

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

April 15, 2022

From Eric's Desk

It is now day +74 since I started back at Yale. Thank you for all your support and generosity during this time.

Over the next several months, you will hear more about strategic planning. We need to articulate our clinical imperatives, our scientific priorities, and the steps we will take to achieve the greatest possible impact over the next five years. Not only do we want to provide the best possible care that can be delivered today, but we want to make sure that today's standards are replaced by far better approaches—more effective, less toxic, more convenient, less disruptive—in the near future. To ready ourselves to achieve these goals, we must think strategically and plan carefully. My hope is to complete the initial steps of a strategic plan by the end of the summer.

One of our major initiatives will focus on improving the cancer care available to underserved residents of our catchment area. Connecticut is a state of contrasts in income and in healthcare. We will use our statewide clinical network to provide the highest quality subspecialty oncology care, inclusive of clinical trials and the latest treatment approaches, to an ever-growing population of patients with cancer impacted by healthcare disparities. Harnessing the expertise in our network is not enough. We must link that expertise with the growing strength of our Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity. With careful thought, effort, and teamwork, I believe we can transform cancer care in Connecticut...and ultimately beyond. You will hear more about these critical endeavors prior to, during, and following our strategic planning efforts.

And finally, on the most positive of notes, a heartfelt congratulations to Patricia LoRusso, DO, and Craig Crews, PhD, who each received major awards at the recent AACR annual meeting.

I hope you have a peaceful and enjoyable holiday weekend.

Eric

Announcements

Proton Center Approved for Wallingford



from the desk of
Eric P. Winer, MD
Director, Yale Cancer Center
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

News Center

**Yale Researchers Suggest Race Could
Impact Quality of Cancer Care**



Watch Now

Yale Faculty Book the Book of the Year



Yale New Haven Health System has received final approval from the state of Connecticut to introduce proton beam therapy—a highly advanced form of radiation treatment for cancer—to Connecticut. The new Connecticut Proton Therapy Center is an unprecedented collaboration between the Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford HealthCare. The 25,000-square-foot center will be the first and only proton center in Connecticut and will be located at 932 Northrop Road in Wallingford.

Proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy that uses a high energy beam of protons to irradiate cancer. The chief advantage of proton therapy over other types of radiotherapy is that the dose is more finely controlled. With proton beam, there is less entry, exit, and scattered radiation so that physicians can safely deliver higher doses of radiation to tumors with fewer side effects.

“We look forward to bringing proton beam therapy to patients diagnosed with cancer in Connecticut who may benefit from this advanced form of treatment. Access to this treatment, close to home, will be transformational for many patients,” said Peter M. Glazer, MD, PhD, Robert E. Hunter Professor and Chair of Therapeutic Radiology.

The Wallingford center, which is projected to open in 2024, will include the latest technology and equipment, treatment room, control room, exam rooms, and clinical space. Employees will include physicians and clinical staff from Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford HealthCare, as well as additional new staff.

Drs. Patricia LoRusso and Craig Crews Honored by AACR



Yale Findings Broaden the Repertoire of Cancer-Relevant Genes



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Team Effort Among Yale Pathologists, Smilow Oncologists Leads to Rapid Diagnosis and Treatment



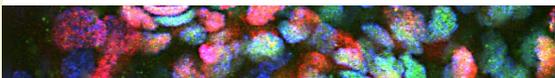
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Yale Cancer Center Study Reports Racial Disparities for Gastrointestinal Surgery



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One Step Closer to Creating New Hair Follicles





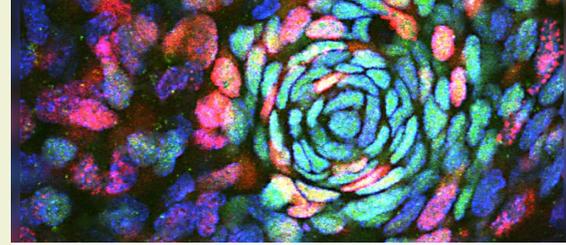
Patricia LoRusso, DO, Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), and Associate Cancer Center Director for Experimental Therapeutics at Yale Cancer Center, has been awarded the **2022 Joseph H. Burchenal Award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Cancer Research** by the American Association for Cancer Research. Dr. LoRusso was recognized for her exemplary leadership in drug development and translational cancer therapeutics and for her pioneering work on early-phase clinical investigation of novel therapies and combination strategies for advanced cancers. Her unwavering and inexhaustible efforts in the design, conduct, analysis, and knowledge dissemination of early-phase cancer clinical trials have created paradigm shifts in the treatment of cancer malignancies.

Craig Crews, PhD, John C. Malone Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology and Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacology, and Management at Yale, received the **2022 Irving Weinstein Foundation Distinguished Lectureship Award** from the American Association for Cancer Research. He was recognized for excellence in drug discovery and development spanning from molecule to patient, and for his work on pharmacological modulation of protein turnover. Combining groundbreaking science with strong entrepreneurship, Dr. Crews has spearheaded new and revolutionary therapeutic approaches including the development of novel proteasome inhibitors and proteolysis targeting chimera (PROTAC) technology, enabling the drugging of cancer targets previously considered undruggable.

Closer to Free!

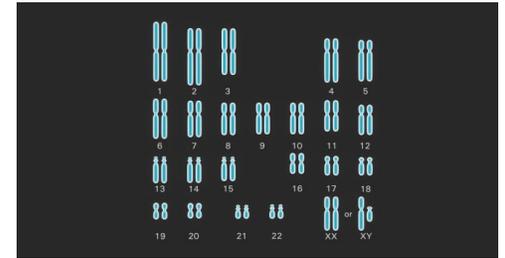
New this year, the Closer to Free ride is hosting a hybrid model. Cyclists can join us in person from the Yale Bowl and can choose to ride 10, 25, 40, 65, or 100 miles on fully supported routes. Or riders can participate remotely on their own personal route (or from home

on a spin bike!). We have remote participation across several states, including a rider already registered



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Learning Which Genetic Changes Predict Greatest Risk of Cancer Death



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Yale Researchers have Uncovered a Regulator of Body Weight that could Lead to New Treatments for Metabolic Disorders



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Synthetic Key Unlocks a Hidden Biology Treasure Chest



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Epigenetic Aging Of Breast Tissues

from the UK!
[Learn more](#)



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Notables

The **American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP)** has announced it will honor **Qin Yan, PhD**, Associate Professor of Pathology and Co-Leader of the Genomics, Genetics, and Epigenetics Research Program, with its 2023 Outstanding Investigator Award. The award recognizes mid-career investigators with demonstrated excellence in research in experimental pathology. The award was announced at the ASIP's Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2022 earlier this month. Dr. Yan will receive the award at ASIP's 2023 Annual Meeting in October 2023 in Salt Lake City, where he will deliver the Award Lecture. [Learn more.](#)

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, has been appointed **Chair of the American Association for Cancer Research Scientific Policy and Government Affairs Committee**; the appointment became effective at the AACR Annual Meeting earlier this week in New Orleans. As Chair of the Scientific Policy and Government Affairs Committee (SPGAC), Dr. Herbst will oversee the SPGAC's three subcommittees to analyze public issues of concern to cancer researchers and focus on mechanisms for expediting cancer research. [Learn more.](#)

The **American Association for Cancer Research** recently announced awards to support three young scientists from Yale Cancer Center to attend the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research earlier this week. **Fernando de Miguel, PhD**, an Associate Research Scientist in the Politi Lab, **Meaghan McGeary**, a PhD candidate in the Bosenberg Lab, and **Matt Murray**, a PhD candidate in the Bindra Lab all received travel awards. Dr. de Miguel received the Scholar-in-Training Award, Ms. McGeary received the Women in Cancer Research Scholar Award, and Mr. Murray received the Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award. [Learn more.](#)

Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH, Director of the Center for Breast Cancer at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, has joined the **Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women** of the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**. In addition, Dr. Lustberg has joined the membership of the **National Cancer Institute PDQ Supportive and Palliative Care Editorial Board.**

Rachel Perry, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) and Cellular and Molecular Physiology, principal investigator, and **Adebowale Adeniran, MD**, Professor of Pathology, and **Andrew Wang, MD/PhD, AB**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Rheumatology) and Immunobiology, co-

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[YALE CANCER ANSWERS](#)

Six years after laying out an ambitious blueprint for the Yale Cancer Biology Institute, the institute has been built around young scientists Mark Lemmon, PhD, FRS, calls "superstars."



investigators, have received an **R01 grant** from the **National Institutes of Health** to research whether a liver-derived hormone affects renal cell carcinoma, the most common form of kidney cancer.

Leah Tenenbaum, the Smilow Palliative Care Program Inpatient Chaplain, has recently achieved certification as a **Palliative Care and Hospice Advanced Certified Chaplain** by the Board of Chaplaincy Certification (BCCI). This advanced certification is a first for the Department of Spiritual Care at YNHH. Nationally, there are only 54 chaplains who have reached this level of advanced certification! Congratulations, Chaplain Leah!

Dhanpat Jain, MD, Professor of Pathology and of Medicine (Digestive Diseases), has been named President of the **Hans Popper Hepatopathology Society** (HPHS). HPHS, named after the Austrian-born pathologist, hepatologist and educator, seeks to disseminate and increase knowledge of the normal and diseased liver and biliary tree with an emphasis on pathology.

The **Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program** welcomes **Jaewoong Lee, PhD**, Research Scientist in the section of hematology. Dr. Lee's research on leukemia highlighted the functional interplay of signaling molecules in leukemia cells with signaling oncogenes. This work revealed a new function for IFITM3 in accumulating PIP3 and amplifying B cell receptor-PI3K signaling. Dr. Lee's other work is exploring IL-2 Receptor alpha CD25 as a target for therapeutic antibody-drug conjugates.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Yale Cancer Center Study Reports Racial Disparities for Gastrointestinal Surgery

African-American adult patients are more likely than white patients to receive substandard gastrointestinal cancer surgery, according to a large study led by Sajid Khan, MD, FACS, FSSO, at Yale Cancer Center. The findings were reported in the journal **JAMA Network Open**.

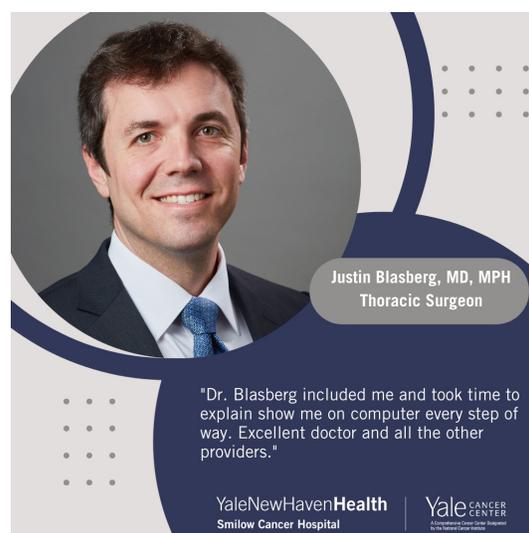
For the study, scientists examined a cohort of 565,124 adult patients with gastrointestinal cancer undergoing surgery between 2004 and 2017. They found that compared to white patients, African-American patients had lower rates of negative surgical margins, and this was most pronounced for surgeries of the esophagus, rectum and bile duct (lower likelihood of negative resection margins 29%, 29%, and 25%, respectively). They also found that African-Americans had an adequate number of lymph nodes removed less frequently than white patients, with the greatest disparities seen in surgeries of the small intestine, esophagus, colon, pancreas, and rectosigmoid (lower



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Meet Justin Blasberg, MD, MPH, thoracic surgeon at Smilow Cancer Hospital and at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Greenwich, and Director of Robotic Thoracic Surgery. Recently, a patient of Dr. Blasberg's shared:

"Dr. Blasberg included me and took time to explain show me on computer every step of way. Excellent doctor and all the other providers."



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Smilow Cancer Hospital launched its first Hospitalist Program in July 2021. The program is already making a significant difference in reducing fragmentation in patient care and hospital stays, while improving both patient and provider satisfaction.



likelihood of adequate lymph node removal 29%, 28%, 11%, 10%, and 10%, respectively).

[Learn more](#)

Kim Blenman, PhD, MS, Receives BCFR-AACR Career Development Award

Kim Blenman, PhD, MS, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and of Computer Science, received the highly prestigious 2022 Joint Breast Cancer Research Foundation-American Association for Cancer Research (BCRF-AACR) Career Development Award at the AACR Annual Meeting this week.

The award will help to advance her research in “Characterization of pre-existing autoantibodies in breast cancer” and advance her career interest in building a Treatment Emergent Adverse Events profiling program for Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital.



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"Testicular cancer is most often diagnosed in young men, and therefore, the focus is on minimizing the short- and long-term impacts of treatment." - Dr. Preston Sprenkle answers our questions in honor of April's Testicular Cancer Awareness Month.

A graphic for Testicular Cancer Awareness Month. It features a purple ribbon on the left side. In the center is a portrait of Dr. Preston Sprenkle, a man in a dark suit and light-colored tie. To the right of the portrait is a quote: "Testicular self-examination is very important and can identify testicular cancers early when treatment and cure are easier and less intensive. It's very simple and only takes a minute to perform. It should be done once a month, so you have an easier time noticing if something has changed. Testicular cancer is often diagnosed in young men so routine self-examination should begin at age 15." Below the quote is the name "Dr. Preston Sprenkle". At the bottom, the text "Testicular Cancer Awareness Month" is written in a stylized font. Logos for "YaleNewHavenHealth Smilow Cancer Hospital" and "Yale Cancer Center" are at the bottom right.

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Take a moment to review Breakthroughs, our annual publication from Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital highlighting clinical and research advances from our clinics and laboratories.

Employee Profile: Michael Capo

When patients enter Smilow Cancer Hospital using the bridge from the Air Rights Garage, they cross over to the fourth floor and are often greeted by Michael Capo, Patient Experience Ambassador. Michael checks patients in, makes sure they know where to go for their appointment, and provides any additional information they may need. In the two and a half years since Michael began his position here, he has formed relationships and has gotten to know many of our patients and their families. Especially during COVID when visitation was restricted, Michael acted as an extra layer of support for many.



Michael has been in the medical field for 15 years and worked in patient relations at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, NY before taking a

position with Yale. As a patient experience ambassador, he is cross trained on tasks including issuing passes, overseeing patient visitation policies, providing directions, and escorting patients and visitors. In addition to that, Michael easily makes connections with people and uses his naturally caring personality to make people feel comfortable.



“People from all walks of life, and with different diagnoses, cross over that bridge each day,” said Michael. “I get to know their names, and their family and friends as well, and try to put them at ease for what may be a very difficult day. I have learned that the little things make a big impact, and it’s really meaningful when people take the time out to update me on their progress, or share a memory of a loved one that may have passed.”

One patient recently commented, “Michael greets patients and their loved ones with kindness and compassion, immediately putting those who are frightened at ease. My family and I have been lucky enough to experience his compassion firsthand, and I am certain all patients and families who encounter Michael feel the same.” Michael was recently accepted to Nursing School and looks forward to the next chapter of caring for patients!

Recent Publications

Rischin D, Harrington KJ, Greil R, Soulières D, Tahara M, de Castro G Jr, Psyrris A, Braña I, Neupane P, Bratland Å, Fuereder T, Hughes BGM, Mesía R, Ngamphaiboon N, Rordorf T, Ishak WZW, Hong RL, Mendoza RG, Jia L, Chirovsky D, Norquist J, Jin F, Burtness B.

Pembrolizumab Alone Or With Chemotherapy For Recurrent Or Metastatic Head And Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma: Health-Related Quality-Of-Life Results From KEYNOTE-048

Oral Oncology, Online ahead of print.

[Read More](#)

Rozenblit M, Lustberg MB.

Sacituzumab Govitecan: Ascending the Treatment Algorithm in Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Annals of Translational Medicine, Online ahead of print.

[Read More](#)

Cao A, Cartmel B, Li FY, Gottlieb LT, Harrigan M, Ligibel JA, Gogoi R, Schwartz PE, Irwin ML, Ferrucci LM.

Effect Of Exercise On Body Composition Among Women With Ovarian Cancer

Journal of Cancer Survivorship, Online ahead of print.

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Pariser AC, Brita J, Harrigan M, Capozza S, Khairallah A, Sanft TB.

Delivery of Cancer Survivorship Education to Community Healthcare Professionals

Journal of Cancer Education, Online ahead of print.

[Read More](#)

Duffy T.

Famine, Tea, and Bread in Ireland: C282Y and Modern Human Microevolution

American Journal of Anthropology, Online ahead of print.

[Read More](#)

Hercules SM, Liu X, Basse-archibong BBI, Skeete DHA, Smith Connell S, Daramola A, Banjo AA, Ebughe G, Ayan T, Ekanem IO, Idosen J, Obiorah



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This week on Yale Cancer Answers, Dr. Christi Kim discusses the care of women with gynecologic cancers at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Waterford. Listen on Connecticut Public Radio or download our podcast from iTunes.



[Read More](#)

Using bioadhesive nanoparticles from the laboratory of Dr. W. Mark Saltzman, Dr. Michael Girardi and his team collaborated with Dr. Saltzman and loaded them with a one-two punch of chemotherapy plus immunotherapy to study its impact in skin cancer. The results may have significant impact for how skin cancer tumors are treated.



[Read More](#)



In a paper recently published in @AACR Journals, BarbaraBurtness reveals the association of TP53 and

Baranield A, Danjo AA, Ebugue C, Agan T, Ekanem IC, Saesele O, Olorun C, Ojule AC, Misauno MA, Dauda AM, Egbujo EC, Hercules JC, Ansari A, Brain I, MacColl C, Xu Y, Jin Y, Chang S, Carpten JD, Bédard A, Pond GR, Blenman KRM, Manojlovic Z, Daniel JM.

Analysis of the Genomic Landscapes of Barbadian and Nigerian Women with Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Cancer Causes & Control, Online ahead of print.

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Choi R, Ring N, McNiff JM, Wilson LD, Martin K, Leventhal J.

Treatment of Multifocal Cutaneous Rosai-Dorfman Disease with Radiotherapy

JAAD Case Reports, Online ahead of print.

Read More

Mezzacappa C, Llor X.

Colorectal Cancer Risk in Lynch Syndrome: Of Genes and More

Gastroenterology, 162(4):1358-1360.

Read More

Baraks G, Tseng R, Pan CH, Kasliwal S, Leiton CV, Shroyer KR, Escobar-Hoyos LF.

Dissecting the Oncogenic Roles of Keratin 17 in the Hallmarks of Cancer

Cancer Research, 82(7):1159-1166.

Read More

Check DK, AVECILLA RAV, Mills C, Dinan MA, Kamal AH, Murphy B, Rezk S, Winn A, Oeffinger KC.

Opioid Prescribing and Use among Cancer Survivors: A Mapping Review of Observational and Intervention Studies

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, 63(4):e397-e417.

Read More

Ferris RL, Burtness B, Flamand Y.

Reply to A.S. Garden

Journal of Clinical Oncology, 40(10):1133-1134.

Read More

Kiecolt-Glaser JK, Renna M, Peng J, Sheridan J, Lustberg M, Ramaswamy B, Wesolowski R, VanDeusen JB, Williams NO, Sardesai SD, Noonan AM, Reinbolt RE, Stover DG, Cherian MA, Malarkey WB, Andridge R.

Breast Cancer Survivors' Typhoid Vaccine Responses: Chemotherapy, Obesity, and Fitness Make a Difference

Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, Online ahead of print.

Read More

van der Heijden MS, Powles T, Petrylak D, de Wit R, Necchi A, Sternberg CN, Matsubara N, Nishiyama H, Castellano D, Hussain SA, Bamias A, Gakis G, Lee JL, Tagawa ST, Vaishampayan U, Aragon-Ching JB, Eigl BJ, Hozak RR, Rasmussen ER, Xia MS, Rhodes R, Wijayawardana S, Bell-McGuinn KM, Aggarwal A, Drakaki A.

Predictive Biomarkers for Survival Benefit with Ramucirumab in urothelial cancer in the RANGE Trial

Nature Communications, 13(1):1878.

Read More

CDKN2A mutation profile with tumor mutation burden in [#HeadandNeckCancer](#)



Congratulations to DrRoyHerbstYale who has been named Chair of the @AACR Scientific Policy and Government Affairs Committee!



Congratulations to Kim Blenman, PhD, MS, recipient of the 2022 Joint Breast Cancer Research Foundation-American Association for Cancer Research Career Development Award at #AACR22.



Ever wonder if a career as a #GeneticCounselor is for you? Join the @SmilowCancer Genetics and Prevention Program on May 20th for a free, virtual program covering various topics related to the profession. Learn more and register now at <http://bit.ly/3O8WuAM>.



Dr. Pat LoRusso delivered the AACR-Joseph H. Burchenal Award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Cancer Research Lecture and shared how research impacts the lives of our patients and families as she recollected "The Many Faces of My Journey." Thank you, Dr. LoRusso!



Join Pat LoRusso, DO, as she delivers the AACR-Joseph H. Burchenal Award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Cancer Research Lecture at #AACR22 in Room 343-345, beginning now, with introductions by @DrRoyHerbstYale!



Stop by our poster session #AACR22 from Drs. Marta Baro, Murat Gunel, Jennifer Moliterno, & Joseph Contessa @YNeuroSurgery @YaleRadOnc sharing 'A CRISPR-Cas9 screen in meningioma reveals GCN2/ATF4 is a novel target that enhances the response to radiation'



Register to join us for a Smilow Shares webinar on the latest advances in #headandneckcancers tomorrow, April 13, at 7pm



Join .@DrRoyHerbstYale for a discussion on 'Supporting

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Cooley ME, Mazzola E, Xiong N, Hong F, Lobach DF, Braun IM, Halpenny B, Rabin MS, Johns E, Finn K, Berry D, McCorkle R, Abrahm JL.

Clinical Decision Support for Symptom Management in Lung Cancer Patients: A Group RCT

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, 63(4):572-580.

Read More

Joshi NS, Delgoffe GM.

Editorial: Perspectives on the Landscape of Immunology from Nikhil Joshi

Immunology, 165(4):369-370.

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Bakkila BF, Kerekes D, Nunez-Smith M, Billingsley KG, Ahuja N, Wang K, Oladele C, Johnson CH, Khan SA.

Evaluation of Racial Disparities in Quality of Care for Patients with Gastrointestinal Tract Cancer Treated with Surgery

JAMA Network Open, 5(4):e225664.

Read More

Afridi M, Jain A, Aboian M, Payabvash S.

Brain Tumor Imaging: Applications of Artificial Intelligence

Seminars in Ultrasound, CT and MRI, 43(2):153-169.

Read More

Parikh RB, Takvorian SU, Vader D, Paul Wileyto E, Clark AS, Lee DJ, Goyal G, Rocque GB, Dotan E, Geynisman DM, Phull P, Spiess PE, Kim RY, Davidoff AJ, Gross CP, Neparidze N, Miksad RA, Calip GS, Hearn CM, Ferrell W, Shulman LN, Mamtani R, Hubbard RA; PRACTICE Investigators.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Treatment Patterns for Patients with Metastatic Solid Cancer in the United States

Journal of the National Cancer Institute, 114(4):571-578.

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Yardley DA, Young RR, Adelson KB, Silber AL, Najera JE, Daniel DB, Peacock N, Finney L, Hoekstra SJ, Shastry M, Hainsworth JD, Burris HA.

A Phase II Study Evaluating Orteronel, an Inhibitor of Androgen Biosynthesis, in Patients with Androgen Receptor (AR)-Expressing Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC)

Clinical Breast Cancer, 22(3):269-278.

Read More

Yazgan I, Chagpar A.

The Effect of Emotional Disorders on Adherence to Mammography Screening Guidelines

Breast Cancer Research and Treatment, 192(3):623-627.

Read More

Podany P, Abi-Raad R, Barbieri A, Garritano J, Prasad ML, Cai G, Adeniran AJ, Gilani SM.

Anaplastic Thyroid Carcinoma: Cytomorphologic Features on Fine-Needle Aspiration and Associated Diagnostic Challenges

American Journal of Clinical Pathology, 157(4):608-619.

Read More

Smoking Cessation Among Patients with Cancer Who Use Tobacco Products' at #AACR22 today at 10:15am @AACR



Stop by to see @Johnsonlab_yale this morning #AACR22 in poster section 8 as the team shares their 'Discovery of a sex-specific metabolic phenotype in KRAS mutant colorectal cancer'



Join @MLopezdeRodas & Kurt Schalper #AACR22 as they present data on the role of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes and spatial immune heterogeneity in sensitivity to PD-1 axis blockers in #NSCLC in this afternoon's poster session (section 15).



.@Cecchini_OncMD from @YaleGICancers @SmilowCancer leads a poster session this afternoon in section 36 #AACR22 sharing the results of 'A phase 1/2 study of olaparib in combo with ramucirumab in metastatic gastric and esophageal junction adenocarcinoma'



Pat LoRusso, DO, will chair and present during the 'KRAS Anniversary Session: Novel Mechanisms for Targeting KRAS: The clinical successes & challenges of drugging KRAS' at 12:30pm today



Join .@AileenIlianaPhD @RimmPathology in section 30 of today's am poster session #AACR22 sharing a potential new assay to identify #NSCLC patients who are not likely to benefit from immunotherapy and could be spared adverse effects.

Calendar

Yale Cancer Answers

April 17; 7:30 PM

NPR

Radiation in the Care of Head and Neck Cancers

Melissa Young, MD, PhD

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Ganesa S, Sule A, Sundaram RK, Bindra RS.

Mismatch Repair Proteins Play a Role in ATR Activation upon Temozolomide Treatment in MGMT-Methylated Glioblastoma

Scientific Reports, 12(1):5827.

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Harold JA, Casilla-Lennon M, Kenney PA, Ratner ES.

Vesical Clear Cell Adenocarcinoma of Müllerian Origin Treated Conservatively with Partial Cystectomy

BMJ Case Reports, 15(4):e245015.

[Read More](#)

Ye L, Park JJ, Peng L, Yang Q, Chow RD, Dong MB, Lam SZ, Guo J, Tang E, Zhang Y, Wang G, Dai X, Du Y, Kim HR, Cao H, Errami Y, Clark P, Bersenev A, Montgomery RR, Chen S.

A Genome-scale Gain-of-function CRISPR Screen in CD8 T Cells Identifies Proline Metabolism as a Means to Enhance CAR-T Therapy

Cell Metabolism, 34(4):595-614.e14.

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Zeidan AM, Boss I, Beach CL, Copeland WB, Thompson E, Fox BA, Hasle VE, Ogasawara K, Cavenagh J, Silverman LR, Voso MT, Hellmann A, Tormo M, O'Connor T, Previtali A, Rose S, Garcia-Manero G.

A Randomized Phase 2 Trial of Azacitidine with or without Durvalumab as First-line Therapy for Higher-risk Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Blood Advances, 6(7):2207-2218.

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Zeidan AM, Boss I, Beach CL, Copeland WB, Thompson E, Fox BA, Hasle VE, Hellmann A, Taussig DC, Tormo M, Voso MT, Cavenagh J, O'Connor T, Previtali A, Rose S, Silverman LR.

A Randomized Phase 2 Trial of Azacitidine with or without Durvalumab as First-line Therapy for Older Patients with AML

Blood Advances, 6(7):2219-2229.

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Siegel RD, Garrett-Mayer E, Lipner RS, Kozlik MMP, Vandergrift JL, Crist STS, Chen RC, Chiang AC, Kamal AH.

Relationship between Participation in ASCO's Quality Oncology Practice Initiative Program and American Board of Internal Medicine's Maintenance of Certification Program

JCO Oncology Practice, Online ahead of print.

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Oladele CR, Colón-Ramos U, Galusha D, Tran E, Adams OP, Maharaj RG, Nazario CM, Nunez M, Pérez-Escamilla R, Nunez-Smith M.

Perceptions of the Local Food Environment and Fruit and Vegetable Intake in the Eastern Caribbean Health Outcomes Research Network (ECHORN) Cohort Study

Preventive Medicine Reports, 26:101694.

[Read More](#)

Vesely M, Martinez-Morales S, Gehlhausen JR, McNiff JM, Whang PG, Rimm D, Ke C

Yale Pancreatic Cancer Collaborative

Seminar Series

April 18; 2:00 PM

Methionine-based Redox Switches Control Pancreatic Cancer Metastasis

Iok In Christine Chio, PhD

[Learn More](#)

Yale Center for Immuno-Oncology/Cancer Immunology Program Seminar

April 18; 4:00 PM

The Immunological State of the Tumor Microenvironment Following Anti-cancer Therapy

Yuval Shaked, PhD

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Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

April 19; 12:00 PM

REI Referral for Fertility Preservation in Patients Undergoing Gonadotoxic Therapy

Tanya Glenn and Gabriela Beroukhim, MD

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Monthly Palliative Care Conference

April 19; 4:00 PM

Grand Rounds: Palliative Sedation: A Closer Look at a Complicated Decision for Clinicians and Case Conference: Palliative Care End Stage Liver Disease and Transplantation

Jay Gupta, DO and Angela Chang, MD

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CPC Research Program Seminar

April 20; 12:00

The Role of Weight, Diet and Exercise in Improving Adherence to Chemotherapy in Women with Breast and Ovarian Cancer

Melinda Irwin, PhD, MPH

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Breast Clinical Series Lecture

April 20; 3:30 PM

Neoadjuvant Therapy In Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)

Prof. Dr. Sibylle Loibl

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Neuroendocrine Conference

April 20; 4:00 PM

Disorders of the Menstrual Cycle

Tanya Glenn

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Rothman Grand Rounds/William Dawkins

D, RO CJ.

Not All Well-Differentiated Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinomas Are Equal: Tumors With Disparate Biologic Behavior Have Differences In Protein Expression Via Digital Spatial Profiling

Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, Online ahead of print.

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Loss of PBRM1 Alters Promoter Histone Modifications and Activates ALDH1A1 to Drive Renal Cell Carcinoma

Molecular Cancer Research, Online ahead of print.

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Optimization of the BCLC Staging System for Locoregional Therapy for Hepatocellular Carcinoma by Using Quantitative Tumor Burden Imagine Biomarkers at MRI

Radiology, Online ahead of print.

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Pathology Grand Rounds/William Barriss

McAllister Jr. Memorial Lecture

April 21; 12:30 PM

The Birth and Evolution of Medical Renal Pathology

Michael Kashgarian, MD, FASN

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Cancer Genetics and Prevention Seminar

April 21; 2:30 PM

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Center for GI Cancers Weekly Seminar

April 21; 4:15 PM

ctDNA defined Minimal Residual Disease in CRC

Scott Kopetz, MD, PhD, FACP

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Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers CME Series

April 21; 6:30 PM

Rectal Cancers

Michael Cecchini, MD | Kimberly L. Johung,

MD, PhD | Vikram Reddy, MD, PhD, MBA,

FACS, FASCRS

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Endocrinology Clinical Dilemma

April 22; 12:00 PM

Robert Weingold

[Learn More](#)

Yale Cancer Answers

April 24; 7:30 PM

NPR

Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month

Avanti Verma, MD

[Learn More](#)

Stem Cell Center Spring Seminar Series

April 25; 2:00 PM

Mechano-Genomics of Cellular

Reprogramming and Rejuvenation

G.V. Shivashankar

[Learn More](#)

Genetics Seminar Series

April 26; 11:30 AM

Competition and Cooperation in Cancer

Hu Zong, PhD

[Learn More](#)

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

April 26; 12:00 PM

ctDNA-guided Precision Medicine

Funding and Award Opportunities

Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Career Enhancement Program (CEP)

The CEP of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer has been established to educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in lung cancer. The CEP will provide support of up to \$50,000 to promising junior investigators and/or establish investigators who have not previously conducted lung cancer focused research.

Letters of Intent Due: April 22, 2022

[Read More](#)

Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Developmental Research Program (DRP) Award

The DRP of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer provides seed money to investigators to support studies with a strong translational component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated as, a full Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer project. The purpose is also to generate preliminary data or evidence of collaboration for new NCI grant applications.

Letters of Due: April 22, 2022

[Read More](#)

Innovative Biospecimen Science Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R61)

This FOA solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on the early-stage development of highly innovative technologies that improve the quality of the samples used for cancer research or clinical care. This includes new capabilities to address issues related to pre-analytical degradation of targeted analytes during the collection, processing, handling, and/or storage of cancer-relevant biospecimens. The overall goal is to support the development of highly innovative technologies capable of maximizing or otherwise interrogating the quality and utility of biological samples used for downstream analyses.

Application Deadline: April 22, 2022

[Read More](#)

Advanced Development and Validation of Emerging Biospecimen Science Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R33)

This FOA solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on further development and validation of emerging technologies that improve the quality of the samples used for cancer research or clinical care. This includes new capabilities to address issues related to pre-analytical degradation of targeted analytes during the collection, processing, handling, and/or storage of cancer-relevant biospecimens. This FOA solicits R33

applications where major feasibility gaps for the technology or methodology have been overcome, as demonstrated with supportive preliminary data, but still require further development and rigorous validation to encourage adoption by the research community.

Application Deadline: April 22, 2022

[Read More](#)

AACR Integrative Molecular Epidemiology Workshop

This workshop is designed to accelerate the training of the next generation of cancer researchers who must be well-skilled in the integration of biology and epidemiology in studies of cancer etiology and outcome.

Application Deadline: April 25, 2022

[Read More](#)

Altered RNA Splicing a Driver Event in Pancreatic Cancer and Defining New Pathways in Colorectal Tumors with Mismatch Repair Deficiency

Luisa Escobar-Hoyos, MSc, PhD and Rosa Munoz Xicola, PhD

[Learn More](#)

Sybil Palmer Bellos Lecture

April 26; 3:00 PM

Sten H. Vermund, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

Neuroendocrine Conference

April 27; 4:00 PM

What Every Endocrinologist Should Know about OCPs

Clare Flannery, MD

[Learn More](#)

2021-2022 Immunobiology Seminar Series

April 28; 10:30 AM

Germinal Center Reaction and Humor Immune Memory

Hai Qi, PhD

[Learn More](#)

Medical Education Discussion Group

April 28; 12:00 PM

Teaching Evidence-based, Relationship-Centered Communication Skills

Tara Sanft, MD and Auguste Fortin VI, MD, MPH, MACP

[Learn More](#)

Pathology Grand Rounds

April 28; 12:30 PM

Finding Balance in Iron Metabolism

Karin Finberg, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Seminar

April 28; 2:30 PM

DDX41: Genetic Counseling Considerations and Strategies for this "Rare" Hereditary Hematological Cancer Predisposition Syndrome

Amy Killie, MS, CGC and Alex McClellan, MS, CGC

[Learn More](#)

Center for GI Cancers Weekly Seminar

April 28; 4:15 PM

What Baseline Assessment Can Be Done

for Patients with a Family History of FAP

Application Deadline: April 25, 2022

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Joint SPORE Developmental Research Program (DRP) Award – Cancer Disparities

The YCC Translational Research Office, in collaboration with the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer (YSILC) and the Yale Head and Neck SPORE (YHN-SPORE), have launched a new DRP award to provide support up to \$50,000 for a translational pilot project focused on **disparities-related cancer research** in the field of head and neck and/or lung cancer. Studies with a strong translational or clinical component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated into, a full SPORE project and projects with multi-disciplinary collaborations and/or community-based participatory research studies are encouraged.

Letters of Intent Due: April 29, 2022

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Diversity Enhancement Program in Oncology at Yale Cancer Center RFA

The Diversity Enhancement Program in Oncology is an initiative established by the Section of Medical Oncology at YCC. The Program is designed to foster underrepresented in medicine (URiM) trainees' interest in careers in hematology/medical oncology (heme/onc) and to build a pipeline to bring URiM candidates to the YCC Heme/Onc Fellowship Program and YCC-Advanced T32 Training Program for Physician-Scientists.

Application Deadline: April 29, 2022

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Lung Cancer Research Foundation 2022 RFAs

In keeping with our mission, the LCRF grant program provides funding for research into the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure of lung cancer.

- LCRF Minority Career Development Award (CDA) in Lung Cancer - Application Deadline: May 27, 2022
- LCRF Pilot Grant - Letter of Intent Due: April 30, 2022
- LCRF Research Grant on Early-Detection and Pre-Neoplasia in Lung Cancer - Letter of Intent Due: April 30, 2022
- LCRF Research Grant on Oncogene Driven Lung Cancer - Letter of Intent Due: April 30, 2022

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Yale Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers (CGIC) Seed Grant Program

This intramural seed grant program is designed to provide pilot funding for team-based basic, translational, clinical, or population health research projects focused on GI cancers.

Application Deadline: May 1, 2022

Read More

Emergency Awards: RADx-UP - Social, Ethical, and Behavioral Implications (SEBI) Research on Disparities in COVID-19 Testing among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations (U01)

The goal of this RADx[®]-UP FOA is to conduct social, ethical, and behavioral implications (SEBI) research to understand and reduce barriers to COVID-19 testing, as well as COVID-19 disparities that arise from barriers to testing among underserved and vulnerable populations. The funding for this initiative is provided from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, PL 117-2.

Application Deadline: May 2, 2022

*Prior To 5FU Therapy, Addressing 5FU
Cardiotoxicity And Guidelines For
Rechallenging*

Lauren Baldassarre, MD, FACC and Jennifer
M. Kwan, MD, PhD

Learn More

Share your news!

Please submit your recent publications, awards,
and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs and Communications

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Emergency Award: RADx-UP Community-Engaged Research on Rapid SARS-CoV-2 Testing among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations (U01)

The goals of this FOA are to implement and rigorously evaluate SARS-CoV-2 rapid testing strategies in communities experiencing COVID-19 health disparities. These two-year Rapid Testing Research Projects will evaluate (1) rapid testing interventions to prevent and control COVID-19 transmission among underserved and vulnerable populations and (2) partnership-driven research to implement and evaluate rapid testing and reduce COVID-19 disparities. The funding for this program is provided from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, PL 117-2.

Application Deadline: May 2, 2022

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Hyundai Hope On Wheels Grants

Hyundai Hope On Wheels creates awareness for pediatric cancers and awards large grants to doctors and premiere research centers for life-saving research.

- The Scholar Hope Grant: presented to researchers involved with translational research, working directly with patients.
- The Hyundai Young Investigator's Grant: provides funding for principal investigators whose research projects are likely to have a significant impact on improving the understanding of the biology of childhood cancer.

Application Deadlines May 6, 2022

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ALSF Grant Opportunities

- **NEW! R Accelerated Grant:** This grant provides funding to scientists within their first 10 years of faculty appointment who are focused on research in pediatric oncology that support ALSF's mission to find cures and better treatments for childhood cancers. **Deadline for Submission:** May 12, 2022
- **'A' Award Grant:** ALSF seeks game-changing proposals to substantially advance childhood cancer treatments and cures. The 'A' Award is designed for the early independent career scientist who wants to establish a career in pediatric oncology research and does not have NIH funding. **Deadline for Submission:** May 12, 2022

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Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research

The Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research supports assistant

professors of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of a cure for cancer. The award provides \$300,000 in flexible support—\$75,000 per year for a four-year period.

Institutional Nomination Due: May 18, 2022

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TheoryLab Collaborative Grants

The ACS is accepting Idea Abstracts through May 20 for TheoryLab Collaborative (TLC) Grants, which provide pilot grant support for innovative, collaborative research projects utilizing the ACS TheoryLab platform.

Contact: Research.Integration@cancer.org with questions.

Abstract Deadline: May 20, 2022

[Read More](#)

AACR Clinical Oncology Research Fellows Grants

The AACR Clinical Oncology Research (CORE) Training Fellowships Program is designed to provide an effective industry-academic clinical practicum with a unique training opportunity to develop academic clinicians in drug development.

- AACR Clinical Oncology Research (CORE) Training Fellowships
- AACR-AstraZeneca Clinical Immuno-oncology Research Training Fellowships
- AACR-Bayer Clinical Oncology Research Training Fellowships
- AACR-Johnson & Johnson Lung Cancer Initiative Clinical Oncology Research Training Fellowship

Application Deadline: May 31, 2022

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FY22 Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP)

The FY22 Defense Appropriations Act is anticipated to provide funding for the KCRP to support research of exceptional scientific merit in kidney cancer.

- Concept Award - Letter of Intent Due: June 23, 2022
- Idea Development Award - Preproposal Due: June 2, 2022
- Postdoctoral and Clinical Fellowship Award - Letter of Intent Due: June 23, 2022
- Translational Research Partnership Award - Preproposal Due: June 2, 2022

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Systematic Testing of Radionuclides in Preclinical Experiments (STRIPE) (R01, R21)

The purpose of this FOA is to solicit R01 and R21 research projects utilizing state-of-the-art cancer biology methods and model systems to study effects of different types of radiation used in radionuclide-based therapeutics (e.g., radiopharmaceutical therapy) on normal tissue, tumor cells and the tumor microenvironment.

Application Deadline: June 5, 2022

Read More

Epidemiologic Research on Emerging Risk Factors and Liver Cancer Susceptibility (R01 and R21)

The purpose of these FOAs is to promote epidemiologic research investigating novel and innovative hypotheses on emerging risk factors (biological, environmental, and social) and their interplay with established risk factors (e.g., viral hepatitis) associated with the development of liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma and other histological subtypes) in the United States.

Application Deadline: June 16, 2022

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Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program (Si2/R00)

This program offers the opportunity for a unique bridge between the NIH intramural and extramural research communities and contains two phases. In the first phase, Lasker Scholars will receive appointments for up to 5-7 years as tenure-track investigators within the NIH Intramural Research Program with independent research budgets. In the second phase, successful scholars will receive up to 3 years of NIH support for their research at an extramural research facility; or, the Scholar can be considered to remain as an investigator within the intramural program.

Application Deadline: June 24, 2022

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Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (R01)

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

Application Deadline: July 5, 2022

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Microbial-based Cancer Imaging and Therapy - Bugs as Drugs (R01/R21)

This FOA solicits grant applications proposing to utilize bacteria, archaeobacteria, bacteriophages, or other non-oncolytic viruses and their natural products to study the underlying mechanisms of the complex interactions between microorganisms, tumors, and the immune system, and to explore their clinical potential for cancer imaging, therapeutics or diagnostics.

Application Deadline: July 5, 2022

[Read More](#)

Cancer Control Research in Persistent Poverty Areas (U54)

Through this FOA, the NCI invites applications for Cancer Control Research in Persistent Poverty Areas (Persistent Poverty Initiative). The goal is to provide resources to support the time and effort of transdisciplinary teams, in collaboration with institutions, clinics, and communities/tribes, to develop a cancer prevention and control research program and provide support to early-career investigators that focuses on and serves populations living in persistent poverty areas.

Application Deadline: July 6, 2022

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Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science (TCORS) for Research Relevant to the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (U54)

The purpose of this FOA is to invite applications for TCORS to support biomedical and behavioral research that will provide scientific data to inform regulation of tobacco products to protect public health. Research Projects must address the Research Objectives related to the regulatory authority of the FDA Center for Tobacco Products.

Application Deadline: July 14, 2022

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Small Business Transition Grant For Early Career Scientists (R42)

Through this FOA, the NCI, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) intend to support early-career academic scientists interested in transitioning to entrepreneurship while also supporting the transfer of technology from academic laboratories into small businesses.

Application Deadline: August 22, 2022

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