the last several months. Marianne has supported and met the needs of both her patients and interdisciplinary team members, all the while maintaining such a positive and supportive attitude throughout the process. We are so lucky to have her expertise and compassion as part of our team.”

Within the last year, Marianne has expanded her clinical role to support some of the solid tumor teams, including genitourinary, gastrointestinal, melanoma, and renal. While she is most impassioned for lung cancer, she has found melanoma to be equally as rewarding as it also is experiencing exciting advancements in novel therapeutics and targeted immunotherapies.

Marianne has been active in publishing and presenting throughout her career demonstrating how nurse practitioners can make an impact on cancer care beyond their own center, nationally and internationally. She appreciates the opportunities she has received from Yale Cancer Center over the years, “It is such a value at Smilow to have access to really rich resources. I appreciate the collaboration among providers, social workers, the clinical trials support team, pharmacy, who are all involved in supporting the patient journey.”
As the Certified Child Life Specialist for the Smilow Pediatric Hem/Onc Program, Charlotte’s job is to educate and support children that are undergoing treatment for various types of cancer and blood disorders, while also caring for the family unit. Pre-COVID-19 this was done through clinical interventions and different forms of play that helped to connect patients and families undergoing shared experiences. Now she relies more on one-on-one patient interactions and the assistance of technology to make connections between peers. She also created a mobile desk to ensure patients, families, and staff can always access her. She is still able to make her signature ‘blood soup’ which she uses to explain the difference between healthy blood and sick blood.

“A large part of what I do is demystify the diagnosis and explain that no, it is not contagious, and that no one caused this to happen,” said Charlotte. “For example, with leukemia, I tell them that cancer cells are sick cells that grew too fast and got in the way of the other healthy cells doing their jobs and that the doctors have a special plan just for their body. This takes a lot of the fear away, knowing we are being upfront and honest with kids and that we will let them know if the plan changes.”

Charlotte shares information in an age appropriate way so that kids can discuss it with their family and friends in a way that makes it less scary for everyone. “Adults have a lot of weight around the word cancer, but to a kid, it is often just another word. When I see someone come back through the HEROS Clinic and they only remember me as the lady that was nice to them, not what they went through, then I know I have done my job.”

Nina Kadan-Lottick, MD, MSPH, Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Hematology/Oncology) and Medical Director of the HEROS Clinic, commented, “Charlotte is a child life expert and comforts children getting procedures, teaches them about their new diagnoses, and helps dying children make their dreams and wishes known and come true to every extent possible.”

Recent Publications


Interested in exploring the practice of T’ai Chi and/or Qigong? These introductory videos will guide you through the ancient Chinese technique known as T’ai Chi, and the mind-body-spirit practice that improves one’s mental and physical health known as Qigong. Bill Banick, founder of Long River Taiji Therapeutics and co-founder of BigFaceLove Yoga, will walk you through the steps in these easy to follow videos located on our Integrative Medicine Video Archive.

"I've had people in their 70's who quit after 50 years of smoking tell me they wish they did it decades earlier because of how great they feel." — Margaret Antenucci, nurse practitioner for the Smilow Cancer Hospital Tobacco Treatment Program. Call 203-688-1378 for more information.
Clearing the Haze: What Do We Still Need to Learn About Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems?


Funding and Award Opportunities

**Cancer Research Institute Technology Impact Award**

The program is designed to encourage collaboration between technology developers and clinical cancer immunologists. The ultimate aim of this program is to advance technologies that can speed up the entire field’s efforts in addressing one of the most defining challenges of our time—developing immunotherapies that are effective for all cancer patients.

**Letter of Intent Due:** November 15, 2020

**Yale Cancer Center Postdoctoral Career Transition Awards**

These 1-year awards will support outstanding senior trainees that have demonstrated exceptional productivity at the postdoctoral level and are ready to transition into the next stage of their careers as independent cancer researchers.

**Internal Application Deadline:** November 15, 2020

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We are so proud of medical student Mitchel Wride, hematology/oncology fellow Norin Ansari, MD, and medical student Alexandra Bourdillon, who led an initiative to help patients hospitalized at Smilow Cancer Hospital vote in today’s election with an emergency ballot. The team partnered with residents and fellows to deliver applications for emergency absentee ballots to our patients and coordinated with their family members to submit the forms to each individual town clerk. Great work!
NCCN Foundation Young Investigator Award (YIA)
Through the YIA Program, the NCCN Foundation invites proposals from early career investigators with innovative ideas and an interest in improving the quality, effectiveness, efficiency and accessibility of care provided to cancer patients.
Internal Application Deadline: November 18, 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
Read More

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

Lion Heart Fund for Cancer Research
The Lion Hearts are committed to finding a cure for cancer, and breast cancer in particular. In keeping with this mission, they understand the value of funding bright young minds – providing them with pilot funding to kick-start high potential research projects, and/or supporting innovative work requiring bridge funding.
Application Deadline: November 22, 2020
Read More

2020 “Smilow Cares” Oncology Scholarships
RN/PCA/ACA staff that are continuing their professional education may apply. 10 new additional scholarships are available!
Nomination Deadline: November 25, 2020
Read More

AACR Research Funding Opportunities
The AACR is proud to announce the following current funding opportunities:
- AACR Clinical Oncology Research (CORE) Training Fellowships - Application Deadline: November 30, 2020
- AACR-Bristol Myers Squibb Midcareer Female Investigator
Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Transition Award (R00)
The Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program supports research activities during the early stage careers of independent clinical researchers. This FOA offers the opportunity for current Lasker awardees (Si2) to apply for the transition phase (R00) of the program. 
**Application Deadline:** December 6, 2020

Read More

Investigation of the Transmission of Kaposi Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus (KSHV) (R01)
Through this FOA, the NCI intends to advance our understanding of: the modes of transmission of Kaposi sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV), also called human herpesvirus-8 (HHV-8); the biology of the initial steps of infection; and the risk factors for infection.
**Application Deadline:** December 15, 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

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

2021 K12 Immuno-Oncology Training Program (IOTP) Scholar 
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

**IOTP Award Instructions**

**IOTP Award Application**

**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**

**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**

**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

**Read More**

**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

**Read More**

**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

**Read More**

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#COVID19 and #MERS genes that may help guide scientists in developing new therapies to combat the Coronavirus.

@DrRoyHerbstYale & ADAURA authors share results of Osimertinib in Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer in a video summary showing longer disease free survival for patients with 1B to 3A disease.

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**Calendar**

**Neurology Clinical Grand Rounds**
**November 13; 12:00 PM**

*New Insight into the Mechanism of Spontaneous Deep Intracerebral Hemorrhage*

Anne Joutel, MD, PhD

**Learn More**

**Cancer Immunology Research Program Seminar**
**November 13; 12:00 PM**

Smita Krishnaswamy, PhD

**Learn More**

**RNA Visualization Workshop**
**November 13; 3:00 PM**

Nadya Dimitrova, PhD | Elena Martinez | Mengwei Hu

**Learn More**

**Yale Cancer Answers**
**November 15; 7:30 PM**

NPR

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness

Jeremy Kortmansky, MD

**Learn More**

**Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**
**November 16; 11:00 AM**

Strategic Alliances Between YCC and Pharma – Approaches & Opportunities

Patricia LoRusso, DO

**Learn More**

**80% in Every Community Conference & NCCRT Annual Meeting**
**November 16; 1:00 PM**

Xavier Llor, MD, PhD and Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS

**Learn More**

**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**
**November 17; 12:00 PM**
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.
**Application Deadline:** January 29, 2021
Read More

**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.
**Application Deadline:** 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

**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 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 detection, diagnosis, prognosis, monitoring, and prediction of response or resistance to treatment, as well as markers for cancer prevention and control.

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**ASCO and Global Oncology**
Doug H.M. Pyle, MBA
Learn More

**80% in Every Community Conference & NCCRT Annual Meeting**
November 17; 1:00 PM
Xavier Lior, MD, PhD and Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS
Learn More

**November (Monthly) Palliative Care Conference Presentations**
November 17; 4:00 PM
Faisal Radwi, MD & Bryan Terry, MD
Learn More

**Smilow Shares**
November 17; 7:00 PM
*Lung Cancer, presented by the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Greenwich*
Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD | Justin Blasberg, MD, MPH, FACS | Anne Chiang, MD, PhD | Vincent Mase, Jr., MD | Bruce McGibbon, MD
Learn More

**Pathology Grand Rounds**
November 19; 12:30 PM
*Testing and Precision Medicine in the Time of COVID-19*
David Roth, MD, PhD
Learn More

**Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program**
November 19; 2:30 PM
Learn More

**Yale Pancreatic Cancer Collaborative Seminar Series**
November 19; 4:15 PM
*Personalized Detection and Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer*
Brian Wolpin, MD
Learn More

**Smilow Shares**
November 19; 6:30 PM
*Should You Be Screened for Lung Cancer? presented by the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Trumbull and Bridgeport*
Michael Cohenuram, MD | Vincent Mase, Jr., MD | Daniel Rudolph, MD
Learn More

**Yale Cancer Answers**
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

Read More

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

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
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