

# DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

March 4, 2022

## From Eric's Desk

I have now been officially in my job for a month, albeit a very short month. The days have passed quickly, and I continue to be amazed—yes, truly amazed—at the talent that exists within Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. My friends tell me that I have not seemed so happy in years. Thanks, and appreciation to all of you.

I want to welcome Ian Krop, MD, PhD, who started at Yale earlier this week. Ian has spent the last 23 years at Dana-Farber and joined us as the inaugural Chief Clinical Research Officer and Associate Cancer Center Director for Clinical Research and Director of the Clinical Trials Office (CTO). He will also continue his own clinical/translational research and will see patients in the Center for Breast Cancer at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. Ian has been working with the CTO team for the past two months, but now that he is on site it will be that much easier to make progress and build a model CTO that is the envy of all other cancer centers.

One of the issues we need to address is our national rankings in *U.S. News & World Report's* (USNWR) Best Hospitals. I am the first to say that rankings do not reflect true quality, and that an obsession with rankings is ill-advised and misplaced. That said, there are those who pay attention to these statistics, and we need to address our poor showing in USNWR. There are a variety of efforts underway to improve our standings, but we can all play a part in helping to fix the problem. Reputation scores are calculated from physician voting on Doximity. Please go on Doximity and vote for Smilow Cancer Hospital/Yale New Haven as a top site for cancer care. And while you are at it, reach out to a friend or colleague at another institution and ask them to vote for Smilow Cancer Hospital/Yale New Haven as well. If everyone does this, we will have a major impact on our reputation score, which will then affect our overall ranking. So, take a minute, log in to **Doximity**, and email a friend or, better yet, many friends!

Signing off...

Eric

## Announcements

Alita Iwasaki, PhD, Appointed

from the desk of

**Eric P. Winer, MD**

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief,

Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale  
NewHaven  
Health  
Smilow Cancer  
Hospital

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

## News Center

**Yale Cancer Center Scientists Create  
Next-Generation CRISPR Tool to Aid  
Gene Editing**

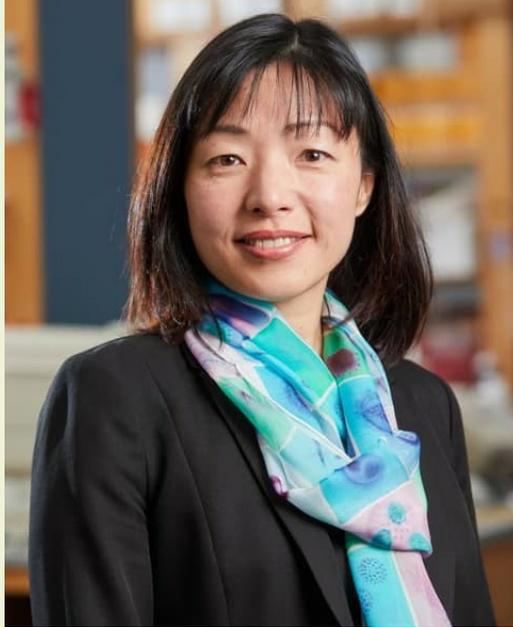


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**Eric Winer Named Gilman Professor of**

## AKIKO IWASAKI, PhD, Appointed Sterling Professor

Akiko Iwasaki, PhD, has been appointed Sterling Professor of Immunobiology and of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology. A Sterling Professorship is considered the highest academic honor a Yale professor can receive. Dr. Iwasaki has been a member of the Yale School of Medicine faculty since 2000 and Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Research Program. She received her PhD from the University of Toronto in 1998 and did her postdoctoral training at the National Institutes of Health from 1998 to 2000.



Dr. Iwasaki's research focuses on the mechanisms of immune defense against viruses at the mucosal surfaces. Her laboratory has made landmark discoveries of how innate recognition of viral infections leads to the generation of adaptive immunity and how adaptive immunity mediates protection against subsequent viral challenge. Examples include Dr. Iwasaki's development of the new mucosal vaccine strategy "prime and pull," and elucidation of the mechanisms through which immune cells recognize viral infections through Toll-like receptors. She has published 238 manuscripts.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Iwasaki has become one of the most prominent investigators in the world on the immune response to COVID. She has identified key immunopathological mechanisms underlying severe COVID and elucidated sex differences in the immune response to COVID, and now investigates characteristics of long COVID. Dr. Iwasaki has published 21 papers in the premier journals *Science* and *Nature*, eight of them seminal papers on COVID. She has also educated the public about COVID through op ed articles in lay publications and appeared widely as an expert commentator on news outlets.

Dr. Iwasaki is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Investigator and was elected to the HHMI Council in 2021. She was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2018, the National Academy of Medicine in 2019, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2021.



# UNSTOPPABLE

The 2022 Closer to Free Ride will return on September 10, 2022 and will take place as a hybrid program, offering you the opportunity to join us in person or

remotely. Registration is now open, and all Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital employees receive 50% off registration fees. **Register now!**

## Eric Winer Wins Gilman Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology



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## Yale Researchers Discover Gene that Drives Breast Cancer Metastasis



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## Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Honored by IASLC



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## Notables

**Rachel Perry, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) and Cellular & Molecular Physiology and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program, has received an **R01 from the National Cancer Institute** with a conversation to a seven-year **R37** to study, "Defining the Role of Renal Gluconeogenesis in Renal Cell Carcinoma." **Adebowale Adeniran, MD**, Professor of Pathology and Director of Cytopathology, is co-investigator on the grant.

**The National Brain Tumor Society** announced the launch of its new flagship research initiative, the DNA Damage Response Consortium, in partnership with Yale Cancer Center. The consortium's work will commence immediately in the Bindra lab at Yale, as subcontracts are finalized with additional consortium partners soon. **Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD**, Harvey and Kate Cushing Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and Scientific Director of the Chênevert Family Brain Tumor Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, will serve as the consortium's principal investigator.

**Chrystal Starbird, PhD**, postdoctoral associate at the Yale Cancer Biology Institute, has received a **Postdoctoral Career Transition Award** under the Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC) program, part of the National Institutes of Health's effort to enhance diversity within the academic biomedical research workforce. Dr. Starbird's research seeks to understand how formation of macromolecular assemblies defines cellular signaling, and how these can be targeted therapeutically in cancer.

**Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and Director of the Center for Breast Cancer at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, will present at the **31st Annual Interdisciplinary Breast Center Conference** hosted by the National Consortium of Breast Centers next week. Dr. Lustberg will present on "De-Escalation Strategies in Breast Cancer Care: Are We There Yet?" and "The Growing Presence of Immunotherapy."

**Anna Arnal Estape, PhD**, Associate Research Scientist in Medical Oncology, has been named **Associate Director Translational Research Administration** in the Office of Translational Research for Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Arnal will work closely with Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Associate Cancer Center Director for Translational Research, to promote translational research and collaborative science across Yale Cancer Center. In addition, **Meina Wang, PhD**, Associate Research Scientist in Medical Oncology, has been promoted to **Associate Director of Translational Research and Education** of the Section of Medical Oncology. Dr. Wang will continue her work to support Drs. Roy Herbst and Ed Kaftan to promote translational research opportunities at the Cancer Center and will support Dr. Harriet Kluger to oversee training, education and faculty development.

Yale Cancer Center is proud to announce 8 newly elected members into the **Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE)**. Election to CASE is based on scientific and engineering distinction achieved through

Yale Cancer Center & Smilow Cancer  
Hospital Stress the Importance of  
Exercise and Diet for Patients with Cancer



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YALE CANCER  
ANSWERS

When you think about a team player, Emily Kopas, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, OCN, comes to mind. Emily recently started in a new position as the Lung Cancer Screening Coordinator for Greenwich Hospital. Right from the start, she became an invaluable

member of the team. She jumped right in to work with the Epic team and the other coordinators to get the screening dashboard

significant contributions in theory or applications. Please join us in congratulating: **Anton M. Bennett, PhD**, Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of Pharmacology and Professor of Comparative Medicine and a member of Cancer Signaling Networks; **Susan Busch, PhD**, Professor of Public Health (Health Policy) and a member of Cancer Prevention and Control; **Lieping Chen, MD, PhD**, United Technologies Corporation Professor in Cancer Research and Professor of Immunobiology, of Dermatology, and of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and a member of Cancer Immunology; **Valentino Greco, PhD**, Carolyn Walch Slayman Professor of Genetics and a member of Cancer Signaling Networks; **Amy Justice, MD, PhD**, C.N.H. Long Professor of Medicine (General Medicine) and Professor of Public Health (Health Policy) and a member of Cancer Prevention and Control; **Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS**, Associate Dean for Health Equity Research and C.N.H. Long Professor of Internal Medicine (General Medicine), of Epidemiology (Chronic Disease) and of Public Health (Social And Behavioral Sciences) & Professor of Internal Medicine (General Medicine) and a member of Cancer Prevention and Control; **Brian Smith, MD**, Professor of Laboratory Medicine, of Biomedical Engineering, of Medicine (Hematology), and of Pediatrics and a member of Cancer Immunology; and **Yajaira Suarez, PhD**, Deputy Chair and Anthony N. Brady Associate Professor of Comparative Medicine and a member of Cancer Signaling Networks.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Asking Ourselves: Do Your Diversity Initiatives Promote Assimilation Over Inclusion?** The *Harvard Business Review* took on this question in a provocative essay last month. The authors ask us to consider what our motives are when we ask members of our community to assimilate, and how this demand can narrow the pool of non-traditional employees who are considered for advancement. They remind us of the psychological burden assimilation can place on colleagues who come from backgrounds that haven't been well-represented in our academic community:

*“Showing up at work without expending all of your energy to assimilate is a privilege. Imagine the emotional effort required to analyze, monitor, and perform to consciously assimilate into a workplace. You might have to adapt your accent, for instance, or avoid certain words that are common in your culture while at work. All of this energy requires emotional and mental sacrifices, thus impacting an employee’s ability to feel psychologically safe and their ability to perform. After all, when we do not feel we are part of a safe and stable environment, it is difficult to focus our energy on growing and developing personally and professionally.”*

You can read the entire article here: **[Do Your Diversity Initiatives Promote Assimilation Over Inclusion? \(hbr.org\)](#)**

Yale Cancer Center celebrates diversity and welcomes all the members of our community with full participation. One small step we've taken recently has to do with the evaluation of faculty candidates. For eons, this evaluation has

included the question, “Is this candidate a good fit for Yale Cancer Center?” Recognizing that this can be and often has been construed to mean, “Is this person like me?”, we've removed that question from evaluations. Moving forward, we'll focus on the ways candidates can add to the strength of our

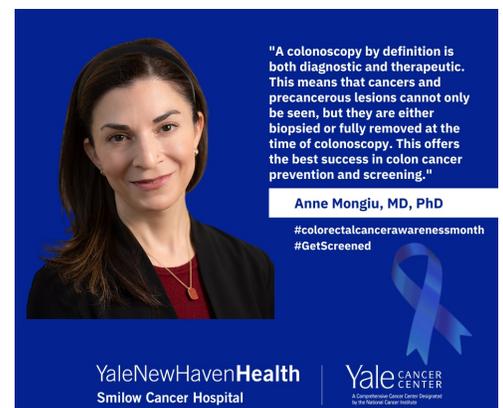
up and running for Greenwich Hospital.

When a member of our team had to take an unexpected leave, Emily came to the rescue. She stepped in and covered the Bridgeport Hospital lung cancer screening program and did so without missing a beat. It was a smooth transition and the team at Bridgeport Hospital and our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers in Trumbull and Fairfield could not thank her enough. Thank you, Emily!



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As we kick off Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, Smilow Cancer Hospital's Dr. Anne Mongiu encourages people to get screened beginning at age 45 and ideally in the form of a colonoscopy.



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Over the last few months, patients, providers, and families have sent over 1,600 hand folded origami cranes to collectively create a beautiful installation at the Smilow Healing Garden.

The display really came to life in words once visitors to the garden started leaving

clinical, research, and teaching missions, on their talents and not their sameness.

### International Women's Day—Tuesday, March 8

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is #BreakTheBias.

Imagine a gender equal world.

A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination.

A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

Together we can forge women's equality.

Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias.

messages for the Smilow Community, which were then woven into a nest.



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Tune in to Yale Cancer Answers for a discussion with Dr. Joseph Ross on access to outpatient care for vulnerable populations, and obstacles we still face in cancer care. Listen on Connecticut Public Radio or download our podcast from iTunes.



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### Advancing Transgender and Gender Diverse Visibility and Inclusion

Join us for a Grand Rounds presentation on “Advancing Transgender and Gender Diverse Visibility and Inclusion and Data Accuracy in Oncology” with Juno Obedin-Maliver, MD, MPH, MAS, (she/her/hers), Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Epidemiology & Population Health, Stanford University School of Medicine, and Ash Alpert, MD, MFA, (they/them/theirs), Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellow, Wilmet Cancer Institute, University of Rochester Medical Center, on **Tuesday, March 22** at noon. Following their presentation, Drs. Obedin-Maliver and Alpert will host an **online discussion** with all Yale Cancer Center trainees from 1-2pm. Please join us!

## Employee Profile: Jennifer Pyle

Prior to joining the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Guilford as a Nurse Coordinator in 2013, Jennifer Pyle, RN, was a Practice Nurse with the Gynecologic Oncology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Jennifer will celebrate 30 years

at Yale in June! At the Care Center in Guilford, Jennifer's role is less hands on in terms of administering treatment but focuses heavily on patient



Meet Lynn Wilson, MD, MPH, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Therapeutic Radiology at Smilow Cancer Hospital and a radiation oncologist specializing in cutaneous lymphoma and lung cancers. A patient of Dr. Wilson's recently commented: "Dr. Lynn Wilson supported me years ago with treatment. Once again this September he is again treating me. He gave a supportive, concerned, friendly consult with my wife and I - So pleased with his concern and competence!"



education and navigation. She is responsible for the onboarding of all patients with a new cancer diagnosis and guides them as they begin the treatment process.

"A lot has changed since I started my career 30 years ago," said Jennifer. "Patients are surviving and thriving now, and it is not all doom and gloom. However, the real goal of nursing in my opinion is to make a difference in someone's life no matter the outcome. We provide hope when patients are sick, and celebrate when they recover, but we also provide peace for patients and their families at the end of life, and there is grace in that too."



Jennifer commented that working in this role has expanded her career and helped to broaden her perspective of cancer care. There are many aspects of care to consider, and Jennifer helps to organize all of them to provide care that is multidisciplinary. Wajih Zaheer, MD, FACP, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine (Medical Oncology) and Medical Director of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers in Guilford and Old Saybrook commented, "Jen is an integral part of the oncology team at Smilow Guilford. Her goal in life is to help people and she goes out of her way to make it easier for the patients and providers and is the best coordinator/navigator/patient advocate that you could wish for in a cancer center."

## Recent Publications

Dizman N, Meza L, Bergerot P, Alcantara M, Dorff T, Lyou Y, Frankel P, Cui Y, Mira V, Llamas M, Hsu J, Zengin Z, Salgia N, Salgia S, Malhotra J, Chawla N, Chehraz-Raffle A, Muddasani R, Gillece J, Reining L, Trent J, Takahashi M, Oka K, Higashi S, Kortylewski M, Highlander SK, Pal SK.

### **Nivolumab Plus Ipilimumab With Or Without Live Bacterial Supplementation In Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma: A Randomized Phase 1 Trial**

*Nature Medicine*, Online ahead of print.

[Read More](#)

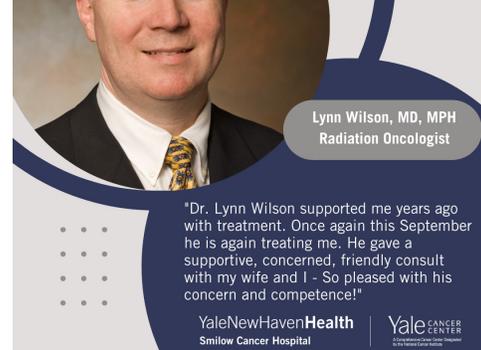
Komrokji RS, Platzbecker U, Fenaux P, Zeidan AM, Garcia-Manero G, Mufti GJ, Santini V, Díez-Campelo M, Finelli C, Jurcic JG, Greenberg PL, Sekeres MA, DeZern AE, Savona MR, Shetty JK, Ito R, Zhang G, Ha X, Backstrom JT, Verma A.

### **Luspatercept for Myelodysplastic Syndromes/Myeloproliferative Neoplasm With Ring Sideroblasts And Thrombocytosis**

*Leukemia*, Online ahead of print.

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Guo X, Jessel S, Qu R, Kluger Y, Chen TM, Hollander L, Safirstein R, Nelson



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Congratulations to Nikolai Podoltsev, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology), and Jennifer Moliterno, MD, FAANS, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Clinical Director of the Chênevert Family Brain Tumor Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, recipients of the Yale Cancer Center Awards for Excellence in Clinical Care.

Dr. Podoltsev was described as magnanimous, kind, and brilliant, and a 'triple threat' in medicine, who is not only a legendary educator with a depth of knowledge and willingness to share, but a clinician whose "real heart of his work lies with his dedication to his patients."

Dr. Moliterno was recognized for her technical brilliance and dexterity and speed when operating, with a focus on optimal outcomes for her patients, while taking a holistic, thoughtful, and compassionate approach to patient care. In addition, Dr. Moliterno was thanked for her dedicated support of Smilow Cancer Hospital through patient advocacy and fundraising. Thank you both for your dedication to our patients!



[Read More](#)

Regulate and Reframe for Relief  
Presentations on the Biology of Stress; the

Qu X, Bosenberg M, Jilaveanu LB, Rimm D, Rothlin CV, Kluger HM, Desir GV.

### **Inhibition of Renalase Drives Tumour Rejection By Promoting T Cell Activation**

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

[Read More](#)

Baum LV, Koyama T, Schremp EA, Zhang K, Rodweller CA, Roth MC, Compas BE, Friedman DL.

### **Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms And Financial Toxicity Among Adolescent And Young Adult Oncology Patients And Their Caregivers At Cancer Diagnosis**

*Cancer*, Online ahead of print.

[Read More](#)

Haddad RI, Seiwert TY, Chow LQM, Gupta S, Weiss J, Gluck I, Eder JP, Burtness B, Tahara M, Bhumsuk K, Kang H, Muro K, Albright A, Mogg R, Ayers M, Huang L, Lunceford J, Cristescu R, Cheng J, Mehra R.

### **Influence of Tumor Mutational Burden, Inflammatory Gene Expression Profile, And PD-L1 Expression On Response To Pembrolizumab In Head And Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma**

*Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer*, 10(2):e003026

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Caulfield JI, Kluger HM.

Emerging Studies of Melanoma Brain Metastasis

*Current Oncology Reports*, Online ahead of print.

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Sutton TL, Wong LH, Walker BS, Dewey EN, Eil RL, Ibewuiké U, Chen EY, Rocha FG, Billingsley KG, Mayo SC.

### **Surgical Timing after Preoperative Chemotherapy is Associated with Oncologic Outcomes in Resectable Colorectal Liver Metastases**

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

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Rozenblit M, Hofstatter E, Liu Z, O'Meara T, Storniolo AM, Dalela D, Singh V, Pusztai L, Levine M.

### **Evidence of Accelerated Epigenetic Aging of Breast Tissues in Patients with Breast Cancer is Driven by CpGs Associated with Polycomb-related Genes**

*Clinical Epigenetics*, 14(1):30.

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K C M, Oral E, Rung AL, Trapido EJ, Rozek LS, Fontham ETH, Bensen JT, Farnan L, Steck SE, Song L, Mohler JL, Peters ES.

### **Neighborhood Deprivation and Risk of Mortality among Men with Prostate Cancer: Findings from a Long-term Follow-up Study**

*The Prostate*, Online ahead of print.

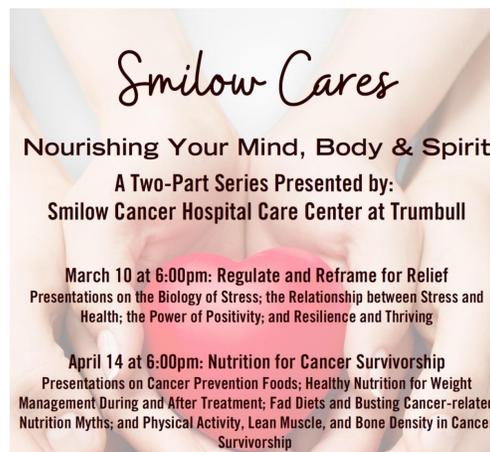
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Rodwin RL, Janardan SK, Hofstatter EW, Kadan-Lottick NS.

### **A Case of Pheochromocytoma as a Subsequent Neoplasm in a Survivor of Childhood Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma**

*Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology*, 44(2):e585-e588

Relationship between Stress and Health; the Power of Positivity; and Resilience and Thriving



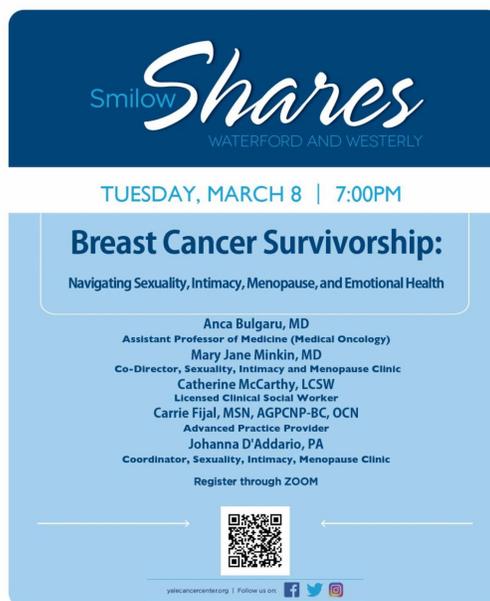
**Smilow Cares**  
Nourishing Your Mind, Body & Spirit  
A Two-Part Series Presented by:  
Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Trumbull

March 10 at 6:00pm: Regulate and Reframe for Relief  
Presentations on the Biology of Stress; the Relationship between Stress and Health; the Power of Positivity; and Resilience and Thriving

April 14 at 6:00pm: Nutrition for Cancer Survivorship  
Presentations on Cancer Prevention Foods; Healthy Nutrition for Weight Management During and After Treatment; Fad Diets and Busting Cancer-related Nutrition Myths; and Physical Activity, Lean Muscle, and Bone Density in Cancer Survivorship

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Smilow Shares: Breast Cancer Survivorship - Navigating Sexuality, Intimacy, Menopause, and Emotional Health



**Smilow Shares**  
WATERFORD AND WESTERLY

TUESDAY, MARCH 8 | 7:00PM

**Breast Cancer Survivorship:**  
Navigating Sexuality, Intimacy, Menopause, and Emotional Health

Anca Bulgaru, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology)

Mary Jane Minkin, MD  
Co-Director, Sexuality, Intimacy and Menopause Clinic

Catherine McCarthy, LCSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Carrie Fijal, MSN, AGPCNP-BC, OCN  
Advanced Practice Provider

Johanna D'Addario, PA  
Coordinator, Sexuality, Intimacy, Menopause Clinic

Register through ZOOM

QR code for registration

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YaleNewHavenHealth Smilow Cancer Hospital | Yale Cancer Center

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A reminder to join the 2nd @ASH\_hematology review session tomorrow on #ClassicalHeme hosted by Dr. Robert Bona with @SmilowCancer Drs. Alex Pine, Sudhanshu Mulay, and drkelsey martin <http://bit.ly/3uYzfCd>. Next session will be on 3/18.



New research led by @economosn and @peterglazer in Nucleic Acids Research @NAR\_Open reveals the creation of a next generation #CRISPR precision tool

**Read More**

Overbeek KA, van Leeuwen N, Tacelli M, Anwar MS, Yousaf MN, Chhoda A, Arcidiacono PG, Gonda TA, Wallace MB, Capurso G, Farrell JJ, Cahen DL, Bruno MJ.

**International External Validation of a Stratification Tool to Identify Branch-duct Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms at Lowest Risk of Progression**

*United European Gastroenterology Journal*, Online ahead of print.

**Read More**

Prasad RN, McIntyre M, Guha A, Carter RR, Yildiz VO, Paskett E, Lustberg M, Ruz P, Williams TM, Kola-Kehinde O, Miller ED, Addison D.

**Cardiovascular Event Reporting in Modern Cancer Radiation Therapy Trials**

*Advances in Radiation Oncology*, 7(2):100888.

**Read More**

Giner-Calabuig M, De Leon S, Wang J, Fehlmann TD, Ukaegbu C, Gibson J, Alustiza-Fernandez M, Pico MD, Alenda C, Herraiz M, Carrillo-Palau M, Salces I, Reyes J, Ortega SP, Obrador-Hevia A, Cecchini M, Syngal S, Stoffel E, Ellis NA, Sweasy J, Jover R, Llor X, Xicola RM.

**Mutational Signature Profiling Classifies Subtypes of Clinically Different Mismatch-Repair-Deficient Tumours with a Differential Immunogenic Response Potential**

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

**Read More**

Farshidfar F, Rhrissorakrai K, Levovitz C, Peng C, Knight J, Bacchiocchi A, Su J, Yin M, Sznol M, Ariyan S, Clune J, Olino K, Parida L, Nikolaus J, Zhang M, Zhao S, Wang Y, Huang G, Wan M, Li X, Cao J, Yan Q, Chen X, Newman AM, Halaban R.

**Integrative Molecular and Clinical Profiling of Acral Melanoma Links Focal Amplification of 22q11.21 to Metastasis**

*Nature Communications*, 13(1):898.

**Read More**

Abdelhakim S, Klapholz JD, Roy B, Weiss SA, McGuone D, Corbin ZA.

**Monneuritis Multiplex as a Rare and Severe Neurological Complication of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors: A Case Report**

*Journal of Medical Case Reports*, 16(1):81

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Ellingson MK, Bednarczyk RA, O'Leary ST, Schwartz JL, Shapiro ED, Niccolai LM.

**Understanding the Factors Influencing Health Care Provider Recommendations about Adolescent Vaccines: A Proposed Framework**

*Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, Online ahead of print.

**Read More**

Ottesen TD, Shultz BN, Munger AM, Sibindi C, Yurter A, Varthi AG, Grauer JN.

**Characteristics, Management, and Outcomes of Patients with Osteosarcoma: An Analysis of Outcomes from the National Cancer Database**

of a next-generation #CRISPR precision tool to aid gene editing.



New research in @JournalCancer led by @LauraVanBaum shows adolescent and young adult patients with cancer and caregivers exhibit posttraumatic stress symptoms associated with greater financial toxicity & psychosocial distress.



@CathyEngMD @VUMC\_Cancer at the Norbert & Suzanne Schnog @YaleCancer GR- "In 2022 it is estimated that 151,000 people will be diagnosed with #colorectalcancer, and novel agents are still desperately needed."



@BillingsleyMD presented Dr. Jennifer Moliterno @YNeurosurgery w/our Excellence in Clinical Care Award honoring "her technical brilliance and dexterity and speed when operating, with a focus on optimal outcomes for patients."



As we kick off #ColorectalCancerAwarenessMonth, Dr. Anne Mongiu @akmongiu @YaleGICancers encourages people to #GetScreened, ideally in the form of a #colonoscopy.



Join us at Noon today for Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds with @CathyEngMD @VUMC\_Cancer presenting the Norbert & Suzanne Schnog Lecture on "The Evolving Landscape of Colorectal Cancer in 2022."



We are pleased to announce Dr. Lajos Pusztai was honored w/the @YaleCancer Clinical Science Research Prize for his study @CellCellPress, "Durvalumab w/Olaparib & paclitaxel for high-risk HER2-neg. stage II/III breast cancer."



Congratulations to Dr. Faye Rogers @RogersLabYale, recipient of the Leadership in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Award from @YaleCancer for her commitment to enhancing the culture and basic sciences at Yale.



Dr. Xiaomei Ma @YSPH "A challenge that we encounter in

Database

*Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Global Research and Reviews*, 6(2):e22.00009.

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Fu Y, Wang J, Zhou B, Pajulas A, Gao H, Ramdas B, Koh B, Ulrich BJ, Yang S, Kapur R, Renauld JC, Paczesny S, Liu Y, Tighe RM, Licona-Limón P, Flavell RA, Takatsuka S, Kitamura D, Tepper RS, Sun J, Kaplan MH.

### **An IL-9-Pulmonary Macrophage Axis Defines the Allergic Lung Inflammatory Environment**

*Science Immunology*, 7(68):eabi9768.

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Gutnik L, Ren Y, Thomas SM, Plichta JK, Greenup RA, Fayanju OM, Hwang ES, Rosenberger LH.

### **Malignant Phyllodes Tumor and Primary Breast Sarcoma; Distinct Rare Tumors of the Breast**

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

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Mutlu L, Harold J, Tymon-Rosario J, Santin AD.

### **Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors for Recurrent Endometrial Cancer**

*Expert Review of Anticancer Therapy*, Online ahead of print.

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Muik A, Garralda E, Altintas I, Gieseke F, Geva R, Ben-Ami E, Maurice-Dror C, Calvo E, LoRusso PM, Alonso G, Rodriguez-Ruiz ME, Schoedel KB, Blum JM, Sanger B, Salcedo TW, Burm SM, Stanganello E, Verzijl D, Vascotto F, Sette A, Quinkhardt J, Plantinga TS, Toker A, van den Brink EN, Fereshteh M, Diken M, Satijn D, Kreiter S, Breij ECW, Bajaj G, Lagkadinou E, Sasser K, Tureci O, Forssmann U, Ahmadi T, Sahin U, Jure-Kunkel M, Melero I.

### **Preclinical Characterization and Phase I Trial Results of a Bispecific Antibody Targeting PD-L1 and 4-1BB (GEN1046) in Patients with Advanced Refractory Solid Tumors**

*Cancer Discovery*, Online ahead of print.

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Uhlig J, Stein S, Kim HS.

### **PD-1 Targeted Immunotherapy for Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Current Utilization and Outcomes in the USA**

*Future Oncology*, Online ahead of print.

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Bourhis J, Burtness B, Licitra LF, Nutting C, Schoenfeld JD, Omar M, Bouisset F, Nauwelaerts H, Urfer Y, Zanna C, Cohen EE.

### **Xevinapant or Placebo Plus Chemoradiotherapy in Locally Advanced Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck: TrilynX Phase III**

#### **Study Design**

*Future Oncology*, Online ahead of print.

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Pauken KE, Lagattuta KA, Lu BY, Lucca LE, Daud AI, Hafler DA, Kluger HM, Raychaudhuri S, Sharpe AH.

### **TCR-Sequencing in Cancer and Autoimmunity: Barcodes and Beyond**

*Trends in Immunology*, 43(3):180-194.

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— A challenge that we encounter in #cancerprevention is that the benefit is often not visible, as nothing happens if we succeeded in prevention.”



“A clinician whose real heart of his work lies with his dedication to his patients,”—@BillingsleyMD presenting Dr. Nikolai Podoltsev with an Excellence in Clinical Care Award at our annual @YaleCancer Conclave.



Congratulations to Dr. Richard Edelson recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from @YaleCancer for impacting the field of #oncology both nationally and internationally.



Congratulations to @DrRoyHerbstYale honored today by @IASLC during their annual meeting #TTL22 for his years of dedication and service to the organization and community.



Reminder to join the first of 5 weekly @ASH\_hematology review sessions tomorrow on #MultipleMyeloma, hosted by @NataliaNeparid1 with @SmilowCancer speakers Dr. Elan Gorshein, @Terri\_ParkerMD, @BarNoffar, and @SabrinaBrow514

## Calendar

### Yale Cancer Center Seminar

**March 4; 9:00 AM**

*Overcoming Immune Evasion in Pancreas Cancer*

William Freed-Pastor, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### Yale ASH 2021 Highlights

**March 4; 12:00 PM**

*Classical Hematology*

Robert Bona, MD

[Learn More](#)

### Yale Cancer Answers

**March 6; 7:30 PM**

**NPR**

*Palliative Care in the Outpatient Setting*

Dmitry Kozhevnikov, DO

[Learn More](#)

[Read More](#)

Bajaj S, Gandhi D, Shah J, Serhal M, Sharma S.

### **Adult Wilms Tumor: An Unusual Case Report with Dedicated Literature Review**

*Clinical Imaging*, 83:138-143.

[Read More](#)

Bewersdorf JP, Prebet T, Gowda L.

### **Azacitidine Maintenance in AML Post Induction and Posttransplant**

*Current Opinion in Hematology*, 29(2):84-91.

[Read More](#)

Tien CJ, Damast S, Chen ZJ.

### **Dosimetric Study of Varian Universal Multi-Channel Cylinder System for High-Dose-Rate <sup>192</sup>Ir Brachytherapy**

*Brachytherapy*, 21(2):244-254.

[Read More](#)

Dong MB, Tang K, Zhou X, Zhou JJ, Chen S.

### **Tumor Immunology CRISPR Screening: Present, Past and Future**

*Trends in Cancer*, 8(3):210-225.

[Read More](#)

Zhao JC, Agarwal S, Ahmad H, Amin K, Bewersdorf JP, Zeidan AM.

### **A Review of FLT3 Inhibitors in Acute Myeloid Leukemia**

*Blood Reviews*, 52:100905.

[Read More](#)

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## **Funding and Award Opportunities**

### **Breast Cancer Alliance: Exceptional Project Grants**

BCA invites clinical doctors and research scientists, including post docs, at any stage of their careers whose primary focus is breast cancer to apply for an Exceptional Project Grant. This award recognizes creative, unique, and innovative research and is open to applicants at institutions throughout the contiguous United States. Only two nominees may be put forward by YCC.

**Internal Deadline:** March 6, 2022

[Read More](#)

### **BMSF Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Program**

The intent of this program is to increase diversity in clinical trials. The initiative is comprised of a Career Development Program for early-stage clinical investigators and a Clinical Investigator Pipeline Program (BMSF

CIPP) for rising second-year medical students.

**Application Deadline:** March 15, 2022

[Read More](#)

### **Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation Fellowship Award**

The Foundation encourages all theoretical and experimental research relevant to the study of cancer and the search for cancer causes, mechanisms, therapies and prevention.

**Application Deadline:** March 15, 2022

[Read More](#)

[Learn More](#)

### **Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar**

**March 7; 11:00 AM**

*Epigenetic Control of Adaptive Cellular Responses during Cancer Metastasis*

Don Nguyen, PhD, BS

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale Cancer Center Seminar**

**March 7; 1:00 PM**

*Translating the Cancer Genome: Dark Matter Proteins*

John Prensner, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale Center for Immuno-Oncology Seminar**

**March 7; 4:00 PM**

*Circulating T cell Characteristics Associated With Toxicity To Immune Checkpoint Blockade*

Aaron Newman, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### **MB&B Seminar**

**March 7; 4:00 PM**

*Structural Biology and Inhibition of Retroviral Integration*

Dmitry Lyumkis, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### **YSPH/CDE 526 Seminar in Chronic Disease Epidemiology**

**March 8; 12:00 PM**

*Using Community-Based System Dynamics to Improve Health Equity*

Michael S. Leapman, MD

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

**March 8; 12:00 PM**

*Kids Conquering Cancer: Flipping the Hierarchy to Find New Diet-Based Interventions for EGFR and HPV-Driven Cancers*

Alana M. O'Reilly, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale Cancer Biology Institute/Center of Molecular and Cellular Oncology**

**March 8; 1:00 PM**

*New Approaches to Targeting Cancer*

Benjamin G. Neel, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

[Read More](#)

### Sontag Foundation Distinguished Scientist Award

Recipients of the award are inspired individuals with projects that show potential to generate new knowledge relating to causes, cure or treatment of primary brain tumors/brain cancer.

**Application Deadline:** March 16, 2022

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### Data, Evaluation and Coordinating Center for: A Multilevel Approach to Connecting Underrepresented Populations to Clinical Trials (CUSP2CT) (U24)

The purpose of this FOA is to solicit applications for CUSP2CT U24 Data, Evaluation and Coordinating Center (DECC). The DECC is intended to support CUSP2CT, a program designed to increase referral to NCI-supported clinical trials among underrepresented racial/ethnic minority populations who experience disproportionately higher rates of incidence, morbidity, and mortality for numerous cancer types in comparison to Non-Hispanic Whites.

**Application Deadline:** March 28, 2022

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### U.S. and Low- and Middle-Income Country (LMIC) HIV-Associated Malignancy Research Centers

The purpose of this FOA is to support research on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-associated cancers in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) through the formation of collaborative partnerships between investigators in the United States and investigators in LMICs.

**Application Deadline:** March 30, 2022

[Read More](#)

### SITC FELLOWSHIPS for Early Career Scientists

SITC is dedicated to assisting investigators in advancing the science of immunotherapy and developing new therapeutic approaches. To further this goal, we are offering eight Fellowships and Technology Awards, totaling \$680,000 in funding. These Fellowships and Technology Awards are only available to SITC members.

- **Bristol Myers Squibb Postdoctoral Cancer Immunotherapy Translational Fellowship**
- **Amgen Cancer Immunotherapy in Hematologic Malignancies Fellowship**
- **AstraZeneca Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer Clinical Fellowship**
- **Merck Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship**
- **Genentech Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowship**
- **Nektar Therapeutics Equity and Inclusion in Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowship**
  
- **Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals Adverse Events in Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship**
- **Natera ctDNA Immunotherapy Response Monitoring Fellowship and Technology Award**

**Application Deadline:** April 5, 2022

[Read More](#)

### MRA Dermatology Fellowship & Junior Faculty Awards

The aim of this program is to drive greater interest and focus on melanoma in clinical practice and research related to the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and staging of melanoma.

### Yale Cell Biology Beyond the Bench Seminar

**March 8; 3:00 PM**

*Postdoc Fellowships from Private Foundations*

Xiaolei Su, PhD | Florian Schüder, PhD | Karl Barber

[Learn More](#)

### Yale Cancer Center Seminar

**March 8; 5:00 PM**

*The Tumor Microenvironment Drives Cell State, Plasticity, And Drug Response In Pancreatic Cancer*

Srivatsan Raghavan, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### Smilow Shares Presented by the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers in Waterford and Westerly

**March 8; 7:00 PM**

*Breast Cancer Survivorship*

Anca Bulgaru, MD | Mary Jane Minkin, MD | Catherine McCarthy, LCSW | Carrie Fijal, MSN, AGPCNP-BC, OCN | Joanna D'Addario, PA

[Learn More](#)

### Neuroendocrine Conference

**March 9; 4:00 PM**

*Disorders of Sexual Differentiation*

Priyadarshini Balasubramanian

[Learn More](#)

### Immune Development Interest Group Seminar Series

**March 9; 4:00 PM**

Trevor Burt, MD

[Learn More](#)

### Smilow Shares

**March 9; 7:00 PM**

*Colorectal Cancer: New Treatment Advances and Innovations*

Jeremy Kortmansky, MD | Amit Khanna, MD | Justin Persico, MD | Hamita Sachar, MD | Anne Mongiu, MD, PhD | Kevin Du, MD, PhD, MSCI

[Learn More](#)

### Center for Methods in Implementation and Prevention Science (CMIPS) Seminar Series

**March 10; 12:00 PM**

*Using a Randomized, Blinded*

- **MRA Dermatology Fellows Award (1 Year, \$35,000):** Supports dermatology residents, fellows, or post-docs in a dermatology program with research, demonstration, and/or pilot programs focused on melanoma prevention or improving early detection, diagnosis, or prognosis.
- **MRA Dermatology Junior Faculty/Clinical Instructor Award (Up to 2 Years, \$50,000 per year):** Supports new dermatology faculty (clinical instructors or new assistant professors) working in research on melanoma prevention or improving early detection, diagnosis, or prognosis.

**Application Deadlines:** April 20, 2022

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### **Innovative Biospecimen Science Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R61)**

The overall goal is to support the development of highly innovative technologies capable of maximizing or otherwise interrogating the quality and utility of biological samples used for downstream analyses.

**Application Deadline:** April 22, 2022

[Read More](#)

### **Advanced Development and Validation of Emerging Biospecimen Science Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R33)**

This FOA solicits R33 applications where major feasibility gaps for the technology or methodology have been overcome, as demonstrated with supportive preliminary data, but still require further development and rigorous validation to encourage adoption by the research community.

**Application Deadline:** April 22, 2022

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### **Yale Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers (CGIC) Seed Grant Program**

This intramural seed grant program is designed to provide pilot funding for team-based basic, translational, clinical, or population health research projects focused on GI cancers.

**Application Deadline:** May 1, 2022

[Read More](#)

### **Emergency Awards: RADx-UP - Social, Ethical, and Behavioral Implications (SEBI) Research on Disparities in COVID-19 Testing among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations (U01)**

The goal of this RADx<sup>®</sup>-UP FOA is to conduct social, ethical, and behavioral implications (SEBI) research to understand and reduce barriers to COVID-19 testing, as well as COVID-19 disparities that arise from barriers to testing among underserved and vulnerable populations. The funding for this initiative is provided from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, PL 117-2.

**Application Deadline:** May 2, 2022

[Read More](#)

### **Emergency Award: RADx-UP Community-Engaged Research on Rapid SARS-CoV-2 Testing among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations (U01)**

The goals of this FOA are to implement and rigorously evaluate SARS-CoV-2 rapid testing strategies in communities experiencing COVID-19 health disparities. These two-year Rapid Testing Research Projects will evaluate (1) rapid testing interventions to prevent and control COVID-19 transmission among underserved and vulnerable populations and (2) partnership-driven

Lawrence A. Palinkas, PhD

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### **Pathology Grand Rounds**

**March 10; 12:30 PM**

*Ouroboros, Autophagy, Mitochondria and Disease*

Erick Baehrecke, PhD

[Learn More](#)

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

**March 10; 2:30 PM**

[Learn More](#)

### **Center for GI Cancers Weekly Seminar/Journal Club**

**March 10; 4:15 PM**

*Tracing Oncogene-Driven Remodeling Of The Intestinal Stem Cell Niche*

Kaelyn Sumigray, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### **Smilow Cares/Nourishing Your Mind, Body and Spirit**

**March 10; 6:00 PM**

*Regulate and Reframe for Relief*

[Learn More](#)

### **Endocrinology Clinical Dilemma**

**March 11; 12:00 PM**

Robert Weingold

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale Cancer Answers**

**March 13; 7:30 PM**

**NPR**

*Role of Interventional Oncology in Colorectal Cancer*

David C. Madoff, MD

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale Cancer Center Seminar**

**March 14; 2:00 PM**

*Understanding CLL and Richter's Syndrome*

*Biology through Mouse Models of Human Genetics*

Elisa ten Hacken, MSc, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

**March 15; 12:00 PM**

*Leveraging Real-World Data through Pragmatic Clinical Trials and Insurance Coverage Mandates and the Adoption of Digital Breast Tomosynthesis*

research to implement and evaluate rapid testing and reduce COVID-19 disparities. The funding for this program is provided from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, PL 117-2.

**Application Deadline:** May 2, 2022

**Read More**

### **Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research**

The Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research supports assistant professors of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of a cure for cancer. The award provides \$300,000 in flexible support—\$75,000 per year for a four-year period.

**Institutional Nomination Due:** May 18, 2022

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### **Epidemiologic Research on Emerging Risk Factors and Liver Cancer Susceptibility (R01 and R21)**

The purpose of these FOAs is to promote epidemiologic research investigating novel and innovative hypotheses on emerging risk factors (biological, environmental, and social) and their interplay with established risk factors (e.g., viral hepatitis) associated with the development of liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma and other histological subtypes) in the United States.

**Application Deadline:** June 16, 2022

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### **Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program (Si2/R00)**

This program offers the opportunity for a unique bridge between the NIH intramural and extramural research communities and contains two phases. In the first phase, Lasker Scholars will receive appointments for up to 5-7 years as tenure-track investigators within the NIH Intramural Research Program with independent research budgets. In the second phase, successful scholars will receive up to 3 years of NIH support for their research at an extramural research facility; or, the Scholar can be considered to remain as an investigator within the intramural program.

**Application Deadline:** June 24, 2022

**Read More**

### **Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (R01)**

This FOA will support the development and characterization of state-of-the-art biomimetic tissue-engineered technologies for cancer research.

**Application Deadline:** July 5, 2022

**Read More**

### **Microbial-based Cancer Imaging and Therapy - Bugs as Drugs (R01/R21)**

This FOA solicits grant applications proposing to utilize bacteria, archaeobacteria, bacteriophages, or other non-oncolytic viruses and their natural products to study the underlying mechanisms of the complex interactions between microorganisms, tumors, and the immune system, and to explore their clinical potential for cancer imaging, therapeutics or diagnostics.

**Application Deadline:** July 5, 2022

**Read More**

Joseph Ross, MD, MHS and Susan Busch, PhD

**Learn More**

### **Kavli Distinguished Lecture**

**March 15; 4:00 PM**

*Development and Disease of the Cerebral Cortex: From Embryos to Organoids*

Paola Arlotta, PhD

**Learn More**

### **Bereavement Seminar**

**March 16; 9:30 AM**

*Understanding and Managing Grief: How Long am I Going to Feel Like This?*

**Learn More**

### **Neuroendocrine Conference**

**March 16; 4:00 PM**

*Disorders of Sodium Balance*

Shanzay Haider

**Learn More**

### **Smilow Shares**

**March 16; 7:00 PM**

*Colorectal Cancer: New Treatment Advances and Innovations*

Michael Cecchini, MD | Vikram Reddy, MD, PhD | Kevin Billingsley, MD, MBA | Kimberly Johung, MD, PhD | Xavier Llor, MD, PhD | Jaykumar Thumar, MD

**Learn More**

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

**March 17; 2:30 PM**

*Colorectal Cancer in Inflammatory Bowel Disease*

Steven Itzkowitz, MD

**Learn More**

### **Center for GI Cancers/Yale Pancreatic Cancer Collaborative Seminar**

**March 17; 4:15 PM**

*Harnessing Pancreas Cancer Adenocarcinoma Plasticity For Therapeutic Intent*

Colin Weekes, MD, PhD

**Learn More**

### **Center for Gastrointestinal CME Series**

**March 17; 6:30 PM**

#### **Neuroendocrine Tumors**

Pamela Kunz, MD | Mariam Aboian, MD, PhD | Sajid Khan, MD, FACS, FSSO

**Learn More**

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