October 30, 2020

Announcements

Dr. Michaela Dinan Named Co-Leader of Cancer Prevention and Control

I am proud to announce that Michaela A. Dinan, PhD, has been appointed Co-Leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program beginning January 1, 2021. Dr. Dinan was also named Associate Professor in the Department of Chronic Disease Epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health and will also be a core faculty member of the Cancer Outcomes, Public Policy, and Effectiveness Research (COPPER) Center at Yale.

In her new role, Dr. Dinan will be an integral member of the YCC leadership team and will undoubtedly make a profound impact on the great research from our Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program and our Cancer Center. We look forward to her leadership in this important area to help us improve the lives of our cancer patients. Dr. Dinan joins Yale from Duke Cancer Institute/Duke Clinical Research Institute where she was an Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences within the Department of Medicine, Medical Oncology, and where she also co-led the Patient Experience and Survivorship Focus Area in the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Program. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia in biology and her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in health policy and management. Dr. Dinan’s research focuses on emerging medical technology in cancer using nationally representative, longitudinal data to examine trends in the evaluation and management of cancer, associated outcomes, and costs. She is currently funded by the National Cancer Institute to study Disparities in the Use of Oral Anticancer Agents in Kidney Cancer.

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

News Center

Yale Doc Says Lowering Recommended Age For Colon Screening is Critical Following Rise in Colorectal Cancer in Younger Patients

Watch Now

New COVID-19 Related Genes – Helpful and Harmful – Found in Massive Screen
Debra Brandt, DO Announces Departure
It is with very mixed emotions that we share the news that our esteemed friend and colleague, Dr. Debra Brandt, Medical Director of our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Torrington, will be leaving Smilow for a new leadership opportunity in Florida in December. Debbie officially joined the Yale faculty in 2014, and became Medical Director of our Torrington Care Center in 2015. Debbie has been a pillar of the medical community in Litchfield County since 1998 when she launched her in practice in Torrington, soon after her graduation from Hematology/Oncology Fellowship at Yale. Since 2014, Debbie has been a valued leader and member of our faculty in Smilow and the Cancer Center. Over the past years under Debbie’s leadership, our Care Center in Torrington represents the destination center for cancer care and clinical trials for the Northwest population of Connecticut and neighboring regions of New York. Please join us in congratulating Debbie on her new leadership role and thanking her for many contributions to the mission of our Cancer Center and her legacy of accomplishments at YCC and SCH.

Dr. Katherine Harvey will serve as Interim Medical Director for the Care Center following Debbie’s departure.

Ray of Hope Fund
In memory of Raymond Lenox, APRN, a colleague and friend who died of pancreatic cancer a few weeks ago, a fund has been established in his name to honor his memory and to be used by patients who are under the care of the Stem Cell Transplant Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The funds will help meet the financial needs and obligations necessary to maintain patient well-being during the challenging effects associated with a stem cell/bone marrow transplant. To contribute, please send donations to the Ray of Hope Fund at the YNHH Development Office, PO Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508, or online.

Radiation Oncology at ASTRO
Our radiation oncology team presented outstanding research from Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital earlier this week at the virtual American Society for Radiation Oncology annual meeting, highlighting radiation therapy in a changing world. Presentations are available online, and a full list of Yale faculty participation is available.

Smilow Cares Oncology Scholarships
Nominations are open for the 2020 Smilow Cares Oncology Scholarships for our nurses, PCAs, and ACAs who are continuing their education.
Scholarships for our nurses, PCAs, and ACAs who are continuing their professional education.

Grant Submission Reminders
Please remember to include cancer-related keywords in your grant submissions to maximize the cancer-relevance score for non-NCI funding opportunities. When writing your project terms list, please include cancer keywords. If studying a disease that predisposes to cancer or a basic mechanism that is either integral to cancer or of potential relevance to cancer, mention the link to cancer in the abstract and include keywords. Thank you in advance for your attention to this, and best of luck on your grant submissions.

Yale ENGAGE Series
In conjunction with Yale Cancer Center, the Yale Corporate Strategy and Engagement office presents YALE ENGAGE, an interactive webinar series promoting impactful collaboration between academic experts and industry executives. The next session, scheduled for November 5 at 11am, is focused on Novel Therapeutics and Delivery Systems.

Notables
Sanjay Aneja, MD, Assistant Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and a member of the Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program, and his team won the Abstract Award for Neuro-Imaging at this year’s Society for Neuro-Oncology Conference for “Deep Learning Survival Analysis for Multiple Brain Metastases.” The first author is Enoch Chang, BS, a Yale Medical Student studying in his lab.

Stavroula Hatzios, PhD, Assistant Professor of Molecular, Cellular and of Developmental Biology and of Chemistry, and a member of the Cancer Microbiology Research Program, received a "Conquer Cancer Now" Award from the Concern Foundation for her project, “Connecting Cysteine Oxidation to Cancer Cell Signaling in Infection-associated Cancers.”

The Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program welcomes Min Wu, PhD, Associate Professor of Cell Biology. There are three overlapping areas in Dr. Wu’s group that are linked to cancer: phosphoinositide, metabolism, mitosis, and cell size homeostasis. While Dr. Wu's interests are clearly on the basic sciences side of the cancer research, her group is addressing long-standing cell biological topics that are central to the mechanistic understanding of mis-regulated cell growth and metabolism. Her program looks forward to interacting with Dr. Stacey Stein was a recent guest on Yale Cancer Answers with host Dr. Anees Chagpar, and discussed, among many topics, how treatments are evolving for patients with liver cancer.
Employee Profile: Trina Houle, RN

With the onset of COVID-19, a Supportive Care Unit was created on NP12. Since its inception, Trina Houle, RN, has supported the patients on special unit for end-of-life care in their final hours or days. As a nurse, she finds it to be an especially gratifying opportunity.

“I began my career as an oncology nurse, and was pulled towards working with end-of-life patients,” said Trina. “It’s such a rewarding position to be in as a nurse, and I am so happy that we can now offer these patients a quaint and quiet place away from the noises of machines and hustle and bustle of other floors.”

Trina started as a nurse in surgical oncology and when the opportunity arose, she transferred to the Supportive Care Unit where she has worked since March. She also works with VITAS, an in-patient hospice company. The now six-bed unit is open to all patients and is run by Smilow’s Palliative Care team.

“The Palliative Care team, social workers, chaplain, pharmacist – they all do such a phenomenal job and I have heard nothing but positive feedback from families. End-of-life is different for every patient and every family; the patients have awful diagnoses, but maintain such a positive attitude. When I get to go home every day, I don’t take anything for granted and appreciate every single day.”

In addition to her clinical work, Trina has also been working towards her family Nurse Practitioner degree to become an APRN. Director of the Supportive Care Unit and Adult Inpatient Palliative Care, Dr. Elizabeth Prsic shares, “Trina consistently goes above and beyond in caring for patients and supporting their families and loved ones in the most challenging of times. She finds meaning in her work in the Supportive Care Unit and in providing palliative and end-of-life care along with an interdisciplinary team which includes physicians, nurse practitioners, social workers, chaplains, pharmacist, care management, and bereavement counselors. She is a true health care hero and an exemplary nurse serving patients in Smilow Cancer Hospital.”

Assistant Patient Services Manager, Brianna Lutz echoes Dr. Prsic’s sentiments: “Trina is an asset to the Supportive Care Unit and our team is so grateful for her care and compassion.”
Assistant Patient Services Manager, Brianna Lutz echoes Dr. Prsic’s sentiments saying, “Trina consistently goes above and beyond for her patients on the Supportive Care Unit to ensure they receive holistic care. She creates special moments for them, including coming in on her day off to coordinate birthday celebrations for patients in their final days. She is an exemplary nurse and has truly been the backbone of the Supportive Care Unit.”

Recent Publications


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The National Institutes of Health has awarded a Research Project Cooperative Agreement Grant to Yale Cancer Center. The 2-year, $1.4 million U01 award, led by Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology) and Interim Chief of Hematology, and Rong Fan, PhD, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, will fund immuno-serological assays for monitoring COVID-19 in patients with hematologic malignancies.

Welcome to George Yavorek, MD, Instructor (Clinical) of Surgery, who is now caring for patients with gastrointestinal cancers at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Waterford and performing...

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Patti Casper, RN, cares for our patients who need treatment for brain metastasis either through surgery or through the Gamma Knife Program, under the leadership of Dr. Veronica Chiang. Patti has been working alongside Dr. Chiang and her team for over a decade, and the services they provide to their patients are seamless because of Patti’s dedication and outstanding care. Patti goes above and beyond to ensure every patient’s treatment course is well planned. She takes the time to help the patients understand their procedure and coordinates their care with the appropriate multidisciplinary cancer teams, while ensuring that all their questions are answered throughout the entire process. Patti is a true #SmilowStar!


_Palliative medicine_, 269216320956811. Advance online publication.

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### Funding and Award Opportunities

#### Nominations for Annual YCC Awards
Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce our call for nominations for our annual awards in the areas of excellence in research, teaching, mentorship, and clinical care. Each award will be announced at the Yale Cancer Center Conclave in January. The nomination deadline for all awards (unless otherwise noted) is **Monday, November 2nd**.

#### 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

#### 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

#### 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

#### Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer Research
The Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer Research provides greater New York City area- based early career scientists the freedom to take risks and pursue their boldest research at a stage when traditional funding is lacking. 
**Letter of Intent Due:** November 9, 2020

#### 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

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*Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter*

- "There are some hypotheses that it may be due to increased obesity in the population or low fiber diet."— @PamelaKunzMD tells @WTNH why #Colorectal screening should be lowered to age 45 due to more cases in younger adults.

- "If we want to do the best science we can, we need a diverse set of people."— @YaleCancer @VirusesImmunity Dr. Akiko Iwasaki talking to @statnews about her career, mentorship, influence, and power imbalances in medicine.

- Interested in learning more about @SmilowCancer and the work being done here in #CARTcell therapy? 11/5 is your chance to join us and learn about the role #oncology nurses play.

- Tune in at 2pm to virtual#ASTRO20! @VikramJairamMD & @RoyHDecker report on research showing "Post-Operative #RadiationTherapy for #NSCLC: A Comparison of Radiation Therapy Techniques."

- At virtual#ASTRO20, @Enoch_Chang presents new research with SanjayAnejaMD showing Deep Learning Survival Analysis for Brain Metastases treated with #StereotacticRadiosurgery at 11:30am.

- At 11:30am today, new research for predicting outcomes following SBRT treatment for early-stage #NSCLC by .@SanjayAnejaMD will be highlighted at virtual #ASTRO20.

- Join us today at Noon for @YaleCancer Virtual Grand Rounds. Dr. Jason Cai and Dr. Zachary Corbin will talk about developments in #BrainTumor imaging.

- Join Dr. Veronica Chiang at 4:30pm today...
Tobacco Control Policies to Promote Health Equity (R01 and R21)
The purpose of these FOAs is to support observational or intervention research focused on reducing disparities in tobacco use and secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure in the U.S.

Application Deadline: November 12, 2020

Genomic Data Analysis Network: Genomic Data Center (U24)
This FOA is designed to support genomic programs managed by the Center for Cancer Genomics (CCG). The overall goal of all CCG programs is to help elucidate the mechanisms of cancer initiation and evolution, as well as resistance to therapy by means of genomic characterization of well-annotated, high quality tumor samples.

Application Deadline: November 12, 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AACR Clinical Oncology Research (CORE) Training Fellowship
This award is designed to provide an effective industry-academic clinical practicum with a unique training opportunity to develop academic clinicians in drug development.
Application Deadline: November 30, 2020

Calendar

12th Annual Yale Stem Cell Center Virtual Research Retreat
October 30, 2020; 9:00 AM
Haifan Lin, PhD | InHyun Park, PhD | Shangqin Guo, PhD | Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD | Qin Yan, PhD | Qiao Wu | Xiongzhuo Tang | Phan Duy | Juergen A. Knoblich | Kaelyn Sumigray, Ph.D | Zachary Smith, Ph.D | Berna Sozen, PhD | Andrew Xiao, PhD | Yiqun Jiang | Nils Nueenkirchen | Tianshu Liu | Shuangshuang Du | Mandar Muzumdar, MD | Nikhil Joshi, PhD | Anne Eichmann, PhD | Jeffrey Ishizuka, mD, DPhil | Haoyang Wei | Dingyao Zhang | Kaiti Duan | Charles L. Sawyers, MD | Diane Krause, MD, PhD

Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Greenwich Presents
October 31, 2020; 8:00 AM
Breast Center Educational Day - Lymphatics, Lymphocytes, Lymphoma and Breast Implants
Barbara Ward, MD | Leo Otake, MD | D. Barry Boyd, MD | Janet Freedman, MD | Andreas Lamelas, MD

Yale Cancer Answers
November 1; 7:30 PM
NPR
Breast Cancer Outcomes
Elizabeth Berger, MD, MS

Berlin Science Week
November 2; 10:00 AM
“Starting Up Science: From Lab to Therapy” with 2020 Heinrich Wieland Prize laureate Craig M. Crews
Craig Crews, PhD

Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar
November 2; 12:00 PM
Planarian PIWI Guides Tissue Specific Chromatin Reorganization During Cell Differentiation
Danyan Li

Pathology Research in Progress Talk
November 3; 9:30 AM
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
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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

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.

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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
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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

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds/John Murren, MD Memorial Lecture

November 3; 12:00 PM
15 Years of Advances in EGFR Mutant Lung Cancer
Heather Wakelee, MD

Learn More

Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Grand Rounds

November 4; 3:00 PM
Lung Cancer Screening: It’s Time
Lynn Tanoue, MD, MBA

Learn More

Institutional Perspectives in Cancer Presented by OncLive

November 4; 5:30 PM
Daniel P. Petrylak, MD

Learn More

Yale Engage Cancer Series Presented by Corporate Strategy and Engagement Office, OCR, and Yale Cancer Center

November 5; 11:00 AM
Novel Therapeutics & Delivery Systems
Ranjit S. Bindra, MD, PhD | Sidi Chen, PhD | Craig Crews, PhD | Faye Rogers, PhD

Learn More

Pathology Grand Rounds

November 5; 12:30 PM
Magee Equations and Magee Decision Algorithm: Safe, Effective, and Underutilized
Rohit Bhargava, MD

Learn More

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program

November 5; 2:30 PM
Addressing Issues Facing Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming in Genetic Counseling
Alexandra McClellan, MS, CGC

Learn More

Smilow Cancer Hospital Presents

November 5; 5:30 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 25, 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.

**Application Deadline:** February 18, 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@yale.edu for more information.

**Letter of Intent Due:** March 1, 2021
**Read More**

**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 multidisciplinary approaches to new frontiers and the development of new approaches to existing problems in cancer research. The aim of this FOA is to support research that will move the field forward.

**Application Deadline:** March 1, 2021
**Read More**
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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