

# DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

October 30, 2015

## Announcements

### Smilow and Care Centers Achieve QOPI Certification

Thanks to a huge team effort led by Cathy Lyons, Rogerio Lilenbaum, Anne Chiang, Kerin Adelson, Stephanie Ampert, and Nara Sinanis, Smilow Cancer Hospital and 8 of our 10 Care Centers have received QOPI certification from ASCO. The Quality Oncology Practice Initiative, or QOPI, is a three-year certification for outpatient hematology-oncology practices that validates commitment to quality. The certification standards are adapted from the ASCO/ONS chemotherapy safety standards and are intended to reduce the risk of errors when providing cancer patients with chemotherapy, and to provide a framework for best practices in cancer care. The leadership team has already started the process to get our last two Care Centers certified - Trumbull and Fairfield - and I look forward to reporting that our entire network will have QOPI certification in the near future.

### Closer to Free Ride Raises \$2.2 Million

I am very proud to report that the 2015 Closer to Free Ride brings us **\$2.2 million Closer to Free!** 100% of the funds raised by riders and volunteers will go to work at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. I also want to congratulate our [top fundraisers](#), including Smilow Cancer Hospital's Team Live Positive, chaired by Maureen Raucci, who raised over \$143,000! Carl's Crusaders, a team supporting a Guilford firefighter who lost his battle to cancer 3 years ago, raised over \$89,000, and Kevin Walsh's team, Augur's Irish Pub, raised over \$42,000. Thank you all for your dedication to Closer to Free!

*from the desk of*

**Peter G. Schulam, MD, PhD**

Director, Yale Cancer Center  
and Physician-in-Chief,  
Smilow Cancer Hospital (Interim)



## Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

## LATEST ARTICLES:



Creating awareness of male breast cancer

[Read More >>](#)

## Prostate Cancer Screening a Success - Celebrating Movember

As Men's Health Awareness month approaches, I would like to thank the Prostate and Urologic Cancers Program team and the Urology department for the outstanding work they did during our annual Prostate Cancer screening event last month. The event, led by Dr. Charles Walker, screened nearly 90 men from our community.

We are continuing our awareness efforts by once again participating in Movember! We have been invited by the Prostate Cancer Foundation to create an official team from Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital - "Yale Mo's for Men's Health." I welcome and encourage anyone to join us by registering online [here](#), and contacting [Katie Schutt](#) so we can include you in our team activities and photos.

## Radiation Oncology Welcomes Two New Physicians

The Department of Therapeutic Radiology recently welcomed two new Assistant Professors who are caring for patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

**Sameer Nath, MD, MS**, grew up in the Greater New Haven area. He went to college at Reed in Portland, OR and completed his medical school training at the University of California San Diego. He returned to Connecticut for his residency training in Radiation Oncology at Yale. He formerly practiced at The Connecticut Hospice Inc., and has participated in several studies on head and neck cancer, intensity modulated radiation therapy, prostate cancer, and image-guided stereotactic body radiation for early stage primary lung cancer, which have been published in various publications.



Hochster Named President Elect of International Society of Gastrointestinal Oncology

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Here's what an expert says about Biden's call for 'moon shot' to end cancer

[Read More >>](#)

## Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook

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### LATEST POSTS:

When the American Society of Clinical Oncology met in Chicago this spring, one of the hottest topics was the promise of immunotherapy against cancer. And one of the point men for the media was our own Dr. Roy S. Herbst, Chief of Medical Oncology at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Associate Director for Translational Research and Ensign Professor of Medicine at Yale Cancer Center, who appeared on CNN, Fox News, and in newspapers from as far away as South Africa and the United Kingdom. He has spent more than 20 years both in the lab,

**Melissa Young, MD, PhD**, received her medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and completed her residency at Yale. While in residency training, her research interests included the evaluation of the potential therapeutic utility of anti-guanosine lupus antibodies in cancer. At the University of Texas she served as a pharmacology tutor to medical students and has presented at ASTRO. In 2012 her poster entitled *Adjuvant Carboplatin/Paclitaxel and Vaginal Brachytherapy for Locally Advanced Endometrial Cancer* was selected for a Poster Walk.



studying the underlying science of cancer, and in the clinic, bringing novel treatments to patients. Read more to learn how Dr. Herbst became a media go-to guy on immunotherapy!



[Read More >>](#)

### **Pediatric Hematology & Oncology CME Dinner**

Please join us on Thursday, November 5 for presentations from the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Program on the latest treatment options for our pediatric patients. Hosted by Dr. Gary Kupfer, the evening will include a variety of lectures from our faculty.

[Agenda >>](#)

[Register >>](#)

### **Coffee and Conversations**

Yale Cancer Center is continuing its monthly series, *Coffee and Conversations*, for our staff. Hosted by Kevin Vest, each meeting includes breakfast and informal discussions about what is happening around Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. It is a great opportunity to share your experiences, learn more about where you work, and interact with others from the Cancer Center. Please send any suggestions you have to [Tessa Steffen](#), and be sure to participate in an upcoming *Coffee and Conversations* session when you receive an invite. Staff are invited at random, and from a variety of departments and divisions to increase diversity at each event.

## **Notables**

**Dr. Murat Gunel**, Nixdorff-German Professor of Neurosurgery and Professor of Genetics and of Neurobiology and Chief, Department of Neurosurgery,

Dr. Andrea Silber's mission is to make sure women of different ethnic backgrounds take advantage of the new treatments available through clinical trials. Patients like Maria Castellani and Wendy Ormond are benefitting from the latest treatment options under her care. Learn more in a recent story on WTNH News Channel 8.



Closing the breast cancer gap

A push to close the breast cancer gap. Women of certain ethnicities have a higher risk of bad outcomes. Now, some medical professionals are trying to change that.

WTNH.COM

[Read More >>](#)

Drumroll please...the 2015 [#CTFRide](#) brings us \$2.2 million Closer to Free! 100% of Rider and Volunteer fundraising benefits Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Yale-New Haven Hospital, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Günel's clinical expertise in neurosurgery focuses on treating complex brain aneurysms and vascular malformations, as well as brain tumors.

[Learn More >>](#)

**The National Cancer Institute** has named **Craig Crews, PhD**, a recipient of its **Outstanding Investigator Award**. Dr. Crews, the L. B. Cullman Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, was one of 60 US scientists to receive the award, which brings \$4.2 million over seven years to support his lab's research.

[Learn More >>](#)

**The International Society of Gastrointestinal Oncology (ISGIO)** has named **Howard Hochster, MD**, as president elect. Dr. Hochster, Professor of Medical Oncology; Associate Director for Clinical Sciences at Yale Cancer Center; and Director of the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, will serve a two-year term as president-elect followed by two years as president.

[Learn More >>](#)

**Dr. Henry Park** was a recipient of the **Resident Digital Poster Recognition Award** at the **ASTRO Annual Meeting** in San Antonio, TX last week. His poster, Higher Facility Case Volume of Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Is Associated With Improved Overall Survival in Clinical Stage I Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, was presented during the Lung Cancer session of the meeting.

## Employee Profile: Jason Burgo and Michael Torres

Jason Burgo and Michael Torres, IT Support Specialists for Yale University Campus Technology Services, both joined Yale in 2008 as contractors to migrate email from the outdated mail systems to the current Microsoft Outlook. After the conversion was complete, they both accepted roles as Designated Service Providers (DSP) at Yale Cancer Center and in 2011 were both hired full time by



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Thank you to all of our Medical Assistants who dedicate their days to helping our patients and their families at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Today we recognize you for your efforts on National Medical Assistants Recognition Day.



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LATEST TWEETS:

@AneesChagpar, patient Sanjith Rao talk #malebreastcancer with @timlammersfox61 <http://bit.ly/1P7WOfu> @FOX61News

With few exceptions, there is s/t we can do for virtually every kind of

YCC. They have continued to work together to provide reliable IT support to YCC faculty and staff, including clients located outside the New Haven area.

Jason serves as the main contact for clients within the Cancer Center, while Michael splits his talents between YCC and the School of Public Health. Their main role is to configure computers into what is known as managed workstations, following HIPPA guidelines with encryption. They are also available to fix printers, hardware issues, software installation as well as moving computers to new locations and provide support for laptops, cell phones, iPad and tablets.

They support clients in Bridgeport, Fairfield, Guilford, and Torrington, to name a few; therefore their work includes travelling when needed. They start the day by mapping out routes both on and off campus depending on scheduled appointments, high priority tickets and tickets they have received through the Help Desk. "Jason and I work as a team, which is very important" said Michael. "We have to manage all of the tickets we receive and make sure each one is taken care of in a timely manner."


Aside from being the support system for IT issues as they arise, Jason commented, "We also give advice and instructions so that people can figure out smaller issues with our help. We take others ideas and thoughts into consideration to figure out the best technical route to complete tasks. On any given day we can interact with anyone from an administrative assistant to the head of departments, physicians and managers. The job varies day to day."


Rick Kremer, Desktop Support Manager for Campus Technology Services, commented, "As their manager, I find them both fully dedicated to provide world class customer support to our clients. They are both extremely patient and have a calming influence. These 'soft' skills, combined with their technical acumen, make them invaluable to the Faculty and Staff Support team."


## Funding and Award Opportunities

### Smilow Patient Projects Grants

#cancer: @DeVitaDoctor Vincent DeVita tells @nprfreshair @YaleMed

 @DeVitaDoctor Vincent DeVita tells @nprfreshair how he helped develop better #lymphoma treatment <http://n.pr/1M3ysmp> @YaleMed

 Public-private partnerships will make inroads against #cancer: Dr. Rogerio Lilenbaum to @grob2000 @MarketWatch @VP

 @HH\_Oncodr, congratulations on being named president-elect of the International Society of Gastrointestinal Oncology

### Closer to Free

**closer to free**  
The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

### Events

**October 30; 4:00 PM**

**Yale Pathology First Inaugural Donald and Mary Elizabeth King Lectureship**

Brady Auditorium

*Pathology of Interstitial Lung Disease: 18 Years Later- Averill Liebow's Legacy*

Jeffrey L. Myers, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 1; 6:00 PM**



Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven are pleased to announce the second call for applications to fund small projects to improve patient care at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Monies for this program have come through our "Closer to Free" fund. Any employee at Smilow Cancer Hospital who develops a small project may apply by submitting an application for review. Projects can range from a patient education program to stress management for staff. In order to be eligible, the employee must be sponsored by a current Cancer Center Member

**Application Deadline:** November 2, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

[Application >>](#)

### **American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grants**

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce a competition for grants for Yale Assistant Professors. The awards are to support innovative work in the broad fields of basic, translational, clinical, and prevention/control cancer research by new investigators. These grants are restricted to investigators who have not already received federal research grant support or a previous ACS-IRG award. One-year grants will provide up to \$30,000 for each award. YCC members and non-members are encouraged to apply.

**Application Deadline:** November 12, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

[Application >>](#)

### **Lion Heart Fund for Cancer Research**

Yale investigators are encouraged to submit proposals of innovative, high-potential projects requiring pilot funding. Projects may be in any area of breast cancer research - basic, translational, clinical, outcomes and population science are all welcomed from any discipline or group of disciplines. A committee, comprised of scientific/medical experts from Yale Cancer Center and dedicated Lion Hearts, will review the proposals and choose those to be funded. Funding will be \$20,000 for a one-year project.

**Application Deadline:** November 15, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award**

In an effort to confront the crisis arising from a growing dearth of physician-scientists, Damon Runyon Cancer

### **Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

*Prostate and Urologic Cancers*

Michael Hurwitz, PhD, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 2; 12:00 PM**

### **YCC Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar Series**

BCMM 206/208

*Regulation of the Transcriptional Coactivator MKL1 by the Nuclear Lamina*

Maggie Sledd, PhD

*Regulation of Nucleosome Organization by the Inner Nuclear Membrane Protein Man1*

Christopher May, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 2; 12:00 PM**

### **Yale PET Talks**

Fitkin Amphitheatre

*Motion modeling/correction in multimodality PET/CT/MR imaging and the promise of multi-parametric modeling for oncology applications*

Dimitris Visvikis, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 2; 1:30 PM**

### **Yale New Haven Health / Employee and Family Resources**

NP4-101A

*Strategies to Prevent Compassion Fatigue and Take Care of Self*

[Read More >>](#)

**November 2; 6:00 PM**

### **Yale New Haven Health System Urology November Mondays Lecture**

Saint Raphael Campus

*Everything Men Want to Know About Male Urology But are Afraid to Ask*

Research Foundation is establishing a pilot program designed to recruit outstanding U.S. Specialty Board-eligible physicians into cancer research careers. The goals are to a) transform these individuals into the highest quality physician-scientists, capable of conducting research that has the potential to transform the diagnosis, treatment and/or prevention of cancer and b) to eliminate the financial disincentive to entering this career path.

This award will provide a funding source that will enable these individuals to pursue research intensively, while, if they wish to maintain their clinical skills, continuing to be clinically active. This award is structured to provide recipients with significant salary support and necessary research expenses (up to \$460,000 over four years). In addition, the Foundation will retire up to \$100,000 of any medical school debt still owed by an award recipient.

**Application Deadline:** December 1, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

#### **TCORS Pilot Project Grants**

The Yale Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) is offering funding for pilot projects to initiate research relating to understanding tobacco additives and modified risk tobacco products through behavioral, molecular, laboratory, pharmacological, epidemiological, and economic sciences that involves humans (both clinical & epidemiological research) and animals (basic research). We are particularly interested in studies of menthol, flavors, sweeteners, and e-cigarettes and studies using novel techniques.

Up to 3-5 pilot projects will be funded at the level of \$25,000 to \$75,000 (direct costs only). The project must be completed in 1 budget year. Collaborative studies between Yale TCORS and one or more other TCORS are encouraged. Prior permission for a cross-TCORS collaborative proposal is required.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** December 7, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

#### **Lymphatic Education & Research Network Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards Program**

The Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) is committed to supporting basic and translational research that fosters an interdisciplinary field of investigators conducting lymphatic research. The supported research will improve our understanding and advance the

David Hesse, MD  
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**November 3; 9:30 AM**

#### **Pathology Research in Progress Series**

TAC N-107

TBA

Vanessa Crevecoeur Ducas, PhD and  
Marcos Carpio, PhD  
[Read More >>](#)

**November 3; 12:00 PM**

#### **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

*Tackling Triple Negative Breast Cancer: From Genetic Screens to Therapeutic Strategies*

Thomas 'Trey' Westbrook, PhD  
[Read More >>](#)

**November 4; 5:00 PM**

#### **Yale New Haven Health / Employee and Family Resources**

NP4-101A

*Mindfulness Solutions*  
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**November 5; 12:30 PM**

#### **Pathology Grand Rounds**

Fitkin Amphitheater

*Biomarkers for Personalized Therapy in NSCLC*

Fred Hirsch, MD, PhD  
[Read More >>](#)

**November 5; 5:00 PM**

#### **Yale Cancer Center Evening Oncology Series**

NP4-101A&B

*Pediatric Hematology and Oncology*  
[Read More >>](#)

prevention, diagnosis, and novel treatments of lymphedema and other lymphatic disorders. In each grant cycle, at least one fellowship will specifically focus on lymphedema.

**Application Deadline:** January 15, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

## Recent Publications

### **Refusal of postoperative radiotherapy and its association with survival in head and neck cancer.**

Schwam ZG, Husain Z, Judson BL.

Radiother Oncol. 2015 Oct 24.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Standardization efforts enabling next-generation sequencing and microarray based biomarkers for precision medicine.**

Zheng Y, Qing T, Song Y, Zhu J, Yu Y, Shi W, Puztai L, Shi L.

Biomark Med. 2015 Oct 26.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Joint Effect of Genotypic and Phenotypic Features of Reproductive Factors on Endometrial CancerRisk.**

Wang Z, Risch H, Lu L, Irwin ML, Mayne S, Schwartz P, Rutherford T, De Vivo I, Yu H.

Sci Rep. 2015 Oct 26;5:15582.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Association Between RECIST Changes and Survival in Patients with Metastatic Castration-resistant Prostate Cancer Receiving Docetaxel.**

Sonpavde G, Pond GR, Templeton AJ, Fandi A, Tombal B, Rosenthal M, Armstrong AJ, Petrylak DP.

Eur Urol. 2015 Oct 20.

[Read More >>](#)

**November 8; 6:00 PM**

### **Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

*Environmental Health Factor Risks*

Nicole Deziel, PhD, MHS

[Read More >>](#)

**November 9; 1:30 PM**

### **Yale New Haven Health / Employee and Family Resources**

NP4-101A

*Strategies to Prevent Compassion Fatigue and Take Care of Self*

[Read More >>](#)

**November 9; 3:00 PM**

### **YCC Signal Transduction Research Program**

SHM I-116

*Rewiring of Signaling Networks in Cancer and Cancer Predisposition: A Systems Analysis*

Andre Levchenko, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 9; 6:00 PM**

### **Yale New Haven Health System Urology November Mondays Lecture**

Old Saybrook Medical Center

*Erectile Dysfunction: What to do When the Pills Don't Work*

Stanton C. Honig, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 10; 12:00 PM**

### **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

TBA

John S. Condeelis, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 10; 5:00 PM**



**A Common Polymorphism within the IGF2 Imprinting Control Region Is Associated with Parent of Origin Specific Effects in Infantile Hemangiomas.**

Schultz B, Yao X, Deng Y, Waner M, Spock C, Tom L, Persing J, Narayan D.

PLoS One. 2015 Oct 23;10(10):e0113168.

[Read More >>](#)

**Impact of a pharmacist-led oral chemotherapy-monitoring program in patients with metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer.**

Patel JM, Holle LM, Clement JM, Bunz T, Niemann C, Chamberlin KW.

J Oncol Pharm Pract. 2015 Oct 22.

[Read More >>](#)

**SMAC mimetic Debio 1143 synergizes with taxanes, topoisomerase inhibitors and bromodomain inhibitors to impede growth of lung adenocarcinoma cells.**

Langdon CG, Wiedemann N, Held MA, Mamillapalli R, Iyidogan P, Theodosakis N, Platt JT, Levy F, Vuagniaux G, Wang S, Bosenberg MW, Stern DF.

Oncotarget. 2015 Oct 16.

[Read More >>](#)

**Is adjuvant chemotherapy indicated in ovarian immature teratomas? A combined data analysis from the Malignant Germ Cell Tumor International Collaborative.**

Pashankar F, Hale JP, Dang H, Krailo M, Brady WE, Rodriguez-Galindo C, Nicholson JC, Murray MJ, Bilmire DF, Stoneham S, Arul GS, Olson TA, Stark D, Shaikh F, Amatruda JF, Covens A, Gershenson DM, Frazier AL.

Cancer. 2015 Oct 20.

[Read More >>](#)

**Control of dataset bias in combined Affymetrix cohorts of triple negative breast cancer.**

Karn T, Rody A, Müller V, Schmidt M, Becker S, Holtrich U, Pusztai L.

**YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series**

Smilow First Floor Conference Room, 1-330

TBD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 11; 8:00 AM**

**Yale Cancer Center / Smilow Cancer Hospital NCCN 2015 Congress Series**

Yale's West Campus

*Genitourinary (GU) Cancers*

Daniel Petrylak, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 11; 5:00 PM**

**Yale New Haven Health / Employee and Family Resources Presents**

NP4-101A

*Mindfulness Solutions*

[Read More >>](#)

**November 12; 12:00 PM**

**Yale Cancer Center / Schwartz Center Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

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**November 12; 12:30 PM**

**Pathology Grand Rounds**

LMP 1094

*Probing the Function of MLL1 in Leukemia and Stem Cells*

Yali Dou, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**Submissions**

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**

Genom Data. 2014 Oct 23;2:354-6.

[Read More >>](#)

**Influence of a 21-Gene Recurrence Score Assay on  
Chemotherapy Delivery in Breast Cancer.**

Rutter CE, Yao X, Mancini BR, Aminawung JA, Chagpar AB, Saglam O, Hofstatter EW, Abu-Khalaf M, Gross CP, Evans SB.

Clin Breast Cancer. 2015 Sep 21.

[Read More >>](#)

**Role of Chemoradiotherapy in Elderly Patients With  
Limited-Stage Small-Cell Lung Cancer.**

Corso CD, Rutter CE, Park HS, Lester-Coll NH, Kim AW, Wilson LD, Husain ZA, Lilenbaum RC, Yu JB, Decker RH.

J Clin Oncol. 2015 Oct 19.

[Read More >>](#)

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Marketing

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