

May 29, 2015

## Announcements

### ASCO 2015

Yale Cancer Center will have an exciting weekend at ASCO, beginning tomorrow morning when the embargo lifts on an important study from our breast center that will most definitely change the way our surgeons are trained and women with breast cancer are cared for. Congratulations to Anees Chagpar on her important publication! Dr. Melinda Irwin and Dr. Yang Zhou will also be presenting new data that confirms the importance of exercise on outcomes and cancer survivorship.

In addition, Dr. Daniel Petrylak will present updated data on immunotherapy for bladder cancer; Dr. Barbara Burtness will discuss the impact of viruses on head and neck cancers; Dr. Roy Herbst will show new hope in small cell lung cancer; and Dr. Francine Foss will discuss the potential of transplant in T Cell Lymphoma.

The following is a full list of Yale Cancer Center's participation at this year's meeting. Please take the time to support your colleagues if you're attending in Chicago this weekend.

[Download Session List >>](#)

### Qin Yan Receives \$4.1M in DoD Funding

Yale Cancer Center biologist Dr. Qin Yan has been awarded \$4.1 million from the U.S. Department of Defense for a project that will explore finding new drug targets and more effective treatments for metastatic breast cancer. Dr. Yan, Associate Professor of Pathology and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Genetics and Genomics Research Program, said the Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) Era of Hope Scholar project aims to dissect the epigenetic mechanisms of breast cancer metastasis and to develop targeted therapies. He and his team hope to identify why some breast cancers become metastatic, understand what

from the desk of

**Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD**

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL  
AT YALE-NEW HAVEN

Yale CANCER  
CENTER  
A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated  
by the National Cancer Institute

### Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center  
[News Center >>](#)

### LATEST ARTICLES:



Exercise offers cancer survivors significant improvements in quality of life

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drives metastasis, and translate the findings into new personalized therapies for the clinic.

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## Notables

Congratulations to **Joseph Contessa MD, PhD** and **Evan Morris, PhD**, co-principal investigators on a new **R01** from the **National Cancer Institute**, "Validation of Quantitative 11C-Erlotinib PET for Imaging EGFR-Mutant Lung Cancer." Their project will be done in collaboration with **Sarah Goldberg, MD, MPH**, and is the first NIH funded collaboration between Yale Cancer Center and the Yale PET Center. The 3-year grant totals over \$750,000.

**Dr. Andrea Silber** has received a \$35,000 grant from **Avon Foundation for Women** at AVON 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer. The grant will provide patient navigation to medically underserved metastatic breast cancer patients to help them access care and make informed health care decisions.

The following grants have been funded through the Closer to Free **Grants for Small Projects to Improve Patient Care** at Smilow Cancer Hospital for 2014. For more information on the process, please contact [Ruth McCorkle](#).

1. Effects of Meditation on Patients' Psychosocial Responses during Radiation Therapy for Head and Neck Cancer. Gisela Boxleitner, Complementary Services; \$5,000.
2. Mindfulness Based stress Reduction for Professional Caregivers. Bud Wassell, Employee and Family Resources, \$4,100.
3. Improving the Patient Experience through Implementation of a New Patient Education Folder. Alison Tray, Thoracic Oncology Program, \$5,000.
4. Evaluation of Arm and shoulder function in Women with Breast Cancer. Louis Friedman, Rehabilitation Services, \$4,300.
5. Ambassador Role in Radiation Oncology: Impact on Patient Satisfaction. Shelley Jolie, Radiation Oncology, \$4,280.

The Women's Faculty Forum (WFF) at Yale recently selected 20 faculty members across the university to work with



Closer to Free Ride expected to be even bigger in 2015

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Meriano's Cannoli Truck: A Family's Sweet Mission

[Read More >>](#)



Reproducibility Crisis: Blame it on the Antibodies

[Read More >>](#)

## Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook

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### LATEST POSTS:

"There are two great things about this therapy," said Scott Gettinger, MD. "First, unlike with chemotherapy, most patients have little or no side effects."

journalists from The OpEd Project. Congratulations to **Dr. Anees Chagpar** who has been selected to participate in **The Public Voices Fellowship** at Yale University.

**Andrew Putnam, MD** and **Laura J. Morrison, MD** from the Yale Palliative Care Program both recently presented posters as part of Yale's Medical Education Day on May 21, 2015: Ellman MS, Fortin AH, Putnam A, Bia M. *Implementation and Evaluation of a Four-Year Integrated Palliative Care and End-of-Life Curriculum for Medical Students.* Morrison, LJ, Honiden S, Akgun KM. *Evaluating a Communication Skills Workshop Series for Yale Multispecialty Clinical Fellows.*

## Research in the News

### Exercise offers cancer survivors significant improvements in quality of life

For many cancer survivors, a better quality of life is as close as the nearest pair of sneakers. That's because a growing body of research, including two recent studies led by Yale Cancer Center, show that exercise is a powerful way for survivors to improve quality of life. The studies were presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago. The first evaluated the effect of the [LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program](#) on cancer survivors who participated in twice-weekly, 90 minute exercise sessions for 3 months at local YMCAs. The other study explored whether home-based exercise programs that encouraged brisk walking could improve fatigue and quality of life for ovarian cancer survivors. Both studies showed exercise to be a potent tool for survivors to improve life in many areas.

[Read More >>](#)

### Drug-resistant lung cancer may have Achilles heel

Drugs introduced more than a decade ago that target mutations in a protein known as the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) held the promise of personalized treatments for a common form of non-small cell lung cancer. But most patients quickly develop resistance to these drugs and are left with few or no treatment options, because it has been very difficult to design new drugs that act selectively upon the drug-resistant form.

Now Yale University researchers have discovered a key structural difference in the drug-resistant form of EGFR that

"Second," he continued, "responses tend to be durable, and unlike chemotherapy, do not appear to be less frequent in patients who have received a number of prior chemotherapies. Truly remarkable are the ongoing responses in some of our chemotherapy refractory patients started four to five years ago, patients who had a prognosis at that time of only a few months."



Unleashing the Immune System to Fight Lung Cancer

[Read More >>](#)

Blood transfusions save the lives of cancer patients each and every day at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. Because blood is perishable and blood platelets can be stored for only 5 days from the time they are collected, new donations are needed every day.

Honor a loved one and make a commitment to donate blood in the coming weeks.



[Read More >>](#)

Remember to protect your skin this holiday weekend from the sun's harmful rays. Recent research from Yale Cancer Center revealed that sun damage continues to occur long after you have come in from the sun. [#SkinCancer #DontFryDay Aim at Melanoma](#)

could be a new "Achilles heel" for treatment strategies to combat the disease. Two experimental drugs, AZD9291 and Rociletinib (CO-1686), that show promise against drug-resistant EGFR in recent clinical trials alter the structure of the drug-resistant form so that it appears more like the non-resistant form, the researchers also found.

The findings suggest that the cancer-causing activity of drug resistant EGFR may depend on regions and functions of the protein that have been largely ignored by previous drug discovery efforts.

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Join us on June 10 to celebrate Cancer Survivors Day! This year the keynote address will be delivered by cancer survivor Colleen Zenk, the Emmy nominated lead actress from CBS's *As the World Turns*. Cancer Survivors Day allows communities around the world pay tribute to the nearly 14 million people living with a history of cancer. In honoring survivors, we stand together to demonstrate that we can prevail over cancer.



**June 10<sup>th</sup> is Cancer Survivors Day!**

with keynote speaker Colleen Zenk

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## Funding and Award Opportunities

### Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

The Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (Y-CORE PCOR) is an AHRQ-funded K12 program within the Yale-New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation that is designed to train junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows in patient-centered outcomes research. Y-CORE PCOR will provide training and career development support for 2 scholars who have a clinical or research doctoral degree and are committed to a career in patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and comparative effectiveness research (CER).

**Application Deadline:** May 29, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

### Prostate Cancer Foundation

The Prostate Cancer Foundation's 2015 Young Investigator Awards Program will award grants to advance careers and research in prostate cancer (\$225,000 over three years). Early-career basic scientists, medical oncologists, pathologists, urologists, radiologists, radiation oncologists, public health experts, bioinformaticians, bioengineers, and others are encouraged to apply. Interaction with translational prostate cancer physician-scientists within a clinical environment is highly desirable. Applicants should be within six years of the completion of a professional degree or clinical training and under direct supervision of a mentor(s), and have received no more than \$200,000 in current direct research funding, including institutional funds.

**Application Deadline:** June 3, 2015

[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

We are honored to receive a \$35,000 grant from [Avon Foundation for Women](#) at [AVON 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer!](#) This grant, awarded to Dr. Andrea Silber and her team, will provide patient navigation to medically underserved metastatic breast cancer patients to help them access care and make informed health care decisions. Pictured: Dr. Mark Hurlbert (Executive Director, Avon Foundation), Dr. Andrea Silber, Maria Moura, RN, nurse navigator at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center - Saint Raphael Campus, and an Avon 39 Advocate. [#Powerof39](#)



## Komen Request for Applications

### *Career Catalyst Research Grants - Basic/Translational Research*

This award mechanism is appropriate for both basic (i.e. Ph.D.) or clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows proposing research projects that are laboratory - or field - based and do not meet Komen's definition of clinical research. Studies focusing on quality of life or survivorship issues are not appropriate for this mechanism.

### *Career Catalyst Research Grants - Clinical Research*

This award mechanism is appropriate for clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows/faculty proposing clinical, patient-oriented research projects that involve direct interactions with human subjects/patients. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

### *Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants - Basic/Translational Research*

This grant mechanism is appropriate for both basic (i.e. Ph.D.) or clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows proposing research projects that are laboratory - or field - based and do not meet Komen's definition of clinical research. Studies focusing on quality of life or survivorship issues are not appropriate for this mechanism.

### *Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants - Clinical Research*

This grant mechanism is appropriate for clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows proposing clinical, patient-oriented research projects that involve direct interactions with human subjects/patients. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials. Komen defines clinical research as hypothesis driven, patient-oriented research for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects/patients, in conjunction with laboratory-based research as appropriate. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials. Komen defines clinical research as hypothesis driven patient-oriented research for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects/patients, in conjunction with laboratory-based research, as appropriate. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

### *Graduate Training in Disparities Research (GTDR)*

GTDR Grants (formerly Post-Baccalaureate Training in Disparities Research Grants, PBTR) are intended to establish and/or to sustain a training program for a minimum of three graduate students who are seeking careers dedicated to understanding and eliminating disparities in breast cancer outcomes across population groups.

**Application Deadlines:** June 17, 2015

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### LATEST TWEETS:

🐦 If you're at #ASCO15, visit the YCC/Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven booth #2052. @YNHH @ASCO. Also, great abstracts in the program

🐦 Our team of physicians, researchers and scientists is headed to #ASCO15 with some findings you'll want to know about. Stay tuned! @ASCO

🐦 We Need More Nurses  
<http://nyti.ms/1BqzKzr>

🐦 @mirwin\_yale  
#cancersurvivors gain benefits from #exercise. Often, it's as simple as walking. #ASCO15  
<http://bit.ly/1GG8ljz> @livestrong

🐦 Congratulations to Dr. Qin Yan for receiving a \$4.1 million grant from @DeptofDefense for #breastcancer research  
<http://bit.ly/1KAeDmp>

**Closer to Free**

### Faculty Scholars Competition

The Simons Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are pleased to announce the Faculty Scholars Competition, a national competition for grants to outstanding early-career scientists.

The three philanthropies will award a total of \$148 million over the program's first five years, awarding up to 70 grants every two and a half to three years. The awards are intended for basic researchers and physician scientists who have already demonstrated significant research accomplishments and show potential to make unique and important contributions to their fields.

The Faculty Scholars Competition marks the first time that HHMI, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Simons Foundation have formally undertaken an initiative together.

**Application Deadline:** July 28, 2015

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### Patterson Trust Fellowship Program in Clinical Research

The Robert E. Leet and Clara Guthrie Patterson Trust was established in 1980 for the advancement of medical science, particularly research "relating to human diseases, their causes and relief." Two-year fellowships of \$90,000 (\$45,000 per year) will be awarded to Applicants working in Connecticut or New Jersey.

The Patterson Trust will provide support to early-stage mentored investigators conducting clinical research with a focus on patient-oriented or translational laboratory research. The Program will help the Trust to pursue its mission by providing Applicants with the opportunity to demonstrate creativity and explore opportunities that may promote careers in clinical research. Pilot and preliminary studies are encouraged.

**Application Deadline:** August 14, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

## Recent Publications

### Measurement of Domain-Specific HER2 (ERBB2) Expression May Classify Benefit From Trastuzumab in Breast Cancer.

Carvajal-Hausdorf DE, Schalper KA, Puzstai L, Psyryi A, Kalogeris KT, Kotoula V, Fountzilas G, Rimm DL. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2015 May 19;107(8).

[Read More >>](#)

# closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

## Events

May 31; 6:00 PM

### Yale Cancer Center

#### Answers

WNPR

*Cancer Survivorship in 2015*

Angela Khairallah, LCSW and Mae

Anne Jauk, MA, APRN-BC

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June 1; 12:00 PM

### Epigenetics Interest Group Meeting

BCMM 206/208

*KMT2D: An Epigenetic Driver of Orphan Pheochromocytomas*

Taylor C. Brown, MD

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June 2; 9:30 AM

### Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

*"Molecular Drivers of Tumor-initiating Cells in Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma"* and *"Signaling Networks Engaged in Sensing Mitochondrial Stress"*

Sergey Ivanov MD, PhD and

Arvind Goswami PhD

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June 7; 6:00 PM

### Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

*HIV and Cancer*

Robert Dubrow, MD, PhD and

Amy Justice, MD, MSCE, PhD

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**Obesity, diet, physical activity, and health-related quality of life in endometrial cancer survivors.**

Koutoukidis DA, Knobf MT, Lanceley A.  
Nutr Rev. 2015 Jun;73(6):399-408. doi:  
10.1093/nutrit/nuu063. Epub 2015 Apr 7.

[Read More >>](#)

**The transition experience to breast cancer survivorship.**

Knobf MT.  
Semin Oncol Nurs. 2015 May;31(2):178-82. doi:  
10.1016/j.soncn.2015.02.006. Epub 2015 Feb 16.

[Read More >>](#)

**Trajectories of Evening Fatigue in Oncology Outpatients Receiving Chemotherapy.**

Wright F, D'Eramo Melkus G, Hammer M, Schmidt BL, Knobf MT, Paul SM, Cartwright F, Mastick J, Cooper BA, Chen LM, Melisko M, Levine JD, Kober K, Aouizerat BE, Miaskowski C.  
J Pain Symptom Manage. 2015 Mar 28. pii: S0885-3924(15)00151-7.

[Read More >>](#)

**Predictors and Trajectories of Morning Fatigue Are Distinct from Evening Fatigue.**

Wright F, D'Eramo Melkus G, Hammer M, Schmidt BL, Knobf MT, Paul SM, Cartwright F, Mastick J, Cooper BA, Chen LM, Melisko M, Levine JD, Kober K, Aouizerat BE, Miaskowski C.  
J Pain Symptom Manage. 2015 Mar 27.

[Read More >>](#)

**BCL-2 family member BOK promotes apoptosis in response to endoplasmic reticulum stress.**

Carpio MA, Michaud M, Zhou W, Fisher JK, Walensky LD, Katz SG.  
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2015 May 26.

[Read More >>](#)

**Nicotine Metabolite Ratio (3-hydroxycotinine/cotinine) in Plasma and Urine by Different Analytical Methods and Laboratories: Implications for Clinical Implementation.**

Tanner JA, Novalen M, Jatlow P, Huestis MA, Murphy SE, Kaprio J, Kankaanpää A, Galanti L, Stefan C, George TP, Benowitz NL, Lerman C, Tyndale RF.  
Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2015 May 26.

[Read More >>](#)

**June 9; 9:30 AM  
Pathology Research in  
Progress Talks**

TAC N-107  
Goran Micevic and Molly Gale  
[Read More >>](#)

**June 9; 12:00 PM  
YCC Grand Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium  
*Phase 0 Clinical Trials for Brain Tumors*  
Nader Sanai, MD, FAANS, FACS  
[Read More >>](#)

**June 9; 5:00 PM**

**YNHH Transforming  
Healthcare Grand Rounds**  
Fitkin Amphitheater, LMP 1094  
*Reduction of Suffering as Strategy  
and Transparency as a Tactic in  
the Era of Health Care Reform*  
Thomas H. Lee, MD  
[Read More >>](#)

**June 9; 5:00 PM  
YCC Breast Clinical Lecture  
Series**

Smilow First Floor Conference  
Room, 1-330  
[Read More >>](#)

**June 10; 5:00 PM  
Yale Cancer Center / Smilow  
Cancer Hospital Cancer  
Survivors Day 2015**

West Campus  
*When my 'World' Turned*  
Colleen Zenk  
[Read More >>](#)

**Submissions**

Please submit your recent  
publication and grant

**The R280H X-ray cross-complementing 1 germline variant induces genomic instability and cellular transformation.**

Sizova DV, Keh A, Taylor BF, Sweasy JB.  
DNA Repair (Amst). 2015 May 14;31:73-79.

[Read More >>](#)

**Practice - and Community-Based Interventions to Increase Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Coverage: A Systematic Review.**

Niccolai LM, Hansen CE.  
JAMA Pediatr. 2015 May 26.

[Read More >>](#)

**Preliminary Safety, Pharmacokinetics, and Efficacy of Regorafenib, Cisplatin, and Pemetrexed in Patients With Advanced Nonsquamous Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancers.**

Hellmann MD, Sturm I, Trnkova ZJ, Lettieri J, Diefenbach K, Rizvi NA, Gettinger SN.

Clin Lung Cancer. 2015 Apr 20.

[Read More >>](#)

**Cancer. Preprocancer.**

Brash DE.

Science. 2015 May 22;348(6237):867-8.

[Read More >>](#)

**Associations of coffee drinking with systemic immune and inflammatory markers.**

Lofffield E, Shiels MS, Graubard BI, Katki HA, Chaturvedi AK, Trabert B, Pinto LA, Kemp TJ, Shebl FM, Mayne ST, Wentzensen N, Purdue MP, Hildesheim A, Sinha R, Freedman ND.

Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2015 May 21.

[Read More >>](#)

**Expectations in the care of lung cancer.**

Lilenbaum R, Leighl NB, Neubauer M.

Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2015;35:e420-4. doi:

10.14694/EdBook\_AM.2015.35.e420.

[Read More >>](#)

**Achievements and challenges of molecular targeted therapy in melanoma.**

Sullivan R, LoRusso P, Boerner S, Dummer R.

Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2015;35:177-86. doi:

10.14694/EdBook\_AM.2015.35.177.

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announcements to:

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 Forward to a Friend



