

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

February 7, 2014

Announcements

Yale-New Haven hosts a wedding!



Yale-New Haven Hospital hosted a wedding last week on the MICU unit in Smilow to make sure one of our patients with advanced lung cancer would be able to see her daughter get married. Married by the hospital chaplain, the staff worked together to create a wedding in 24 hours. Thank you to the entire care team who pulled together to make this family's wish a reality!

from the desk of
Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD
Director, Yale Cancer Center
Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer
Hospital at Yale-New Haven



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Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Links of Interest

In the News



The hallway was filled with members of her mother's care team.

"The hospital was INCREDIBLE. They made my wedding possible," the bride said. "My favorite part of the day was having my mom see me in my wedding dress wearing a string of her pearls, and seeing her smile."



Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center.

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Subscribe to Yale Cancer Center Answers on iTunes

Yale Cancer Center's weekly radio program on CT Public Radio is ranked number 2 in the world for cancer programs on iTunes. Subscribe to the show.

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Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Video presentations from Yale Cancer Center members are now available online.

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DirectConnect Archives

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ASCO Connection Blog

Nelson Mandela Died Yesterday

[Read More >>](#)

CV Library

The CV library is a resource available to our members, with CVs of post-docs and others looking for positions at Yale. Please browse the listings if you have openings, and send the CVs you receive to share.

[Learn More >>](#)

Events

February 7; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP4-101A

*Biomarkers to Support
Development of Novel
Anti-Cancer Therapies*

Juliane Juergensmeier, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 9; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

*Research in
Hematopathology*

Samuel Katz, MD



YCC Members Participation in 2014 GU Cancers Symposium

Several members of the Prostate and Genitourinary Cancers Program participated and presented work at the 2014 GU Cancers Symposium sponsored by ASCO last week in San Francisco.

Presentations included:

Perceptions of radiation oncologists and urologists on the type of evidence that informs and changes the clinical practice of prostate cancer.

Sophia D Delpé, Nilay Shah, Jon Charles Tilburt, R. Jeffrey Karnes, Paul Linh Nguyen, Brian Shuch, Cary Gross, Peter Schulam, James B. Yu, Jeanette Ziegenfuss, Simon Kim.

A phase II trial of prostate-specific membrane antigen antibody drug conjugate (PSMA ADC) in taxane-refractory metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC).

Daniel Peter Petrylak, David C. Smith, Leonard Joseph Appleman, Mark T. Fleming, Arif Hussain, Robert Dreicer, A. Oliver Sartor, Neal D. Shore, Nicholas J. Vogelzang, Hagop Youssoufian, William C. Olson, Nancy Stambler, Kathleen Huang, Robert Joseph Israel.

Association of partial nephrectomy and presence of robotic surgery for kidney cancer in the United States.

Steven V. Kardos, Brian Shuch, Peter Schulam, Quoc-Dien Trinh, Maxine Sun, Nathan D. Shippee, Jesse D. Sammon, Simon P. Kim.

Utility of 2-(18F) fluoro-2 deoxy-d-glucose PET/CT in advanced papillary renal cell carcinoma.

Brian Shuch, Lambros Stamatakis, Clara Chen, Rabindra Gautam, Maria Merino, Peter L. Choyke, W. Marston Linehan, Ramaprasad Srinivasan.

[Learn More >>](#)

February 11; 9:30 AM Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Ronald Albright, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 11; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium
*Breast Cancer Inter- and
Intra-tumor Genetic
Heterogeneity*

Jorge Reis-Filho, MD, PhD,
FRCPath

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

February 12; 11:00 AM YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-304

*Germline Mutations in DNA
Repair Polymerases Beta
and Lambda*

Antonia Nemeč, PhD

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

February 14; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP4-101A

*Epigenetics as Targets
in Cancer Therapeutic*

Steven Gore, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 14; 1:00 PM YCC Molecular Virology Research Program

SHM I-116

Padmini Pillai

*The Role of Innate Sensors
and Antiviral Mx1 in
Protective Immunity During
Influenza Infection*

Haina Shin, PhD

*CD8 T Cell-Mediated
Neuroprotection Against HSV
Infection*

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

February 16; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

*Head and Neck Cancer
Treatment*

Hari Deshpande, MD

Notables

Kenneth Williams, PhD has received a \$25,000 **Yale School of Public Health Ovarian Cancer Pilot Research Grant**, which is funded by the Tina Brozman Foundation, for one year to support his project, "Targeted Serum Proteome Assay for Early Detection of Ovarian Cancer." A major goal of this project is to work with the MS/Proteomics Resource in the Keck Laboratory to develop a 50 protein targeted assay to identify and validate the best possible serum protein biomarkers. The Targeted Ovarian Cancer Proteome Assay will be based on a robust mass spectrometry approach, Multiple Reaction Monitoring (MRM), which has the ability to reproducibly interrogate with high precision the level of expression of 50-200 proteins within a 90 min assay.

Edward Kaftan, PhD has been hired as the **Associate Director of the Translational Research Office**, under the direction of Roy Herbst, MD, PhD. Ed's primary function will be to promote translational research opportunities within Yale Cancer Center, and to assist Dr. Herbst in his endeavors as Associate Director for Translational Research for Yale Cancer Center. Ed joins us from the Department of Pharmacology where he was an Associate Research Scientist for two years, and prior to that he was employed at Pfizer in their Neuroscience department. Ed can be reached at (203) 737-1158 or edward.kaftan@yale.edu

Karen D. Michaels has joined the staff at Smilow as **Associate Director of Clinical Operations** for Smilow Cancer Hospital. Karen has extensive experience in large academic multispecialty practices, most recently at the University of Kentucky Children's Hospital. At Smilow, Karen will oversee all operational aspects of our outpatient clinical practices. She will work collaboratively with Yale-New Haven Hospital, Yale Cancer Center, Yale Medical Group, and other constituents to ensure that we maintain a highly efficient, patient-centered environment. Karen can be reached at (203) 200-4714 or karen.michaels@ynhh.org

Vicky Agnew will join Yale Cancer Center as a **Senior Communications Officer** on February 28. In this role Vicky will be instrumental in helping to build the brand of Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital both regionally and nationally through a strategic and targeted campaign of media engagement. She will be the key person to "sell" the great stories of science, medicine, and patient care that are born from YCC and Smilow each and every day. Reporting jointly to Kevin Vest and Mary Hu, Vicky will work closely with the marketing, communications, and public affairs staffs at YCC, YSM, OPAC, and Smilow.

Marisa Figueira will be joining us as an **HR Generalist** working with Santo Galatioto to support the Cancer Center and Urology. Marisa joined Yale in 2007 as a Senior Administrative Assistant in the Employee Relations Department of Human Resources and then went on to become a Diversity Coordinator in the Office of Diversity and

[Learn More >>](#)

February 18; 9:30 AM Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Laura Stevens

[Learn More >>](#)

February 18; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Cancer genomes and

targeted therapies

Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD

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

February 19; 11:00 AM YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-304

Regulators and Mechanisms

of Tumor Initiation and

Progression

Narendra Wajapeyee, PhD

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

February 21, 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP4-101A

Determinants of locoregional

melanoma prognosis...and

other stories

Bonnie Gould Rothberg, MD,

PhD, MPH

[Learn More >>](#)

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

Inclusion. She holds a BA in Political Science from Rutgers University and an MA in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of New Haven. Marisa will be starting in her new role on February 17th.

Brian Shuch, MD has been named to the **NCI/NIH PDQ Cancer Genetics Editorial Board** and their Kidney Cancer Working Group.

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.

Closer to Free



Closer to Free

The stories that our patients and their families share with us are always powerful. Their celebrations, their motivations, and their acknowledgement of pain and of hope are humbling and inspiring. Closer to Free recently heard from Meaghan Kelly, a college student whose father is being treated at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Meaghan ran the Philadelphia Marathon in his honor, hoping to raise \$1,200. By the end of her successful run, Meaghan had raised over \$12,000 to support kidney cancer research, both here and at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. "Now, after countless hospital visits, multiple types of treatments, and a summer filled with stress, anxiety, and a glimmer of hope, I honestly feel like I have witnessed a miracle as my dad's body is finally beginning to fight off the cancer. That miracle is due to the research and the doctors that chose not to give up on him". You can read more of her story [here](#). Meaghan and her parents presented her wonderful contribution to Dr. Mario Sznol during a recent visit.

Every gift, large or small, has a positive impact on the patients and their families, researchers and care providers - all of us who make up the Closer to Free community. Information about making a donation or organizing an event is available on the Give Closer to Free [website](#) or by contacting [Susan Frankenbach](#). Don't forget to "like" us on [Facebook](#)!

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

 Forward to a Friend

Funding and Award Opportunities

CT Breast Health Initiative

Our mission is to make a difference locally in the fight against breast cancer through support, education and research. To accomplish this mission, CT BHI plans on funding a diversified portfolio of clinical/translational research with emphasis on programs that have not yet qualified for federal grants targeting breast cancer cause and survival.

Through the support of our signature fundraiser, the CT RACE IN THE PARK, other events, individual donations and corporate support, the CT BHI will contribute monies this year to programs that aim to fulfill our mission. This funding is limited and awarded through a competitive process. All grant applications are subjected to rigorous review by a GRANTS PANEL of medical professionals, breast cancer survivors, public health and interested business professionals that is responsible for making recommendations to the CT BHI Board of Directors.

The funding period is for 12 months to be awarded in May.

Application Deadline: February 28, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

Employee Profile: Catherine Matte-Martone

The Employee Profile recognizes the diverse contributions made by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital staff to meet our patient care, research, education, and outreach goals. The staff profiled are examples of the great work being done here, and the dedication and values we possess.

To suggest someone to be profiled, please contact

Emily Fenton.

Catherine Matte-Martone started as a Research Assistant in Dr. Warren Shlomchik's lab nearly thirteen years ago and is now a Research Associate leading her own projects. She is also responsible for training new members of the lab, including research assistants and postdocs. Her experience and skill set make Catherine a valuable asset to the entire team, and to the work being done in the lab.



Dr. Shlomchik's lab primarily studies Graft-vs-Host Disease (GVHD) and Graft-vs-Leukemia (GVL) in murine models of allogeneic stem cell transplantation. Catherine is involved with several projects along those lines, and was first author on a paper published in *The Journal of Immunology* in 2011 demonstrating the shared mechanisms of T

cell killing in GVL against different models of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). This work has since evolved into looking at the stem cells from these CML models with the goal of understanding why some leukemias are GVL-sensitive and others are GVL-resistant.

In addition to the work she does in Dr. Shlomchik's lab, Catherine's versatile skills and experience allows her to work with other labs. "Many people don't realize how much collaboration goes on in the lab. I have been here so long that I know who to reach out to if we need reagents to continue an experiment and how the equipment works. Everyone gets along really well, which is important," said Catherine.

On a daily basis Catherine interacts with postdocs, research assistants, grad students, fellows, animal facility personnel, and Biotech specialists from the Flow Cytometry Core Facility. Her seniority and experience make her a good target for different departments to contact with problems. She described one of her strengths as troubleshooting, and helps out if there are problems with a protocol, equipment, etc.

Dr. Shlomchik trained Catherine when she first arrived, and Catherine tries to carry the excellent training she received over into everyone she trains in the lab. Dr. Shlomchik commented, "Catherine is really a partner with me in all of her projects and in the running of the lab in general. Beyond her own projects she has had a hand in every project in the lab over the last dozen years. She is amazing at multitasking and has the highest standards for her work."

Recent Publications

MYCxing It Up with FGFR1 in Squamous Cell Lung Cancer

William Lockwood and Katerina Politi
Cancer Discovery February 2014 4:152-154; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.
[Read More >>](#)

Structure, domain organization, and different conformational states of stem cell factor-induced intact KIT dimers.

Opatowsky Y, Lax I, Tomé F, Bleichert F, Unger VM, Schlessinger J.
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2014 Feb 4;111(5):1772-7.
[Read More >>](#)

Expanded use trials-are there better approaches to minimize adverse consequences to the clinical trials program?

Sznol M.
Cancer J. 2014 Jan-Feb;20(1):25-6.
[Read More >>](#)

Serial exome analysis of disease progression in premalignant gammopathies.

Zhao S, Choi M, Heuck C, Mane S, Barlogie B, Lifton RP, Dhodapkar MV.

Leukemia. 2014 Feb 5.

[Read More >>](#)

Challenges in treating advanced disease.

Petrylak DP.

Am J Manag Care. 2013 Dec;19(18 Suppl):s366-75.

[Read More >>](#)

Current state of castration-resistant prostate cancer.

Petrylak DP.

Am J Manag Care. 2013 Dec;19(18 Suppl):s358-65.

[Read More >>](#)

Generation of drug-resistant tumors using intermittent dosing of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in mouse.

Pirazzoli V, Politi K.

Cold Spring Harb Protoc. 2014 Feb 1;2014(2).

[Read More >>](#)

Body mass index and breast cancer defined by biological receptor status in pre-menopausal and post-menopausal women: a multicenter study in china.

Li J, Huang Y, Zhang BN, Fan JH, Huang R, Zhang P, Wang SL, Zheng S, Zhang B, Yang HJ, Xie XM, Tang ZH, Li H, He JJ, Hsieh E, Qiao YL, Li JY.

PLoS One. 2014 Jan 29;9(1):e87224.

[Read More >>](#)

Nonstochastic Reprogramming from a Privileged Somatic Cell State.

Guo S, Zi X, Schulz VP, Cheng J, Zhong M, Koochaki SH, Megyola CM, Pan X, Heydari K, Weissman SM, Gallagher PG, Krause DS, Fan R, Lu J.

Cell. 2014 Jan 28. pii: S0092-8674(14)00072-5.

[Read More >>](#)

Angiogenesis inhibition and lung-cancer therapy.

Onn A, Bar J, Herbst RS.

Lancet Oncol. 2014 Feb;15(2):124-5.

[Read More >>](#)

A prospective study of anxiety, depression, and behavioral changes in the first year after a diagnosis of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia: A report from the Children's Oncology Group.

Myers RM, Balsamo L, Lu X, Devidas M, Hunger SP, Carroll WL, Winick NJ, Maloney KW, Kadan-Lottick NS.

Cancer. 2014 Jan 28.

[Read More >>](#)

53BP1, BRCA1 and the choice between recombination and end joining at DNA double-strand breaks.

Daley JM, Sung P.

Mol Cell Biol. 2014 Jan 27.

[Read More >>](#)

Comparing the distress thermometer (DT) with the patient health questionnaire (PHQ)-2 for screening for possible cases of depression among patients newly diagnosed with advanced cancer.

Lazenby M, Dixon J, Bai M, McCorkle R.
Palliat Support Care. 2014 Feb;12(1):63-8.

[Read More >>](#)