

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

August 22, 2014

Announcements

Closer to Free Ride Just Two Weeks Away!



I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our 4th annual Closer to Free Ride on Saturday, September 6th at the Yale Bowl. If you have not participated with us before, this is an amazing day filled with hope and inspiration from our patients, families, and colleagues. We still have a need for Medical Volunteers and Moto Safety Volunteers, and of course are looking for more riders to help us reach our goal of 1,200! We have over 1,000 registered to date, and welcome additional riders. I'm riding with Team MedOnc and we welcome you to join our team, or any of the other teams registered to ride on the 6th.

If you would like to be a medical volunteer, please register at www.rideclosertofree.org or call Jessica Gehrke at (203) 688-2947.

Finally, we're looking for the entire Smilow community to come out and support the ride by cheering on the riders outside of Smilow at 7:00 AM, right in the main driveway. All employees are invited down to the Yale Bowl for the day-long celebration with live music, BBQ, and plenty of family and kids' activities.

from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD
Director, Yale Cancer Center
Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer
Hospital at Yale-New Haven



Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

LATEST ARTICLES:



Cyclists talk 4th Annual Closer to Free Ride

[Read More >>](#)



CT Pour Tour Completed, Raising \$50K for Smilow Cancer Hospital

CME Programs in September

Please join us for two continuing education programs at Smilow Cancer Hospital in September. On Tuesday, September 9 at 5 PM we will host a CME Dinner Symposium highlighting treatment and research advances in Melanoma and Renal Cell Carcinoma and on Friday, September 12 at 8 AM we will host a Symposium at 55 Park Street on Gastrointestinal Cancers. Please register to join us for these two important programs.

[Learn More >>](#)

Grants for Small Projects to Improve Patient Care

We are pleased to announce a new initiative to fund small projects to improve patient care at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. Funding for this program has come from the "Closer to Free" fund, administered by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. Any employee at Smilow Cancer Hospital who develops a project may apply by submitting an application for review. Projects can range from a patient education program to a stress management project for staff.

In order to be eligible, the employee must be sponsored by a current Yale Cancer Center Member.

Requests can range from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and projects are to be completed within one year. Applications are limited to 3 pages, (typed, double spaced); plus budget with justification. Applications are available [here](#).

We have asked Dr. Janet Parkosewich and Monica Fradkin to co-chair the review committee. This is a unique opportunity for you to obtain seed money to help you to initiate a new clinical project to improve patient care in Smilow. Ruth McCorkle is willing to work with you to develop a project and help put your application together. She is available to answer questions by email at ruth.mccorkle@yale.edu

We welcome your feedback on this great initiative!

Catherine Lyons RN MS
Executive Director, Patient Services
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Ruth McCorkle RN PhD
Florence Wald Professor of Nursing
Yale School of Nursing

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Screening for new breast cancer genes leaves women with tough choices

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Support group for young adults fighting cancer


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LATEST TWEETS:

 We are thrilled to be featured this month on @drsanjaygupta Vital Signs @YaleMed @YNHH

 MT @debkotch2 Screening for new breast cancer genes leaves women with difficult choices. <http://ow.ly/Ams4O> @AneesChagpar

 Good Old Aspirin - CANCER RESEARCH Catalyst http://blog.aacr.org/good-old-aspirin/#.U-5_n1yVxWg.twitter ...

 Dr. Howard Hochster tells @medpagetoday fecal immunochemical test an advance over fecal occult test <http://bit.ly/Vg3xtf> @YaleMed

Notables

Stephanie Halene, MD, received a grant from the Evans Foundation to support her research on *Molecular mechanisms underlying deregulated hematopoiesis caused by mutations in the serine-rich splicing factor 2 (SRSF2) in myelodysplasia (MDS)*. Her collaborators on the grant include Giovanni Stefani, Toma Tebaldi, Scott Hiebert, Yorgo Modis, Yuval Kluger, and Manoj Pillai.

Research in the News

The Front Line in the Battle Against Cancer

On the most recent episode of CNN's monthly broadcast of "Vital Signs," correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta explored the groundbreaking immunotherapy research and treatments pioneered by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. Featuring Dr. Lieping Chen, Dr. Roy Herbst, and Dr. Scott Gettinger, in addition to two Smilow patients - Bob Carlson and Maureen O'Grady - the two segments highlight the amazing promise of immunotherapy.

[The Front Line in the Battle Against Cancer >>](#)

[What is Cancer Immunotherapy? >>](#)

Novel Gene Identified in Tanning Dependence


Researchers led by the Yale School of Public Health have for the first time identified a gene that appears to be associated with tanning dependence.

An exome-wide association study was conducted among 292 people, 79 of whom exhibited symptoms of tanning dependence. Researchers examined approximately 319,000 rare and common genetic variants primarily within the protein coding regions and found that variation in one gene-known as patched domain containing 2 (PTCHD2)-was significantly associated with tanning dependence.

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Researchers Reveal Weakness in Defenses of Deadly Brain Tumor

@YNHH

 Immune cells get cancer-fighting boost from nanomaterials

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LATEST POSTS:

The players at this year's Connecticut Open have been challenged to help fight cancer. In support of our Closer to Free Ride on September 6th, all players, will earn money to be donated to Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven for each mile they ride on the spin bikes at the tournament.

After riding, players will sign the spin bike, which will then be showcased and auctioned off to benefit cutting-edge cancer research at Yale Cancer Center.



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If you have an appointment at Smilow Cancer Hospital on a Friday, don't forget to stop by the CitySeed Farmer's Market across the street on the corner of Park and South Streets to stock up on fresh, local, healthy ingredients. The market is open on Fridays through October 31 from 11 am - 2 pm.



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Glioblastoma is a complex, deadly, and hard-to-treat brain cancer, but Yale School of Medicine researchers may have found the tumor's Achilles heel.

The researchers report that targeting a protein crucial in the early development of the brain can block multiple signaling pathways implicated in glioblastoma growth. The approach also reduced human tumors in mouse models of the disease.

The new study shows that targeting this protein works in several ways. Inhibiting aPKC blocks a signal pathway that is the target of existing glioblastoma therapy. But it also blocks the action of some immune system cells called macrophages, which instead of attacking tumors, actively promote their growth.

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Immune Cells Get Cancer-Fighting Boost from Nanomaterials

Scientists at Yale University have developed a novel cancer immunotherapy that rapidly grows and enhances a patient's immune cells outside the body using carbon nanotube-polymer composites; the immune cells can then be injected back into a patient's blood to boost the immune response or fight cancer.

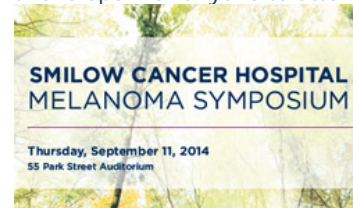
The researchers used bundled carbon nanotubes (CNTs) to incubate cytotoxic T cells, a type of white blood cell that is important to immune system functions. According to the researchers, the topography of the CNTs enhances interactions between cells and long-term cultures, providing a fast and effective stimulation of the cytotoxic T cells that are important for eradicating cancer.

The researchers modified the CNTs by chemically binding them to polymer nanoparticles that held Interleukin-2, a cell signaling protein that encourages T cell growth and proliferation. Additionally, in order to mimic the body's methods for stimulating cytotoxic T cell proliferation, the scientists seeded the surfaces of the CNTs with molecules that signaled which of the patient's cells were foreign or toxic and should be attacked.

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NCCN 9th Annual Conference: Hematological Malignancies

Save the date on Thursday, September 11 for Smilow Cancer Hospital's Melanoma Symposium. Featuring presentations from our faculty on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of melanoma, this free evening symposium will include important information for patients with melanoma and their families, and is open for anyone to attend.



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Mary Ann was a healthy, active 73 year-old grandmother when she was diagnosed with a large brain tumor at the base of her skull. After seeking the expertise of a neurosurgeon at Smilow Cancer Hospital, she was relieved to find help and move forward with treatment.

"I don't know why," noted Mary Ann, "but after I met Dr. Moliterno and all the experts at Yale, I became very calm. She is warm and personal. She has the gift of inspiring so much confidence. The team was extremely professional, so different from the doctors I had seen previously...I had suffered so much pain. I heaved a sigh of relief. Now I knew that I had found professionals that would do the best they could do for me. They made me feel hopeful."

"The nursing staff at Smilow is wonderful," said Mary Ann. "I can't believe how quickly I recovered...I have had a really good success story. I have no pain. It's just a miracle."



[Read More >>](#)

The NCCN 9th Annual Congress: Hematologic Malignancies is taking place from September 19 - 20, 2014 in New York City. As a NCCN Member Institution:

- Employees of Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital are eligible for a 20% discount off the registration rate.
- Fellows of Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital are also eligible for special discounts.

[Learn More >>](#)

Funding and Award Opportunities

YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer Career Development Award

The YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer is pleased to announce the availability of a Career Development Award beginning September 15 to provide funds of up to \$60,000 for one year.

The purpose of the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer Career Development Program is to more clearly focus the career development of the selected individual towards clinically relevant skin cancer biology and to specifically give them the tools to enable their contributing seminal advances in this area, as well as continuity of their individual cancer research programs. It is intended that the beneficiaries of this funding will be well grounded in both the biology of the relevant skin cells and mainstream cancer research, will have distinctive skill and knowledge sets that make them unique and individually fundable and give them a recognized identity in both the traction on the cancer biology "conveyor belt." Accordingly, it will be necessary to tailor each individual's developmental program to his or her particular interests and needs.

Candidates eligible to apply for CDP funding include:

1. Junior faculty holding appointments within the Yale School of Medicine, Nursing, or Epidemiology/Public Health.
2. Candidates for such junior faculty appointments, either currently within the Yale system (e.g., advanced postdoctoral fellows) or being recruited from outside institutions;
3. Established investigators, either within or outside the Yale system, who are committed to re-focusing a substantial component of her/his research on

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Events

August 24; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Patient Perspective

Gregory Walsh

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August 25; 12:00 PM
YCC Cancer Genetics and Genomics Faculty Lunch

Breast Medical Oncology Conference
Room, Suite 120, Room 129

Mitochondrial Stress Signaling in Innate Immunity: Potential Ramifications for Cancer

Gerald Shadel, PhD

[Read More >> \(PDF\)](#)

August 31; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Colon Cancer Genetics

Xavier Llor, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

September 2; 12:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Adoptive T Cell Therapy of Cancer: CARS and Amored CARS

Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

Employment Opportunities

Success in any clinical research endeavor, but especially in cancer research, requires the most qualified,

cutaneous study of risk prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment of human cutaneous malignancies.

Application Deadline: August 25, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

The YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer Developmental Research Awards

The YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer is pleased to announce the availability of Developmental Research Awards beginning September 15 to fund projects in amounts up to \$50,000 for one year.

Developmental Research Program Awards are intended to support a broad spectrum of innovative pilot projects applicable to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment. To be funded, DRP projects must have promising translational research potential, i.e., direct application to human skin cancer, and there must be the expectation that they can evolve into, or be incorporated into, full projects with an unequivocal translational component funded either within this SPORE or as independent R01 (or equivalent) grants.

Categories of eligible investigators:

1. Established investigators (with previous and/or current R01 or equivalent funding) whose research to date has not been specifically directed at skin cancer, or even at cancer more generally, but who are interested in exploring the applicability of their expertise to skin cancer;
2. Established investigators in skin cancer who wish to test an innovative, translationally relevant idea clearly distinct from current or pending grants;
3. Junior investigators (holding a faculty appointment higher than that of Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate) without current or past R01 (or equivalent) research support who are proposing innovative research in the arena of translational cutaneous oncology.
4. Previous recipients (as Principal Investigators) of SPORE DRP funds are ineligible to be P.I.s of new DRP projects within 3 years of completion of their previous DRP funding.

Application Deadline: August 25, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

Prostate Cancer Foundation 2014 PCF Global Treatment Sciences Challenge Awards

dedicated staff, committed to excellence and the mission of Yale Cancer Center. The combination of education, oncology research experience, and exceptional nursing skills is enormously difficult to find. Your participation, as knowledgeable colleagues, is invaluable at this time.

Should you know individuals with outstanding clinical research nursing experience, and who are ready to join our team, please direct resumes to [Sandra Greer](#), Sr. Staffing and Career Development Representative or call (203) 432-5822. All referrals will be held in strictest confidence.

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
renee.gaudette@yale.edu

 Forward to a Friend

Grants of up to \$1 million over 2-3 years will be awarded for research projects related to lethal prostate cancer. (PCF expects to fund 5-10 of these awards.) Priority will be given to high risk, first-in-field, and currently unfunded projects. Funding will support the correlative research around either clinical trials of novel agents or strategies of standard of care. The foundation's emphasis is on developing or validating biomarkers that guide therapy in patients or further understanding of the mechanism by which therapies work. While the focus is on research in humans, the actual trials or treatments themselves will not be supported. Human samples are highly preferred, although at times model systems might be required to complement the understanding of an important mechanism.

Application Deadline: September 22, 2014

[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

Center for Cancer Research Clinical Investigator Development Program

The Center for Cancer Research (CCR), a Division of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is pleased to announce its annual call for applications for Clinical Investigator Development Program (CIDP). This is an exciting training opportunity intended for physicians interested in dedicating their careers to clinical research. Candidates may be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or possess (or be eligible for) the appropriate work visa and must have successfully completed subspecialty training at a U.S.-accredited institution in appropriate fields.

Application Deadline: October 30, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

Connecticut DPH Biomedical Research Request for Proposals

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is seeking proposals for biomedical research projects in the fields of heart disease, cancer and other tobacco-related diseases, Alzheimer's disease, stroke and diabetes.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2014

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AGA Foundation - 2014 Funderburg Research Award in Gastric Cancer

The American Gastroenterological Association is inviting applications for the 2014 Funderburg Research Award. The award is designed to support an established investigator working on novel approaches in gastric cancer research, including the fields of gastric mucosal cell biology, regeneration and regulation of cell growth (not as they relate to peptic ulcer disease or repair), inflammation (including

Helicobacter pylori) as precancerous lesions, genetics of gastric carcinoma, oncogenes in gastric epithelial malignancies, epidemiology of gastric cancer, etiology of gastric epithelial malignancies, or clinical research in the diagnosis or treatment of gastric carcinoma. Please note, AGA membership is required at the time of application submission. Funding up to \$100,000 over 2 years.

Application Deadline: August 29, 2014

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SPIRIT Pilot Grants

The SPIRIT Group, a collaboration among 6 CTSA programs (Yale, Penn, Pitt, U Chicago, Wash U, and Johns Hopkins), has developed a pilot grant program to promote cross-institution research. Proposed projects should focus on a rare disease, and must involve a collaboration among scientists at each of the 6 institutions. A total of \$300,000 will be awarded.

Letter of Intent Deadline: September 15, 2014

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Recent Publications

Ovulation and extra-ovarian origin of ovarian cancer.

Yang-Hartwich Y, Gurrea-Soteras M, Sumi N, Joo WD, Holmberg JC, Craveiro V, Alvero AB, Mor G. Sci Rep. 2014 Aug 19;4:6116.

[Read More >>](#)

Cancer Screening in Older Persons: A New Age of Wonder.

Gross CP. JAMA Intern Med. 2014 Aug 18.

[Read More >>](#)

Association between right ventricular dysfunction and restrictive lung disease in childhood cancer survivors as measured by quantitative echocardiography.

Patel A, Weismann C, Weiss P, Russell K, Bazy-Asaad A, Kadan-Lottick NS. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2014 Aug 17.

[Read More >>](#)

Distinct mechanisms of cell-kill by triapine and its terminally dimethylated derivative Dp44mT due to a loss or gain of activity of their copper(II) complexes.

Ishiguro K, Lin ZP, Penketh PG, Shyam K, Zhu R, Baumann RP, Zhu YL, Sartorelli AC, Rutherford TJ, Ratner ES. Biochem Pharmacol. 2014 Aug 14.

[Read More >>](#)

Automated Quantitative Analysis of Tissue Microarray of 443 Patients with Colorectal Adenocarcinoma: Low Expression of Bcl-2 Predicts Poor Survival.

Nicholson AD, Guo X, Sullivan CA, Cha CH. J Am Coll Surg. 2014 Jul 16.

[Read More >>](#)

Structural studies provide clues for analog design of specific inhibitors of *Cryptosporidium hominis* thymidylate synthase-dihydrofolate reductase.

Kumar VP, Cisneros JA, Frey KM, Castellanos-Gonzalez A, Wang Y, Gangjee A, White AC Jr, Jorgensen WL, Anderson KS.

Bioorg Med Chem Lett. 2014 Jul 24.

[Read More >>](#)

Neratinib shows efficacy in the treatment of HER2/neu amplified uterine serous carcinoma in vitro and in vivo.

Schwab CL, English DP, Roque DM, Bellone S, Lopez S, Cocco E, Nicoletti R, Rutherford TJ, Schwartz PE, Santin AD. Gynecol Oncol. 2014 Aug 12.

[Read More >>](#)

Safety and Effectiveness of Bevacizumab-Containing Treatment for Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: Final Results of the ARIES Observational Cohort Study.

Lynch TJ Jr, Spigel DR, Brahmer J, Fischbach N, Garst J, Jahanzeb M, Kumar P, Vidaver RM, Wozniak AJ, Fish S, Flick ED, Leon L, Hazard SJ, Kosty MP; ARIES Study Investigators.

J Thorac Oncol. 2014 Sep;9(9):1332-9.

[Read More >>](#)

Serum protein profiling reveals baseline and pharmacodynamic biomarker signatures associated with clinical outcome in mCRC patients treated with chemotherapy ± cediranib.

Pommier AJ, Shaw R, Spencer SK, Morgan SR, Hoff PM, Robertson JD, Barry ST, Jürgensmeier JM.

Br J Cancer. 2014 Aug 14.

[Read More >>](#)

Multi-layered nanoparticles for combination gene and drug delivery to tumors.

Ediriwickrema A, Zhou J, Deng Y, Saltzman WM.

Biomaterials. 2014 Aug 8.

[Read More >>](#)

Staphylococcal Purpura Fulminans: Report of a Case.

Honarpisheh H, Camp R, Lazova R.

Am J Dermatopathol. 2014 Aug 5.

[Read More >>](#)

Inducible Expression of B7-H1 (PD-L1) and Its Selective Role in Tumor Site Immune Modulation.

Sanmamed MF, Chen L.

Cancer J. 2014 Jul-Aug;20(4):256-61.

[Read More >>](#)

Programmed Death-1 Pathway in Host Tissues Ameliorates Th17/Th1-Mediated Experimental Chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease.

Fujiwara H, Maeda Y, Kobayashi K, Nishimori H, Matsuoka K, Fujii N, Kondo E, Tanaka T, Chen L, Azuma M, Yagita H, Tanimoto M.

J Immunol. 2014 Sep 1;193(5):2565-73.

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