

# Welcome to DirectMD!



Welcome to our inaugural issue of DirectMD, a new communication from Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center intended to establish a closer dialogue with physicians throughout Connecticut and the Northeast region. Yale Cancer Center is a National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer center and Smilow Cancer Hospital/Yale Cancer Center were recently named to the reputable National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Together our institutions are where the most advanced treatment options and innovative clinical research are offered to patients. Our physicians look forward to working

with you to ensure that your patients' needs are met and the treatment plan is coordinated with you.

Each issue of DirectMD will provide updates on the services offered at Smilow Cancer Hospital, as well as the newest clinical trials available for your patients. Our full list of clinical trials are always available online (<http://bit.ly/1j6W8Dg>) and each principal investigator would be happy to discuss individual patients and their eligibility for a study.

I hope you find this information useful and that our quarterly newsletter brings our practices close together. Please don't hesitate to call my office at (203) 200-1344 or email [canceranswers@yale.edu](mailto:canceranswers@yale.edu) with any questions or concerns so that we can best assist you in the care of your patients.

## Rogerio Lilienbaum, MD

Professor of Medicine

Yale School of Medicine

Chief Medical Officer

Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven

Yale Cancer Center

## CLOSER TO FREE

Last fall, dozens of cancer survivors from Smilow Cancer Hospital, along with family, friends and caregivers, gathered on Water Street in New Haven to share in the spirit of community. The project they participated in was the painting of a mural. They battled some of the most difficult forms of cancer. Yet thanks to the amazing advancements we have made in research and treatment, and through their own remarkable determination, they came together to beautify a neighborhood. And they delivered a powerful message: That cancer can be beaten. And that through science, compassion and the sheer belief in what is possible, the world is closer to free.

Now with locations in New Haven and Greenwich; and Cancer Care Centers across Connecticut.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1gdoHPm> to learn more.

they came together  
to be closer.  
and to be free.



## RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

### Gene regulator critical for breast cancer metastasis to the lung is identified

Yale Cancer Center researchers have identified a regulator of gene expression that is responsible for the progression of breast cancer and its metastasis to the lung. The study appears online in Cell Reports.

The Yale researchers analyzed gene expression datasets of human breast tumors, as well as those of cancer cells, and found that overexpression of the enzyme RBP2 is critical for breast cancer metastasis to the lung. Loss of RBP2, they also found, suppressed tumor formation in mouse models.

The authors say their evidence suggests that RBP2 regulates a critical epigenetic switch that sets the stage for tumor metastasis. They say the enzyme offers a novel target for development of therapies designed to inhibit tumor progression and metastasis.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1kTU6Yx> to learn more.

### A tiny RNA with a big role in melanoma

A Yale-led study has identified a key mechanism in the regulation of gene expression that promotes the proliferation of melanoma cells. The finding opens a possible avenue for development of treatments that target this mechanism.

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. BRAF and NRAS genetic mutations are known to occur in a very large proportion of melanomas. But although scientists have identified the oncogenic mutations that trigger melanoma cells and their proliferation, the mechanism that causes normal cells to transform into cancerous melanoma cells and cause their spread has not been well defined.

The Yale team identified a microRNA called miR-146a that accelerates in activity in the presence of these oncogenes by activating a cancer promoting signaling pathway called Notch.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1jpmMte> to learn more.

### ASTRO and SSO issue consensus guideline on margins for breast-conserving surgery with whole-breast irradiation

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) are pleased to announce the publication of the consensus guideline on margins for breast-conserving surgery with whole-breast irradiation in stages I and II invasive breast cancer. The guideline document represents an intensive collaboration among experts in the radiation oncology and surgical oncology fields, led by Yale Cancer Center's Meena S. Moran, MD, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology at Yale School of Medicine, on behalf of ASTRO, and Monica Morrow, MD, Chief of Breast Surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, co-chairs of the Margin Consensus Panel (MCP). In addition to determining the ideal margin width that minimizes the risk of ipsilateral breast tumor recurrence (IBTR), the guideline outlines an evidence-based surgical treatment path that could reduce unnecessary surgery for patients.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1s8IHcr> to learn more.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Hereditary Kidney Cancer Program

Kidney cancer is one of the most common cancers occurring in 1-2% of individuals in their lifetime. The current incidence in the United States is approximately 60,000-cases per year.

While many cancers were believed to occur sporadically, it's now understood approximately 5-8% of kidney cancers have a genetic predisposition. To care for these patients, we

have established a Hereditary Kidney Cancer Program to both assist in determining if there is a genetic predisposition to kidney cancer and help to limit resulting complications.

This Program is designed for:

- Unaffected, high risk individuals (relatives with kidney cancer in the same blood line)
- Unaffected/unscreened individuals with either a personal or family history of a hereditary cancer diagnosis
- Patients with active or previously treated kidney cancer with suspicious features for genetic cause (early onset <45 years of age, bilateral/multifocal, abnormal skin manifestations, or associated conditions)

Visit <http://bit.ly/1bW7Zlc> to learn more.

### The Yale Lung Screening and Nodule Program

Yale Lung SCAN is a comprehensive clinical program committed to providing individuals at increased risk of developing lung cancer with individualized evidence-based care. Screening is a process, not simply a scan. The benefits and risks of screening are dependent on a complex interplay of many factors, including an individual's risk for developing lung cancer, his or her underlying health issues, the precision with which a low dose CT screening scan is performed and interpreted, and how the response to abnormal screening results is informed. This programmatic approach is supported by all major

national organizations involved in lung cancer care in recommending that lung cancer screening be performed by a well-organized and integrated program.

The Program offers:

- Personalized risk evaluation and clinical assessment
- Discussion of the benefits and downsides of screening
- Smoking cessation counseling and treatment
- Low dose screening and CT scan if indicated
- CT scan review and interpretation by a dedicated multidisciplinary team
- Continuity of care and ongoing monitoring

Visit <http://bit.ly/1fETpTR> to learn more.



## CLINICAL TRIAL SUMMARIES

### HIC # 1305012020

*Principal Investigator: Erin Hofstatter, MD*

#### **A Randomized Phase II trial of Neoadjuvant Cisplatin vs. Doxorubicin/Cyclophosphamide (AC) in Women with Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer and Germline BRCA Mutations**

Neoadjuvant Cisplatin is being compared for effectiveness against Doxorubicin/Cyclophosphamide (AC) in women with BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations and newly diagnosed breast cancer. Previous studies have shown that BRCA carriers are more sensitive to Cisplatin, and preliminary findings suggest the pCR rate for BRCA1 carriers receiving Neoadjuvant Cisplatin to be at 70% over 22% for those receiving AC.

Since a patient's status as a BRCA1/2 carrier must be confirmed before enrolling in the therapeutic portion of the study, Dr. Hofstatter, PI for the trial's Yale Cancer Center site, is appealing to surgical oncologists and medical oncologists with strong working relationships with surgical oncologists for assistance in identifying potential participants.

Visit <http://bit.ly/Rw79Yy> to learn more.

### HIC # 1303011707

*Principal Investigator: Daniel Petrylak, MD*

#### **A Phase I/II Study of Cabazitaxel Combined with Abiraterone Acetate and Prednisone in Patients with Metastatic Castrate-Resistant Prostate Cancer (mCRPC) with Disease that has Progressed after Docetaxel Chemotherapy**

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have approved Abiraterone acetate and cabazitaxel to treat prostate cancer that has spread to other parts of the body such as the lymph nodes or bone. These drugs are approved individually for use when the cancer has become resistant to other treatments, including chemotherapy with docetaxel. The combination of these two drugs has not been approved, so the research team will study the safety and effectiveness of the combination.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1mHNK0Q> to learn more.

### HIC # 1203009888

*Principal Investigator: Kevin Becker, MD*

#### **A Phase I/II Study of the Combination of BKM120 and Bevacizumab, Glioblastoma Multiforme**

This Phase II study is showing great promise as a potential therapeutic for relapsed Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) or GBM that has progressed after first-line treatment. BKM120, an oral inhibitor of PI3 kinase, which is a major driver of growth for most GBM tumors, is being paired with bevacizumab (Avastin), a traditional therapeutic GBM medication, to test the combination's effectiveness and safety.

Reductions in tumors, increased longevity, and improvements in quality of life have been reported.

One of the more common side effects is mood alteration. Patients with a history of depression may be put on a preventative anti-depressant, and questionnaires to evaluate mood as well as other symptoms will be collected regularly.

Participation involves a pre-treatment medical exam, taking BKM120 as a capsule daily, receiving Bevacizumab intravenously every two weeks, and coming to the test site approximately every two weeks for a short medical exam which includes a blood sample. Additionally, an MRI of the brain is required approximately every eight weeks.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1gOWJfd> to learn more.

### HIC # 1311013060

*Principal Investigator: Paul Eder, MD*

#### **A Phase I/II, Open-label Study of Nivolumab Monotherapy or Nivolumab combined with Ipilimumab in Subjects with Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors**

To investigate the safety and efficacy of Nivolumab as a single agent or in combination with Ipilimumab in 4 tumor types - triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), gastric cancer (GC), pancreatic adenocarcinoma (PC), and small cell lung cancer (SCLC).

Visit <http://bit.ly/1fSB1d8> to learn more.

## NEW FACES



#### **Barbara Burtness, MD**

Office: (203) 785-2360 | Appointment: (203) 200-4622  
[barbara.burtness@yale.edu](mailto:barbara.burtness@yale.edu)

Barbara Burtness, MD, has joined Medical Oncology at Yale Cancer Center, and will serve as Co-Leader of the Developmental Therapeutics Program and Clinical Research Program Leader for the Head and Neck Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Burtness is internationally recognized for her research in head and neck cancer. She chairs the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Head and Neck Cancer Committee, and leads national and international clinical trials of targeted therapy in head and neck cancer. She comes to Yale from Fox Chase Cancer Center where she co-led the Developmental Therapeutics Program and was Chief of Head and Neck Oncology.



#### **Steven Gore, MD**

Office: (203) 785-7002 | Appointment: (203) 200-4363  
[steven.gore@yale.edu](mailto:steven.gore@yale.edu)

Steven D. Gore, MD, an internationally known hematologist, has been named Director of Hematologic Malignancies at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Gore joins us from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Gore is a member of the Leukemia Core Committee and the Leukemia Correlative Science Committee of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.

He also Chairs the Hematologic Malignancies Committee of the Mayo Phase II Consortium.

Dr. Gore received his undergraduate degree from Yale College and his medical degree from Yale University. He completed his internship and residency at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics and his fellowship in oncology at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on hematologic malignancies and myelodysplastic syndromes.



#### **Caroline Cromwell, MD**

Office: (203) 785-7002 | Appointment: (203) 200-4363  
[caroline.cromwell@yale.edu](mailto:caroline.cromwell@yale.edu)

Caroline Cromwell, MD has joined the faculty in the section of Hematology at Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Cromwell is a well-known hematologist, specializing in benign hematology, particularly clotting and bleeding disorders, and a major thought leader in this area. Most recently she was an Assistant Professor and Director of the Sick Cell Program at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.



#### **Jennifer Moliterno Gunel, MD**

Office: (203) 785-2791 | Appointment: (203) 785-7284  
[jennifer.moliternogunel@yale.edu](mailto:jennifer.moliternogunel@yale.edu)

Jennifer Moliterno Gunel, MD has joined the Department of Neurosurgery and the Brain Tumor Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Moliterno joins us from the department of Neurosurgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center where she completed a neurosurgery oncology fellowship. She received her medical degree from The University of Florida and completed her internship and residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Dr. Moliterno's primary focus is on the surgical management of all types of brain tumors.



#### **Laura Morrison, MD**

Office: (203) 785-6977 | Appointment: (203) 200-2725  
[laura.morrison@yale.edu](mailto:laura.morrison@yale.edu)

Laura Morrison, MD has joined our Palliative Care Program under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Kapo and serves as an attending physician on the YNH Palliative Care Consultation Service. Dr. Morrison has also been appointed to the new positions of Director of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Education and Director of the Yale Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship. The Fellowship is currently accepting applications and will receive its first class of fellows in July 2014.



#### **Courtney Quinn, MD**

Office: (203) 737-6977 | Appointment: (203) 737-8042  
[courtney.quinn@yale.edu](mailto:courtney.quinn@yale.edu)

Courtney Quinn, MD has joined our Endocrine Cancers Program as an Assistant Professor of Surgery. Dr. Quinn's clinical interests include surgery of the thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal gland, and endocrine pancreas, including minimally invasive laparoscopic and retroperitoneoscopic surgical techniques. She obtained her MD from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, Richmond, VA.

## EVENTS

### ASCO Review CME Course

June 27; 8:00 AM  
New Haven Country Club

Visit <http://bit.ly/1iiMNvX> to learn more.

### SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Brain Tumor  
(203) 785-7284

Breast Center  
(203) 200-2328

Endocrine Cancers  
(203) 200-3636

Gastrointestinal Cancers  
(203) 200-4422

Gynecologic Oncology  
(203) 200-4176

Head & Neck Cancers  
(203) 200-4622

Hematology  
(203) 200-4363

Melanoma  
(203) 200-6622

Pediatric Hematology & Oncology  
(203) 785-4081

Prostate & Urologic Cancers  
(203) 200-4822

Sarcoma  
(203) 737-5660

Thoracic Oncology  
(203) 200-5864

### SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL CARE CENTERS

At Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers, we offer state-of-the-art cancer services at several convenient locations throughout the region. In addition to the flagship Smilow Cancer Hospital in New Haven, we have 8 care centers across the region, along with Smilow Cancer Hospital's Greenwich Campus.

Derby (203) 734-1664 Torrington (860) 482-5384

Greenwich (203) 422-7970 Waterbury (203) 755-6311

Guilford (203) 453-9192

New Haven (203) 867-5420

North Haven (203) 407-8002

Orange (203) 795-1664

Sharon (860) 364-0531