

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

May 5, 2017

Announcements

YCC Goes to Capitol Hill

Yale Cancer Center participated in AACR, ASCO, and AACI's annual Hill Day this week with a contingent of faculty members visiting the legislative leadership from Connecticut on Capitol Hill. The day is focused on advocacy for sustained and increased funding support for cancer research to the NIH through the federal budget process. On Wednesday, the House approved the spending increase in the current Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which includes a \$2 billion increase in funding to the NIH, and \$5.689 billion allocated to the NCI; the Senate approved the budget yesterday.



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

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Smilow Cancer
Hospital

Yale **CANCER
CENTER**

A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute



Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from
Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

Howard Hochster, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Katie Politi, Lajos Puszta, and Sue Kaech



Lajos Puszta, Howard Hochster, Roy Herbst, Katie Politi, and Sue Kaech

A Celebration of Survivorship

Patients and their loved ones gathered at the Yale West Campus Conference Center last night for our annual celebration of survivorship and were entertained with an hour of comedy by T.P. Mulrooney. The room was filled with laughter as T.P. delighted our guests with stories of his travels, his treatment, and his forays into golf. Four years ago, T.P. was sidelined from his comedy tours by stage IV throat cancer only to return stronger and with a renewed outlook. His inspiration and humor was a wonderful way to celebrate with our patients.



Abe Lopman, Charles Fuchs, and T.P. Mulrooney

Pilot Awards Announced

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2017 Pilot Funding, which is distributed in \$50,000 increments to support each research project. The following projects will receive funding for the coming year:

LATEST ARTICLES:

Yale researcher gets \$792,000 grant from cancer society



[Read More >>](#)

Gene sequencing at Yale finding personalized root of disease; new center opens in West Haven



[Read More >>](#)

Cancer Center Director Has 'Been There'



[Read More >>](#)

Adjuvant Therapy: Should You Receive It?

Cancer Immunology

Nikhil Joshi, PhD, Assistant Professor,
Immunobiology

Investigating early immune-tumor interactions in genetically engineered mouse cancer models

Cancer Prevention and Control

Leah M. Ferrucci, PhD, MPH, Associate Research
Scientist & Lecturer, Yale School of Public Health

Caroline Johnson, PhD, Assistant Professor,
Environmental Health Sciences

Tara Sanft, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine
(Medical Oncology)

Gut microbiota and metabolite profiles among breast cancer survivors in a weight-loss intervention

Genetics, Genomics, and Epigenetics

Manoj M. Pillai, MD, Associate Professor, Medicine

Targeting Musashi 2 (MSI2) in aggressive myeloid leukemia

Radiotherapy and Radiobiology

Megan C. King, PhD, Associate Professor, Cell
Biology

Impacts of resection pathway mechanism choice and efficiency in PARP inhibitor resistance

Signal Transduction

Anthony J. Koleske, PhD, Professor, Molecular
Biophysics & Biochemistry

Rong Fan, PhD, Associate Professor, Biomedical
Engineering

Single cell profiling of CTCs and CTC clusters in castration-resistant prostate cancer

Virus and Other Infection-associated Cancers

Andrew L. Goodman, PhD, Associate Professor,
Microbial Pathogenesis and Microbial Sciences
Institute

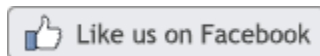
Defining the role of gut microbiome variation in the efficacy and safety of chemotherapeutics

Yong Xiong, PhD, Associate Professor, Molecular
Biophysics & Biochemistry



[Read More >>](#)

Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook



LATEST POSTS:

Thank you to our Yale University Police Department! On Saturday, they raised more than \$4,400 for Smilow Cancer Hospital by hosting a "Battle of the Badges," which brought together police departments throughout the area to compete in weightlifting repetition competitions and raise funds to support our patients at Smilow.

Thank you to the men and women in blue for supporting Smilow!

YaleNewHavenHealth
Smilow Cancer Hospital



[Read More >>](#)

Targeting SAMHD1 as a New Approach to Improve AML Treatment

GynOnc in Waterbury

Dr. Elena Ratner will offer expanded office hours in Waterbury at our Smilow Care Center on the first and third Friday of the month from 8:30 to 12 noon. Please consider referring women to her practice in Waterbury who may benefit from the convenience of a location closer to their home. Patients can be referred through Epic using SMILOW GYN ONCOLOGY - Waterbury or by calling (203) 200-4176.

Liver Symposium

Please join Smilow Cancer Hospital and Saint Francis Hospital for a multidisciplinary symposium on liver, pancreas, and biliary disease on June 14. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the available options to manage complex hepatobiliary-related diseases.

[Learn More >>](#)

Notables

Melinda Irwin, PhD, and Tara Sanft, MD, co-principal investigators, have received an R-01 to support their project, "*A randomized trial of lifestyle guidelines on breast cancer biomarkers and treatment adherence.*" The trial will examine the effect of a one-year dietary and physical activity guidelines intervention vs. usual care on adherence to adjuvant breast cancer in 250 women newly diagnosed with Stage I-III breast cancer who are not practicing dietary and lifestyle guidelines, and who are scheduled to receive adjuvant chemotherapy.

The American Society for Investigative Pathology has selected **Katerina Politi, PhD**, as the recipient of the **2017 Cotran Early Investigator Award**. The award recognizes early career investigators with demonstrated excellence as an investigator.

Congratulations to **Tamara Carroll, MD**, on her award for her presentation, "Impact of Digital Breast

We are delighted to announce that Yale Cancer Center's Katerina Politi, PhD, has been selected to receive the 2017 American Society for Investigative Pathology's Cotran Early Career Investigator Award. The award is given to recognize researchers early in their career who have done significant work to help further understand the basis of disease.



[Read More >>](#)

Members of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Network recently participated in a one-day American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) workshop focused on quality improvement. Eleven project teams of physicians and staff from every Smilow Care Center and St. Francis Hospital participated in this pilot event for ASCO's Quality Training Workshops in the Community.



[Read More >>](#)

Watch this quick 1-minute video from our nutrition department to learn how to make Mason jar salads! Share the video and

Tomosynthesis" from the **Society of Breast Imaging**. Dr. Carroll received one of two awards from the Society, out of 220 submissions.

Congratulations to our nursing team, who are well represented at **Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) 42nd Annual Congress** this week in Denver. The following abstracts will be presented:

Poster Sessions:

Engaging Patients and Caregivers in Assessing Chemotherapy Competency

Lisa Barbarotta and Kristen Roche

Coping Strategies for Staff Caring for Actively Dying Patients: Implementation of Guided Imagery and Staff Perception of Compassion Fatigue

Samanth Herlihy, Mercy Asomaning, and Kelsey Osiniski

One Orientation Does Not Fit All: Development of the Ambulatory Practice Nurse Orientation

Monica Fradkin and Kristen Roche

Clinical Sessions:

Oncology Grand Rounds CNE Series: Nurse and Physician Investigators Discuss New Agents, Novel Therapies, and Actual Cases from Practice - Part 2 - Cancer Immunotherapy

Daniel Petrylak, MD

Global Oncology Nursing 101

Christa Roe

Team Science: A Discussion with the Experts

Ruth McCorkle

Leveraging Technology to Optimize the Care of Patients Treated with Immunotherapy

Monica Fradkin, Lisa Barbarotta, Emily Duffield, Kelly Guttman, Michelle Randall-Doran, and Laura Tuttle

Wisdom and Wit: Updates from the ONS Distinguished Nurse Researchers

plan to bring one to work or school tomorrow!



[Read More >>](#)

Tune in to WNPR today at 7:30PM for a discussion on healthcare quality and access on Yale Cancer Answers.



[Read More >>](#)

Mark your calendars! Smilow Cancer Hospital is sponsoring the annual Kids HUGS - a community bike ride to raise money for children affected by cancer. Join us on May 7th at 10AM to know that you're making a difference in a child's life.

Ruth McCorkle

Research in the News

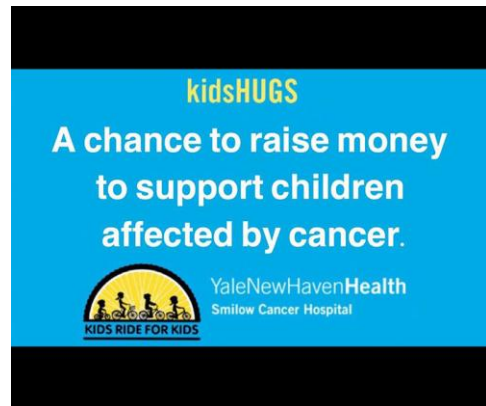
Yale Researchers Identify Optimal Therapy for Patients with Early-Stage Glottic Cancer (Vocal Chord Cancer)

Radiotherapy alone is often used to treat early-stage glottic cancer (ESGC), a cancer of the vocal chords, however, the optimal radiation treatment schedule remains unknown. Both hypofractionated radiotherapy (HFX) and conventionally-fractionated radiotherapy (CFX) are recommended treatment options. In an attempt to compare differences in overall survival between the two approaches, a team of Yale Cancer Center researchers compared treatment patterns among patients treated with HFX versus CFX for ESGC using a large national database.

The Yale Cancer Center research team used clinical data from 10,212 patients diagnosed with stage 1 or 2 glottic cancer from 2004-2013. 4,030 patients (39.5%) received HFX and 6,182 patients (60.5%) received CFX. The study found that HFX is associated with improved survival compared to CFX among patients treated with definitive radiotherapy for ESGC, particularly among patients with stage 2 disease.

[Read More >>](#)

Employee Profile: Wendelin Nelson



[Read More >>](#)

Dr. Anees Chagpar, Director of the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, was one of the members of the research community chosen to speak at Saturday's March For Science in Hartford, Connecticut. Dr. Chagpar was one of multiple Yale research community members who attended to speak about what they do, and the importance of public support for all types of research.



[Read More >>](#)

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

Follow us on [twitter](#)

LATEST TWEETS:

Wendelin Nelson, PharmD, BCOP, is a Clinical Specialist in Oncology Pharmacy for the Gynecologic Oncology Program at Smilow and is an integral member of the team. She appreciates the multi-disciplinary problem-solving and collaborative approach of the group. "There is a palpable esprit de corps attitude amongst the NP-14 staff, which makes working on that unit rewarding," said Wendelin.



It is her responsibility to ensure appropriate medication use both in terms of indication and preventing side effects and drug interactions. She reviews each patient's case individually and assesses their needs based on several criteria. Wendelin also takes part in Transition of Care Rounds, where it is discussed how patients can effectively transition their care to the outpatient setting. "We want to make sure there are no barriers when it comes to access to appropriate medications," said Wendelin. "I work closely with the Medication Assistance Program (MAP) here which helps uninsured and underinsured people gain access to the life-saving drugs they need, despite cost."

Wendelin has spent her entire career in hospital pharmacy, and has been at Yale since 2002, before the opening of Smilow. She commented that it has been fascinating to watch the growth of the oncology service. "Since Smilow opened the growth has been exponential and was handled with such care, consideration, and insight by our leadership. It is deeply rewarding to be a part of the team here."

Osama Abdelghany, PharmD BCOP, Oncology Pharmacy Clinical Manager, commented, "Wendelin has been a great asset to the Oncology Pharmacy Department since she joined the team. She has a profound passion for the profession and over the years has been an amazing teacher and great mentor to many pharmacists, myself included."

🐦 A quick visit with .@SenBlumenthal to discuss #NCI#cancer funding and support during #HillDay with @AACR@ASCO@AACI_Cancer #Thankyou

🐦 Thank you .@ACSNewEngland .@ACS_Research for supporting Dr. Jensen's research on #DNA repair and #cancer risk.

🐦 Expanded Center for #Genome Analysis opens @YaleWestCampus - will quickly expand capabilities patients & research

🐦 Join us tonight at 5PM for a celebration of the #Smilow Starlight exhibit!

🐦 Join @YaleCancer's director of #PalliativeCare, Dr. Jennifer Kapo, for "Living Well with a Serious Illness" May 11 jewishnewhaven.org/events

🐦 Watch this quick 1 min video from our #nutrition dept to learn how to make mason jar salads! #HealthyLiving#lunch

🐦 Study published today @JNCI_Now determines optimal radiation treatment for early-stage glottic #cancer. bit.ly/2pilnyE @ZHusainMD

🐦 Congrats to Dr. Tamara Carroll, 1 of 2 award recipients from .@BreastImaging for her presentation on Impact of Digital Breast Tomosynthesis

🐦 Our next #HeadandNeck#cancer support group meets Thursday, April 27th at 2PM. Join us every 4th Thursday bit.ly/2pq9JV3

🐦 Learn easy substitutions for unhealthy ingredients in your next #recipe from our #nutrition team at #Smilow!

🐦 Join us on Thursday and register to @BeTheMatch .@Yale. It's easy to register and you may make a huge difference in a cancer patient's life.

🐦 If You Can't Drug It, Degrade It - A Protein Degradation Technology to

#OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS

Yale Cancer Center has recently adopted the #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS program, a Yale University recognition initiative. The program will provide us with the opportunity to recognize and show appreciation to employees who have exemplified an above-and-beyond effort or an outstanding contribution to our team. All nominations should be submitted to the Director's Office, c/o [Anna Raso](#).

Our first #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS have been given to Michelle Dingus, Christine Holmberg, and Renee Gaudette.

Michelle Dingus, Associate Administrator, and Christine Holmberg, Research Affairs Specialist, are being recognized for their outstanding contribution and effort in completing a recent grant submission. With only two people, they pulled off a 600-page, six institution grant in three weeks. Thank you, Michelle and Christine!

Renee Gaudette, Director of Public Affairs and Communications, is recognized for a great catch during a recent snowstorm when she noticed a number of social media posts incorrectly referring to Smilow being closed due to the inclement weather. Bringing this to the administration's attention enabled them to proactively call patients to ensure they wouldn't miss their appointments. Thank you, Renee!



Tackle Undruggable Oncoproteins via
@AACR

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Upcoming Events

May 5; 4:30PM

Free Head & Neck Cancer Screening

Greenwich Hospital

[Learn More >>](#)

May 6; 8AM

Smilow Screening & Prevention Program at the Immanuel Baptist Church Health Fair

Immanuel Baptist Church

Screen to Save Initiative

[Learn More >>](#)

May 7; 10AM

Kids Ride for Kids: An Annual Community Event

Jacobs Beach

[Learn More >>](#)

May 7; 7:30PM

Yale Cancer Answers

WNPR 90.5

The Discovery of Renalase and the Role It Plays in Cancer

Gary Desir, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 8; 11AM

YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-116

Funding and Award Opportunities

All current funding opportunities are archived on the Yale Cancer Center website, and searchable by topic, funding agency, and due date. Please check the site often for new opportunities.

[Learn More >>](#)

The Dresner Foundation Myelodysplastic Syndromes Research Fund Letters of Inquiry

The Dresner Foundation is dedicated to transforming lives in profoundly positive ways through grants focused on health, youth, and animal welfare. The foundation is inviting Letters of Inquiry from early career scientists for its Myelodysplastic Syndromes Research Fund.

LOI's due: May 12, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Bioengineering Research Partnerships

This FOA encourages bioengineering applications that will accelerate the development and adoption of promising tools and technologies that can address important biomedical problems.

Application Deadline: May 18, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

The Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (U01)

This FOA invites applications from multidisciplinary teams of researchers and clinicians to establish the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (PCDC).

Application Deadline: May 26, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Multilevel Interventions in Cancer Care Delivery: Building from the Problem of Follow-up to Abnormal Screening Tests (U01)

This FOA encourages applications that strengthen the science of multilevel effects of cancer care interventions by addressing the problem of incomplete follow-up to abnormal screening tests for breast, colorectal, cervical, and lung cancers.

Application Due Date: May 26, 2017

Cell-Penetrating Antibody Inhibits Human RAD51 Via Direct Binding

Audrey Turchick

[Learn More >>](#)

May 9; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

Collagens, Crosslinking, and Craziness: Loss of TSP2 Leads to a Profoundly Altered Extracellular Matrix

Nicole Calabro

TBA

Yuting Liu

[Learn More >>](#)

May 9; 10AM

YCC Chalk Talk

WWW 208

Genomic and Immune-Based Strategies for the Treatment of Colorectal Cancer

Marios Giannakis, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 9; 12PM

Smilow Forum

Park Street Auditorium

Rogério Lilenbaum, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 9; 4PM

Palliative Care Monthly Conference

WWW 208

Hospital Death: Trends and Characteristics of Patients Who Suffer Death in a Hospital vs Their Preferred or Chosen Place of Death

Melissa Gibson, MD

Complex Family Burden: A Case Study

Michael Gabriel, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 9; 5:30PM

YNHH Transforming Healthcare Grand Rounds

TAC N-107

Transforming the People Experience

Adrienne Boissy, MD, MA

[Learn More >>](#)

[Learn More >>](#)

Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (U01)

This FOA will support the development and characterization of state-of-the-art biomimetic tissue-engineered technologies for cancer research.

Application Deadline: May 30, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology (U01)

This FOA invites cooperative agreement applications for Research Projects that utilize systems biology approaches to address emerging questions in cancer initiation, progression, and treatment.

Application Deadline: June 23, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) Convergence Grants

Stand Up To Cancer is requesting applications for proposals to form collaborative teams to address key questions about the human immune system's role in cancer development and treatment.

Application Deadline: June 30, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Cooperative Agreement to Develop Targeted Agents for Use with Systemic Agents Plus Radiotherapy (U01)

This FOA invites cooperative agreement (U01) applications that propose studies to enhance pre-clinical in vitro and in vivo testing of NCI-prioritized molecularly targeted anticancer agents for use with radiation therapy combined with systemic chemotherapy.

Application Deadline: July 14, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

May 10; 7:30AM

Interventional Radiology Grand Rounds Lecture

LMP 1094

Immunotherapy and the World of Medical Oncology

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 11; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

LMP 1094

The Pathologist in the Age of Surgical Minimalism

Elizabeth D. Euscher, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 11; 2:30PM

Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar

SRC, Suites 107-109

[Learn More >>](#)

May 11; 4PM

YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series

Smilow first floor conference room, 1-330

Neoadjuvant Response and Long-term Outcomes in Breast Cancer

Christos Hatzis, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 11; 7PM

YNHH / Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Seminar

Congregation Bnai Jacob

Living Well with Serious Illness: Palliative Care

Jennifer Kapo, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 14; 7:30PM

Yale Cancer Answers

WNPR 90.5

Pharmacoeconomic Specialist

Sapna Prasad and William Burns

[Learn More >>](#)

Role of Adjuvant Treatment in Esophageal Cancer With Incidental Pathologic Node Positivity.

Gao SJ, Park HS, Corso CD, Rutter CE, Kim AW, Johung KL.

Ann Thorac Surg. 2017 Apr 26.

[Read More >>](#)

Predictors and prognosticators for survival with Yttrium-90 radioembolization therapy for unresectable colorectal cancer liver metastasis.

Dendy MS, Ludwig JM, Kim HS.

Oncotarget. 2017 Mar 8.

[Read More >>](#)

Inferring gene regulatory relationships with a high-dimensional robust approach.

Zang Y, Zhao Q, Zhang Q, Li Y, Zhang S, Ma S.

Genet Epidemiol. 2017 May 2.

[Read More >>](#)

In vitro biologic efficacy of sunitinib drug-eluting beads on human colorectal and hepatocellular carcinoma-A pilot study.

Lahti S, Ludwig JM, Xing M, Sun L, Zeng D, Kim HS.

PLoS One. 2017 Apr 6;12(4):e0174539.

[Read More >>](#)

Cytogenetic features of human trophoblast cell lines SWAN-71 and 3A-subE.

Reiter JL, Drendel HM, Chakraborty S, Schellinger MM, Lee MJ, Mor G.

Placenta. 2017 Apr;52:17-20.

[Read More >>](#)

Cellular Expression of PD-L1 in the Peripheral Blood of Lung Cancer Patients is Associated with Worse Survival.

Boffa DJ, Graf RP, Salazar MC, Hoag J, Lu D, Krupa R, Louw J, Dugan L, Wang Y, Landers M, Suraneni M, Greene SB, Makani S, Magaña M, Bazhenova L, Dittamore RV, Nieva J.

Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2017 Apr 26.

[Read More >>](#)

May 15; 11AM

Pathology Epigenetics Seminar

TAC N-107

Chromatin Modification, Gene Regulation and Cancer

G. Greg Wang, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 16; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talk

TAC N-107

TBA

Shang-Min Zhang, PhD, and Sandra Martinez-Morilla, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 16; 12PM

YCC Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Obesity and Cancer: Causal or Not?

Melinda Irwin, PhD, MPH

TBA

Christina Price, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 17; 3PM

State Chest Lecture

LMP 1094

Advances in Lung Cancer Therapy

Daniel Boffa, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 18; 8:30AM

Medical Grand Rounds / Annual Calabresi Lecture

LMP 1094

Do we need to Redefine Disease for a Digital Age?

Calum A. MacRae, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 18; 9AM

Smilow Screening & Prevention Program at the City of New Haven Employee Health Fair

New Haven City Hall

Screen to Save Initiative

Applications of pHLIP Technology for Cancer Imaging and Therapy.

Wyatt LC, Lewis JS, Andreev OA, Reshetnyak YK, Engelman DM.

Trends Biotechnol. 2017 Apr 21.

[Read More >>](#)

Comparison of Two Types of Meditation on Patients' Psychosocial Responses During Radiation Therapy for Head and Neck Cancer.

Boxleitner G, Jolie S, Shaffer D, Pasacreta N, Bai M, McCorkle R.

J Altern Complement Med. 2017 Feb 17.

[Read More >>](#)

Bridging locoregional therapy: Longitudinal trends and outcomes in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma.

Oligane HC, Close ON, Xing M, **Kim HS.**

Transplant Rev (Orlando). 2017 Feb 2.

[Read More >>](#)

Bridging Locoregional Therapy Prolongs Survival in Patients Listed for Liver Transplant with Hepatocellular Carcinoma.

Xing M, Sakaria S, Dhanasekaran R, Parekh S, Spivey J, Knechtle SJ, Zhang D, **Kim HS.**

Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol. 2017 Mar;40(3):410-420.

[Read More >>](#)

Acute Kidney Injury in Patients with Cancer.

Rosner MH, Perazella MA.

N Engl J Med. 2017 May 4;376(18):1770-1781.

[Read More >>](#)

FGF-dependent metabolic control of vascular development.

Yu P, Wilhelm K, Dubrac A, Tung JK, Alves TC, Fang JS, Xie Y, Zhu J, Chen Z, De Smet F, Zhang J, Jin SW, Sun L, Sun H, Kibbey RG, Hirschi KK, Hay N, Carmeliet P, Chittenden TW, Eichmann A, Potente M, Simons M.

Nature. 2017 May 3.

[Learn More >>](#)

May 18; 2:30PM

Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar

SRC, Suites 107-109

[Learn More >>](#)



Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs & Communications

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

 Forward to a Friend

[Read More >>](#)