

Grand Rounds

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
12:00pm

Smilow Auditorium, 55 Park Street

[Zoom Access](#)

Lunch will be available

Advanced Gastrointestinal Cancers in 2026: A Focus on Colorectal Cancer and Yale's Role in Developing Novel Therapeutic and Biomarker Strategies

Michael Cecchini, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology); Co-Director, Colorectal Program, Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers



Michael Cecchini, MD

Dr. Michael Cecchini is a medical oncologist who specializes in gastrointestinal cancers, including (but not limited to) colorectal, bile duct, pancreas, esophageal, and stomach cancers. He cares for patients with advanced gastrointestinal cancers and is an investigator in multiple research trials.

His translational research includes clinical and lab projects to study DNA damage and the immune response, primarily for colorectal cancer. He is the recipient of a Young Investigator Award from the Conquer Cancer Foundation for research focused on metastatic gastric cancer and 2020 Scholar on the Yale Cancer Center K12 Calabresi Immuno-Oncology Training Program. He received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed his residency and fellowship at Yale.

Needs:

This presentation will provide a structured framework to integrate first in human clinical trial expertise with disease specific clinical development and trial design for novel treatments.

Objectives:

1. Understand how integrating first in human studies with disease-specific expansion cohorts enhances drug development for GI cancers.
2. Understand how quantitative biomarkers for MGMT are superior to epigenetic biomarkers to predict benefit from novel alkylator therapies.
3. Evaluate the principles of designing investigator initiated clinical trials for DNA damage combinations.

