

# DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

**June 16, 2023**

Dear Colleagues,

It has been several weeks since I last wrote. Life has been busy for so many of us. Not only is this graduation season, but it is also the time of year when students are making the transition from school to summer. Now is the time of year when parents of young children try to maintain some degree of consistency as schedules and daily activities change.

The ASCO annual meeting earlier this month was huge success in so many ways. There were multiple practice-changing presentations, including from our own faculty. While I may be biased, the scientific and educational content has never been better. The meeting's theme, "Partnerships with Patients: The Cornerstone of Clinical Care and Research" was well received and reverberated throughout the meeting. It is a theme that is entirely consistent with our approach to patient care and research at Yale Cancer Center and throughout Smilow.

Over the weeks and months ahead, you will hear more and more about access, and, in particular, access for new patients. For most people, a new diagnosis of cancer is accompanied by fear, anxiety, and a sense of helplessness. Individuals who learn they have cancer want medical care — oncologic care — as fast as possible. I have often been struck by how much relief we can provide to new patients just by getting them in for an appointment, evaluating them, and reviewing next steps. Not only is prompt access to care right for patients, but if we fail to provide it, many will simply go elsewhere. As a world class cancer center, we need to provide state-of-the-art care, but we also need to deliver this care in a timely, efficient, and patient-centered manner. Over the summer, we will renew our efforts to ensure that new patients are seen within a matter of days, and we will look to all of you to help with this initiative.

Please enjoy the long weekend ahead. Juneteenth is a special day of commemoration. While you relish in the long weekend, please remember the importance of Juneteenth, the inequalities that still exist in our society, and our need to address these challenges both broadly and very specifically when it comes to disparities in cancer care.

Have a great early summer weekend!

Eric

**Announcements**

**Eric P. Winer, MD**

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Network

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

## News Center



### ASCO23 Wrap Up



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**2023 ASCO Presidential Address-**

**Partnering with Patients: The  
Cornerstone of Clinical Care and**

### Yale Cancer Center Welcomes Dr. Eric Chang

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital are pleased to welcome Eric Chang, MD, as an Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology). Dr. Chang recently completed his hematology/oncology fellowship at Yale Cancer Center. He will care for patients as part of the Classical Hematology Program in Orange and Waterbury beginning in August.



Dr. Chang received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. During fellowship, Dr. Chang conducted a research project looking at Classical Hematology outpatient referrals and ways to minimize time between referral placement and the initial appointment. He also completed the Fellows as Medical Educators (FAME) course, which is aimed at enhancing one’s preparation for a career as a clinician educator through participation in sessions exploring learning theory, teaching skills, curriculum development, and clinician educator careers, among other topics.

### Notables

**Priya Jamidar, FACG, FASGE, MBChB**, Professor of Medicine (Digestive Diseases) and Director of Endoscopy at Smilow Cancer Hospital, was recently presented with a **Lifetime Achievement Award by the Connecticut Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (CAPI)** at their 32nd annual meeting. Dr. Jamidar is one of the world’s leading experts in biliary and pancreatic disease treatment and research.

**Nadine Housri, MD**, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, has received the **Healio Disruptive Innovator Award in Clinical Innovation**. The award recognizes Dr. Housri’s contributions as Co-Founder & Chief Medical Officer of TheMedNet.org, a free knowledge sharing platform built by and for doctors, with the sole purpose of bridging the knowledge gap between experts and the broader physician community. Dr. Housri was presented the award at a live event on June 3rd at the annual American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting.

**Luisa Escobar-Hoyos, MSc, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and a member of Yale Cancer Center’s Radiobiology and Genome

Integrity Research Program, was named to the **2023 class of the Pew-Stewart Scholars Program for Cancer Research**. This class of early-career scientists will receive four-year grants to explore new horizons in



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### Study Shows Osimertinib Improves Survival Following Surgery for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer



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### ‘Game-changing’ Lung Cancer Drug Halves the Risk of Death, says ‘Thrilling’ Study



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### ASCO President on Patient Partnerships



cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and will explore critical issues in cancer research.

**Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), Director of the Center for Breast Cancer at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, has been named Co-Chair of the **ASCO Survivorship Guideline Advisory Group**, which formulates the guidelines on survivorship care on behalf of ASCO.

**Sabrina Browning, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology), has been invited to participate on the Steering Committee for the **Amyloidosis Research Consortium** to address best practices, referral networks, and coordinated care models for patients.

**Yale Ventures** announced the recipients of the **2023 Blavatnik Awards**, including six Yale Cancer Center members for cancer-related research. The Blavatnik Fund for Innovation at Yale, made possible by a generous grant from the Blavatnik Family Foundation, supports Yale faculty in the commercialization of biomedical and digital health innovations.

Congratulations to:

- **Anton Bennett, PhD**, Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of Pharmacology and Professor of Comparative Medicine; Interim Chair, Pharmacology; Director, Yale Center for Molecular and Systems Metabolism; Director, BBS Minority Affairs: *Allagium Therapeutics - Driving Change to Better Health*
- **Michael Girardi, MD**, Vice Chair for Faculty Development and Scientific Innovation, Evans Professor of Dermatology; Director, Residency Program, Dermatology; Co-Director, T32 Research Fellowship Program, Dermatology: *Immunotherapeutics to Treat T Cell Leukemias and Lymphoma*
- **Peter Glazer, MD, PhD**, Robert E. Hunter Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and Professor of Genetics; Chair, Therapeutic Radiology: *Hybridex Biosciences: Enabling the next generation of safe editing therapeutics*
- **Ruslan Medzhitov, PhD**, Sterling Professor of Immunobiology; Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute: *To identify a new class of therapeutics for inflammatory diseases*
- **David Spiegel, MD, PhD**, Professor of Chemistry: *Transmembrane Anchoring Bifunctional Molecules for Immunotherapy*

“**In the Midst of it All**” is a new podcast hosted by **Jane Jeuland, MDiv**, Chaplain with the Palliative Care Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Jane interviews patients, caregivers, and clinicians that have been through it all, supported it all, and seen it all. Listen now on [Spotify](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#) and stay tuned for more episodes.

**Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD**, Deputy Director of Yale Cancer Center and Assistant Dean for Translational Research at Yale School of Medicine, participated in a panel discussion during the **Yale Innovation Summit** hosted by Yale Ventures on the *Hottest New Ideas in Oncology: Translating Science to Treatments for Patients*.

**Veda Giri, MD**, Chief, Division of Clinical Cancer Genetics and Director, Early Onset Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital, hosted a national Roundtable Conference on **Engaging Black Men in Prostate Cancer Genetic Testing** with the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center.

**Christina Waldron**, YSM '26 and Perioperative Hematology Research Lead



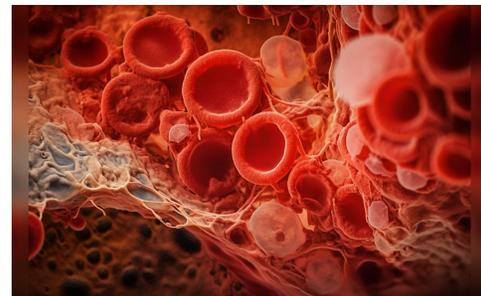
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### [Cancer Doctors Rethink Aggressive Treatments](#)



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### [Phase III Results Give Hope to People Living With Myelodysplastic Syndromes](#)



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### [A 'Penicillin Moment' in War Against Cancer?](#)



in the **Goshua Lab**, was awarded the **ASH HONORS** (American Society of Hematology Hematology Opportunities for the Next Generation of Research Scientists) Award as a first-year medical student. The funded project aims to determine the cost-effectiveness of optimal second-line treatment sequencing for warm autoimmune hemolytic anemia (wAIHA), a rare hematologic disease. This study aims to quantify the risks and benefits of splenectomy so patients with wAIHA can be armed with the necessary clarity during informed consent to navigate their treatment options, allowing them to fully align their health decisions with their personal values and preferences. The future Dr. Waldron is one of less than 30 medical students and medical residents in North America to receive the award.

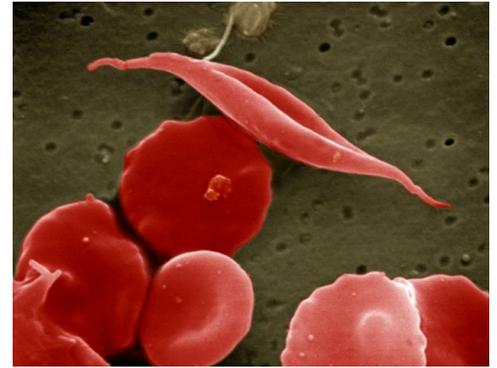
The **Genetics, Genomics, and Epigenetics Research Program**

welcomes **Roel Verhaak, PhD**, Professor of Neurosurgery and a leader in the field of glioma. Dr. Verhaak will bring his expertise on brain tumor evolution and treatment resistance, including the biology of extrachromosomal DNA amplification, which he discovered, to Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Verhaak’s lab is developing new therapies for cancer through targeting of extrachromosomal DNA amplifications.



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**Cost-Effectiveness of Equity-Enhancing Gene Therapy in Sickle Cell Disease**



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**Employee Profile: Gail LeBrun**

Gail LeBrun, BSN, RN, Assistant Patient Service Manager for the Surgical Oncology unit on NP 15, oversees a team of nurses that care for patients after a variety of surgeries for thoracic cancers, cancers of the head and neck, endocrine tumors, urologic disorders, and some plastic surgeries. Although Gail thinks of herself as more behind the scenes compared to when she was a charge nurse on the floor just six months ago, she is responsible for ensuring the unit runs smoothly and that both patients and staff are



cared for.

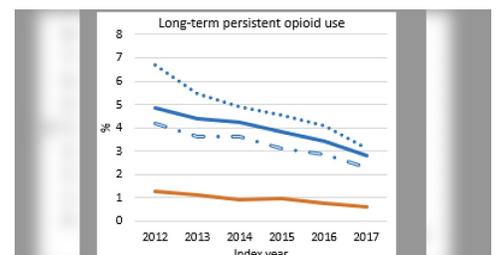
Acting as a point person for the 28-bed unit, Gail assists with the discharge of patients, answering any questions the nurses may have, and making sure that all patients and family members have what they need. She commented that most oncology nurses enter the field having had a personal experience with cancer. “They want to provide the best care that they can to every

**New Drugs for Serious Cancers**



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**Impact of Changing Landscape for Patients With Cancer Who Are Prescribed Opioids**



with cancer. They want to provide the best care that they can to every patient, because many of them know what it is like to have a family member with cancer,” said Gail. “My father-in-law was a patient and is the one that encouraged me to pursue a career in surgical oncology. I just wanted to make the biggest impact that I could, and help as many patients as I could.”

Gail is also there to support the staff when things don't go as planned. She helps to navigate personal feelings and offers support where she can, keeping in mind that each individual handles grief differently. She also shares in the joy when a patient is discharged after a difficult surgery and continues to do well.

Kevin Billingsley, MD, MBA, FACS, Professor of Surgery (Oncology) and Chief Medical Officer of Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented, “Gail represents the ultimate in nursing professionalism. She leads by example and elevates everyone on the unit to the highest levels of inter-professional teamwork and clinical excellence. She is an inspiration!”

“Gail has stepped up as a new leader and her positive attitude, work ethic, and knowledge are making her very successful,” said Tracy Carafeno, MS, RN, CNML, Nursing Director for Smilow Inpatient, and Interim Director of Nursing Education and Practice. “She genuinely cares about the patients and the staff and is working hard to ensure positive outcomes.”

## Recent Publications

Tsuboi, M., Herbst, R. S., John, T., Kato, T., Majem, M., Grohé, C., Wang, J., Goldman, J. W., Lu, S., Su, W. C., de Marinis, F., Shepherd, F. A., Lee, K. H., Le, N. T., Dechaphunkul, A., Kowalski, D., Poole, L., Bolanos, A., Rukazenzov, Y., Wu, Y. L., ... ADAURA Investigators.

### **Overall Survival with Osimertinib in Resected *EGFR*-Mutated NSCLC.**

*The New England journal of medicine*, 10.1056/NEJMoa2304594.

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Goshua, G., Calhoun, C., Ito, S., James, L. P., Luviano, A., Krishnamurti, L., & Pandya, A.

### **Distributional Cost-Effectiveness of Equity-Enhancing Gene Therapy in Sickle Cell Disease in the United States.**

*Annals of internal medicine*, 10.7326/M22-3272.

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Saliby, R. M., El Zarif, T., Bakouny, Z., Shah, V., Xie, W., Flippot, R., Denize, T., Kane, M. H., Madsen, K. N., Ficial, M., Hirsch, L., Wei, X. X., Steinarter, J. A., Harshman, L. C., Vaishampayan, U. N., Severgnini, M., McDermott, D. F., Lee, G. M., Xu, W., Van Allen, E. M., ... Braun, D. A.

### **Circulating and intratumoral immune determinants of response to atezolizumab plus bevacizumab in patients with variant histology or sarcomatoid renal cell carcinoma.**

*Cancer immunology research*, CIR-22-0996.

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Knobf, M.T., Erdos, D.

### **Community Partnerships to Support Women of Color Breast Cancer Survivors**

*The ABNFF Journal*

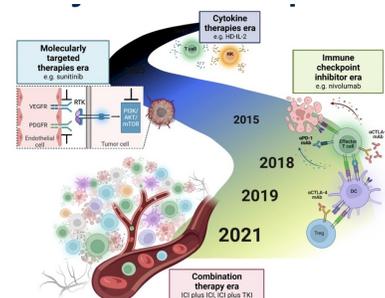
December 2022

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LoRusso, P., Yamamoto, N., Patel, M. R., Laurie, S. A., Bauer, T. M., Geng, J., Davenport, T., Teufel, M., Li, J., Lahmar, M., & Gounder, M. M.

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## Combination Therapies Come of Age in Kidney Cancer



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June is National Cancer Survivor Month! We are excited to launch a special series to share stories and messages from some of our patients, in their own words. Everyone who has experienced cancer has a different story to tell, a different journey, and a uniquely personal definition of their life after cancer.

We look forward to introducing you to this special group throughout the month of June!



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Happy Friday from ambulatory care associate Grace Walters and Donna Watkins, RN, sporting their Smilow Cancer Hospital hats!

J., Davenport, T., Fedele, M., Li, J., Lahmar, M., & Gounder, M. M.  
**The MDM2-p53 antagonist BI 907828 in patients with advanced or metastatic solid tumors: results of a phase Ia, first-in-human, dose-escalation study.**

Cancer discovery, CD-23-0153.

[Read More](#)

Merkin, R. D., Chiang, V. L., & Goldberg, S. B.

**Management of patients with brain metastases from NSCLC without a genetic driver alteration: upfront radiotherapy or immunotherapy?**

*Therapeutic advances in medical oncology*, 15, 17588359231175438.

[Read More](#)

Cartmel, B., Li, F. Y., Zhou, Y., Gottlieb, L., Lu, L., Mszar, R., Harrigan, M., Ligibel, J. A., Gogoi, R., Schwartz, P. E., Risch, H. A., & Irwin, M. L.

**Randomized trial of exercise on cancer-related blood biomarkers and survival in women with ovarian cancer.**

*Cancer medicine*, 10.1002/cam4.6187.

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Brastianos, P. K., Kim, A. E., Giobbie-Hurder, A., Lee, E. Q., Lin, N. U., Overmoyer, B., Wen, P. Y., Nayak, L., Cohen, J. V., Dietrich, J., Eichler, A., Heist, R. S., Krop, I., Lawrence, D., Ligibel, J., Tolaney, S., Mayer, E., Winer, E., Bent, B., de Sauvage, M. A., ... Sullivan, R. J.

**Pembrolizumab in brain metastases of diverse histologies: phase 2 trial results.**

*Nature medicine*, 10.1038/s41591-023-02392-7.

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Suwalska, A., Tobiasz, J., Prazuch, W., Socha, M., Foszner, P., Piotrowski, D., Gruszczynska, K., Sliwinska, M., Walecki, J., Popiela, T., Przybylski, G., Nowak, M., Fiedor, P., Pawlowska, M., Flisiak, R., Simon, K., Zapolska, G., Gizycka, B., Szurawska, E., POLCOVID Study Group, ... Polanska, J.

**POLCOVID: a multicenter multiclass chest X-ray database (**

*Scientific data*, 10(1), 348.

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Sanft, T., & Winer, E.

**Rekindling Joy in Medicine Through Thoughtful Communication: A Practical Guide.**

*American Society of Clinical Oncology educational book.*

*American Society of Clinical Oncology. Annual Meeting*, 43, e100034.

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Chan, V. H. Y., Heller, D. R., Berger, E. R., Capozza, S., Greenup, R. A., & Sanft, T. B.

**ASO Visual Abstract: Ancillary Treatment Referrals and Visits After Breast Cancer Surgery in a Sociodemographically Diverse Population.**

*Annals of surgical oncology*, 10.1245/s10434-023-13610-4.

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Zahid, H., Costello, J. P., Li, Y., Kimbrough, J. R., Actis, M., Rankovic, Z., Yan, Q., & Pomerantz, W. C. K.

**Design of Class I/IV Bromodomain-Targeting Degraders for Chromatin Remodeling Complexes.**

*ACS chemical biology*, 10.1021/acscchembio.2c00902.

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Belzer, A., Pach, J., Mortlock, R. D., Clune, J., Olino, K., Sznol, M., Bhatia, A., Burtness, B., Christensen, S., & Leventhal, J. S.

**Evaluating the medical management of locally advanced and metastatic basal cell carcinoma: A single institutional retrospective analysis investigating efficacy, safety, and tolerability.**

*JAAD international*, 11, 174–175.

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Braun, D. A., & Chakraborty, A. A.



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Bob Heffernan:

To me, being a cancer survivor means...13 more wonderful years of life! When I was diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma back in 2007 the odds of survival were not great, but the treatment I received at Yale kept me alive until researchers could deliver life-saving therapy. The doctors and research scientists at Yale are in daily contact with other researchers around the nation and the world. For me, that meant working closely with the National Institutes of Health where I became one of the early cancer patients on an immunotherapy trial. Today, it's being used to treat many different cancers. My husband and I embarked on a new life and were able to live a dream of buying a busy country Vermont inn. Now it's retirement full of good health and love. I am forever grateful!



Braun, D. A., & Chakraborty, A. A.

### **Immunobiology and Metabolic Pathways of Renal Cell Carcinoma.**

*Hematology/oncology clinics of North America*, S0889-8588(23)00046-1.

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John, T., Grohé, C., Goldman, J. W., Shepherd, F. A., de Marinis, F., Kato, T., Wang, Q., Su, W. C., Choi, J. H., Sriuranpong, V., Melotti, B., Fidler, M. J., Chen, J., Albayaty, M., Stachowiak, M., Taggart, S., Wu, Y. L., Tsuboi, M., Herbst, R. S., & Majem, M.

### **Three-Year Safety, Tolerability, and Health-Related Quality of Life Outcomes of Adjuvant Osimertinib in Patients with Resected Stage IB-III A EGFR-Mutated Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Updated Analysis from the Phase 3 ADAURA Trial.**

*Journal of thoracic oncology : official publication of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer*, S1556-0864(23)00574-9.

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Katona, B. W., Klute, K., Brand, R. E., Everett, J. N., Farrell, J. J., Hawthorne, K., Kaul, V., Kupfer, S. S., Paiella, S., Simeone, D. M., Sussman, D. A., Zogopoulos, G., Lucas, A. L., Kastrinos, F., & PRECEDE Consortium.

### **Racial, Ethnic, and Sex-based Disparities among High-risk Individuals Undergoing Pancreatic Cancer Surveillance.**

*Cancer prevention research (Philadelphia, Pa.)*, 16(6), 343–352.

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Chhoda, A., Singh, S., Sheth, A. H., Grimshaw, A. A., Gunderson, C. G., Sharma, P., Kunstman, J. W., Sharma, A., Ahuja, N., Gonda, T. A., & Farrell, J. J.

### **Benefit of Extended Surveillance of Low-Risk Pancreatic Cysts After 5-Year Stability: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.**

*Clinical gastroenterology and hepatology: the official clinical practice journal of the American Gastroenterological Association*, 21(6), 1430–1446.

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Kam, C. Y., Singh, I. D., Gonzalez, D. G., Matte-Martone, C., Solá, P., Solanas, G., Bonjoch, J., Marsh, E., Hirschi, K. K., & Greco, V.

### **Mechanisms of skin vascular maturation and maintenance captured by longitudinal imaging of live mice.**

*Cell*, 186(11), 2345–2360.e16.

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Kim, S. Y., & Gettinger, S.

### **First-Line Treatment of Driver-Negative Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer.**

*Hematology/oncology clinics of North America*, 37(3), 557–573.

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Woodard, G. A., Ding, V., Cho, C., Brand, N. R., Kratz, J. R., Jones, K. D., & Jablons, D. M.

### **Comparative genomics between matched solid and lepidic portions of semi-solid lung adenocarcinomas.**

*Lung cancer (Amsterdam, Netherlands)*, 180, 107211.

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André, F., Hee Park, Y., Kim, S. B., Takano, T., Im, S. A., Borges, G., Lima, J. P., Aksoy, S., Gavila Gregori, J., De Laurentiis, M., Bianchini, G., Roylance, R., Miyoshi, Y., Armstrong, A., Sinha, R., Ruiz Borrego, M., Lim, E., Ettl, J., Yerushalmi, R., Zagouri, F., ... Krop, I.

### **Trastuzumab deruxtecan versus treatment of physician's choice in patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer (DESTINY-Breast02): a randomised, open-label, multicentre, phase 3 trial.**

*Lancet (London, England)*, 401(10390), 1773–1785.

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Mendez, L. M., & Patnaik, M. M.

### **Clonal Hematopoiesis: Origins and determinants of evolution.**

*Leukemia research*, 129, 107076.

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Recently on Yale Cancer Answers, Natalie Smith, a registered dietician with the Survivorship Clinic at Smilow, discussed how she helps patients with cancer develop healthy eating habits. Listen on Connecticut Public Radio or download our podcast from iTunes.



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Donna Vavrinec:

Since being diagnosed with cancer, I've learned that you should live each day to the fullest. No one is guaranteed tomorrow. So far, I am lucky since I am coming up on my one-year anniversary since my final treatment. I am grateful for all the support I have received from my wife, friends, and family.

I have always been a spiritual woman, but now I take time each day to be grateful for the people and things in my life. I want to see the world and just smell the coffee as the saying goes. I think that everyone needs to slow down a bit and take a moment to enjoy all the accomplishments you work so hard to achieve. I am still a fierce advocate that you should always seek out the best professionals in health care. The doctors, nurses and support staff at Yale are the best! I can't imagine going through this without them.



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Grant, M. J., Woodard, G. A., & Goldberg, S. B.  
**The Evolving Role for Systemic Therapy in Resectable Non-small Cell Lung Cancer.**

*Hematology/oncology clinics of North America*, 37(3), 513–531.

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Grant, M. J., Aredo, J. V., Starrett, J. H., Stockhammer, P., van Alderwerelt van Rosenburgh, I. K., Wurtz, A., Piper-Valillo, A. J., Piotrowska, Z., Falcon, C., Yu, H. A., Aggarwal, C., Scholes, D., Patil, T., Nguyen, C., Phadke, M., Li, F. Y., Neal, J., Lemmon, M. A., Walther, Z., Politi, K., ... Goldberg, S. B.

**Efficacy of Osimertinib in Patients with Lung Cancer Positive for Uncommon EGFR Exon 19 Deletion Mutations.**

*Clinical cancer research : an official journal of the American Association for Cancer Research*, 29(11), 2123–2130.

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Miguez, S., Lee, R. Y., Chan, A. X., Demkowicz, P. C., Jones, B. S. C. L., Long, C. P., Abramson, D. H., Bosenberg, M., Sznol, M., Kluger, H., Goldbaum, M. H., Francis, J. H., Pointdujour-Lim, R., & Bakhoun, M. F.

**Validation of the Prognostic Usefulness of the Gene Expression Profiling Test in Patients with Uveal Melanoma.**

*Ophthalmology*, 130(6), 598–607.

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Molina, F., Soulos, P. R., Brockman, A., & Oldfield, B. J.

**Clinical and Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Telemedicine Engagement in an Urban Community Health Center Cohort During the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

*Telemedicine journal and e-health : the official journal of the American Telemedicine Association*, 29(6), 875–885.

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Kravitz, C. J., Yan, Q., & Nguyen, D. X.

**Epigenetic markers and therapeutic targets for metastasis.**

*Cancer metastasis reviews*, 10.1007/s10555-023-10109-y.

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## Funding and Award Opportunities

**Revision Applications to Support Research on Prevention and Cessation of Menthol Cigarette Use in Populations that Experience Health Disparities (R01)**

As part of the ADVANCE: Advancing Prevention Research for Health Equity program, the NIH Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) within the Office of the Director Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI) is soliciting revision applications (formerly called "competitive

revisions") to active R01 grants to support studies that develop and evaluate menthol cigarette smoking cessation and prevention interventions for populations that experience health disparities.

**Application Deadline:** June 19, 2023

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

These grants, which will provide support to postdoctoral or clinical research fellows who are females or are 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. The training provided through this grants program will be invaluable to young investigators by providing fellows with a comprehensive research experience that will make them highly desirable to potential employers in either academic or industry settings.



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Smilow Cancer Hospital has a new clinical trial available for patients with stage II primary invasive cutaneous melanoma. This phase III study is evaluating differences in survival by studying 1 cm versus 2 cm margin of excision of the primary lesion.

If you have stage II primary invasive cutaneous melanoma and are interested in participating, please click here to learn more about the study and for contact information on how to proceed: <https://www.yalecancercenter.org/.s2015phase-iii...>

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New research presented by Dr. Roy Herbst at the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting in Chicago shows that Osimertinib (Tagrisso) significantly improves survival following surgery for patients with

non-small cell lung cancer who are EGFR+ in the earliest stages.



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research or the pharmaceutical industry.

**Application Deadline:** June 21, 2023

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### **Training Opportunity in Community Engagement and Health Equity**

The YCC Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity (CEHE) will fund three (3) investigators to audit the National Clinician Scholar Program (NCSP) “Foundations of Community-Engaged Research” course in support of CEHE’s mission. This is an excellent opportunity, especially for early career professionals interested in community-engaged research. Participants will learn the principles and practices of community engagement.

**Application Deadline:** June 23, 2023

If you are interested, please complete the **application** and send to **Erin Singleton**.

### **MMRF 2023 Research Fellows Award Program**

Supporting early career researchers at the post-doctorate, medical fellow, or junior faculty levels currently active or interested in research in multiple myeloma. The goal of this initiative is to engage and support early career investigators interested in basic and clinical research focused on myeloma and its precursor conditions, with the goal of advancing our understanding of myeloma disease biology, disease risk, and treatment response and relapse.

**Application Deadline:** June 23, 2023

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### **Integrating Health Disparities into Immuno-Oncology (HDIO) (P20)**

Through this FOA, the NCI intends to support planning and feasibility studies to integrate cancer health disparities into immuno-oncology research studies. This FOA is expected to enable complementary, multi-disciplinary research teams to address interdisciplinary research to integrate cancer health disparities into immuno-oncology research. It is anticipated these feasibility or pilot studies will support the exploration of novel or high-risk research hypotheses.

**Application Deadline:** June 30, 2023

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### **2023 Yale Cancer Center Internal Pilot Grants**

These grants will support any area of innovative cancer research including basic, clinical, computational, population and epidemiology, prevention/control, implementation science and translational cancer research. Of particular interest are proposals that address Yale Cancer Center priorities in the cross-cutting themes of obesity and metabolism, tobacco use/carcinogenesis, brain metastases, drug resistance, and early onset cancers and cancer disparities, as well as disease-based research in breast, lung, liver and prostate cancer. However, successful proposals will not be limited to these areas.

The YCC Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity is available for consultation on community engagement, health disparities, and catchment relevance (Jessica.Lewis@yale.edu).

**Internal Submission Deadline:** July 2, 2023

[Read More](#)

### **Addressing the Primary Care Needs of Cancer Survivors (U01)**

The purpose of this FOA is to support the development and testing of primary care practice (PCP)- and health system-level interventions and strategies to promote high quality care for adult cancer survivors during and/or after cancer treatment. The overall goal of this opportunity is to support high quality care for cancer survivors that integrates primary care from the point of diagnosis forward.

**Application Deadline:** July 24, 2023

[Read More](#)

### **Understanding Persistent Oral Human Papillomavirus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Co-infection and Its Role with Oropharyngeal Cancer Induction (R01)**

This FOA is part of the NCI’s initiative to support research on the prevention and treatment of oropharyngeal cancer.

Angela Khairallah, MSW, LCSW, and Kristen Clark, LCSW, stand ready to distribute compassion bags, filled with blankets, slippers, drinking cups, toiletries, and gift cards, to patients with breast cancer at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The bags were a generous gift from Pink Aid, Inc.’s Pink Posse, group of volunteers who help patients in their need for comfort. Thank you to co-chairs Marji Kaplowitz, Sharon Finkel, and the entire Pink Posse for thinking of our patients!



[Read More](#)

Members of the Marottoli family and others recently gathered in the Healing Garden at Smilow Cancer Hospital to see the new Healing Garden Brook plaque honoring Melissa Marottoli Hogan.

Pictured (l to r) Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Ali Marottoli, Scott Gettinger, MD, Lindsay Marottoli Greenberg, Kristen Marottoli Peck, Sal Marottoli, Michael Peck, and Adam Greenberg.



The purpose of this NOFO is to solicit research to better understand the mechanisms of persistent oral human papillomavirus (HPV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) co-infection as well as its role in the induction and pathogenesis of HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancers (HPV-OPC).

**Application Deadline:** July 24, 2023

**Read More**

### DoD Prostate Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for FY23

- **Early Investigator Research Award (EIRA)** - supports research opportunities focused on prostate cancer for individuals in the early stages of their careers. **LOI Due:** August 3, 2023
- **Exploration – Hypothesis Development Award (EHDA)** - supports the exploration of highly innovative, untested, potentially groundbreaking concepts in prostate cancer. **LOI Due:** June 22, 2023
- **Idea Development Award (IDA)** - supports new ideas that represent innovative, high-risk/high-gain approaches to prostate cancer research and have the potential to make an important contribution to one or more of the FY23 PCRP Overarching Challenges. **LOI Due:** June 29, 2023
- **Physician Research Award (PRA)** - supports a mentored research experience to prepare physicians with clinical duties for careers in prostate cancer research. **LOI Due:** August 3, 2023

**Read More**

### Understanding Persistent Oral Human Papillomavirus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Co-infection and Its Role with Oropharyngeal Cancer Induction (R01)

The purpose of this NOFO is to solicit research to better understand the mechanisms of persistent oral human papillomavirus (HPV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) co-infection as well as its role in the induction and pathogenesis of HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancers (HPV-OPC).

**Application Deadline:** July 24, 2023

**Read More**

### 2023 Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer Career Enhancement Program Awards

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.

CEP Awards will support new investigative cutaneous oncologists and other scientists committed to multidisciplinary studies investigating the relevance of biological discoveries in human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment, and enhance the careers of individuals who are already productively investigating this field.

**Application Deadline:** July 31, 2023

**Read More**

### 2023 Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer Developmental Research Program Awards

DRP projects must have promising translational research potential with application to human skin cancer. It is expected that they can evolve into full projects with a clear translational component that are suitable for funding either within the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer or as independent R01 or R01-equivalent grants.

DRP Awards are intended to support a broad spectrum of innovative pilot projects applicable to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment.

**Application Deadline:** July 31, 2023

**Read More**

### R50 NCI Specialist - Clinician Scientist - Clinical Trial Not Allowed (PAR-21-306)

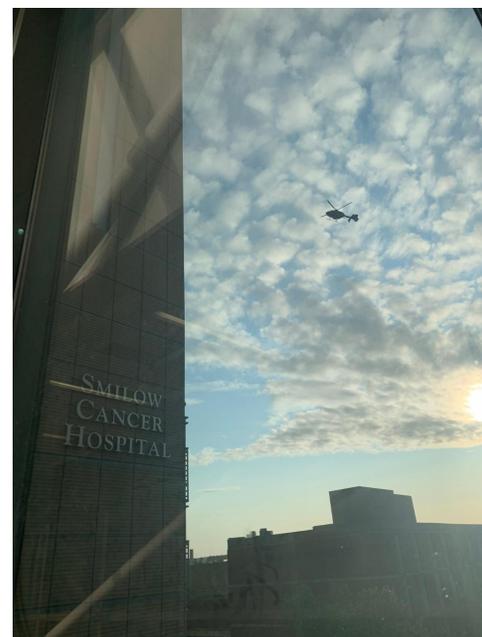
Through this FOA, the NCI invites applications for the Research Specialist



**Read More**

A moment for reflection as the sun sets on the Memorial Day weekend.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Nicholas Blondin.



**Read More**



"We can spare select patients from receiving radiation without compromising efficacy. This leads to quality

of life and side effects, including things like early menopause & infertility."



.@DrRoyHerbstYale joined The Current with Matt Galloway @TheCurrentCBC to share the "thrilling" news of #Tagrisso deaths in patients with non small cell #lungcancer w/EGFR gene mutation by half.



In a conversation with @WebMD, @DrEricWiner shares a look into his @ASCO presidential theme: Partnering with Patients and why it's important to him.



"We can spare select patients. This

Award (R50) specifically for clinician scientists supporting NCI-funded clinical trials research. The Research Specialist Award is designed to encourage the development of stable research career opportunities for exceptional clinician scientists who want to continue to participate in the NCI clinical trials networks through leadership in the 1) development of national clinical trials, 2) implementation of NCI clinical trials in their institutions, and 3) national service to the NCI clinical trials networks through participation in the scientific review committees, monitoring committees and other activities, but not serve as principal investigators of research project grants.

**Internal Submission Deadline:** August 3, 2023

**Read More**

### DoD Melanoma Research Program Funding Opportunities

The FY23 Defense Appropriations Act provides funding for the Melanoma Research Program (MRP) to support innovative, high-impact melanoma research.

- **Idea Award:** to generate novel research avenues for investigation; therefore, novelty and innovation should be key aspects of the proposed research.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** July 10, 2023

- **Melanoma Academy Scholar Award:** to develop a network of successful, highly DOD FY23 Melanoma Academy Scholar Award 5 productive melanoma researchers in a collaborative research and career development environment.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** August 31, 2023

- **Mid-Career Accelerator Award:** to support investigators who have laid the foundation for becoming leaders in the melanoma field and who intend to advance the state of the science in melanoma.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** August 31, 2023

- **Team Science Award:** to bring together investigators from divergent disciplines to achieve innovations and advancements in melanoma research and/or patient care that could not be achieved by any one investigator working independently.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** August 31, 2023

- **Focused Program Award – Rare Melanomas:** to support a multidisciplinary research program of at least two, but not more than three, distinct but complementary projects addressing an overarching question relevant to rare melanomas

**Pre-Application Deadline:** August 31, 2023

**Read More**

### NIH Institutional Excellence in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Biomedical and Behavioral Research Prize Competition

The prize competition goals are as follows:

1. To recognize and reward institutions whose biomedical, social, and behavioral science schools, departments, centers, or divisions have identified gaps with respect to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) and

have designed, implemented, and evaluated interventions to address these gaps to achieve sustained improvement in DEIA within their faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and student bodies.

2. To identify effective practices for enhancing DEIA within faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and student bodies that are feasible and can be disseminated for adoption by other institutions.

**Application Deadline:** September 26, 2023

**Read More**

trial is really less is more.”

@PamelaKunzMD said at #ASCO23.



Special thanks to all the tv, print, radio, and online media outlets sharing the exciting advances and stories from #ASCO23 to patients and physicians across the globe!



"50% is a big deal in any disease, but certainly in a disease like #lungcancer, which has typically been very resistant to therapies," @DrRoyHerbstYale, on the exciting results of the #ADAURA study.



A recap of a fireside chat #ASCO23 between Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith @DrNunezSmith46 and Vice Admiral Dr. Vivek Murthy @Surgeon\_General discussing clinician health & well-being and burnout.



Today at 8:45am CDT, Dr. Barbara Burtness will present #ASCO23 during Highlights of the Day Session #3, providing highlights on Head & Neck Cancer.



.@maryam\_lustberg shares perspective on advances presented at #ASCO23 with @AJEnglish @airlockben.



Incredibly proud of the exciting science shared from @YaleCancer @SmilowCancelabs and clinics during today's poster sessions at #ASCO23!



After brilliantly highlighting treatment advances and options for kidney cancer, @BraunMDPhD finished his presentation perfectly #ASCO23 "There's no algorithm that can treat a patient."



Dr. Ian Krop shared an overview of the #DESTINY clinical trials, establishing Trastuzumab Deruxtecan as standard of care for HER2-Low metastatic [#breastcancer](#).



.@SESchellhorn shared the benefits, progress, and challenges of digital interventions in patient care [#ASCO23](#)



There is currently no standard quality control over what is

complete cytoreductive surgery. Improvements in imaging and diagnostics will help us advance.

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## Calendar

### Timothy George Diversity Lectureship

June 16, 7:30 AM

#### Neison Irving Harris Building

Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, MD

[Learn More](#)

### Endocrinology Clinical Dilemma

June 16, 12:00 PM

#### Boyer Center for Molecular Medicine

Mary Windham, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### Yale CCEH Rising Stars in Hematology Series

June 16, 12:00 PM

#### Zoom

*Regulation of dormant hematopoietic stem cells*

Nina Cabezas-Wallscheid, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### HIV-Associated Hepatocellular Cancer

June 16, 12:00 PM

Tamar Taddei, MD | Stacey Stein, MD |

David C. Madoff, MD

[Learn More](#)

### Yale Cancer Answers

June 18, 7:30 PM

#### WNPR

*Optimizing Surgical Treatment of Underserved Populations with Breast Cancer*

Monica Valero, MD

[Learn More](#)

### Genetics RIP

June 21, 12:00PM

#### SHM, I-wing

Shuangshuang Du | Chia-Yi Lee

[Learn More](#)

### Smilow Shares Survivorship Series

June 21, 6:30 PM

#### Zoom

*Cancer and the Family*

[Learn More](#)

### Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

## **Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

**June 22, 9:00 AM**

### **Smilow Cancer Hospital**

*Treatment De-Escalation in HPV-Associated Oropharyngeal Cancer*

Jung Yun Julie Kang, MD, PhD

**Learn More**

## **Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar**

**June 22, 2:30 PM**

**Learn More**

## **YCC Seminar**

**June 23, 9:00 AM**

**WWW208**

*Translating Research into Practice for Health Equity: Patient Navigation in Oncology Care*

Tracy Battaglia, MD

**Learn More**

## **Yale Head and Neck SPORE CEP & DRP Symposium**

**June 23, 2:30 PM**

**Boyer Center for Molecular Medicine**

**Learn More**

## **Yale Cancer Answers**

**June 25, 7:30 PM**

**WNPR**

*Revealing the Secrets of Cancer*

Sulochana Gawande, PhD

**Learn More**

## **Schwartz Center Rounds**

**June 28, 12:00PM**

**Zoom**

*What Does Wellness Mean To You?*

Krista Bello, RN

**Learn More**

## **General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds**

**June 29, 7:30 AM**

**Zoom**

*Myeloma and Other Plasma Cell Neoplasms: Updates on Diagnosis and Treatment*

Natalia Neparidze, MD

**Learn More**

## **Immunobiology Seminar Series**

**June 29, 10:30 AM**

**The Anlyan Center**

*Decoding and reprogramming human T cell circuits with CRISPR*

Alex Marson, 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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