

August 5, 2022

From Eric's Desk

As many of you have heard, Yale School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Hospital are working more closely together than ever before to form a stronger and more vibrant relationship. Both Dean Nancy Brown and Chris O'Connor, CEO of the Health System, are fully committed to the two organizations coming together and aligning on strategy and goals. I am personally excited and very optimistic about this commitment, as I think it will result in tangible gains for the health system and the medical school. Our patient care will improve, our research will be better, and our fiscal position will be much stronger.

In many ways, Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital have been well-aligned for many years. We have always worked closely together. We have cared for patients, conducted clinical and translational research, and have done strategic planning as an integrated team. The new emphasis on system alignment will help us, but at the same time it will be very familiar to us. You will be hearing more about the alignment in the months ahead, and I am absolutely convinced that this will lead to a stronger cancer program with unlimited potential.

As August opens, we are all aware of the passing of summer. For those of you going on August vacations, I wish you good times and relaxation. If you have already been on vacation this summer, enjoy the relatively quiet month here in New Haven. As much as I hate to see the summer end, I look forward to the work that is ahead of us this fall as we continue to build and transform our oncology program.

We are going to take a brief break from DirectConnect for the remainder of this month. The next edition will be the Friday after Labor Day, September 9. Please remember, I always have an open-door policy... let me know if I can do anything for any of you. After six months, I am thrilled to be in New Haven, and I am so very proud to say that I work at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Eric

Announcements

Yale Cancer Center Division Chiefs Appointed

Eric P. Winer, MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Network

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News Center



Lessons From a Lifelong Patient Turned Oncologist—Eric Winer, MD, talks about how growing up with hemophilia helped him connect with patients



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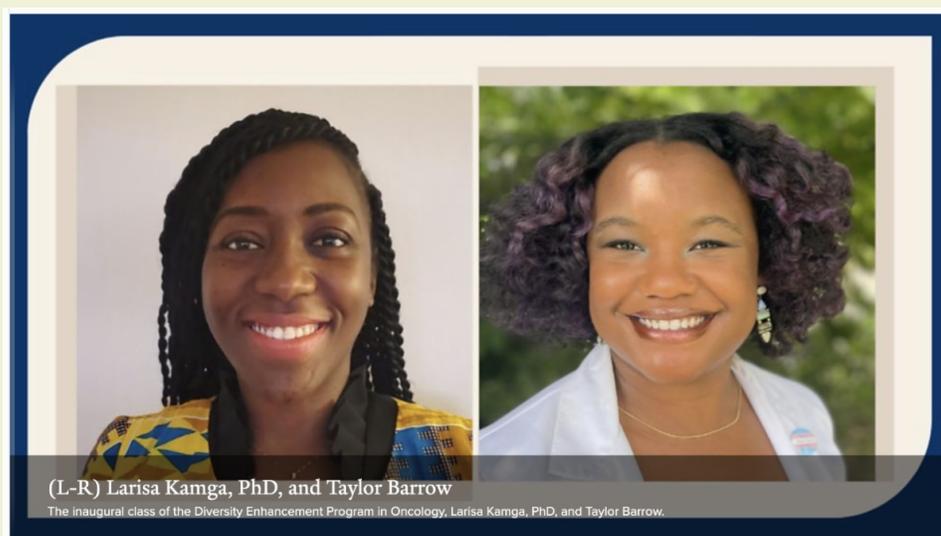
Yale Cancer Center has seen extraordinary growth over the last decade, with the expansion of our Smilow Cancer Hospital Network and additional appointments in medical oncology, hematology, neuro-oncology, and palliative care to accommodate both our clinical and research needs. Although our workforce has more than doubled in size, our divisions have not changed.

After careful consideration, we are pleased to announce an expanded division structure for the sections of medical oncology and hematology to provide greater autonomy and increased responsibility for program leaders, and to be more inclusive of our Smilow Network faculty. Each of the divisions below reside within the cancer center, though faculty will have academic appointments within the Departments of Medicine and Neurology. Drs. Roy S. Herbst and Stephanie Halene will continue to serve as Section Chiefs of Medical Oncology and Hematology, respectively, within the Department of Medicine.

Please join us in welcoming the following Division Chiefs to their new roles:

- Breast Oncology: Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH
- Gastrointestinal Oncology: Pamela Kunz, MD
- Genitourinary Cancers: Daniel Petrylak, MD
- Head & Neck Cancers/Sarcoma: Barbara Burtness, MD
- Melanoma/Renal Cell: Harriet Kluger, MD
- Neuro-Oncology: Antonio Omuro, MD
- Thoracic Oncology: Sarah Goldberg, MD, MPH
- Experimental Therapeutics: Patricia LoRusso, DO
- Clinical Genetics: Veda Giri, MD
- Palliative Care: Jennifer Kapo, MD
- Cellular and Molecular Oncology: Markus Müschen, MD, PhD
- Translational Hematology: Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD
- Classical Hematology: Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD (Interim)
- Hematological Malignancies: Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD (Interim)
- Inpatient Cancer Medicine: Kerin Adelson, MD

Diversity Enhancement Program in Oncology



The Section of Medical Oncology at Yale Cancer Center is pleased to welcome Larisa Kamga, PhD, and Taylor Barrow, as the first students to

participate in the new Diversity Enhancement Program in Oncology. Launched earlier this year, the program offers an eight-week rotation for two underrepresented in medicine (URiM) students or residents and will provide

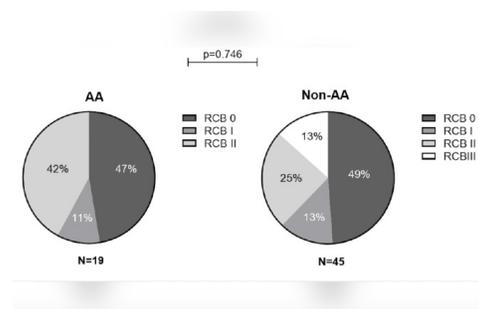
Noted Oncology Surgeon Kevin Billingsley, MD, MBA, FACS, Uses Life Experiences to Mold His Leadership

Philosophy



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Pre-surgical Immunotherapy Benefits Are Independent of Race in Women With Triple-Negative Breast Cancer



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Translating Personal Tragedy Into the Search for New Cancer Therapeutics



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Overcoming the Challenges of Cancer

them with exposure to hematology/medical oncology as a career, faculty and fellow-mentored clinical experience in oncology as well as with a corresponding clinical or translational research project.

Dr. Kamga is currently a medical student at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York. She received her PhD from University of Massachusetts Medical School in Biomedical Sciences. Taylor is pursuing her medical degree at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and she earned a Master of Medical Science (MMS) degree from the University of Vermont. Taylor will begin her rotation in late September.

[Learn more](#)

Notables

Cece Calhoun, MD, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine (Hematology) and Director of the Sickle Cell Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital, was presented with the **Top Health Professionals Under Forty Award** from the **National Medical Association (NMA)** Post-Graduate Section, which represents the residents, fellows, and physicians in the first five years of practice. The award honors individuals under the age of 40, in the Health Professional Community, who are working to change the face, practice, and future of medicine for the better. Dr. Calhoun received the award at the NMA 2022 Annual Convention & Scientific Assembly in Atlanta, GA.

Yang Yang-Hartwich, PhD, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Signaling Research Program, has received a **5-year R01 grant** from the **National Cancer Institute** to study, "Uncovering the Mechanisms of Metastasis in Fallopian Tube-Originated Ovarian Cancer." **Smita Krishnaswamy, PhD**, Associate Professor of Genetics and Computer Science, is co-investigator on the grant.

Amy Justice, MD, PhD, C.N.H. Long Professor of Medicine (General Medicine), Professor of Public Health (Health Policy), and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, has received the **William S. Middleton Award**, established in 1960 by the Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development (BLR&D) Service to honor senior investigators at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and their accomplishments relevant to the health care of veterans. Dr. Justice has devoted the last two decades of her career to developing large national cohorts based on data from the VA Healthcare System's electronic medical record, and is the principal investigator on the Veterans Aging Cohort Study (VACS), which compares outcomes among veterans aging with and without HIV infection.

Members of the Center for Thoracic Cancers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, led by **Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD**, are presenting this weekend at the **2022 World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC)** in Vienna. Dr. Herbst is a board member of the International Study for the

Association of Lung Cancer (IASLC) hosting WCLC. Presenters include:

Circulating Tumor DNA (ctDNA) Changes in Patients With Lung Cancer from a Real-World Prospective Clinico-Genomic (PCG) Study by **Anne Chiang, MD, PhD**

Care

— **ASCO President Eric Winer, MD**, discusses priorities and challenges for the organization.



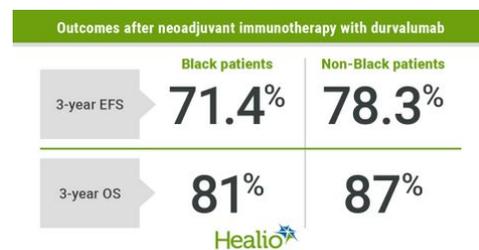
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After Roe, Pregnant Women with Cancer Diagnosis May Face Wrenching Choices



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Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy Effective Regardless of Race in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer



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Meriden Cancer Survivor Readies for First Closer to Free Ride



Precision Immunotherapy via Modulation of the Tumor Microenvironment
moderated by **Kurt Alex Schalper, PhD**

*Aurora A Kinase Inhibition with VIC-1911 Potentiates KRASG12C Inhibitor
and Overcomes Resistance to Sotorasib in Lung Cancer* presented by **Jong
Woo Lee, PhD**

*Discovery of Predictive Biomarkers for Immunotherapy Using Deep Spatial
Tissue Analysis in Lung Cancer* presented by **David Rimm, MD, PhD**

Targeted Therapy in NSCLC - New Frontiers presented by **Marianne Davies,
NP, DNP, MSN, BSN**

*Clinician Professional & Academic Development - From Bedside to Bench:
Getting Involved in Clinical Practice Guidelines Development* presented by
Marianne Davies, NP, DNP, MSN, BSN

*Interventions to Improve Cancer Survivorship among Indigenous Peoples and
Communities* presented by **Marianne Davies, NP, DNP, MSN, BSN**

Please join Smilow Cancer Hospital and Saint Francis Hospital for a **New
England Hematologic Malignancies Symposium** on September 24, 2022,
at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. The full-day CME program
will feature presenters from Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital,
as well as colleagues from MD Anderson Cancer Center, The University of
Virginia Cancer Center, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.
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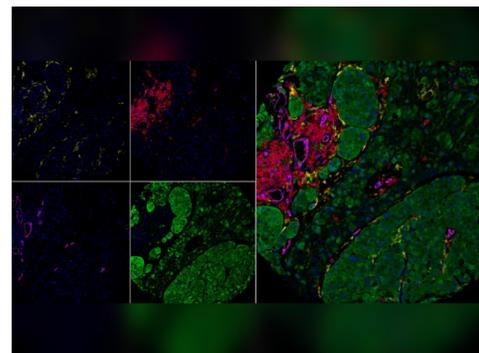
The **Herzon and Bindra Labs** recently published a new approach to exploit
DNA repair defects in the journal *Science*. In this study, the authors describe
a novel class of molecules that are selectively toxic to glioma tumor cells
lacking expression of the key DNA repair protein O6-methylguanine
methyltransferase (MGMT). Approximately half of glioblastomas and up to
80% of gliomas lack MGMT. Emerging research indicates that MGMT
deficiency is seen in many other tumor types, suggesting broad applicability
for this strategy in treating cancer. The molecules exhibit “chameleon-like”
features in that they deposit a dynamic chemical residue to DNA that slowly
evolves to an interstrand cross-link by a time- and MGMT-dependent
pathway. The platform represents a major step forward in changing the
treatment paradigm for glioblastoma, as well as for many other cancers with
intrinsic DNA repair defects. The technology bypasses conventional
approaches that indirectly target proteins in cancer cells and demonstrates
robust anti-tumor activity in glioma, one of the deadliest forms of brain
cancer, while sparing normal tissue.

Co-first authors of the study are **Kingson Lin**, a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellow
at Yale and MD/PhD student co-mentored by **Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD**, and
Seth Herzon, PhD; and **Susan Gueble**, an MD/PhD radiation oncology
resident and B. Leonard Holman Pathway Fellow. Co-authors are **Ranjini
Sundaram** and **Eric Huseman**. Funding for the research came, in part, from
the National Institutes of Health, the CureSearch Foundation, and Yale
Cancer Center. Dr. Herzon, Dr. Bindra, and Kingson Lin are co-founders of
the company **Medifi Biosciences**, which has licensed the exclusive rights to



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**Yale Doctor: Many Cancers are
Associated with Body Weight**



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the company **Moum Biosciences**, which has licensed the exclusive rights to the findings from Yale University. Key investors included HighCape Capital, Connecticut Innovations, Ironwood Capital, Yale Ventures, and the NBTS Brain Tumor Investment Fund. The company recently emerged from stealth mode, after closing a \$6.4M Seed Round and opening its doors at the Elm City Bioscience Center at 55 Church Street in downtown New Haven, CT.

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Yale Cancer Center's **Cancer Prevention and Control Research**

Program welcomes **Fuad Abujarad, PhD, MSc**, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and a digital health scientist at Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Abujarad is an expert in developing novel digital health applications aimed at improving patient outcomes. His research has focused on cancer-related tools, such as collaborating on the development of the "Radiotherapy for Older Women," a decision-aid tool delivered on a tablet device to aid women in their decision to pursue radiotherapy for breast cancer. He is also collaborating with investigators to submit a PCORI grant to improve informed consent with real-world clinical cancer trials.



Giving

We are pleased to announce that **Bill Korturko**, Yale Class of 1971, has pledged \$100,000 to support **Dr. Michael Cecchini's** research through the **Immunotherapy for GI Cancers Fund** at Yale Cancer Center. Mr. Korturko recently received care at Smilow Cancer Hospital with Dr. Cecchini and his team and expressed his appreciation for the entire team's attention and his positive experience.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

YSM DEI Training

Yale School of Medicine recently launched a 40-minute interactive online training program to build a supportive culture that embraces diversity and inclusion at all levels. The program presents several workplace scenarios that are directly relatable to our academic environment. Please schedule time to take the training and encourage your colleagues and team members to do the same. **Please use this link to start the training.**

Freeman Hrabowski Scholars Program

Applications are open now for a new program through the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) supporting outstanding early career faculty who are



Meet Omar Al Asad, MD, a medical oncologist at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Torrington. Dr. Al Asad cares for patients with prostate and urologic cancers, lung cancer, and benign hematology disorders. A patient of Dr. Al Asad recently shared, "I would like to commend Dr. Al Asad! He is very professional, knowledgeable, compassionate, and thorough! He takes the necessary time to insure that I understand what his decisions for my care are and that I am in agreement! I am very fortunate to be under his care!"



committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in science. HHMI is seeking outstanding basic researchers, including physician-scientists, who have strong potential to become leaders in their fields and to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion through their mentorship and understanding of the experiences of trainees from races and ethnicities underrepresented in US science.

Scholars will prioritize scientific excellence in their own research while creating an equitable and inclusive lab climate that values diversity and serves as a model within their own institutions and beyond. Eligible research areas include all basic biomedical science disciplines, as well as plant biology, evolutionary biology, biophysics, chemical biology, biomedical engineering, and computational biology. Up to 30 Freeman Hrabowski Scholars will be selected in 2023, with future competitions anticipated every other year.

[Learn More](#)

Employee Profile: Tara Anderson, PA

As a Physician Assistant (PA) for the Smilow Multiple Myeloma Program, Tara Anderson helps patients navigate through the often-challenging array of treatment options. Myeloma is a complicated disease to manage, as treatment needs to be tailored to each patient and there is no cure.

The average age of a patient with myeloma is 65 and helping her patients live with their disease is a rewarding aspect of patient care for Tara. "Getting to know my patients and their families and helping them maintain their quality of life is what I enjoy most," she said.



Throughout the week, Tara sees patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in North Haven as well as in the infusion area. She also performs bone marrow biopsies, which help diagnose multiple myeloma, and prepares patient notes and checks-in with patients over the phone. Tara is also involved in several clinical trials that include her patients.

"Tara is an essential member of the multiple myeloma and gammopathies program at Yale," said Terri Parker, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology) and Assistant Medical Director, Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in North Haven. "She provides excellent patient care, often spending many hours with an individual patient to review treatment plans, answer questions, or address symptoms. She routinely helps patients navigate a new diagnosis and the uncertainty that comes with it. Our patients truly depend on and trust her as a partner in their journey."



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Mary McNiff recently presented Harriet Kluger, MD, the Harvey and Kate Cushing Professor of Internal Medicine (Oncology) and Professor of Dermatology; Vice Chair, Translational Research for the Department of Internal Medicine, with a check for \$18,000 on behalf of The Jim McNiff Fund. This generous gift will support Dr. Kluger's research on kidney cancer at Yale Cancer Center.

We are so grateful for Mrs. McNiff and The Jim McNiff Fund for their support of kidney cancer research at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital!



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Kevin Du, MD, PhD, MSCI, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, has been named Medical Director for the Radiation Oncology Center at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Trumbull. Dr. Du has taken over from Melissa Young, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Clinical Therapeutic Radiology, who has provided exemplary service in guiding the program over the past five years.



#OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS to Angela Maria Malerba!

Yale Cancer Center & Smilow Cancer Hospital's #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Angela Maria Malerba, a Senior Administrative Assistant at Yale Cancer Center. During a recent recruitment candidate visit, Angela Maria went above-and-beyond to help her administrative teammates when a faculty member had a last-minute scheduling change. When Angela Maria realized a faculty member would not be able to make the previously scheduled in-person interview, she thought quickly on her feet, sent the faculty member a Zoom link, and set up the candidate in a conference room so they would be able to still meet with the faculty member as scheduled. Once the candidate was all set up, Angela Maria alerted the recruitment team of the issue and the resolution she figured out, which helped keep the candidate on schedule. It is quick thinking and problem-solving skills like this that are just a few of the amazing attributes Angela Maria brings to the team. Thank you, Angela Maria!



Yale Cancer Center & Smilow Cancer Hospital's #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS program is a staff recognition initiative to show appreciation to employees who have exemplified an above-and-beyond effort or an outstanding contribution to the team. If you are interested in submitting a nomination, please complete this [nomination form](#) and return it to the Director's Office c/o **Anna Raso**.

Recent Publications

Biering SB, Sarnik SA, Wang E, Zengel JR, Leist SR, Schäfer A, Sathyan V, Hawkins P, Okuda K, Tau C, Jangid AR, Duffy CV, Wei J, Gilmore RC, Alfajaro MM, Strine MS, Nguyenla X, Van Dis E, Catamura C, Yamashiro LH, Belk JA, Begeman A, Stark JC, Shon DJ, Fox DM, Ezzatpour S, Huang E, Olegario N, Rustagi A, Volmer AS, Livraghi-Butrico A, Wehri E, Behringer RR, Cheon DJ, Schaletzky J, Aguilar HC, Puschnik AS, Button B, Pinsky BA, Blish CA, Baric RS, O'Neal WK, Bertozzi CR, Wilen CB, Boucher RC, Carette JE, Stanley SA, Harris E, Konermann S, Hsu PD.

Genome-Wide Bidirectional CRISPR Screens Identify Mucins As Host Factors Modulating SARS-Cov-2 Infection

Nature Genetics, Online ahead of print.

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Khubchandani JA, Greenup RA.

Time to Surgery Delays: Barriers To Care For Black Women With Breast Cancer

American Journal of Surgery, 2019(9):900-910

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Our #SmilowStar is Betsy Finan, PA, who after 17 years in the division of Thoracic Surgery, is retiring. Betsy has been with the division of Thoracic Surgery from the very beginning and has made major impact on the growth and maturation of the division, as well as the style, structure, and ultimately the outcomes of the cancer care model. She has been a constant during some highly variable periods in the division's history, supporting those who worked around her with kindness, invaluable wisdom, and sage advice. Her steady hand has helped six thoracic surgeons, ten APPs, countless residents, students, and nurses navigate their paths as new clinicians.

Betsy is first and foremost an extraordinary clinician. She has been the warning beacon, safety-net, sounding board, and champion for our patients from her first day on service. There have been so many times Betsy has picked up on a very subtle status change in a patient and started the wheels in motion to get that patient back on track, no doubt preventing far more serious consequences from taking place. Her retirement is a truly immeasurable loss to our clinical practice.

Betsy also stands out in her commitment to patients, blurring the lines of roles and responsibilities, doing whatever her patients needed done, whenever they needed it, even if it infringed upon her own life. "We suspect the only time she worked an eight-hour day was during her vacation. She is constantly reading up on new medical advances and has never stopped investing in her clinical growth, even outside her scope of practice. In reality, she was far more interested in practicing at 'the top of her game' than at the 'top of her license,'" the leadership of thoracic surgery shared.

Betsy has also had one of the highest levels of engagement in the division. She has never been one to accept the status quo. She is always ready and willing to offer a



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Lee V, An Y, Park HS, Yu JB, Kim SP, Jairam V.

Emergency Department Visits For Radiation Cystitis Among Patients With A Prostate Cancer History

BJU International, 130(2):208-216.

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Marczyk M, Qing T, O'Meara T, Yagahoobi V, Pelekanou V, Bai Y, Reisenbichler E, Cole KS, Li X, Gunasekharan V, Ibrahim E, Fanucci K, Wei W, Rimm DL, Pusztai L, Blenman KRM.

Tumor Immune Microenvironment Of Self-Identified African American And Non-African American Triple Negative Breast Cancer

NPJ Breast Cancer, 8(1):88.

Read More

Wang J, Liang H, Zhang Q, Ma S.

Replicability in Cancer Omics Data Analysis: Measures And Empirical Explorations

Briefings in Bioinformatics, Online ahead of print.

Read More

Davis-Reyes B, Starbird C, Fernandez AI, McCall T, Hinton AO Jr, Termini CM.

Shadow Mentoring: A Cost-Benefit Review For Reform

Trends in Cancer, 8(8):620-622.

Read More

Lin K, Gueble SE, Sundaram RK, Huseman ED, Bindra RS, Herzon SB.

Mechanism-based Design Of Agents That Selectively Target Drug-Resistant Glioma

Science, 377(6605):502-511.

Read More

Marczyk M, Mrukwa A, Yau C, Wolf D, Chen YY, Balassanian R, Nanda R, Parker BA, Krings G, Sattar H, Zeck JC, Albain KS, Boughey JC, Liu MC, Elias AD, Clark AS, Venters SJ, Shad S, Basu A, Asare SM, Buxton M, Asare AL, Rugo HS, Perlmutter J, DeMichele AM, Yee D, Berry DA, Veer LV, Symmans WF, Esserman L, Pusztai L; I-SPY Consortium.

Treatment Efficacy Score-continuous Residual Cancer Burden-Based Metric To Compare Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Efficacy Between Randomized Trial Arms In Breast Cancer Trials

Annals of Oncology, 33(8):814-823.

Read More

Hung P, Cramer LD, Pollack CE, Gross CP, Wang SY.

Primary Care Physician Continuity, Survival, And End-Of-Life Care Intensity

Health Services Research, 57(4):853-862.

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Ottesen TD, Shultz BN, Munger AM, Amick M, Toombs CS, Friedaender GE, Grauer JN.

Chondrosarcoma Patient Characteristics, Management, And Outcomes Based On Over 5,000 Cases From The National Cancer Database

novel perspective and original solutions to some of the toughest challenges. Her open-minded and balanced approach, that is simultaneously humble and proud, has contributed greatly to the culture of the thoracic oncology team.

"Betsy's departure will no doubt leave a hole in the soul of our team. And yet, Betsy spent her career preparing us for this day, building a strong foundation of people and protocols, and setting a standard of excellence and caring that is the template we will use to shape our subsequent chapters."



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Veda Giri, MD, has been named Chief of the Division of Clinical Cancer Genetics at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, effective September 1. Dr. Giri joins Yale from Thomas Jefferson University where she is a Professor in the Departments of Medical Oncology, Cancer Biology, and Urology and Director of Cancer Risk Assessment and Clinical Cancer Genetics.

In her role as Director of Cancer Risk Assessment and Clinical Cancer Genetics, Dr. Giri led an integrated and comprehensive effort in inherited cancer risk assessment and

conducted research studies focused on genetic evaluation of cancer risk. Her clinical expertise is in the genetic evaluation of inherited risk for genitourinary cancers, specifically prostate, kidney, and upper tract urothelial cancers. Dr. Giri's research encompasses the genetic characterization of cancer risk using sequencing technologies, molecular signatures, and novel biomarkers to ultimately reduce cancer-related morbidity and mortality. She also has a strong clinical and research focus in cancer disparities.

(NCDB)

PLoS One, 17(7):e0268215.

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Butt A, Muradashvili T, Soliman S, Li F, Burns AJ, Brooks A, Browning S, Bar N, Borgman G, Goshua G, Hwa J, Martin K, Rinder H, Tormey C, Pine AB, Bona RD, Lee AI, Neparidze N.

Association of iron infusion reactions with ABO blood type

European Journal of Haematology, Online ahead of print.

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Gisriel SD, Jacobs JW, Siddon AJ.

CD5-positive, CD10-positive large B-cell lymphoma with t(14;18) mimicking acute leukemia

International Journal of Laboratory Hematology, 44(4):698-699.

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Richman IB, Prasad TV, Gross CP.

Lost To Follow Up?: A Qualitative Study Of Why Some Patients Do Not Pursue Lung Cancer Screening

Preventive Medicine Reports, 29:101909.

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Zeidan AM, Fenaux P, Gobbi M, Mayer J, Roboz GJ, Krauter J, Robak T, Kantarjian HM, Novák J, Jedrzejczak WW, Thomas X, Ojeda-Uribe M, Miyazaki Y, Min YH, Yeh SP, Brandwein JM, Gercheva L, Demeter J, Griffiths EA, Yee KWL, Issa JJ, Bewersdorf JP, Keer H, Hao Y, Azab M, Döhner H.

Prospective Comparison Of Outcomes With Azacitidine And Decitabine In Patients With AML Ineligible For Intensive Chemotherapy

Blood, 140(3):285-289.

[Read More](#)

Forman R, Viscoli CM, Bath PM, Furie KL, Guarino P, Inzucchi SE, Young L, Kernan WN.

Central vs site outcome adjudication in the IRIS trial

Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases, Online ahead of print.

[Read More](#)

Kantor O, Burstein HJ, King TA, Shak S, Russell CA, Giuliano AE, Hortobagyi GN, Winer EP, Korde LA, Sparano JA, Mittendorf EA.

Expanding the Staging Criteria for T1-2N0 Hormone-Receptor Positive Breast Cancer Patients Enrolled in TAILORx.

Annals of Surgical Oncology, Online ahead of print.

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Gao S, Jin L, Moliterno J, Corbin ZA, Bindra RS, Contessa JN, Yu JB, Park HS.

Impact Of Radiotherapy Delay Following Biopsy For Patients With Unresected Glioblastoma

Journal of Neurosurgery, Online ahead of print.

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Foldi J, Kahn A, Silber A, Qing T, Reisenbichler E, Fischbach N, Persico J, Adelson K, Katoch A, Chagpar A, Park T, Blanchard A, Blenman K, Rimm DL, Puszta I

We look forward to Dr. Giri's arrival!



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Aileen Fernandez, PhD, postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of David Rimm, MD, PhD, Anthony N. Brady Professor of Pathology and Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), is one of 10 recipients of the 2022 Dr. Eddie Méndez Award, which is named in memory of a physician-scientist who worked at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. The award supports early-career scientists, particularly those from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds.



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Tune in to Yale Cancer Answers to hear surgical pathologist Dr. Marie Robert discuss the role a pathologist plays in the diagnosis and care of patients with cancer, and her expertise in gastrointestinal, liver, and pancreaticobiliary cancers. Listen on Connecticut Public Radio or download our podcast from iTunes.



DE, P, GUSTAF E.

Clinical Outcomes and Immune Markers by Race in a Phase I/II Clinical Trial of Durvalumab Concomitant with Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy in Early-Stage TNBC

Clinical Cancer Research, Online ahead of print.

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Sun T, Wang X, Wang M, Minerowicz C, Sanchez H, Laskin W, Cohen P, Zhong M.

Somatic Mutation of BAP1 Can Lead to Expression Loss in Non-Small Cell Lung Carcinoma: Next Generation Sequencing and IHC Analysis in A Large Single Institute Cohort

International Journal of Surgical Pathology, 30(5):512-519.

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Karz A, Dimitrova M, Kleffman K, Alvarez-Breckenridge C, Atkins MB, Boire A, Bosenberg M, Brastianos P, Cahill DP, Chen Q, Ferguson S, Forsyth P, Glitza Oliva IC, Goldberg SB, Holmen SL, Knisely JPS, Merlino G, Nguyen DX, Pacold ME, Perez-Guijarro E, Smalley KSM, Tawbi HA, Wen PY, Davies MA, Kluger HM, Mehnert JM, Hernando E.

Melanoma Central Nervous System Metastases: An Update To Approaches, Challenges, And Opportunities

Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research, Online ahead of print.

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Wang X, Abi-Raad R, Tang H, Cai G.

Ki-67 Index Assessment On FNA Specimens Of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor: Correlation With Mitotic Rate And Potential Predictive Value For Risk Stratification

Cancer Cytopathology, Online ahead of print.

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Dinan MA, Wilson LE, Greiner MA, Spees LP, Pritchard JE, Zhang T, Kaye D, George D, Scales CD Jr, Baggett CD, Gross CP, Leapman MS, Wheeler SB.

Oral anticancer agent (OAA) adherence and survival in elderly patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma (mRCC)

Urology, Online ahead of print.

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Ghosh S.

Breaking the DLG Shackles In Glioblastoma

Neuro-Oncology, 24(8):1243-1245.

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Funding and Award Opportunities

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation

The Foundation funds cutting-edge research in the fields of leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers of the blood. Funds support promising scientists who are applying novel and state-of-the-art techniques to address fundamental problems in their genesis and treatment. Of interest are innovative clinical and basic science research that will lead to novel therapeutic approaches that could replace, or be used in combination with existing effective therapies. Focus is on projects for cancer prevention,



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Sarah Schellhorn Mougalian, MD, is an Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and Chief Ambulatory Officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Mougalian focuses her care on patients with breast cancer, working closely with a multidisciplinary team to address every patient's individual goals, values, and treatment options. Dr. Mougalian says it's an exciting time for breast cancer therapies, including immunotherapy.



 meet the
physician

Sarah Schellhorn Mougalian, MD

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Researchers at Yale Cancer Center recently released a study which revealed that Medicaid coverage for patients with cancer differed widely across cancer care facilities. In the study, 334 Commission on Cancer-accredited facilities were sampled, of which, only 67.7% accepted new patients with Medicaid insurance for the four common cancers selected (colorectal, breast, kidney, and skin).

"We found that Medicaid acceptance differed widely across cancer care facilities, with a substantial number of centers not offering services to patients with Medicaid

detection and treatment that are most likely to be translated into clinical trials within a 3-5 year period.

Internal Submission Deadline: August 8, 2022

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Pfizer Global Medical Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma Grant

Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on increasing healthcare professional understanding of BCMA-directed therapies (BCMAxCD3 bi-specifics; BCMA-ADC; BCMA – CAR-T cells) in relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma.

Applications Due: August 8, 2022

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Quality of Care Initiative to Improve the Treatment of Locally Advanced or Metastatic (Stage IV) Bladder Cancer Patients RFP

The intent of the RFP is to encourage NCCN Member Institutions and non-NCCN Member Institutions to submit proposals describing cancer concepts and ideas around how to improve the quality of care, including guideline concordant care, and best practices around treatment for patients with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Bladder Cancers.

Application Deadline: August 18, 2022

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

These grants, which will provide support to postdoctoral or clinical research fellows 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.

Application Deadline: August 18, 2022

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Small Business Transition Grant For Early Career Scientists (R42)

Through this FOA, the NCI, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) intend to support early-career academic scientists interested in transitioning to entrepreneurship while also supporting the transfer of technology from

academic laboratories into small businesses.

Application Deadline: August 22, 2022

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DoD Rare Cancers Research Program Awards

There are a significant number of incidences of rare cancers in the U.S. military population. Over 60 forms of cancer disproportionately impact those who have served in the military, and 67% of them are rare cancers. These awards support research on the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of Service Members, Veterans, their families, and the American public.

- **Concept Award-** Application Deadline: August 29, 2022
- **Idea Development Award-** Application Deadline: September 30, 2022
- **Resource and Community Development Award-** Application Deadline: September 30, 2022

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Cancer Prevention and Control Clinical Trials Planning Grant Program (P34 and U34)

insurance,” said Michael Leapman, MD, MHS, Associate Professor of Urology, Clinical Program Leader for the Prostate & Urologic Cancers Program at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital, and senior author on the study. “Despite a large increase in the number of Medicaid-insured patients, most factors that limit a hospital or physician’s participation in Medicaid have not changed,” he said. “These include low reimbursement, high administrative burden, and limited specialist participation in managed care organization networks.”

Yale-led study finds 'Medicaid acceptance differed widely across cancer care facilities'

Figure. Medicaid Acceptance at Investigated Commission on Cancer Accredited Facilities Across the United States



Four cancer types (colorectal, breast, kidney, and skin [melanoma]) were queried. This map was generated using ArcGIS software by Esri. State boundary data was extracted from States Generalized publicly available data set.

YaleNewHavenHealth
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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

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In an interview with @hartfordcourant,

@DrEricWiner

explains that excess body weight increases the incidence of cancer & decreases survival, “If you are an overweight person with cancer...your chances of surviving that cancer are somewhat decreased.”



Integration of prostate specific antigen density #PSAD with active surveillance may identify men with low-risk #prostatecancer who are at highest risk for upgrade despite favorable imaging findings.



Veda Giri, MD @vedangiri, has been named Chief of the Division of Clinical Cancer Genetics for @SmilowCancer and Yale Cancer Center. Welcome Dr. Giri!



Sarah Schellhorn Mougalian, MD @SMougalian, focuses her care on patients with #breastcancer, working closely with a multidisciplinary team to address every patient's goals & treatment options. #hccsm Read more from Dr. Mougalian

(R04 and U04)

Through this FOA, the NCI intends to facilitate well planned clinical trials across the cancer prevention and control spectrum aimed at improving prevention/ interception, cancer-related health behaviors, screening, early detection, healthcare delivery, management of treatment-related symptoms, supportive care, and the long-term outcomes of cancer survivors.

Application Deadline: September 7, 2022

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Biology of Bladder Cancer (R01/R21)

This FOA encourages applications that investigate the biology and underlying mechanisms of bladder cancer. While recent progress has been made in the molecular profiling of bladder cancers and identification of mutated genes, relatively little is known regarding the molecular mechanisms driving initiation, progression and malignancy of bladder cancer.

Open Date: September 7, 2022

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The Early Detection Research Network: Clinical Validation Centers (U01)

The purpose of this FOA is to solicit applications for Clinical Validation Centers (CVCs); one of the three scientific units of the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN). EDRN is an integrated infrastructure to develop and validate biomarkers and imaging methods for the detection of early-stage cancers and risk assessment. CVCs will conduct research to validate biomarkers and/or imaging methods for risk assessment and detection of early-stage cancers.

Application Deadline: September 8, 2022

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The Early Detection Research Network: Biomarker Characterization Centers (U2C)

The purpose of this FOA is to solicit applications for Biomarker Characterization Centers (BCCs), one of the three scientific units of the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN).

Application Deadline: September 8, 2022

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DoD Melanoma Research Program Awards

These awards invest in research focusing on the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of melanoma for the benefit of Service members, Veterans, their families, and the American public.

- **Focused Program Award – Rare Melanomas – Letter of Intent**
Due: September 14, 2022
- **Melanoma Academy Scholar Award – Letter of Intent**
Due: September 14, 2022
- **Mid-Career Accelerator Award – Letter of Intent** **Due:** September 14, 2022
- **Team Science Award – Letter of Intent** **Due:** September 14, 2022

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DoD Breast Cancer Research Program Awards

These awards provide funding to support innovative, high-impact research with clinical relevance that will accelerate progress to end breast cancer for Service Members, Veterans, and the general public.

- **Breakthrough Award Levels 1 and 2**- LOI Due: September 22, 2022
- **Era of Hope Scholar Award**- LOI Due: September 22, 2022



The Yale Cancer Center Cancer Immunology Research Program welcomes Dr. Dennis Moledina @dmoledina Assistant Professor of Medicine (Nephrology) @YaleIMed, board-certified nephrologist, and clinician-scientist.



A new study in @ScienceMagazine shows Yale researchers, led by @HerzonLab and @ranjitbindra, have developed a new class of molecules that target drug-resistant #glioma tumors, while sparing healthy tissue along the way.



A study led by @AneesChagpar shows there is opportunity to safely omit radiation therapy for eligible, older patients with #breastcancer.



Older, frail patients are less likely to complete adjuvant treatment after #headandneckcancer (HNC) free flap reconstruction, a Yale study shows.



We're proud to announce that Dr. Kevin Du, Associate Professor of #TherapeuticRadiology, has been named Medical Director for the Radiation Oncology Center at the @SmilowCancer Care Center in Trumbull.



Congratulations to Harriet Kluger, MD, appointed Harvey and Kate Cushing Professor of Internal Medicine

(Oncology) and Professor of Dermatology, as well as Vice Chair of Translational Research for @YaleIMed.



A new study from Drs. Kim Blenman and Lajos Pusztai revealed greater immune infiltration and inflammation in African American patients with #TNBC, which may partially drive the differences found in clinical outcomes.



Tiva and @JamieLovemark est @LovemarkFndtn to financially and emotionally support patients with #braintumors, and access high quality care from the Chênevert Family Brain Tumor Center at Yale Cancer Center and @SmilowCancer.



Dr. Beth Miller, MD, MPH, FAAP

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Conquer Cancer Grants & Awards

These grants and awards support clinical and translational cancer research done by gifted physician-scientists at every stage of their careers, from the best and brightest among young investigators to senior researchers providing mentorship opportunities for the next generation of cancer researchers.

- **Global Oncology Young Investigator Award (GO YIA)**
- **Application Deadline:** September 22, 2022
- **Leadership Development Program - Application**
Deadline: September 25, 2022
- **Career Development Award (CDA)- Application Deadline:** October 20, 2022
- **International Innovation Grant (IIG) - Application**
Deadline: December 2, 2022

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Freeman Hrabowski Scholars Program

A new program supporting outstanding early career faculty who are committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in science. HHMI is seeking outstanding basic researchers, including physician-scientists, who have strong potential to become leaders in their fields and to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion through their mentorship and understanding of the experiences of trainees from races and ethnicities underrepresented in US science.

Applications Due: September 23, 2022

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ASCO Leadership Development Program

If you are interested in becoming a future leader in ASCO and the practice of oncology, ASCO's Leadership Development Program is for you. Participants in this year-long program will learn valuable leadership skills, network with and receive mentorship from ASCO leaders, and gain exposure to the roles and mission of ASCO. In addition, participants learn about the Society's powerful role in developing the future of cancer care.

Application Deadline: September 24, 2022

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DoD Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP)

These awards support research of exceptional scientific merit in the area of kidney cancer.

- **Academy of Kidney Cancer Investigators Early-Career Scholar Award-** LOI Due: September 29, 2022
- **Nurse-Initiated Research Award-** LOI Due: September 29, 2022
- **Clinical Trial Award-** LOI Due: September 29, 2022

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DoD Kidney Cancer Research Program Grants

The mission of the FY22 KCRP is to promote rigorous, innovative, high-impact research in kidney cancer for the benefit of Service Members, Veterans, and the American public. Within this context, the KCRP is interested in supporting research and clinical care that addresses the KCRP Overarching Strategic Goals to: (1) increase understanding of the biology of kidney cancer; (2) develop novel therapeutic strategies for the treatment of kidney cancer; (3) improve patient care for kidney cancer; and (4) grow the field and increase collaboration in the area of kidney cancer.

- **Academy of Kidney Cancer Investigators Early-Career Scholar**



Paris Butler, MD, MPH, FACS

@DrParisButler, has been named

Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) @YaleSurgery, and is the first Vice Chair of #DEI in the Department of Surgery's 209-year history.



With his #K08 grant from @theNCI,

@Cecchini_OncMD, is investigating

multiple #clinicaltrials for #colorectalcancer to expand therapies beyond chemo, believing there is great potential for #immunotherapy.

Calendar

Growth, Insight, Leadership, Advancement, Drive, Education and Resilience (GI LEADER) Program

August 5; 4:00 PM

Building Diversity - Focusing on Ways to Effectively Advance and Promote a Culture Of DE&I

Pamela Kunz, MD

[Learn More](#)

Yale Cancer Answers

August 7; 7:30 PM

NPR

Tailoring Breast Cancer Treatment in 2022

Eric Winer, MD

[Learn More](#)

Yale Pathology Special Seminar

August 8, 10:00 AM

Discovering T cell antigens using massively-parallel DNA synthesis

Mark Lee, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

Yale Pathology Special Seminar

August 9; 10:00 AM

Ageing Biomarkers For Intervention Studies And Clinical Applications

Albert Higgins-Chen, MD/PhD

[Learn More](#)

**Chênevert Family Brain Tumor Center
Plaque Presentation**

August 9; 3:30 PM

Beaumont Room

Presentation by Joseph Contessa, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

Yale Cancer Answers

Award - Letter of Intent Due: September 29, 2022

- **Nurse-Initiated Research Award - Letter of Intent Due:** September 29, 2022
- **Clinical Trial Award - Letter of Intent Due:** September 29, 2022

[Read More](#)

MMRF Myeloma Accelerator Challenge Program Grants

As the leading funder of multiple myeloma research, the MMRF has supported more than 380 research grants at over 135 institutions worldwide. They are pleased to announce two \$10 million grants supporting new myeloma research initiatives. The topics of focus are:

- Optimizing first-line therapy for high-risk newly diagnosed Multiple Myeloma (HR-NDMM)
- High-risk Smoldering Multiple Myeloma (HR-SMM)

Each \$10 million grant will support multicenter translational research projects for 3 years. The output of these preclinical research programs will be cogent clinical hypotheses ready for rapid clinical deployment. This funding supports preclinical and translational research, not clinical trials. Proposals should include elements to address known racial subsets in multiple myeloma.

Letter of Intent Due: September 30, 2022

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NCI Outstanding Investigator Award (R35)

This FOA invites grant applications for the Outstanding Investigator Award (R35) in any area of cancer research.

The objective of the OIA is to provide long-term support to accomplished investigators with outstanding records of cancer research accomplishments who propose to conduct exceptional research.

Open Date: October 8, 2022

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Lion Heart Fund For Cancer Research

Yale investigators are encouraged to submit proposals of innovative, high-potential projects requiring pilot funding. Projects may be in any area of breast cancer research – basic, translational, clinical, outcomes and population science are all welcomed from any discipline or group of disciplines.

Application Deadline: November 8, 2022

[Read More](#)

August 14; 7:30 PM

NPR

Surgical Innovations for Prostate Cancer Treatment

Isaac Y. Kim, MD, PhD, MBA

[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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