

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

March 23, 2018

Announcements

Yale Center for Immuno-Oncology (YCIO)

In a partnership between Yale Cancer Center and the department of immunobiology, we are proud to launch the Yale Center for Immuno-Oncology. The new center will build on our international leadership in immunobiology, cancer immunology, and the development of novel cancer immunotherapies and will effectively broaden our translational research infrastructure. "This new center gives us the chance to work more collaboratively and efficiently with our world renowned scientists and faculty to address scientific questions in Immuno-Oncology," said Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology at YCC, and Interim Director of YCIO.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Roy Herbst for his insight and leadership of the inaugural Center as we lead a national search for the director of the YCIO.

[Learn More >>](#)

Paul Calabresi Career Development Award

I am pleased to announce that Yale Cancer Center has been funded by the National Cancer Institute for a K12 Award to create an Immuno-Oncology Training Program (IOTP) for both PhD and MD or MD/PhD Scholars in immuno-oncology and translational immunology. Led by Dr. Harriet Kluger, Associate Director for Education and Training, and principal investigator of the grant, the newly developed two-year curriculum will include courses on basic immunology, cancer immunology and immunotherapy-specific clinical trial design. Scholars will also complete a two-year translational

from the desk of
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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Recent News

[News Center >>](#)

LATEST ARTICLES:

immuno-oncology research project encompassing both laboratory and clinical research. A panel of mentors including both a basic and clinical faculty member will be appointed for each Program Scholar. Junior faculty within five years of appointment at Yale School of Medicine will be eligible to apply to the IOTP, with up to five Scholars appointed at any one time. We look forward to beginning the IOTP later this year.

Multidisciplinary Head & Neck Cancers Clinic at PAMC

The first Head & Neck Cancers multidisciplinary clinic in Fairfield County is now available for patients at Park Avenue Medical Center. The clinic enables patients to meet with multiple, highly-skilled Smilow Cancer Hospital specialists in a single appointment, including Dr. Heather Osborn, a head and neck surgeon, Dr. Kirtesh Patel, a radiation oncologist, Dr. Hal Tara, a medical oncologist, and physical and speech therapists, nutritionists, advanced practice nurses, and social workers.

Earlier this week, the team held their first joint patient consultation and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, both from the providers and from the patient and her family. "We are committed to expanding the expertise and multidisciplinary collaboration, which are Smilow's signature care, to our patients' communities. We congratulate the Head/Neck Cancer Program at Smilow Park Avenue for this important accomplishment," said Rogerio Lilienbaum, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Special thanks to the entire Head and Neck team who partnered together to bring their multidisciplinary care to our Trumbull location, and to Lisa Shomsky and the team at PAMC for their support of the endeavor.

CTO Leadership

Rhoda Arzoomanian, Director of our Clinical Trials Office (CTO), has announced that she has accepted a position with the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI) and will transition to full time at YCCI in the coming months. Rhoda's leadership over the last several years has helped to build a clinical trials infrastructure and team that supports our unique and complex clinical trial operation. Most recently, Rhoda and her team of



Yale Cancer Center launches Immuno-Oncology Center

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Annual Kick-Off Party for Closer to Free Ride

[Read More >>](#)



From the 'Big C' to 'Cancer'

[Read More >>](#)



Too much of a good thing?

dedicated staff recently completed our re-competition of the NCI Cancer Center Support Grant with a score of "outstanding" for our clinical research areas, and I am grateful for her leadership and support throughout.

Yale Cancer Center will begin a national search for a new Director of the CTO, in addition to the search we have launched for an Associate Director for Clinical Research Services. I am confident that we will identify a leadership team to meet our growing clinical research needs at Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Care Centers. In the interim, I appreciate Rhoda's continued leadership of the CTO during the search process.

Impact of HPV CME Symposium

Please join our Waterford Care Center for a CME Symposium on the *Impact of HPV on Head and Neck and Cervical Cancers* on Thursday, April 26, at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital. Yale Cancer Center's Dr. Barbara Burtness and Dr. Elena Ratner will present at the dinner course, hosted by Dr. Jane Kanowitz.

[Learn More >>](#)

STAT News March Madness

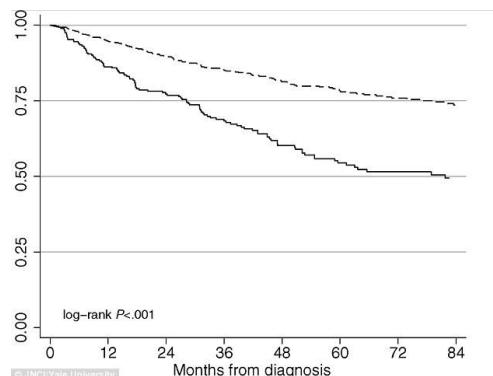
STAT News is running a bracket-style tournament to find the best innovations in science and medicine. The bracket began with 64 research innovations and is now down to the final 4; one Yale Cancer Center publication is competing to move on to the finals needs your support! It takes a minute to vote, and no registration or email is required. Please support Skyler Johnson, James Yu, Cary Gross, and Henry Park's publication in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* on the Use of Alternative Medicine and its Impact on Survival, which is in competition against East Carolina University.

[Vote Now!](#)

Notables

Nicole Deziel, PhD, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, received an honorable mention for her poster,

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Patients who choose alternative medicine for cancer are richer, smarter, younger and healthier - but it makes their risk of dying MUCH higher

[Read More >>](#)

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LATEST POSTS:

Mohamed Badawi is a radiologic engineer at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and he has proven time and again his commitment to taking ownership of his work to produce the best results possible. In this role, Mohamed has led the engineering support for several technology installations and other major projects at Smilow, and he emphasizes the importance of creating a template for oneself based on past projects to "anticipate challenges that might arise and minimize mistakes."

Exposure to Organophosphate Flame Retardants and Risk of Thyroid Cancer in Women, with co-authors

Huangdi Yi, Heather M. Stapleton, Huang Huang, Nan Zhao, and Yawei Zhang, in the poster competition at the

American Society for Preventive Oncology meeting. Her research project was funded through the YCC IRG and the ACS Mentored Research Scholar Grant.

Congratulations to **Hiba Ahmad** and **Serena Chew**, oncology pharmacy residents, whose projects were selected as two of the Top 10 Trainee Research Posters for the **2018 Hematology Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) Annual Conference**.

Hiba presented, *Vaccination Rates in Post-Transplant HSCT Patients: Where Do We Stand?*

Serena presented,

Thromboprophylaxis in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma Treated with Lenalidomide.

Employee Profile: Courtney Frederick

Courtney Frederick, RN, BSN, Clinical Trials Research Nurse for The Breast Center, began her nursing career at Smilow eight years ago. For the last three and a half years, she has been working closely with clinical and research staff to navigate and support patients through clinical trials. From making sure patients meet eligibility criteria to monitoring for any adverse events, Courtney is with patients for the duration of a trial.



Professional Spotlight: Mohamed Badawi

[Read More >>](#)

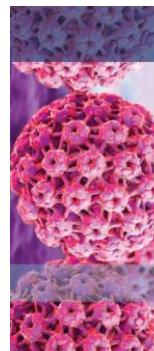
Vote to help our groundbreaking study in #statmadness2018 reach the finals in the best of science March Madness competition



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Join us for a free presentation discussion on the Impact of HPV on cervical cancer and head and neck cancers on April 26 at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London.

PLEASE JOIN US
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018



Defining the Impact of HPV on Cervical and Head & Neck Cancers
Lawrence + Memorial Hospital

Baker Auditorium
365 Montauk Avenue
New London, CT 06320
5 PM Registration
5:30 PM Dinner
6 - 8 PM Program

Course Director
Jane Kanowitz, MD, Medical Director, Smilow Cancer Hospital
Waterford Cervi Center

Presentations from Smilow Cancer Hospital

Elena Ratera, MD
Associate Professor of Obstetrics,
Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences;
Co-Chair, Sector on Gynecologic Oncology

Barbara A. Burstein, MD
Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology);
Disease Aligned Research Team Leader;
Head & Neck Cancer Program

For Information and to register, (203) 785-2229 or yalecancercenter.org/hpv

YaleNew Haven Health | **Smilow Cancer Hospital** | **Yale Cancer Center**

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Courtney works with research staff and the entire care team to make sure that patients are tolerating the treatments and that the research data collected is accurate and correctly reported. A large aspect of her work is educating patients on what a trial entails, and how it can benefit them. There are often cultural barriers and stigmas that need to be overcome before a patient will consider taking part in a trial.

"There are so many options for patients, and we are on the forefront of providing cutting-edge care. Being involved with these drugs that can save or better a patient's life is very rewarding, and to be able to help other women during a vulnerable time is wonderful," commented Courtney.

Karen Forman, Assistant Director for Clinical Trial Operations, Clinical Research, commented, "Courtney is dedicated to providing the best experience for patients and works with providers, Smilow clinical staff and our research teams to meet the needs of complex protocols. It has been a pleasure getting to know and working with Courtney for the past three and a half years."

Funding Opportunities

March 14 was Registered Dietician Nutrition (RDN) Day! Celebrated annually on the second Wednesday in March, RDN Day recognizes and celebrates RDNs as trained experts in the field of food and nutrition. RDNs are particularly important in cancer care, because side effects from cancer and its treatment can affect how you eat. Smilow Cancer Hospital has many resources available to help our patients get the nutrition they need, including referrals for nutrition consultations and seasonal recipes.

March 14, 2018

**RDN
DAY**
Registered Dietician
Nutritionist Day

#NationalNutritionMonth

[Read More >>](#)

March is Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month. Multiple Myeloma is a blood cancer of the plasma cell, and approximately 16,000 new patients are diagnosed with myeloma each year. Yale is a member of the Multiple Myeloma Consortium, and for MM Awareness Month, we are continuing our commitment towards improving current treatments and exploring novel avenues for fighting this disease.

**Multiple
Myeloma
Awareness
Month**

[Read More >>](#)

P30 CCSG to Stimulate Research in Non-AIDS Defining Cancers (NADCs) in Aging Populations

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce a pilot award competition for one grant at \$200,000 total costs per year for two years, for a specific project headed by a member of Yale Cancer Center.

Deadline for Submission:

March 29, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

Hecht Global Health Faculty Network Award

Designed to promote new research and programs in global health at Yale undertaken by faculty networks who do not otherwise have the resources to initiate the work.

Deadline for Submission: March 30, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation Invites LOIs for Myelodysplastic Syndromes Research Fund

The foundation's MDS Research Fund seeks to advance the understanding and treatment of Myelodysplastic Syndromes and related blood disorders.

Application Deadline: March 30, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

YCC Trainee Colloquium Call for Abstracts

Postdoctoral fellows engaging in cancer research and graduates of the Cancer Biology Training Program are invited to submit abstracts describing their work.

Application Deadline: April 2, 2018 Grant guidelines and electronic application instructions can be obtained on [Submittable](#).

For scientific questions, please contact Joann.sweasy@yale.edu. All other inquiries, Christine.holmberg@yale.edu.

The Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (U01)

"I love the water. I've been boating 32 years," said James, a 73-year old retired Bridgeport detective. "I was getting ready to sell the boat, thinking I wasn't going to use it anymore. But then I said, why give up?"

After finding a lump on his throat a few years ago, James was diagnosed with tongue cancer, a form of head and neck cancer. Radiation and chemotherapy didn't work, and as James said, "it looked like I was on my way out." His team at Smilow suggested immunotherapy, a new, rapidly advancing kind of cancer treatment-and James is still here today because of it.



[Read More >>](#)

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LATEST TWEETS:

Too much of a good thing? #Cancer experts debate whether there's a glut of #immunotherapy trials. .@DrRoyHerbstYale says The trials have to be smarter #clinicaltrials via @sciencemagazine

Our Cancer Screening and Prevention Program is busy providing life saving information to [@Yale's](#) Hospitality team #cancer#screening #earlydetection #Yale #coloncancerawarenessmonth

This FOA invites applications from multi-disciplinary teams of researchers and clinicians to establish the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (PCDC).

Application Deadline: April 6, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

V Foundation's 2018 Cancer Research Program

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce a competition for the 2018 Translational Award of the V Foundation's 2018 Cancer Research Program. YCC will nominate ONE candidate for this \$600,000 award.

Internal Deadline: April 9, 2018, 11:59pm EST

[Learn More >>](#)

Research on the Health of Women of Understudied, Underrepresented and Underreported (U3) Populations

The ORWH announces the availability of administrative supplements to support interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research focused on the effect of sex/gender influences at the intersection of a number of social determinants.

Application Deadline: April 16, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

SPORE in Lung Cancer Program Awards Developmental Research Program

To provide seed money to investigators to support studies with a strong translational component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated into, a full Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer project.

Career Development Program: To educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in lung cancer.

Application Timeline: Letters of intent are due no later than 5:00 PM, April 27, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

 Support this breakthrough #cancer research by voting for it in the #statmadness bracket to reach the #FinalFour today! #alternativemedicine .@YaleMed .@YNHH .@YaleSPH .@sky_john .@cpgYALE

 Join physicians from Smilow Cancer hospital's Liver Cancer Program for a free webinar tonight at 6pm on the management of #livercancer with the American Liver Foundation.

 Take a minute to learn about .@sky_john's #STATMadness highlighted research via @statnews and support their groundbreaking research in alternative medicine and cancer

 Check out our recent work deciphering how size and shape properties of #nanoparticles can impact drug delivery in models of #PancreaticCancer. @kochinstitute@YaleMed@YaleCancer

 Vote to help our groundbreaking study in #statmadness2018 reach the #finalfour in the best of #science#MarchMadness competition

 Today on Yale Cancer Answers Dr. Amer Zeidan will discuss #leukemia and #mds Tune in at 7:30pm.

 Excited to share the cover of Molecular Cancer Research @AACR with @SaltzmanLab, the future of nanoparticle DNA repair inhibitors is now! @YaleCancer

 Congrats to YCC's @DrRoyHerbstYale for being honored by @ASCO as a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (FASCO). This distinction recognizes ASCO members for their extraordinary volunteer service, dedication, and commitment to ASCO.

 Join us for a free #CME dinner and discussion on the Impact of #HPV on #cervicalcancer and #HeadAndNeckCancer on April 26 at Lawrence+Memorial Hospital in New London.

Elsa U. Pardee Foundation

The Foundation encourages grant applications for a one year period which will allow establishment of capabilities of new cancer researchers, or new cancer approaches by established cancer researchers.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Bridge Funding Award

Bridge Funding allows researchers to produce data needed to substantiate their proposal resubmission to federal funding agencies for a promising new research project.

Application Deadline: May 10, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

Brain Tumor Funders' Collaborative Funding Opportunity: Immunotherapy for Primary Human Brain Tumors

The BTFC is requesting proposals on the role of the neuro-immune system in the origin and progression of the immune responses in primary human brain tumors with the hope of developing immunotherapies for treatment of these tumors in patients.

Application Deadline: May 11, 2018

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

Differences in Nanoparticle Uptake in Transplanted and Autochthonous Models of Pancreatic Cancer.

Tao Z, Muzumdar MD, Detappe A, Huang X, Xu ES, Yu Y, Mouhieddine TH, Song H, Jacks T, Ghoroghchian PP.

Nano Lett. 2018 Mar 21.

[Read More >>](#)

 Our Cancer Screening and Prevention Program spreading the word
@BPTHOSP!

#ColonCancerAwarenessMonth
#earlydetection#ColonCancer

 Dr. Brian Shuch talked about the hereditary connections associated with #kidneycancer and treatment options on a recent airing of Yale Cancer Answers

 New research led by YCC Director Dr. Charles Fuchs out today in @JAMAOnC shows the immunotherapy drug Keytruda can help fight advanced stomach cancer. These findings led the FDA to approve the drug as the first immunotherapy treatment for the disease.

 With Immunotherapy showing great promise for treating many types of cancer, we're proud to announce the opening of the Center for Immuno-Oncology at Yale Cancer Center!

 Great pic of great @SWOG cancer research leaders. @DrRoyHerbstYale of @YaleCancer and Dr. Fred Hirsch of @IASLC are two of the investigators on our @LungMAP precision medicine trial testing new treatments for squamous cell lung cancer. Learn more at <http://www.lung-map.org>

 Excited to be giving the first Dr. Tom Grogan honorary keynote lecture today @ventana in Tucson. What an innovative leader in cancer research and inspiration to us all. @SWOG@YaleCancer

Calendar of Events

March 23; 12:30PM

Pharmacology Seminar Series

Brady Auditorium

Postoperative Chemoradiation in High-Risk Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck.

Bhatia AK, Burtness BA, Decker RH.
J Clin Oncol. 2018 Mar 16;JCO2018777987.

[Read More >>](#)

HIV-1 Env trimer opens through an asymmetric intermediate in which individual protomers adopt distinct conformations.

Ma X, Lu M, Gorman J, Terry DS, Hong X, Zhou Z, Zhao H, Altman RB, Arthos J, Blanchard SC, Kwong PD, Munro JB, Mothes W.
Elife. 2018 Mar 21;7.

[Read More >>](#)

Advancing the Quality of Care for Newly Diagnosed Prostate Cancer Patients: Novel Uses of Patient-Reported Outcomes.

Sedlacek HM, Kim AH, Chen WM, Kim SP.
Ann Surg Oncol. 2018 Mar 20.

[Read More >>](#)

An assessment of neuronal calcium sensor-1 and response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy in breast cancer patients.

Moore LM, Wilkinson R, Altan M, Toki M, Carvajal-Hausdorf DE, McGuire J, Ehrlich BE, Rimm DL.
NPJ Breast Cancer. 2018 Mar 12;4:6.

[Read More >>](#)

Active Coping and Perceived Social Support Mediate the Relationship Between Physical Health and Resilience in Liver Transplant Candidates.

Swanson A, Geller J, DeMartini K, Fernandez A, Fehon D.
J Clin Psychol Med Settings. 2018 Mar 15.

[Read More >>](#)

Structural Studies of Macromolecules Using Electron Cryo-microscopy (cryo-EM)

Jean Paul Armache, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

March 25; 7:30PM

Yale Cancer Answers

WNPR

Breast Reconstruction for Women with Breast Cancer

Tomer Avraham, MD

[Read More >>](#)

March 27; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress

TAC N-107

Therapeutic Targeting of PPM1D Mutations in DIPGs

Nathan Fons

TBA

Mohammed Khan

[Read More >>](#)

March 27; 12PM

CC Grand Rounds/Joseph R. Bove, MD Memorial Lectureship

55 Park Street

Tumor and Host Factors Regulating Anti-Tumor Immunity

Thomas F. Gajewski, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

March 27; 5PM

Digestive Diseases Research Seminar Series

TAC S-247

Overcoming Resistance to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Melanoma and Pancreatic Cancer

Christina Twyman-Saint Victor, MD, MTR

[Read More >>](#)

March 28; 12PM

Cancer Prevention and Control Research Seminar

FMP 340

Safety and Efficacy of Pembrolizumab Monotherapy in Patients With Previously Treated Advanced Gastric and Gastroesophageal Junction Cancer: Phase 2 Clinical KEYNOTE-059 Trial.

Fuchs CS, Doi T, Jang RW, Muro K, Satoh T, Machado M, Sun W, Jalal SI, Shah MA, Metges JP, Garrido M, Golan T, Mandala M, Wainberg ZA, Catenacci DV, Ohtsu A, Shitara K, Geva R, Bleeker J, Ko AH, Ku G, Philip P, Enzinger PC, Bang YJ, Levitan D, Wang J, Rosales M, Dalal RP, Yoon HH.

JAMA Oncol. 2018 Mar 15.

[Read More >>](#)

Development and validation of a claims-based approach to proxy ECOG performance status across ten tumor groups.

Sheffield KM, Bowman L, Smith DM, Li L, Hess LM, Montejano LB, Willson TM, Davidoff AJ.

J Comp Eff Res. 2018 Mar;7(3):193-208.

[Read More >>](#)

In Vivo Short-Term Topical Application of BAY 11-7082 Prevents the Acidic Bile-Induced mRNA and miRNA Oncogenic Phenotypes in Exposed Murine Hypopharyngeal Mucosa.

Sasaki CT, Doukas SG, Vageli DP.

Neoplasia. 2018 Mar 9;20(4):374-386.

[Read More >>](#)

Do All Positive Margins in Breast Cancer Patients Undergoing a Partial Mastectomy Need to Be Resected?

Chagpar AB, Tsangaris TN, Lannin DR.

J Am Coll Surg. 2018 Mar 7.

[Read More >>](#)

New Paradigms for Low Risk Prostate Cancer: Can Better Predictions Lead to Better Outcomes

Michael S Leapman, MD

[Read More >>](#)

March 29; 11AM

Smilow Screening & Prevention Informational Table

Saint Raphael Campus

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Event

[Read More >>](#)

March 29; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

LMP 1094

Engineering Human Tissues for Regenerative Medicine and Study of Disease

Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

March 29; 2:30PM

Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar

Hereditary Prostate Cancer: Re-Evaluation of Genetic Testing and Screening Guidelines

Amanda Ganzak, LCGC and Karina Brierley, MS, LCGC

SRC, suites 107-109

[Read More >>](#)

March 30; 11AM

Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar

YNHH, Cafeteria

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Event

[Read More >>](#)

April 1; 7:30PM

Yale Cancer Answers

WNPR 90.5

Project ECHO

Sanjeev Arora, MD, FACG, MACP

[Read More >>](#)

April 3; 11:30

Genetics Department Seminar Series

TAC N107

New frontiers in functional genomics using high-throughput genome engineering

Neville Sanjana, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

April 3; 12PM

YCC Grand Rounds

55 Park Street

Humanized Mice for the Study of Human Cancer

Richard Flavell, PhD, FRS

PET Imaging of Breast Cancer Using 89Zr-labeled Antibodies

Bernadette Marquez-Nostra, PhD, DSc, FRS

[Read More >>](#)

April 5; 10:30AM

Immunobiology and MCDB Joint Seminar

TAC N107

Engineering Smart Nanotechnologies for Immuno-Oncology

John T. Wilson, PhD

[Read more >>](#)

April 5; 12PM

Cancer Prevention and Control Research Seminar

SPH, 216

Physician-volume and Cancer Outcomes: Moving Beyond the Surgical Setting

Scott F Huntington, MD, MPH, MSc

[Read More >>](#)

April 5; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

LMP 1094

MIF Signaling Pathway as a Pathogenic Driver and Potential Target in Pancreatic Cancer

S. Pervez Hussain, MS, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

April 5; 2:30PM

Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar

SRC, suites 107-109

[Read More >>](#)

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Biostatistics

Dr. Wei Wei

Thursdays - 9am-1pm

Fridays - 9am-5pm

Bioinformatics

Drs. Yong Kong and Ying Zhu

Fridays - 1pm-5pm

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