

# DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

April 4, 2014

## Announcements

### Yale Cancer Center Annual Retreat

Please join us for our Annual Scientific Retreat on Wednesday, May 21st at the West Campus Conference Center. This year's retreat will include a more interactive and participatory program than in years past. I will present an overview of the Cancer Center, and there will be a Program Development Session. There will be three scientific talks presenting outstanding basic, translational/clinical, and population science cancer research, and ample time for lunch and informal discussions. Finally, we have a special event planned that should make your attendance particularly exciting and worthwhile.

This year's retreat will be restricted to Members of Yale Cancer Center, and there will not be a poster session.

In the Program Development Session, we will consider the following eight topics in a roundtable format: Epigenetics; Metabolomics; Cancer stem cells; Cancer disparities; Disease-based programs; Education and training; International Health; and New shared resources. When you RSVP, please list in order the top three topics you would like to participate in, and you will be assigned to one.

To foster interactions and engagement, we require attendance for the entire day, 8:30-3:30 PM, and we will strictly enforce a no phone and electronics policy.

We very much hope that you will attend the YCC Retreat and help make it a big success. Please RSVP by May 1st with your top three topic choices to [Christine Holmberg](#).

from the desk of

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

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



## Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center.

[News Center >>](#)

### LATEST ARTICLES:



Yale Cancer Center named lead site by the NCI

MARCH 31, 2014

[Read More >>](#)



Greenwich volunteers give boy with cancer "dream" bedroom

MARCH 31, 2014

[Read More](#)

[>>](#)

### Vincent DeVita named Fellow of AACR

I am honored to announce to you that Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., MD, the Amy and Joseph Perella Professor of Medicine at Yale Cancer Center and Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale School of Medicine, was named a Fellow of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Academy Class of 2014. Vince is among a group of 38 internationally- renowned cancer scientists who will be inducted at AACR's



annual meeting in San Diego, CA today.

The AACR Academy was created to recognize and honor distinguished scientists whose major scientific contributions led to significant innovation and progress against cancer. Only scientists

considered to have "stellar scientific achievements" are considered for the Academy. Vince most certainly fits those qualifications and we're excited to celebrate this accomplishment with him.

[Read More >>](#)

### Yale Cancer Center Members Present at AACR Annual Meeting

I am thrilled to see that Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital will have great representation at the annual American Association for Cancer Research meeting in San Diego, CA beginning this weekend. If you are traveling to the meeting, please be sure to support your colleagues at their presentations. A full itinerary of Yale's participation is available [here](#).

### Dr. Peter Humphrey Appointed to Lead GU Pathology



Benefits of annual low-dose CT lung cancer screening

MARCH 26, 2014

[Read More >>](#)

### Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

Follow us on twitter

#### LATEST TWEETS:

GretchenReynold only 10% of cancer survivors exercising - despite known benefits. <http://bit.ly/1gShDvI>  
How can we do better?

Read @YaleCancer's quarterly diversity and health equity newsletter, Kaleidoscope, edited by @AneesChagpar: <http://bit.ly/1gROjF6>

@JeffaStier should be some good stuff coming on tobacco Monday morning at press availability event and policy session after. Liking #aacr14

Congratulations to Dr. DeVita @DeVitaDoctor and distinguished peers on being inducted as Fellows of the AACR Academy Class of 2014 #aacr14

MT @theNCI: Video: Dr. Roy Herbst discusses #tobacco-induced cancers <http://1.usa.gov/1dpoOvr> @DrRoyHerbstYale"

April is Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month. Register for a free screening by @YaleCancer physicians. [pic.twitter.com/Z5QxY8W5GQ](http://pic.twitter.com/Z5QxY8W5GQ)

I am pleased to announce that Peter Humphrey, MD, PhD has joined our Prostate and Urologic Cancers Program to lead our GU Pathology Service.

Dr. Humphrey is a practicing surgical and urologic pathologist, with a research focus on clinicopathologic and molecular pathologic aspects of prostate cancer.



Dr. Humphrey joins us from Washington University School of Medicine where he was a Professor of Pathology and Immunology and of Urologic Surgery. He received his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine before completing his residency at Duke University Medical Center.

#### **Dr. Xavier Llor Joins Gastrointestinal Cancers Program**

Xavier Llor, MD, PhD has recently joined the department of internal medicine in the section of digestive diseases. He has been appointed Director of the section's Colon Cancer Genetics Program. Dr. Llor's clinical and research interests are on colorectal cancer prevention, from average risk individuals to hereditary and familial cases. At Yale, his goal is to integrate all healthcare services so Yale becomes the resource for colorectal cancer prevention at all levels.



Dr. Llor joins us from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he was an Associate Professor of Medicine and Founder and Executive Director of the Chicago Colorectal Cancer Consortium. He

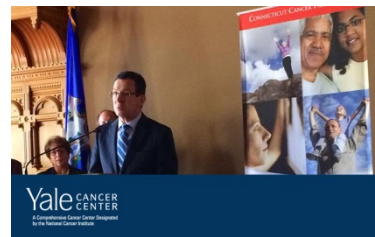


#### **Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook**



#### **LATEST POSTS:**

The Connecticut Cancer Partnership released Connecticut's State Cancer Plan for 2014-2017 this morning at a press conference held at the state Capitol, with Governor Dannel Malloy providing his support.



[Read More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital are offering free Head and Neck Cancer Screenings on April 23rd and 25th. The 5 minute check up from the neck up might be able to help you discover if your persistent sore throat, hoarse raspiness, or mouth sore is something more than you think.



[Read More >>](#)

Specs for Little Heroes is a wonderful organization that gives eyeglasses to children diagnosed with retinoblastoma, a rare cancer

received his medical degree from the University of Barcelona in Spain and completed a residency and fellowship at the University of Chicago.

## Notables

**Christen Ruff** has been named the Chief of Staff for the Yale Cancer Center Director's Office. She will take over the position for **Hilary Prosnitz**, who will move to Boston at the end of May when her husband begins a fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. Christen will oversee the daily operations of the Director's Office and staff a variety of strategic projects driven by the Director's vision for advancement of the YCC mission. Christen has served as a Senior Administrative Assistant and team leader with YCC since September 2013. Prior to that, she was the Assistant Director of Wellness and Recreation at Clayton State University in Atlanta, GA. Christen holds a Masters of Education from the University of Georgia and a Bachelors of Science from the University of Tennessee.

## Research in the News

### Most cancer survivors not exercising enough to benefit

Despite the benefits that physical activity can offer, a mere 10% of cancer survivors are exercising enough to reap those benefits, according to research conducted by Yale Cancer Center and the Yale School of Public Health.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recommends cancer survivors engage in 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity, and two sessions of strength training, every week. The Yale researchers found that among the population of cancer survivors studied in the United States, only 10% met these physical activity guidelines from the government.

[Read More >>](#)

### A key link between tumors and healthy tissue identified

of the eye. Last year they donated 110 pairs of glasses to protect these children's eyes, including many at Smilow Cancer Hospital!



specs for little heroes®



[Read More >>](#)

## Events

### April 4; 12:00 PM

#### YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP4-101A

*Clinical Trials in Colorectal Cancer*

Nataliya Uboha, MD, PhD and

*Mental Health and Malignancy; Examining How Pre-Existing Mental Health Conditions May Affect Diagnosis and Care*

Roxanne Wadia, MD

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

### April 4; All Day

#### Global Health & The Arts 2014

Long Wharf Theater

*Tobacco & Addiction*

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

### April 6; 6:00 PM

#### Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

*What's New in Cancer Epidemiology?*

Yawei Zhang, MD, PhD, MPH

[Learn More >>](#)

### April 7; 12:00 PM

#### Epigenetics Interest Group Meeting

SHM I-116

*Regulators and Mechanisms*

*of Tumor Initiation and Progression*

Narendra Wajapeyee, PhD

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

### April 8; 9:30 AM

#### Pathology Research

#### in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

*Neural Stem Properties*

*of Salivary Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma*

Sergey Ivanov, MD, PhD,

TBA

William Kachun Cheung PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

The delicate balance between development of normal tissue and tumors depends in part upon a key molecular switch within cells, Yale School of Medicine researchers report in the March 21 issue of the journal *Science*. Their findings reveal a potential mechanism used by cancer cells to recruit healthy cells to promote tumor growth and suggest new strategies to generate healthy tissue.

"The fascinating result is that you do not need every cell to be mutated to create tumors, and that individual mutated cells can co-opt their neighbors to fuel tissue growth via this mechanism," said Valentina Greco, Assistant Professor of Genetics and of Dermatology at the Yale Stem Cell Center, researcher for Yale Cancer Center, and senior author of the study.

[Read More >>](#)

## Closer to Free

We are delighted to report that the **Closer to Free Fund** has raised \$242,756 during the first half of the 2013-14 fiscal year. This is due in large part to a successful direct mail program that has reached 360,000 people in Connecticut to-date.

In addition, many donors are choosing to direct memorial gifts to **Closer to Free**, and proceeds from third-party fundraising events are trending higher. The majority of **Closer to Free** funds are unrestricted for research and patient care at YCC and SCH. Many of our doctors and nurses have been honored. Those who have had contributions made in their honor include: Dennis Cooper, Michael DiGiovanna, Francine Foss, Scott Gettinger, Murat Gunel, Erin Hofstatter, Nina Horowitz, Harriet Kluger, Jill Lacy, Joseph Piepmeier, Mario Sznol, and Joanne Weidhaas. Disease areas include: Breast, Discovery to Cure, Head and Neck, Melanoma, Multiple Myeloma, Pediatric Oncology, and the Survivorship Clinic. Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers include Griffin Hospital Cancer Care Center in Derby, SCH Care Center in Orange and the Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center in Waterbury.

We anticipate an active spring with another appeal reaching 180,000 families, as well as several thousand grateful patients, and expect to

### April 10; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium  
*Social Media and Medicine: Relevance to Cancer Care*  
Matthew Katz, MD  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### April 11; 12:00 PM

YCC Research in Progress Meeting  
NP4-101A  
TBA  
Megan Baumgart, MD and Andrew Branagan, MD  
[Learn More >>](#)

### April 11; 1:00 PM

YCC Molecular Virology Research Program  
SHM I-116  
*A Tale of Two Regulatory Mechanisms: What Restricts IFN-λ Activity to Cells of Epithelial Origin*  
Siyuan Ding  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### April 11; 2:00 PM

Yale Palliative Care Service Seminar  
Park Street Auditorium  
*Getting to the Goals: Approaching Difficult Patient Conversations*  
Timothy E. Quill, MD  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### April 12; 7:30 AM

YCC Free Lung Cancer Screening  
Multi-Specialty Clinic, 4th floor  
*Breathe Easy*  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### April 12; 8:00 AM

YCC Palliative Care Conference  
West Campus  
*New Directions in Palliative Care*  
Timothy M. Quill, MD, Angelo Volandes, MD, MPH, and Christina Puchalski, MD, MS  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### April 13; 6:00 PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers  
WNPR  
*Head and Neck Cancer Screening*  
Wendell Yarbrough, MD FACS, MMHC and Michael Maze  
[Learn More >>](#)

### April 14; 3:00 PM

Experimental Pathology Thesis Seminar  
Brady Auditorium, B-131  
*Epigenetic Regulation by H3K4 Histone Demethylase JARID1B in Mammary Development, Breast Cancer, and*



report on a successful second half of our fiscal year fundraising this summer. Combining this increased fundraising with the solid success of the 2013 **Closer to Free Bike Ride**, unrestricted funds to support our research and treatment programs continue to grow.

## Funding and Award Opportunities

### Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

We are pleased to announce that grant guidelines and applications are now open for submission in the following categories:

#### *Bridge Grants Cycle*

This grant is designed to sustain research projects falling between the end of funding by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) R or P Award and the beginning of a competitively renewed NIH Award. Renewal applications which scored less than or equal to the 35th percentile but were not funded will be eligible for Bridge Grants. Applicants must have a plan to resubmit for NIH funding. This is a one year award of \$100,000 in total costs.

**Application Deadline:** April 10, 2014

#### *Springboard Grants Cycle*

This grant supports new National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 or P01 research applications which were scored less than or equal to the 25th percentile but were not funded. Applicants must have a plan to resubmit for NIH funding. This is a one year award of \$100,000 in total costs.

**Application Deadline:** April 10, 2014

#### *'A' Awards*

NEW in 2014, the award amount has increased to \$150,000 per year for three years! Designed for early career scientists with an original project who can demonstrate outstanding mentorship and have a strong future commitment to pediatric cancer investigation. This award totals \$450,000 over three years and is open to MD, MD/PhD and PhD candidates.

**Application Deadline:** May 23, 2014

#### *Reach Awards*

Our Reach Awards are designed to move hypothesis-driven research toward the clinic. The goal of this award is to support selected "late translational" studies needed to ultimately initiate a clinical trial. A successful application will identify an unmet clinical need relevant to the care of pediatric cancer patients and describe how the

*Trastuzumab Resistance*

Mike Ran Zou

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

**April 15; 9:30 AM**

### **Pathology Research in Progress Talks**

TAC N-107

TBA

Ryann Guayasamin and

Shang-Min Zhang, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**April 15; 12:00 PM**

### **Smilow Multidisciplinary Conference Case Presentation**

Park Street Auditorium

*Peritoneal Carcinomatosis*

Chrissy Kournioti, MD

*Lung Mass*

Megan Baumgart, MD

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

**April 17; 9:00 AM**

### **Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

Smilow LL 412, Room E

*Journal Club*

Joseph Contessa, MD

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

**April 17; 12:00 PM**

### **Schwartz Center Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

TBA

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

[Learn More >>](#)

**April 17; 3:00 PM**

### **Experimental Pathology Thesis Seminar**

Hope Building, Room 110

*Validation and Assessment*

*of Breast Cancer Biomarkers Estrogen*

*Receptor Beta and Programmed-Death-1*

*Ligand-1*

Hallie Wimberly

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

**April 18; 12:00 PM**

### **YCC Research in Progress**

#### **Meeting**

NP4-101A

*Clinical Trials in Colorectal Cancer and Mental*

*Health and Malignancy; Examining How Pre-*

*Existing Mental Health Conditions May Affect*

*Diagnosis and Care*

Nataliya Uboha, MD, PhD and Roxanne Wadia,

MD

[Learn More >>](#)

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## Closer to Free

proposed project will allow for the pre-clinical research to be translated to the clinic while keeping broader clinical testing and implementation in view. Maximum of \$250,000 in total costs awarded over two years.

**Application Deadline:** May 30, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Lung Cancer Research Foundation Grants**

Support research on innovate strategies for better treatments, screening, and prevention of all cancers of the lung. These awards are designed to provide critical seed support for cutting-edge scientific research on all lung cancers and will support projects with a focus on basic science, translational research, clinical research, supportive care, and quality of care/outcomes. Up to \$50,000 for 1 year.

**Application Deadline:** June 16, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

### **V Foundation Translational Research Grant in Bladder Cancer**

A maximum of one Letter of Intent (LOI) per institution will be accepted for this funding opportunity, which will fund a project over two years for \$300,000-400,000. The LOI should outline your specific proposed translational project in bladder cancer. The letter should:

- \* Be no more than two pages in length;
- \* Provide proposed project title and short summary, explain the translational nature of the research, and discuss its potential impact on people with or at risk of bladder cancer.

If you are interested in submitting a LOI to the V Foundation, please contact [Dan DiMaio](#) for consideration. The LOI from Yale Cancer Center is due to the V Foundation on April 30th.

### **Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program**

*Era of Hope Scholar Award*

Independent, non-mentored investigators within 6 years

of their last training position (e.g., postdoctoral fellowship, medical residency, clinical fellowship) as of the application submission deadline

- Supports exceptionally talented, creative early-career scientists who have demonstrated that they are the "best and

## **closer to free**

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

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### **Employment Opportunities**

Success in any clinical research endeavor, but especially in cancer research, requires the most qualified, dedicated staff, committed to excellence and the mission of Yale Cancer Center. The combination of education, oncology research experience, and exceptional nursing skills is enormously difficult to find. Your participation, as knowledgeable colleagues, is invaluable at this time.

Should you know individuals with outstanding clinical research nursing experience, and who are ready to join our team, please direct resumes to [Sandra Greer](#), Sr. Staffing and Career Development Representative or call (203) 432-5822. All referrals will be held in strictest confidence.

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### **Submissions**

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**

Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

[renee.gaudette@yale.edu](mailto:renee.gaudette@yale.edu)

 Forward to a Friend

brightest" in their fields.

- PIs should articulate a vision that challenges current dogma and demonstrates an ability to look beyond tradition and convention.
- PIs should exhibit strong potential for leadership in the breast cancer community
- PIs must include breast cancer advocates on their research team.
- Maximum funding of \$2.5M for direct costs (plus indirect costs)
- Period of performance not to exceed 5 years

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** August 1, 2014

**Application Deadline:** August 15, 2014

#### *Innovator Award*

Associate Professor or above (or equivalent)

- Supports visionary individuals who have demonstrated creativity, innovative work, and leadership in any field.
- Provides opportunity to pursue novel, visionary, high-risk ideas that will accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer.
- PIs must include breast cancer advocates on their research team.
- Nomination is required; self-nominations are accepted; application submission is by invitation only.
- Maximum funding of \$5M for direct costs (plus indirect costs)
- Period of performance not to exceed 5 years

**Nomination Deadline:** May 14, 2014

**Invited Application Deadline:** August 15, 2014

#### *Breakthrough Award*

- Investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)
- Postdoctoral fellows are eligible to apply
- Supports promising research that has the potential to lead to or make breakthroughs in breast cancer.
- Potential impact of the research may be near-term or long-term, but it must be significant and go beyond an incremental advancement.
- Partnering PI Option allows two PIs, termed Initiating and Partnering PIs, to collaborate on a single application.



- Four different funding levels, based on the scope of research, are available. It is the responsibility of the PI to select the funding level that is most appropriate for the research proposed.
- Period of performance not to exceed 5 years

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** May 14, 2014

**Full Application Deadline:** May 28, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

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## Recent Publications

### **FIREWACH: high-throughput functional detection of transcriptional regulatory modules in mammalian cells.**

Murtha M, Tokcaer-Keskin Z, Tang Z, Strino F, Chen X, Wang Y, Xi X, Basilico C, Brown S, Bonneau R, Kluger Y, Dailey L.

Nat Methods. 2014 Mar 23.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Smoking and breast cancer recurrence after breast conservation therapy.**

Bishop JD, Killelea BK, Chagpar AB, Horowitz NR, Lannin DR.

Int J Breast Cancer. 2014;2014:327081.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Hypoxic Stress Facilitates Acute Activation and Chronic Down-Regulation of Fanconi Anemia Proteins.**

Scanlon SE, Glazer PM.

Mol Cancer Res. 2014 Mar 31.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Perceptions of Radiation Oncologists and Urologists on Sources and Type of Evidence to Inform Prostate Cancer Treatment Decisions.**

Han LC, Delpé S, Shah ND, Ziegenfuss JY, Tilburt JC, Karnes RJ, Nguyen PL, Gross CP, Yu JB, Trinh QD, Sun M, Ranasinghe WK, Kim SP.

Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2014 Mar 27.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Body mass index, physical activity, and mortality in women diagnosed with ovarian cancer: Results from the Women's Health Initiative.**

Zhou Y, Chlebowski R, Lamonte MJ, Bea JW, Qi L, Wallace R, Lavasani S, Walsh BW, Anderson

G, Vitolins M, Sarto G, Irwin ML.  
Gynecol Oncol. 2014 Apr;133(1):4-10.

[Read More >>](#)

**Analysis of coronary artery dosimetry in the 3-dimensional era: Implications for organ-at-risk segmentation and dose tolerances in left-sided tangential breast radiation.**

Evans SB, Panigrahi B, Northrup V, Patterson J, Baldwin DE, Higgins SA, Moran MS.  
Pract Radiat Oncol. 2013 Apr-Jun;3(2):e55-60.

[Read More >>](#)

**Molecular Imaging of Tumor Hypoxia with Positron Emission Tomography.**

Kelada OJ, Carlson DJ.  
Radiat Res. 2014 Mar 27.

[Read More >>](#)

**The S229L Colon Tumor-Associated Variant of DNA Polymerase Beta Induces Cellular Transformation As A Result Of Decreased Polymerization Efficiency.**

Nemec AA, Murphy DL, Donigan KA, Sweasy JB.  
J Biol Chem. 2014 Mar 25.

[Read More >>](#)

**Is virology dead?**

Dimaio D.  
MBio. 2014 Mar 25;5(2).

[Read More >>](#)

**Spontaneous tumour regression in keratoacanthomas is driven by Wnt/retinoic acid signalling cross-talk.**

Zito G, Saotome I, Liu Z, Ferro EG, Sun TY, Nguyen DX, Bilguvar K, Ko CJ, Greco V.  
Nat Commun. 2014 Mar 26;5:3543.

[Read More >>](#)

**$\beta$ -Catenin activation regulates tissue growth non-cell autonomously in the hair stem cell niche.**

Deschene ER, Myung P, Rompolas P, Zito G, Sun TY, Taketo MM, Saotome I, Greco V.  
Science. 2014 Mar 21;343(6177):1353-6.

[Read More >>](#)

**In situ Tumor PD-L1 mRNA expression is associated with increased TILs and better outcome in breast carcinomas.**

Schalper KA, Velcheti V, Carvajal D, Wimberly H, Brown J, Pusztai L, Rimm DL.  
Clin Cancer Res. 2014 Mar 19.

[Read More >>](#)