

July 22, 2022

### From Eric's Desk

For the past 22 years, I have cycled in the Pan-Mass Challenge each August, a cycling event that began over 30 years ago and became the largest cycling fundraiser in the world. You could do the full two-day double century or just a single century. Most years I took the two-day challenge. For me, riding in the PMC was more than an athletic event; it was a time when I could reflect on my work over the past year and think about the patients I had cared for (and sometimes lost) during those 12 months. Come to my office and you will see cycling photos and bicycle art everywhere—many of my favorite memories involve two wheels and a metal frame.

But now I am at Yale. Dana-Farber fundraisers are a thing of the past for me. As I tell my family, friends, and some of you, “I am all in” when it comes to Yale. That brings me, of course, to **Closer to Free**. The YALE cycling fundraiser will be held on September 10. It is one day, and there are options that range from 10-100 miles. The event will be held in person, and there is a virtual option as well. Although I would love to be there, I will be at a meeting in Paris that weekend and will be participating in the event virtually with my oldest son in late August. We plan to do 50 miles, sporting our Closer to Free shirts along the southeastern coast of Massachusetts. I am looking forward to riding with Jeffrey (born at Yale-New Haven 37 years ago), and I happily anticipate the repetitive motion with time to think about my life, our move to New Haven, and the gifts that cycling provides.

My simple message to you: if you know how to ride, have a bike and helmet, and want to spend some part of your day in the Connecticut countryside, please sign up. You will raise money for Yale cancer programs, and have a great time both with others and when you are riding by yourself. Ask a friend to come along, join a team, get into the spirit of the day! If riding is not your thing, don't feel a bit of pressure – this is an event to feel good about, not another source of guilt. If you are an avid cyclist, Closer to Free is for you. But, if you are less than avid, give it a try if you want, you may just get hooked.

Finally, let me provide you with the top 5 reasons I am riding in Closer to Free and not the Pan-Mass Challenge:

5. September is cooler than August, you won't sweat quite as much
4. Lots of options in terms of distance, this is a more personalized ride
3. No two-day option; you don't have to be a hero and feel like you must push yourself beyond your limit
2. You don't have to stay overnight in the barracks of the Mass Maritime

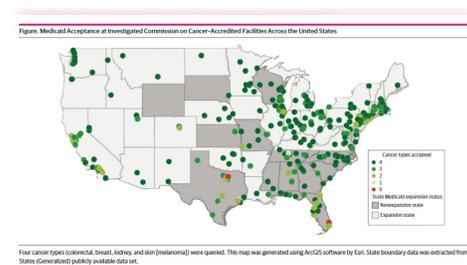
**Eric P. Winer, MD**  
Director, Yale Cancer Center  
Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Network

Yale  
NewHaven  
Health  
Smilow Cancer  
Hospital

Yale **CANCER** CENTER  
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**Specialty Breast Cancer Care in Guilford**

2. You don't have to stay overnight in the barracks of the Mass Maritime Academy

AND...

1. Closer to Free raises funds for – you know it – Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center!

Eric

## Announcements

### Veda Giri, MD, to Lead Division of Clinical Cancer Genetics

Veda Giri, MD, has been named Chief of the Division of Clinical Cancer Genetics at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, effective September 1. Dr. Giri joins Yale from Thomas Jefferson University where she is a Professor in the Departments of Medical Oncology, Cancer Biology, and Urology and Director of Cancer Risk Assessment and Clinical Cancer Genetics.



In her role as Director of Cancer Risk Assessment and Clinical Cancer Genetics, Dr. Giri led an integrated and comprehensive effort in inherited cancer risk assessment and conducted research studies focused on genetic evaluation of cancer risk. Her clinical expertise is in the genetic evaluation of inherited risk for genitourinary cancers, specifically prostate, kidney, and upper tract urothelial cancers. Dr. Giri's research encompasses the genetic characterization of cancer risk using sequencing technologies, molecular signatures, and novel biomarkers to ultimately reduce cancer-related morbidity and mortality. She also has a strong clinical and research focus in cancer disparities.

Dr. Giri has served on national committees including the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Prostate Cancer Early Detection Panel and NIH PDQ® Cancer Genetics Editorial Board, contributing expertise in cancer risk assessment and prostate cancer genetics. She received her medical degree from Sidney Kimmel Medical College, College of Thomas Jefferson University, and completed residency and fellowship training at University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers.

### Harriet Kluger, MD Appointed Cushing Professor and Vice Chair of Internal Medicine

Harriet Kluger, MD, was recently appointed the Harvey and Kate Cushing Professor of Internal



## Specialty Breast Cancer Care in Guilford, Connecticut

### Connecticut



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### Grandfather Honors His Grandson in Closer to Free Ride



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### Diet and Exercise Alone Won't Help You Live Longer — You Have to Do Both



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### HER2-Targeted Therapy Improves Outcomes for Breast Cancer Patients – Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH, on next steps after the 'very exciting' results from DESTINY-Breast04



Medicine (Oncology) and Professor of Dermatology, as well as Vice Chair of Translational Research for the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Kluger is an internationally-renowned expert in the study and treatment of melanoma and renal cell carcinoma (RCC).

Dr. Kluger earned her medical degree from Tel Aviv University School of Medicine in 1993, after which she embarked on her Internal Medicine residency at the University of New Mexico. She was an attending physician at Los Alamos Medical Center in New Mexico prior to entering medical oncology-hematology fellowship training at Yale in 1999. Upon completion of her fellowship training, she joined the Yale faculty as an assistant professor of medicine in 2002 and rose to the rank of full professor in 2015. She serves as a director of the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer where she promotes bench-to-bedside research for melanoma patients.

Her research program has significantly advanced the standard of care for patients with melanoma and RCC. She identified novel biomarkers and signaling pathways in these malignancies with the potential to function as prognostic markers or as markers that predict response to therapies. More recently, she focused her studies on investigating the mechanisms underlying the metastasis of melanoma and RCC to the brain and on novel treatments to halt this process. She was a founding member of a brain metastasis interest group at Yale, which has conducted a series of novel human imaging and interventional studies. Her laboratory is well-funded by the National Institutes of Health, and she runs investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored clinical trials employing cutting-edge immune and targeted therapies for advanced melanoma and RCC.

As Vice Chair of Translational Research for the Department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Kluger will assist the department with the desired increase of interdisciplinary research within Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Kluger's expertise and work within Medical Oncology building successful collaborative research teams displayed through her leadership of the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer is one of the many reasons that she was considered for this role.

## Notables

The **Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers (CGIC) at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center**, led by **Pamela Kunz, MD**, and **Mandar**

**Deepak Muzumdar, MD**, Director of Translational Research, has selected three Yale Cancer Center teams for funding through its inaugural **2022-2023 CGIC Seed Grant Program**. The intramural grant program is designed to spur interdisciplinary team-based basic, translational, clinical, or population health research in GI cancers by providing pilot funding to support new or



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## Using Particles That Are Smaller Than the Head of a Pin to Treat Cancer



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## Smilow Welcomes New Hematologists

**Smilow Welcomes New Hematologists**

The Cancer Center is pleased to welcome Arvin Prasad, MD, and George Grothos, MD, MSc, to the centers of Hematology and Cancer Treatment and Research (CTR) at Yale. Dr. Prasad is a graduate of the Yale Medical Oncology Fellowship Program at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Cancer Center in North Haven and is a member of the Yale Cancer Center Hematology Program. Dr. Grothos is a graduate of the Yale Medical Oncology Fellowship Program at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Cancer Center in North Haven and is a member of the Yale Cancer Center Hematology Program.

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existing projects in their early stages. Congratulations to the awardees:

- **John Kunstman, MD, MHS, FACS, Jason Sheltzer, PhD,** and **Jeffrey Townsend, PhD:** *Combining Phylogenetic Mapping and Aneuploidy Analysis to Define Neuroendocrine Tumor Metastatic Progression*
- **Anne Mongiu, MD, PhD, Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH,** and **Michael Cecchini, MD:** *Novel Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms in Oxaliplatin-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy and Low Anterior Resection Syndrome*
- **Rosa Munoz Xicola, PhD,** and **Andrew Thomas DeWan, PhD, MPH:** *Genetic Drivers of Early Onset Colorectal Cancer in African Americans*

**Gavitt Woodard, MD,** Assistant Professor of Surgery (Thoracic Surgery) and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Research Program, is the recipient of a **2022 Young Investigator Grant** from the **International Lung Cancer Foundation** to study gene expression and T-cell dysfunction in enlarging semi-solid lung adenocarcinomas.

**Aileen Fernandez, PhD,** postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of **David Rimm, MD, PhD,** Anthony N. Brady Professor of Pathology and Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), is one of 10 recipients of the **2022 Dr. Eddie Méndez Award**, which is named in memory of a physician scientist who worked at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. The award supports early-career scientists, particularly those from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds.

**Alyssa Gateman, MPH, CCRP,** has been appointed **Executive Director of our Clinical Trials Office (CTO).** Alyssa is currently Senior Associate Director for Quality Assurance and Research Regulatory Initiatives for the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI) and our Yale Cancer Center CCSG PRMS/QA leader.

**Kevin Du, MD, PhD, MSCI,** Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, has been named **Medical Director** for the **Radiation Oncology Center at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Trumbull.** Dr. Du has taken over from Melissa Young, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Clinical Therapeutic Radiology, who has provided exemplary service in guiding the program over the past five years.

On Friday, July 15, Yale Cancer Center hosted our **Annual YCC Trainee Colloquium** with nine e-posters presented and 19 oral presentations. Eric Winer, MD, gave a keynote speech titled, "How it is that I am here?"

Congratulations to the Research Excellence Awards winners:

- **Research Excellence Award in Translational Research,** presented to **Ronan Talty, MD-PhD Candidate,** Experimental Pathology, Mentor: Marcus Bosenberg: *NSAIDs Increase Arachidonic Acid to Induce Ferroptosis and Improve Antitumor Immune Responses*
- **Research Excellence Award in Cancer Biology and Bioinformatics,** presented to **Yiyun Cao, PhD Candidate,** Immunobiology, Mentor: Noah Palm, *Human Commensal Bacteria Produce Novel Genotoxic Metabolites and Exacerbate Colorectal Cancer*
- **Research Excellence Award in Clinical Research,** presented to **Dijana Djureinovic, PhD,** Medical Oncology, Mentor: Harriet Kluger, *A Bench to Bedside Study of Anti-PD-1, Anti-CD40, and Anti-CSF-1R Indicates that More is not Necessarily Better*
- **Research Excellence Award in Population Science, Prevention and Outcome Research,** presented to **Cassandra Clark, PhD,** Environmental Health Sciences, Mentors: Nicole Deziel, Xiaomei Ma. *Unconventional Oil and Gas Exposure and Risk of Childhood*

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Dr. Jacquelyne Gaddy has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and will care for patients as part of the Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center beginning on August 1. Dr. Gaddy received her medical degree from Loyola University and her MSc in Cancer Sciences at the University at Buffalo. She completed her residency at the University at Buffalo and while a fellow in hematology/oncology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, undertook a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Health Behavior.

Dr. Gaddy has dedicated her entire postgraduate career to focusing on improving diversity, equity, and inclusion. She is committed to improving cancer care delivery for Black patients while also addressing the needs of Black, Indigenous, People of color (BIPOC) cancer care providers through an educational and investigational approach. Her primary research focus is on racial/ethnic disparities and improving health outcomes in the treatment of solid tumors. She is a 2012

recipient of the Medical Student Rotation for Underrepresented Populations and a 2019 recipient of the Resident Travel Award for Underrepresented Populations from Conquer Cancer, the ASCO Foundation.



The **Cancer Immunology Research Program** welcomes **Dennis Moledina, MD, PhD, FASN**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Nephrology). Dr. Moledina is a board-certified nephrologist and clinician-scientist. His research program is focused on improving the diagnosis of acute interstitial nephritis (AIN) and he has identified and validated several diagnostic biomarkers. Dr. Moledina also created and validated a diagnostic model for diagnosis of biopsy-proven AIN. This work is relevant to cancer immunotherapy and the cancer immunology program and could lead to improved diagnosis and earlier intervention for this adverse event in patients receiving immune checkpoint inhibitors.



## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

### Freeman Hrabowski Scholars Program

Applications are open now for a new program through the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) supporting outstanding early career faculty who are committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in science. HHMI is seeking outstanding basic researchers, including physician-scientists, who have strong potential to become leaders in their fields and to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion through their mentorship and understanding of the experiences of trainees from races and ethnicities underrepresented in US science.

Scholars will prioritize scientific excellence in their own research while creating an equitable and inclusive lab climate that values diversity and serves as a model within their own institutions and beyond. Eligible research areas include all basic biomedical science disciplines, as well as plant biology, evolutionary biology, biophysics, chemical biology, biomedical engineering, and computational biology. Up to 30 Freeman Hrabowski Scholars will be selected in 2023, with future competitions anticipated every other year.

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## Employee Profile: Ethan Kohn

Ethan Kohn, a Physician Assistant with the Hematology outpatient clinic at Smilow, had long suspected that he would



**Jacquelyne Gaddy, MD, MSc**

*Joins Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers as Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine (Medical Oncology)*

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Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale CANCER CENTER  
A Comprehensive Cancer Care Program

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With his recently awarded K08 grant from the National Cancer Institute, also known as a Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award, Michael Cecchini, MD, intends to devote more protected time to research. Dr. Cecchini is currently investigating multiple clinical trials for patients with colorectal cancer in hopes to expand therapies beyond the standard treatment of cytotoxic chemotherapy, and he believes there is great potential for immunotherapy.



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Dhanpat Jain, MD, Professor of Pathology and of Medicine (Digestive Diseases) and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Genomics, Genetics, and Epigenetics Research Program, has been named to the Cancer Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the leading organization of board-certified pathologists that fosters and advocates excellence in the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine worldwide. Congratulations to Dr. Jain!



Named to the Cancer Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP)

eventually pursue a career in medicine. He started out as a basic science researcher in cancer biology. He received his PhD in Pharmacology from Dartmouth where he studied how cancer cells respond to DNA damage and went on to complete a post-doc fellowship at the NIH in the Laboratory of Cancer Biology and Genetics. He then spent time as a visiting assistant professor in the Biology and Chemistry Departments at Colby College, before deciding he wanted to go to PA school at Yale.



Five years ago, he joined the Hematology team at Smilow and is focused on the care of patients with lymphoma, guiding patients through their entire treatment course, managing treatment-related side effects, and performing various procedures such as bone marrow biopsies and lumbar punctures. "This is my first job as a PA and has been a long time coming," said Ethan. "Part of the reason I chose to work in the outpatient setting is that I get to build long-lasting relationships with patients. I get to see and know them throughout and after their treatment; it's really great for trust building and continuity of care."

Ethan commented that he now gets to see the basic research in action, as it translates to patients in the clinic. "There are new and exciting lymphoma treatments every year and the standard of care is always evolving. There is now real hope going forward for patients with advanced and complex diseases."

Iris Isufi, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology), a lymphoma specialist and Co-Director of the Adult CAR T-Cell Therapy Program commented, "Ethan has been an absolute pleasure to work with over the years. He is loved by all colleagues and especially our patients. He takes time to really listen, is genuinely caring, competent, and is a very strong advocate for our patients. I can sleep well at night when I am away from the clinic, and I know that he is taking care of them."

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## Recent Publications

Marczyk M, Qing T, O'Meara T, Yagahoobi V, Pelekanou V, Bai Y,

Reisenbichler E, Cole KS, Li X, Gunasekharan V, Ibrahim E, Fanucci K, Wei W, Rimm DL, Puzstai L, Blenman KRM.

### **Tumor immune microenvironment of self-identified African American and non-African American triple negative breast cancer**

NPJ Breast Cancer 8, 88 (2022).

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Pichardo MS, Irwin ML, Esserman D, Molina Y, Ferrucci LM.

### **A Competing Risk Analysis of Adherence to the American Cancer Society Guidelines on Nutrition and Physical Activity for Cancer**



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Tune in to Yale Cancer Answers to hear Dr. Cary Gross and MD/PhD student Ryan Chow discuss the substantial U.S. investment in cancer care and whether it translates to better cancer outcomes. Listen on Connecticut Public Radio or download our podcast from iTunes.



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Audrey Baluha, RN, has been working with the Classical Hematology Program at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in North Haven for almost five years.

Natalia Neparidze, MD, says, "It is truly a pleasure working with Audrey. She is highly professional, dedicated, extremely hard-working, diligent, and reliable. She puts 100% effort and pours her energy, heart, and soul into working with patients in Classical Hematology. In addition to her outstanding professionalism, Audrey is a wonderful human being, kind, compassionate, devoted to providing care to patients as if they were her own family."

Echoing Dr. Neparidze's comments, Sabrina Browning, MD, says, "Audrey consistently provides the highest quality, patient-centered care, always going above and beyond for her patients and colleagues. She is an integral member of our team due to her unwavering dedication to our patients and her hard work. She is also always able to spark laughs among our team even on the busiest of days."

Lastly, Audrey's coworker, Anne Dumont, RN, shares, "Audrey has been a terrific colleague since the day I started orienting her in Classical Hematology. Her attention to detail, 100% accountability, and relentless commitment to providing the best patient care possible are a daily inspiration. She is a gifted educator, and her patients and peers are lucky to have her!"

**Prevention and Obesity-Related Cancer Risk in Hispanic/Latino Adults in the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study**

*International Journal of Cancer*, Online ahead of print.

**Read More**

Aung TN, Shafi S, Wilmott JS, Nourmohammadi S, Vathiotis I, Gavrielatou N, Fernandez A, Yaghoobi V, Sinnberg T, Amaral T, Ikenberg K, Khosrotehrani K, Osman I, Acs B, Bai Y, Martinez-Morilla S, Moutafi M, Thompson JF, Scolyer RA, Rimm DL.

**Objective assessment of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes as a prognostic marker in melanoma using machine learning algorithms**

*eBio Medicine*, Online ahead of print.

**Read More**

Strober B, Armstrong A, Rubant S, Patel M, Wu T, Photowala H, Crowley J.  
**Switching to Risankizumab from ustekinumab or adalimumab in plaque psoriasis patients improves PASI and DLQI outcomes for sub-optimal responders**

*Journal of Dermatological Treatment*, Online ahead of print.

**Read More**

Kunitomo Y, Bade B, Gunderson CG, Akgün KM, Brackett A, Tanoue L, Bastian LA.

**Evidence of Racial Disparities in the Lung Cancer Screening Process: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis**

*Journal of General Internal Medicine*, Online ahead of print.

**Read More**

Shah HP, Cohen O, Sukys J, Dibble J, Mehra S.

**The impact of frailty on adjuvant treatment in patients with head and neck free flap reconstruction – A retrospective study using two independent frailty scores**

*Oral Oncology*, Online ahead of print.

**Read More**

Hong MJ, Lum SS, Dupont E, Howard-McNatt M, Chiba A, Levine EA, Gass JS, Gallagher K, Fenton A, Murray M, Solomon NL, Ollila DW, Lazar M, Namm JP, Walters LL, Chagpar AB; SHAVE2 Investigators.

**Omission of Radiation in Conservative Treatment for Breast Cancer: Opportunity for De-escalation of Care**

*Journal of Surgical Research*, Online ahead of print.

**Read More**

Kim LS, Park T, Berger ER, Golshan M, Greenup RA.

**Editorial Comment on: One-Year Experience of Same-Day Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction Protocol**

*Annals of Surgical Oncology*, Online ahead of print.

**Read More**

Lokeshwar SD, Nguyen J, Rahman SN, Khajir G, Ho R, Ghabili K, Leapman MS, Weinreb JC, Sprengle PC.

**Clinical utility of MR/ultrasound fusion-guided biopsy in patients with lower suspicion lesions on active surveillance for low-risk prostate cancer**

*Urologic Oncology*, Online ahead of print.

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**Meet This Week's Extraordinary Employee**

**Audrey Baluha, RN**



YaleNewHavenHealth  
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A Comprehensive Cancer Care Organization  
by the National Cancer Institute

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When David Sturges was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia in 2011, he wasted little time grieving or wondering where to go for treatment. A former naval officer, Mr. Sturges needed his discipline and stamina to manage the complex treatments, and the creative thinking of his oncologist, Dr. Wajih Kidwai.



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Cecelia (Cece) Calhoun, MD, MPHS, MBA, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology) and of Pediatrics (Hematology/Oncology), has been appointed Director of the Sickle Cell Program for both adults and pediatrics at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Calhoun cares for adolescents and young adults with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Calhoun graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Afro-American Studies and Medical Doctorate from Wayne State University. She continued her training at Michigan State University as a pediatric resident, then fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine where she also completed a Master of Population Health Sciences. She received her MBA from the University of Michigan.

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Gutnik LA, Fish LJ, Gallagher J, Greenup RA.

### **'At All Costs': Breast Cancer Patient Responses to Cost Transparency and Communication**

*Annals of Surgical Oncology*, Online ahead of print.

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Zeidan AM, Platzbecker U, Garcia-Manero G, Sekeres MA, Fenaux P, DeZern AE, Greenberg PL, Savona MR, Jurcic JG, Verma A, Mufti Obe GJ, Buckstein RJ, Santini V, Shetty JK, Ito R, Zhang J, Zhang G, Ha X, Backstrom JT, Komrokji RS.

### **Longer-term benefit of luspatercept in transfusion-dependent lower-risk myelodysplastic syndromes with ring sideroblasts**

*Blood*, Online ahead of print.

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Papautsky EL, Carlson M, Johnson SM, Montague H, Valero L, Attai DJ, Harvey RD, Lyman GH, Lustberg M.

### **Webinar as an Informational Resource on Trastuzumab Biosimilars: Planning, Promotion, Execution, and Evaluation**

*Cancer Investigation*, Online ahead of print.

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Fernández-Castañeda A, Lu P, Geraghty AC, Song E, Lee MH, Wood J, O'Dea MR, Dutton S, Shamardani K, Nwangwu K, Mancusi R, Yalçın B, Taylor KR, Acosta-Alvarez L, Malacon K, Keough MB, Ni L, Woo PJ, Contreras-Esquivel D, Toland AMS, Gehlhausen JR, Klein J, Takahashi T, Silva J, Israelow B, Lucas C, Mao T, Peña-Hernández MA, Tabachnikova A, Homer RJ, Tabacof L, Tosto-Mancuso J, Breyman E, Kontorovich A, McCarthy D, Quezado M, Vogel H, Hefti MM, Perl DP, Liddelow S, Folkerth R, Putrino D, Nath A, Iwasaki A, Monje M.

### **Mild respiratory COVID can cause multi-lineage neural cell and myelin dysregulation**

*Cell*, 185(14):2452-2468.

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Swartzel JC, Bond MJ, Pintado-Urbanc AP, Daftary M, Krone MW, Douglas T, Carder EJ, Zimmer JT, Maeda T, Simon MD, Crews CM.

### **Targeted Degradation of mRNA Decapping Enzyme DcpS by a VHL-Recruiting PROTAC**

*ACS Chemical Biology*, 17(7):1789-1798.

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Qing T, Mohsen H, Cannataro VL, Marczyk M, Rozenblit M, Foldi J, Murray M, Townsend JP, Kluger Y, Gerstein M, Pusztai L.

### **Cancer Relevance of Human Genes**

*Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 114(7):988-995.

[Read More](#)

Hunihan L, Zhao D, Lazowski H, Li M, Qian Y, Abriola L, Surovtseva YV, Muthusamy V, Tanoue LT, Rothberg BEG, Schalper KA, Herbst RS, Wilson FH.

### **RASGRF1 Fusions Activate Oncogenic RAS Signaling and Confer Sensitivity to MEK Inhibition**

*Clinical Cancer Research*, 28(14):3091-3103.

her MBA as one of three, inaugural Pozen-Commonwealth Fund Fellows in Minority Health Equity Leadership at Yale University.



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Our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Waterford is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, July 26, from 8:00am – 5:00pm. All blood types are needed! Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Smilow to schedule an appointment. You can also streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



### **Blood Drive Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center**

Conference Room  
230 Waterford Pkwy S., Waterford  
**Tuesday, July 26, 2022**  
**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



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Fang Z, Peng L, Lucas C, Lin Q, Zhou L, Yang L, Feng Y, Ren P, Renauer PA, Monteiro VS, Hahn AM, Park JJ, Zhou X; Yale SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance Initiative, Grubaugh ND, Wilen CB, Chen S.

### **Heterotypic vaccination responses against SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.2**

*Cell Discovery*, 8(1):69.

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## Funding and Award Opportunities

### **Gateway/American Lung Association Grant Application Request**

Gateway is partnering with ALA to fund innovative lung cancer clinical trials. They are looking for applications focused on one of the following topics. (1) Early detection diagnostics and (2) Metastatic disease.

**Letter of Intent Due:** July 26, 2022

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### **Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer DRP and CEP Awards**

Beginning September 1, 2022, these awards fund projects in amounts up to \$50,000 for one year with the possibility of competing renewal for a second year of funding. DRP and CEP projects must have promising translational research potential with application to human skin cancer. It is expected that they can evolve into projects with a clear translational component that are suitable for funding either within the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer or as R01 or equivalent grants.

**Application Deadline:** July 27, 2022

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### **Yale Head and Neck SPORE (YHN-SPORE) Developmental Research Program (DRP)**

The Yale Head and Neck SPORE's DRP 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 YHN-SPORE project or to generate preliminary data or evidence of collaboration for other new NIH grant applications.

**Full application Due:** August 1, 2022

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### **Yale Head and Neck SPORE (YHN-SPORE) Career Enhancement Program (CEP)**

The CEP of the Yale Head and Neck SPORE has been established to educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in head and neck cancer. The CEP will provide support to promising junior investigators and/or established investigators who have not previously conducted head and neck cancer focused research.

**Full Application Due:** August 1, 2022

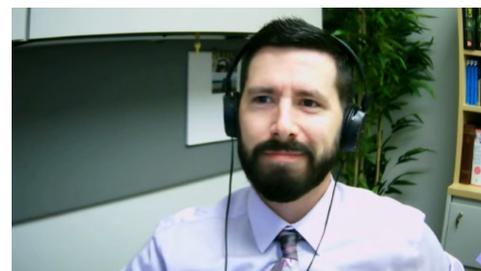
[Apply Now](#)

### **Komen Career Catalyst Research Grant**

This grant mechanism will provide critical funding to support the next generation of key leaders in the quest to end breast cancer and new faculty who will emerge as the next generation of key leaders in the quest to end breast cancer

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Tune to Yale Cancer Answers to hear Dr. Rory Shallis discuss the role of Agent Orange in the development of certain cancers, and his role in caring for patients with myelodysplastic syndromes. Listen on Connecticut Public Radio or download our podcast from iTunes.



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Michael Grant, MD, and So Yeon Kim, MD, will join the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers in Waterbury and North Haven, respectively, as of August 1. Dr. Grant received his medical degree from the Albert Einstein School of Medicine and did his residency in Internal Medicine at Duke University School of Medicine. He recently completed his fellowship at Yale School of Medicine during which he was enrolled in the Yale Cancer Center T32 Advanced Training Program for Physician-Scientists. Dr. Kim received her medical degree from the Albert Einstein School of Medicine and completed her residency at Tufts Medical Center. She recently graduated from fellowship at the Montefiore Medical Center.

Dr. Grant will be appointed an Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and will care for patients with thoracic and genitourinary malignancies in Waterbury. His current research interests include targeted and immunotherapy approaches to the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). In 2021, he received the ASCO Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award to study sensitivity and resistance to EGFR-targeted therapies in patients with NSCLC harboring certain EGFR mutations.

Dr. Kim will be an Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and will focus

breast cancer.  
**Letter of Intent Due:** August 1, 2022

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### **DoD Breast Cancer Research Program Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award**

This award is designed to support collaborations and ideas that will transform the lives of individuals with, and/or at risk for, breast cancer and will significantly accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer.

**Pre-application Due:** August 3, 2022

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### **DoD Breast Cancer Research Program Awards**

These awards provide funding to support innovative, high-impact research with clinical relevance that will accelerate progress to end breast cancer for Service Members, Veterans, and the general public.

- **Breakthrough Award Levels 1 and 2** - LOI Due: September 22, 2022
- **Breakthrough Award Level 3** - Pre-application Due: August 3, 2022
- **Breakthrough Award Level 4** - Pre-application Due: August 3, 2022
- **Era of Hope Scholar Award** - LOI Due: September 22, 2022
- **Innovator Award** - LOI Due: August 3, 2022

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### **DoD Ovarian Cancer Research Program Clinical Trial Award**

This award supports the rapid implementation of clinical trials with the potential to have a significant impact on the treatment or management of ovarian cancer.

**Application Deadline:** August 5, 2022

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### **SBIR Phase IIB Bridge Awards to Accelerate the Development of Cancer-Relevant Technologies Toward Commercialization (R44)**

This FOA solicits SBIR applications from small business concerns that seek additional funding to support the next stage of development for cancer-relevant projects that were previously funded under SBIR or STTR Phase II awards from any Federal agency.

**Application Deadline:** August 6, 2022

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### **Gabrielle's Angel Foundation**

The Foundation funds cutting-edge research in the fields of leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers of the blood. Funds support promising scientists who are applying novel and state-of-the-art techniques to address fundamental problems in their genesis and treatment. Of interest are innovative clinical and basic science research that will lead to novel therapeutic approaches that could replace, or be used in combination with existing effective therapies. Focus is on projects for cancer prevention, detection and treatment that are most likely to be translated into clinical trials within a 3-5 year period.

**Internal Submission Deadline:** August 8, 2022

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### **Pfizer Global Medical Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma Grant**

Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on increasing healthcare professional understanding of BCMA-directed therapies (BCMAxCD3 bi-specifics; BCMA-ADC; BCMA – CAR-T cells) in relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma.

Medicine (Medical Oncology) and will focus her clinical practice on the care of patients with thoracic cancers. In 2021, Dr. Kim received the Second Place Hussein M. Abdel-Dayem, MD Award for Abstract with Highest Scientific Merit at the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Annual Northeast Regional Scientific Meeting. Her ongoing research projects are focused on NSCLC.



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Paris Butler, MD, MPH, FACS

@DrParisButler, has been named

Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) @YaleSurgery, and is the first Vice Chair of #DEI in the Department of Surgery's 209-year history.



With his #K08 grant from @theNCI,

@Cecchini\_OncMD, is investigating multiple #clinicaltrials for #colorectalcancer to expand therapies beyond chemo, believing there is great potential for #immunotherapy.



Drs. W. Mark Saltzman

@SaltzmanLab, @ranjitbindra, and

Minsoo Khang explore emerging evidence suggesting #intrathecal drug delivery can be effective for the treatment of cancers with #leptomeningeal spread of disease.



Congratulations to Haifan Lin, PhD,

who was named President of the International Society for Stem Cell Research @ISSCR.



Tune in tonight at 7:30pm to

@YaleCancer Answers to hear

@cpgYALE & @ScienceChow discuss the substantial U.S. investment in #cancer care and whether it translates to better cancer

**Applications Due:** August 8, 2022

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### **Quality of Care Initiative to Improve the Treatment of Locally Advanced or Metastatic (Stage IV) Bladder Cancer Patients RFP**

The intent of the RFP is to encourage NCCN Member Institutions and non-NCCN Member Institutions to submit proposals describing concepts and ideas around how to improve the quality of care, including guideline concordant care, and best practices around treatment for patients with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Bladder Cancers.

**Application Deadline:** August 18, 2022

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### **AACR-Lung Cancer Initiative at Johnson & Johnson - Stimulating Therapeutic Advances through Research Training (START)**

These grants, which will provide support to postdoctoral or clinical research fellows from underrepresented groups combine research experiences in both academic and industry settings, following a research timeline that will be of greatest benefit to the proposed work.

**Application Deadline:** August 18, 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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### **DoD Rare Cancers Research Program Awards**

There are a significant number of incidences of rare cancers in the U.S. military population. Over 60 forms of cancer disproportionately impact those who have served in the military, and 67% of them are rare cancers. These awards support research on the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of Service Members, Veterans, their families, and the American public.

- **Concept Award-** Application Deadline: August 29, 2022
- **Idea Development Award-** Application Deadline: September 30, 2022
- **Resource and Community Development Award-** Application Deadline: September 30, 2022

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### **Cancer Prevention and Control Clinical Trials Planning Grant Program (R34 and U34)**

Through this FOA, the NCI intends to facilitate well planned clinical trials across the cancer prevention and control spectrum aimed at improving prevention/ interception, cancer-related health behaviors, screening, early detection, healthcare delivery, management of treatment-related symptoms, supportive care, and the long-term outcomes of cancer survivors.

**Application Deadline:** September 7, 2022

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### **DoD Melanoma Research Program Awards**

These awards invest in research focusing on the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of melanoma for the benefit of Service members

outcomes. Listen live on @wnpr or download our podcast @iTunes.



David Sturges was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia #CML and managed his complex treatments thanks to his #NavalOfficer discipline and stamina - and the creativity of his @SmilowCancer oncologist, Dr. Wajih Kidwai.



New research published today @JAMANetworkOpen by Dr. Michael Leapman @mleapman @yale\_urology finds that patients with Medicaid seeking #cancer care may face restricted access to quality services.



A study from Drs. Alessandro Santin and Joan Tymon-Rosario indicates #carcinosarcoma with HRD signature-3 is significantly more sensitive to #Olaparib, impairing tumor growth and increasing overall survival.



Through the expertise of Isaac Kim, MD, PhD, MBA, new robotic technology @SmilowCancer reduces #prostatectomy incisions from six to two, and lessens complications, pain, and hospital stays.



@VikramJairamMD has published survey results from radiation oncologists on their usage of therapies to preserve neurocognitive function in patients receiving whole brain radiation therapy.



Congratulations to Cecelia (Cece) Calhoun, MD, MPH, MBA, @CeceCalhounMD, who has been appointed Director of the #SickleCell Program at @SmilowCancer.



Influenced by his patients, @DrEricWiner is working to expand the cancer program + prominence of @YaleCancer & @SmilowCancer, and focusing on physician recruitment + #healthcareinequities in #Connecticut.



Tune in tonight at 7:30pm to @YaleCancer Answers to hear @Dr\_RoryShallis discuss the role of

diagnosis, and treatment of melanoma for the benefit of Service members, Veterans, their families, and the American public.

- **Focused Program Award – Rare Melanomas – Letter of Intent**  
**Due:** September 14, 2022
- **Melanoma Academy Scholar Award – Letter of Intent**  
**Due:** September 14, 2022
- **Mid-Career Accelerator Award – Letter of Intent** **Due:** September 14, 2022
- **Team Science Award – Letter of Intent** **Due:** September 14, 2022

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### Conquer Cancer Grants & Awards

These grants and awards support clinical and translational cancer research done by gifted physician-scientists at every stage of their careers, from the best and brightest among young investigators to senior researchers providing mentorship opportunities for the next generation of cancer researchers.

- **Global Oncology Young Investigator Award (GO YIA)**  
- **Application Deadline:** September 22, 2022
- **Leadership Development Program - Application**  
**Deadline:** September 25, 2022
- **Career Development Award (CDA)- Application** **Deadline:** October 20, 2022
- **International Innovation Grant (IIG) - Application**  
**Deadline:** December 2, 2022

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### Freeman Hrabowski Scholars Program

A new program supporting outstanding early career faculty who are committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in science. HHMI is seeking outstanding basic researchers, including physician-scientists, who have strong potential to become leaders in their fields and to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion through their mentorship and understanding of the experiences of trainees from races and ethnicities underrepresented in US science.

**Applications Due:** September 23, 2022

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### DoD Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP)

These awards support research of exceptional scientific merit in the area of kidney cancer.

- **Academy of Kidney Cancer Investigators Early-Career Scholar Award-** LOI Due: September 29, 2022
- **Nurse-Initiated Research Award-** LOI Due: September 29, 2022
- **Clinical Trial Award-** LOI Due: September 29, 2022

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### DoD Kidney Cancer Research Program Grants

The mission of the FY22 KCRP is to promote rigorous, innovative, high-impact research in kidney cancer for the benefit of Service Members, Veterans, and the American public. Within this context, the KCRP is interested in supporting research and clinical care that addresses the KCRP Overarching Strategic Goals to: (1) increase understanding of the biology of kidney cancer; (2) develop novel therapeutic strategies for the treatment of kidney cancer; (3) improve patient care for kidney cancer; and (4) grow the field and increase collaboration in the area of kidney cancer.

- **Academy of Kidney Cancer Investigators Early-Career Scholar Award - Letter of Intent** **Due:** September 29, 2022
- **Nurse-Initiated Research Award - Letter of Intent** **Due:** September 29, 2022
- **Clinical Trial Award - Letter of Intent** **Due:** September 29, 2022

#AgentOrange in the development of certain cancers, and his role in caring for patients with #MDS. Listen live on @wnpr or download our podcast from @iTunes.



.@Yale News highlights the latest research from Dr. James Hansen

showing how #lupus antibodies prevent neutrophils from releasing NETs, which can contribute to inflammatory diseases.

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## Calendar

### Digestive Diseases Physiopathology Seminar

**July 22; 1:00 PM**

*Acute Liver Failure*

Simona Jakab, MD

[Learn More](#)

### Yale Cancer Answers

**July 24; 7:30 PM**

**NPR**

*Fear of Cancer Recurrence*

Angela Khairallah, LCSW

[Learn More](#)

### Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Waterford Blood Drive

**July 26; 8:00 AM**

[Learn More](#)

### Yale New Haven Health Mobile

#### Mammography Unit 35th Anniversary

**July 27; 11:30 AM**

[Learn More](#)

### Special Seminar

**July 28; 12:30 PM**

*Developmental Heterogeneity in Cancer*

Salil Garg, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### Yale Cancer Answers

**July 31; 7:30 PM**

**NPR**

*The Role Of Surgical Pathology*

Marie Robert, MD

[Learn More](#)

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### Share your news!

Please submit your recent publications, awards,

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### **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.

**Application Deadline:** November 8, 2022

[Read More](#)

and grant announcements to:

[Renee Gaudette](#)

Director, Public Affairs and Communications

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