I am fortunate to be surrounded by good doctors, a wonderful family, and many friends. I know that there is a tremendous amount of work being done in the research field. That gives me hope that someday I will be totally healed.

— Richard

How to Make an Appointment
For more information or to schedule an appointment with a member of the Melanoma Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital, please contact our patient intake coordinators at (203) 200-6622. They will provide you with assistance during your diagnosis, treatment, and recovery and our nurse coordinator can help answer questions that you may have. Our goal is to ensure that each of our patients has an outstanding and positive care experience.

What to Bring to Your First Appointment
For your first visit, our patient intake coordinators will work with you and your doctors to obtain all available imaging films and reports, pathology reports, slides, doctor’s referral notes, and the results of any pertinent tests or consultations.

appointments

SPECIAL TYPES OF MELANOMA
Melanoma is also known to develop at areas of the body other than the skin. Ocular melanoma is the most common eye tumor in adults. Care is managed through the Ocular Oncology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital, in collaboration with the Smilow Cancer Hospital Melanoma Program.

The Ocular Oncology team has extensive experience in treatment of this disease. Nasal melanoma is found in the mucosal surfaces of the body, which line nasal passages, the nose, vagina and other areas. With this diagnosis, patients are often first seen by head and neck, gastrointestinal, or gynecologic surgeons. With both diagnoses, our Melanoma Program experts provide input and follow-up care for melanoma patients.
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p: (203) 200-6622  |  yalecancercenter.org  |  smilowcancer.org

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For Richard’s story:
yalecancercenter.org/richard

For Dina’s story:
yalecancercenter.org/dina

appointments
The Melanoma Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital brings together an extensive, multidisciplinary team dedicated to the care of all stages of melanoma. As a highly specialized program established over 30 years ago, we have contributed to the advancement of melanoma research through several research projects and a career development program. Patients with advanced or metastatic melanoma have access to numerous clinical trials at Smilow Cancer Hospital including novel immunotherapy and targeted molecular therapy regimens. Additionally, patients who are no longer eligible for melanoma- specific studies may be eligible for therapies through our Phase I Clinical Trial Program. We are committed to providing you with the very best care today, and we remain dedicated to cutting-edge research into the causes and treatment of melanoma. Patients with advanced or metastatic melanoma are encouraged to talk to their treating oncologist about clinical trials of the immune therapies that are now standard of care and substantially improved the outcome for patients with advanced melanoma. We are also open to study melanoma- specific studies for eligible patients through our Phase I Clinical Trial Program that may be eligible for therapies through our Phase I Clinical Trial Program. We are committed to providing you with the very best care today, and we remain dedicated to cutting-edge research into the causes and treatment of melanoma. Patients with advanced or metastatic melanoma have access to numerous clinical trials at Smilow Cancer Hospital including novel immunotherapy and targeted molecular therapy regimens. Additionally, patients who are no longer eligible for melanoma- specific studies may be eligible for therapies through our Phase I Clinical Trial Program. We are committed to providing you with the very best care today, and we remain dedicated to cutting-edge research into the causes and treatment of melanoma. Patients with advanced or metastatic melanoma are encouraged to talk to their treating oncologist about clinical trials of the immune therapies that are now standard of care and substantially improved the outcome for patients with advanced melanoma. One of the major complications of advanced melanoma is spread to the brain. The disease and treatment of the brain in melanoma patients has been the focus of several clinical trials. Management of brain metastases (spread to the brain) is a multidisciplinary effort involving neurosurgeons, radiation oncologists, and medical oncologists. The presence of brain metastases may affect survival, and patients diagnosed with low-stage melanoma are considered for management of the brain as a component of their overall treatment. Management of the brain in melanoma patients focuses on controlling symptoms, improving quality of life, and extending survival. Patients who have been diagnosed with brain metastases should be referred to a neuro-oncologist who can coordinate care among the different specialists involved in the treatment of brain metastases. Beyond the primary site or lymph nodes close to the primary site, surgery may be performed to remove metastases. Each patient’s care will be reviewed by our multidisciplinary care team to develop a personalized treatment plan. Clinical trials are also available to patients through Yale Cancer Center, bringing the latest treatment options for melanoma to our clinics to benefit patients.

Early Stage Diagnosis

In the early stages of melanoma, pathology results from your tumor will determine the risk of developing metastases (spread to distant organs) in the future. If the results indicate a high risk for melanoma metastases, treatments are available to reduce the risk and possibly prevent or delay melanoma metastases. Early detection and action can lead to a successful outcome.

CLINICAL CARE

Clinical care of melanoma patients is a coordinated effort of our surgeons, medical oncologists, dermatologists, radiologists, pathologists, and radiation oncologists, and is continually evolving. Care and management of patients is discussed among the team in a weekly tumor board conference, where all aspects of each patient’s case are reviewed and discussed to determine the best treatment plan and management of patients. After the initial diagnosis, and depending on the presentation of the disease, each patient is evaluated by our dermatologists, surgeons, and medical oncologists. Our skilled surgeons are dumpsters dedicated to skin cancer screening and skin complications of cancer therapies. Drs. James Quei and Molly Chiu are surgeons specializing in melanoma surgery, and Drs. South, Wexler, Mon, and Jett are the medical oncologists who collaborate on care within our Melanoma Program. For some presentations of melanoma, particularly in the early stages when disease has not spread beyond the primary site or lymph nodes close to the primary site, surgery may be preferred initial treatment. Melanomas can occur on any body site and even in areas not typically associated with skin cancers such as the nails, scalp, ear, oral cavity, or mucosa. Our multidisciplinary surgical team includes experts in surgical oncology and plastic surgery. For certain regions of the body, our team collaborates with other highly-trained surgical subspecialties including reconstructive plastic surgery and neurosurgery.

Recent advancements in melanoma research, particularly of the immune system in skin cancers, has led to the development of novel immunotherapy and targeted molecular therapies for the treatment of advanced melanoma. Depending on the melanoma presentation, OTC scans, MRI scans and/or PET scans may be used to determine if melanoma metastases are present in other parts of the body, and to determine the extent of involvement of other body sites. If disease is present in multiple body sites, immunotherapy or targeted molecular therapies may be recommended using the knowledge and expertise of our oncology team. In addition to standard of care treatment, clinical trials may be available, and clinical trials may also be offered if the standard of care treatment is not effective. Our physicians participate in local and national clinical trials of the clinical therapies that are now standard of care and substantially improved the outcome for patients with advanced melanoma.

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The Melanoma Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital brings together an extensive, multidisciplinary team to diagnose, treat, and care for patients with melanoma.

Established more than 30 years ago, our program includes experts in melanoma surgery, medical oncology, dermatology, pathology, dermatopathology, radiology, genetics, and radiation oncology. Members of the team are national and international leaders in clinical and laboratory research focusing on improving the care for melanoma. Patients who present with an early-stage diagnosis in our clinics are treated by a network of supportive care services. Nurses with dedicated knowledge and skills related to the treatment of melanoma are available to care for our patients through the continuum of care. Each patient will be reviewed by our multidisciplinary care team to develop a personalized plan of treatment. Melanoma specialists at Smilow Cancer Hospital bring together an extensive, multidisciplinary team dedicated to skin cancer screening and skin complications of cancer therapies. Drs. James Queen and Harriet Kluger are the medical oncologists who collaborate on patient care within our Melanoma Program. Drs. Sarah Weiss, Mario Sznol, and Kelly Olino are surgeons who specialize in melanoma surgery, and Drs. Scott Weiss, Michael Aron, and Oliver Burg are the medical oncologists who collaborate as part of our care within melanoma care.

For some presentations of melanoma, particularly in the early stages where disease has not spread beyond the primary site or lymph nodes close to the primary site, surgery may be the preferred initial treatment. Melanomas can occur on any skin site and even in areas not exposed to the sun. Some melanomas appear in delicate areas such as the face, ears, neck, arm, and thigh, and often require the expertise of a plastic surgeon. Specialized surgical expertise is essential for the management of melanoma. Our melanoma surgery team includes experts in surgical oncology and plastic surgery. For certain regions of the body, our team collaborates with other highly-trained surgical subspecialties including dermatologic surgery and neurosurgery.

Depending on the melanoma presentation, pathology results from your tumor will determine the risk of developing melanoma recurrence. Adjuvant therapies or therapies given after surgery, include immunotherapies and targeted therapies, for patients with a specific mutation in the protein called BRAF. Clinical trials may also be available.

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One of the major complications of advanced melanoma is spread of disease to the brain. The clinical and management aspects of each patient’s case are reviewed and discussed at our tumor board conferences, where all members of our multidisciplinary care team have a voice. Management of the disease in the brain requires a highly skilled and experienced team. To care for these patients, we have assembled a multidisciplinary group of experts in medical oncology, neurosurgeons, neurologists, and radiation oncologists to bring the latest melanoma treatment models, led by Dr. Harriet Kluger and Dr. Michael Aron.

The Yale SPORE (Specialized Programs of Research Excellence) in Skin Cancer is the result of a grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health. Yale has the unique position of being one of five sites in the United States to receive a SPORE grant focused on skin cancer, Yale is in the unique position of being able to prioritize skin cancer research through several research projects and a career development program. The Yale Cancer Center is also home to several leading melanoma research laboratories, which study the genetic and cellular changes that result in melanoma.

Clinical care of melanoma patients is a coordinated effort of our surgeons, medical oncologists, dermatologic surgeon, genetic counselors, pathologists, and radiation oncologists in the treatment of melanoma. Care and management of patients is discussed among the team in a weekly tumor board conference, where all aspects of each patient’s care are reviewed and discussed in detail by the team members.

After the initial diagnosis, and depending upon the presentation of the disease, each patient is evaluated by our expert dermatologists, surgical, and medical oncologists. Dr. Jonathan Leventhal is a dermatologist dedicated to skin cancer screening and skin complications of cancer therapies. Drs. James Queen and Harriet Kluger are the medical oncologists who collaborate on patient care within our Melanoma Program.
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The Ocular Oncology team has extensive expertise in treatment of this disease. Mucosal melanoma is found in the mucosal surfaces of the body, which line the nasal passages, the eye, vagina and other areas. With this diagnosis, patients are often first seen by head and neck, gastrointestinal, or gynecologic surgeons. With both diagnoses, our Melanoma Program experts provide input and coordinate subsequent post-surgical and follow-up care for melanoma patients.

 appointments

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For Richard’s story:

yalecancercenter.org/richard

For Dina’s story:

yalecancercenter.org/dina
Clinic staff at melanoma are dedicated to the latest treatment options available to patients with melanoma.

Each patient’s care will be reviewed by our multidisciplinary team to diagnose, treat, and care for patients with melanoma.

The Melanoma Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital brings together an extensive, multidisciplinary team to diagnose, treat, and care for patients with melanoma.

For patients with advanced or metastatic melanoma, targeted therapies will be recommended using the knowledge and expertise of our oncology team. Dr. Veronica Chiang. The team meets weekly to design optimal treatment regimens and effectively manage the neurologic consequences of the disease and its treatment.

We provide patients with access to numerous clinical trials at Smilow Cancer Hospital including novel immunotherapy and targeted therapies that have the potential to influence the course of the disease.

Dr. Sznol impacted my life in every way. I was absolutely confident he would know what to do. Dr. Sznol is an incredible human being.
The Melanoma Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital brings together an extensive, multidisciplinary team dedicated to providing the most comprehensive and cutting-edge treatment available. Each patient’s care will be reviewed by our multidisciplinary care team to develop a personalized treatment plan. Clinical trials are also available to patients through Yale Cancer Center, bringing the latest treatment options for melanoma to our clinics to benefit patients. Research focusing on improving the treatment for melanoma. From patients who present with an early stage diagnosis or more complex, metastatic disease, our team is prepared to provide each patient with the most comprehensive and cutting-edge treatment available.

Clinical trials of the immune therapies that are now standard of care and substantially improved the outcome for patients with advanced melanoma. One of the major complications of advanced melanoma is spread of disease to the brain. The disease in this setting can be devastating to a patient and their families and the key to improving outcomes for patients with melanoma metastases (spread to distant organs) in the future. If the results indicate a high risk for melanoma metastases, treatments are available to reduce the risk and possibly prevent or delay melanoma metastases. Depending on the melanoma presentation, CAT scans, MRI scans and/or PET scans may be used to determine if melanoma metastases are present in other parts of the body and to determine the extent of involvement of other body areas. In the case of a brain metastasis, a highly skilled and experienced team. To care for these patients, we have assembled a multidisciplinary group of expert medical oncologists, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, and clinical trials whose expertise is critical to the care of this patient population. Management of melanoma brain metastases requires a highly skilled and experienced team. To care for these patients, we have assembled a multidisciplinary group of expert medical oncologists, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, and clinical trials whose expertise is critical to the care of this patient population.

The Yale SPORE (Specialized Programs of Research Excellence) in Skin Cancer is the result of a grant awarded to the Yale Ludwig Cancer Institute to support research aimed at understanding the causes and treatment of melanoma. Patients with advanced or metastatic melanoma have access to numerous clinical trials at Smilow Cancer Hospital including novel immunotherapy and targeted cancer treatment options. Clinical trials at Smilow Cancer Hospital may also be available.

For some presentations of melanoma, particularly in the early stages where disease has not spread beyond the primary site or lymph nodes close to the primary site, surgery may be preferred. Surgery can be performed on skin and in even in areas that are otherwise difficult to access. Melanomas are detected in diverse areas such as the face, ears, nose, and hand and often require the expertise of a plastic surgeon. Specialized surgical expertise is essential to the management of melanoma. Our melanoma surgery team includes experts in surgical oncology and plastic surgery. For certain regions of the body, our team collaborates with other highly trained surgical subspecialties including neurosurgery and orthopedics.

Assemble a multidisciplinary group of expert medical oncologists, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, and clinical trials whose expertise is critical. To understand the causes and treatment of melanoma. Patients with advanced or metastatic melanoma have access to numerous clinical trials at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Clinical trials at Smilow Cancer Hospital may also be available. Specific studies may be eligible for therapies through our Phase I Clinical Trial Program. Yale researchers developed several mouse models that are used worldwide that study how melanoma forms and progresses, the ability to test specific studies may be eligible for therapies through our Phase I Clinical Trial Program. We are committed to providing you with the very best care today, and we remain dedicated to cutting-edge research and innovative therapies that will advance the standard of care tomorrow.

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