

December 11, 2015

## Announcements

### Yale at the Podium at SUO, ASH, and SABCS

The last two weeks have been busy for our Prostate and Urologic Cancers, Hematology, and Breast Cancer Programs, all of which had great representation at major national meetings sharing Yale science and clinical trial outcomes from Smilow Cancer Hospital. The urology team had several poster presentations at the Society of Urologic Oncology annual meeting last week in Washington, DC. Later in the week, our hematology team shared new data at the American Society of Hematology meeting in Orlando. The first results of Dr. Andrew Branagan's SHIVERING clinical trial were revealed, and we look forward to learning the results of SHIVERING-2, his trial is now open and accruing patients throughout Smilow and our Care Centers. This week, our breast team is at the annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium presenting new data, including an update to Dr. Anees Chagpar's groundbreaking SHAVE clinical trial, showing cost savings when the SHAVE protocol is used.

Thank you to all three of these teams for their preparation on their submissions and presentations. Each time Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital faculty present at a national meeting and share the exciting breakthroughs and outcomes we celebrate, you are helping us educate our colleagues and peers around the country about the amazing work being done here. Please remember the AACR abstract (clinical trials and late-breaking) deadline is January 26 and the ASCO deadline is February 2.

Society of Urologic Oncology Annual Meeting Presentations  
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*from the desk of*

**Peter G. Schulam, MD, PhD**

Director, Yale Cancer Center  
and Physician-in-Chief,  
Smilow Cancer Hospital (Interim)



### Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

### LATEST ARTICLES:



**Elaine Scheinblum provides care, comfort to cancer patients at Saint Francis**

[Read More >>](#)

American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting Presentations  
[Read More >>](#)

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Presentations  
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### Annual Holiday Party

I hope you will join us next Thursday for our annual holiday party at the Peabody Museum. All Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital employees, faculty, and our colleagues are invited to attend. Please bring your families and enjoy the festivities of the season!

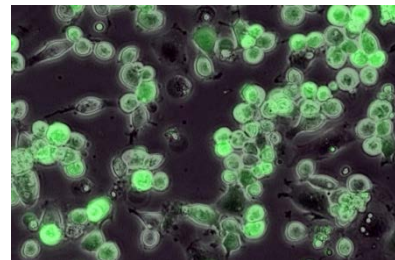
*Yale Cancer Center  
&  
Smilow Cancer Hospital*

**2015  
Holiday Party**  
5:30-8:30 PM  
.....  
**Thursday, December 17**  
at the Peabody Museum  
170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven  
.....  
**Families are welcome**  
\*gingerbread decorating station will be available  
for kids young and old to enjoy



Yale study probes genes for clues to drug resistance in aggressive breast cancer

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Using a deadly virus to kill cancer: Scientists experiment with new treatment

[Read More >>](#)



Removing more breast tissue during surgery reduces costs

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LATEST POSTS:

## Cancer Student Interest Group

We are looking for Yale Cancer Center faculty members from all departments to join us for a "speed dating" event with members of the Cancer Student Interest Group. We will gather faculty and students in Harkness Lounge at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, January 12 to give medical students interested in careers in oncology research or care a chance to meet one-on-one with a faculty member for a few minutes and discuss their work before another student takes his/her place in the conversation. Please come out to meet these medical students who are also looking for 5th year and summer internship experiences. Spots are limited so please confirm your attendance by emailing [Christen Ruff](mailto:Christen.Ruff) by Friday, January 8.

## Notables

Yale Cancer Center has selected three grants to fund in the first year of our **Yale Discovery Fund** grant program. These are three-year grants intended to support high-impact multidisciplinary cancer research with the potential to transform our ability to understand, treat, or prevent cancer. These grants are funded by philanthropic donations and developmental funds from our Cancer Center Support Grant.

Senior leaders of YCC evaluated the applications in an NIH study section-style review, and three grants were selected for funding. Congratulations to:

**Maysa Abu-Khalaf, Nancy Carrasco, Lajos Pusztai, Ming-Kai Chen**

*Na<sup>+</sup>/I<sup>-</sup> symporter (NIS)-mediated radioiodide (131I-) treatment as a novel therapeutic tool for metastatic breast cancer*

**Donald M. Engelman, David Spiegel, Paul Eder**

*Tumor Activated Permeability (TAP) Chemotherapy: A weakly-acidic prodrug technology that reduces side effects by making drugs selectively permeable to acidic tumors*

**Alessandro Santin, Sangini Sheth, Akiko Iwasaki**

*Treatment of High-Grade Pre-Neoplastic Cervical Lesions (CIN 2/3) Using a Novel "Prime and Pull" Strategy*

**Tae Kon Kim, PhD**, a clinical fellow in medical oncology, has received an award from the **Seery Foundation** to study

Nearly all patients with multiple myeloma suffer a relapse. Although this blood cancer - the second most common in the United States - is initially responsive to treatment, residual cancer cells escape and a relapse results. Examining these residual cells, Yale Cancer Center researchers discovered a new pathway that enables these residual cells to survive, making way for new options to block their survival and new hope for patients with multiple myeloma.

These findings were presented over the weekend by Yale at the 57th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology.



Researchers find **key pathway** in fight against multiple myeloma

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A new study from Yale Cancer Center shows that a double dose of the flu shot helps protect cancer patients at high risk of infection from getting sick. The Yale researchers offered patients a high-dose flu vaccine followed by a second high-dose booster shot one month later, and reduced infection from the flu in their high-risk patient population by 66%.

*Overcoming immune evasion in AML with DNA methyltransferase inhibition and PD-1H blockade.* The award will support \$45,000 of research support over two years.

## Research in the News

### **Yale study probes genes for clues to drug resistance in aggressive breast cancer**

By sifting through the 20,000 protein-encoding genes in the human genome, Yale researchers discovered new complexities behind drug resistance and identified patterns of mutations that could predict which therapies will benefit patients with aggressive breast cancer.

Her2-positive breast cancer is an aggressive form that comprises 20% of all cases. Using tissue from the international NeoALTTO study, the Yale team sequenced 203 Her2-positive cancer samples to assess which mutations in which genes predicted response or resistance to Her2-targeted therapies. In the study, patients with early stage breast cancer were treated pre-operatively with either paclitaxel chemotherapy in combination with one of two breast cancer drugs (trastuzumab or lapatinib), or with the drugs alone.

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### **Removing more breast tissue during surgery reduces costs**

A 10-minute procedure to remove a little more tissue during a partial mastectomy could spare thousands of breast cancer patients a second surgery but also cut costs by as much as \$750 per patient, according to a Yale Cancer Center study.

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### **Study links body fat, weight loss, and chromosome length in breast cancer patients**

It is well-documented that a healthy diet and exercise are key in cancer prevention and management, but the exact mechanism hasn't been clear. Now, Yale Cancer Center researchers have found an explanation in the tiny protective ends of chromosomes called telomeres.

The Yale study - among the few to explore a link between weight loss and telomere length in breast cancer survivors - found that telomeres were slower to shorten in breast



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Because black women are more likely to develop advanced-stage breast cancer, they are more likely to receive chemotherapy prior to surgery, in hopes of improving outcomes. A recent Yale Cancer Center study published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, however, revealed that this early treatment is less effective in black women than in other minority groups, which are also more likely to develop advanced-stage breast cancer. The study, led by Dr. Brigid Killelea, used the National Cancer Database to explore racial disparities in 27,300 women with stage I-III cancer.

While the cause of this is not known, researchers suspect biologic differences in chemosensitivity, disparities in treatment, or socioeconomic factors that cannot be adjusted for in the study.



**Study: Black women less likely to benefit from early chemotherapy**

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cancer survivors who lost weight through diet and exercise. In some cases, telomere shortening even reversed, said the study's first author Tara Sanft, M.D., assistant professor of medical oncology.

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### **Yale researchers find new pathway underlying multiple myeloma relapse**

One of the biggest questions about the treatment of multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer, is why nearly all patients treated with current therapies eventually suffer relapse. A Yale Cancer Center study may have solved this mystery by identifying how cancer cells escape treatment, leading to recurrence.

[Read More >>](#)

### **New vaccine strategy better protects high-risk cancer patients from flu**

Yale Cancer Center researchers have developed a vaccine strategy that reduces the risk of flu infections in cancer patients at highest risk for influenza. The Yale researchers developed a strategy that entailed offering patients a high-dose flu vaccine followed by a second high-dose booster shot one month later. The high-dose vaccine (Fluzone High-Dose) was approved in 2009 by the FDA as a single dose for adults over 65.)

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### **Breast MRI may lead to overdiagnosis for older women**

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the breast has become part of routine medical care for many women undergoing breast cancer surgery, but these highly sensitive tests might identify health problems that would not otherwise impact patients - or lead to "overdiagnosis," according to a Yale School of Medicine study.

The researchers found that that nearly half of additional breast cancers detected by the preoperative MRI were overdiagnosed, which means that many of the cancers not detected by MRI would not have become clinically evident over the subsequent five years.

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### **Black women less likely to benefit from early chemotherapy, study shows**

It is well documented that black, Hispanic, and Asian women typically develop advanced-stage breast cancer more often than white women. As a result, black women are

Cancer survivor and Yale Cancer Center patient Phyllis Medvedow spoke yesterday with WNPR about how she remained optimistic during her battle with cancer. Phyllis, who was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2005, said that she believes that her hopeful mindset made all the difference in her fight against cancer.

"I've always been an optimist. And I do attribute a lot of my success to being optimistic and never giving up, never yielding to what might have been unpleasant or admitting that it really was unpleasant," Phyllis commented.




WNPR  
Survivor Story:  
**Phyllis  
Medvedow**  
Remain optimistic  
while facing cancer


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### **Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter**

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#### **LATEST TWEETS:**

 Dr. Lajos Pusztai & team find clues in the exome to aggressive #breastcancer  
<http://bit.ly/1QhpC7w>  
#SABCS15 #bcsm @YaleMed @YNHH @Yale

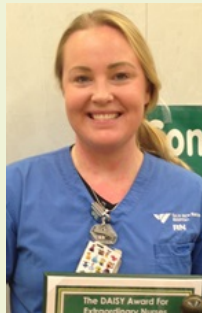
 Most Experts Not Surprised by Carter's Status  
<http://bit.ly/1TYRSug> Dr. Mario Sznol #melanoma

more likely to receive neoadjuvant chemotherapy, or chemotherapy prior to surgery, in hopes of improving outcomes. However, a Yale Cancer Center study published recently in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* found that among minority women treated with early chemotherapy, black women fare worse than the other groups.

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## Employe Profile: Sarah Fiedler

**Sarah Fiedler, RN**, a nurse in the Radiation Oncology Ambulatory Clinic at Smilow Cancer Hospital, has been recognized for going above and beyond to get to know her patients at a personal level. She was recently featured by **The DAISY Foundation**, which honors extraordinary nurses and recognizes outstanding members of the nursing community and the very special work they do every day. Sarah exhibits all of the qualities the Foundation looks for when caring for patients and their families.



Working with patients going through the most difficult time in their lives is never easy, but Sarah approaches it as an opportunity to connect with someone and provide some comfort and support. Going beyond her normal tasks as a nurse in Radiation Oncology, she looks past the cancer diagnosis and sees a person; a mother, a father, a grandmother.

One such patient was beginning treatment to the base of her tongue. As Sarah reviewed what possible side effects she would experience and how she was to handle the coming weeks, Sarah learned that all the woman wanted was to make it to her daughter's college graduation and focus on her accomplishments and not the cancer. As she was crossing off the days leading up to her final treatment, her daughter's college graduation was also rapidly approaching. The patient shared with Sarah that she was afraid she was going to lose her hair before her daughter's graduation. Instead of seeing it as another side effect, Sarah quickly began to brainstorm and came up with a solution.

"We selected a scarf that matched her dress, and this concealed her radiated burned skin around her neck. And, after asking the chemotherapy floor regarding the side

Study links body fat, weight loss, and chromosome length in breast cancer patients  
<http://bit.ly/1IHK1A5>

Using a deadly virus to kill cancer: Scientists experiment with new treatment: <http://wapo.st/1QrD47q>

Removing more breast tissue during surgery reduces costs > Yale Cancer Center | Yale School of Medicine > <http://bit.ly/1YWGh1G>

### Closer to Free

**closer to free**  
The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

### Events

**December 11; 1PM**

#### **YCC Virus and Other Infection-Associated Cancers Research Program**

SHM I-304

*Lipid Metabolism Regulates T Cell Responses to Infection and Cancer*

Guoliang Cui, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**December 13; 6PM**

**Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

effects and examining where exactly the radiation was being focused, we discovered she would not lose her hair from the chemotherapy," said Sarah. "This small planning and discussion eased her mind and made the possibility of having to pursue this avenue a bit more manageable."

This patient could not say enough about how Sarah went above and beyond to help her with her emotional needs. Sue Fitzsimons, RN, PhD, Senior Vice President of Patient Services, commented, "Sarah is an example of excellence in nursing practice combined with a highly compassionate and sensitive approach to patient needs. She deals with a complex patient population in radiation oncology and we have multiple examples of not only her proficiency in practice, but ability to focus on the care of the entire patient. She is most deserving of this honor."

## Funding and Award Opportunities

### Avon Breast Cancer Crusade 2016 Support Services Funding

The Support Services Program provides grants to nonprofit organizations offering support services and education to women and men diagnosed with breast cancer, including counseling and referral programs, financial assistance programs and information services.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** January 8, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### Lymphatic Education & Research Network Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards Program

The Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) is committed to supporting basic and translational research that fosters an interdisciplinary field of investigators conducting lymphatic research. The supported research will improve our understanding and advance the prevention, diagnosis, and novel treatments of lymphedema and other lymphatic disorders. In each grant cycle, at least one fellowship will specifically focus on lymphedema.

**Application Deadline:** January 15, 2016

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*Emotional Side Effects of Cancer*

David Sells, PhD

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**December 14; 11AM**

### YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-304

*Promotion of BRCA2-Dependent Homologous Recombination by Its Partner DSS1*

Weixing Zhao, PhD

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**December 14; 3PM**

### YCC Signal Transduction Program

SHM I-116

*Renalase Signaling in Cancer Development*

Gary Desir, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**December 14; 5PM**

### YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series

Smilow First Floor Conference Room, 1-330

*Oncotype DCIS: Is it Ready for Prime Time?*

Suzanne Evans, MD, MPH

[Read More >>](#)

**December 15; 9:30AM**

### Pathology Research in Progress Special Seminar

TAC N-107

*Genetic Vulnerability Pathways in Cancer*

Romi Gupta PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**December 15; 12PM**

### **Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Grants**

Two funding options are available: a Research Acceleration Network (RAN) grant and a Research Acceleration Network (RAN) - 2 grant. The RAN grant provides a total of \$1 million to pancreatic cancer research projects that include a clinical project designed to improve the prevention, detection/diagnosis/ prognosis, treatment, or supportive care for pancreatic cancer. The RAN-2 grant provides a total of \$2 million to pancreatic cancer research projects that include a Phase II treatment clinical trial or a robust prevention, detection/diagnosis/prognosis, or supportive care trial implemented no later than the beginning of the second year of the grant term.

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** January 15, 2016

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### **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Patient Focused Immunotherapy Research Grant for Blood Cancers**

The Rising Tide Foundation for Clinical Cancer Research (RTFCCR), a private foundation in Switzerland, is focused on funding promising, innovative translational studies and clinical trials that hold the promise of delivering hopeful, encouraging and immediate options for cancer patients to prevent, diagnose, treat or improve quality of life.

In a joint collaboration, the RTFCCR and LLS aim to stimulate innovative and clinically relevant cancer research that has the highest potential for near-term patient impact in terms of clinical application, therapeutic outcomes and quality of life. With this competitive grant, the RTFCCR and LLS aspire to advance clinical cancer research worldwide that aims to "educate" a person's immune system to fight blood cancers.

This award program will provide each awarded application with a maximum of \$600,000 (USD) over a 3-year period. RTFCCR and LLS will equally co-fund the successful application and will require that contracts with each organization be executed prior to initiation of the grant. Applications are accepted globally. We seek to fund innovative clinical projects that apply an understanding of the immune system or to use novel therapeutic approaches to engage the immune system in clinical trials for blood cancers. A direct patient benefit as a result of the conducted study is desired, which would have clinical impact during the course of this 3 year grant or potentially within 3 years after completion of the grant.

**Application Deadline:** January 25, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### **YCC Schwartz Center Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

*A Balanced Life*

Jennifer Kapo, MD

[Read More >>](#)

### **December 16; 12PM**

#### **YCC Cancer Prevention & Control Research Program Seminar**

Yale School of Public Health, Room 216

*Global Cancer Epidemiology*

Yong Zhu, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

### **December 16; 12PM**

#### **YCC Cancer Immunology Research Program**

SHM; I-116

*Understanding Sensitivity and Resistance to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Oncogene-driven Lung Cancers*

Katerina Politi, PhD

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### **December 16; 4:30PM**

#### **Yale Cancer Center New Member Happy Hour**

BCMM 206/208

[Read More >>](#)

### **December 17; 12:30PM**

#### **Pathology Grand Rounds**

Fitkin Amphitheater

*Regulators of Aging and Malignant Muscle Stem Cells*

Amy Wagers, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

### **December 17; 5:30**

#### **Yale Cancer Center / Smilow Cancer Hospital Holiday Party**

Peabody Museum



### **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship Program Award**

The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science program recognizes and rewards the contributions women make in STEM fields and identifies exceptional women researchers committed to serving as role models for younger generations. More than 2,250 women scientists in over 110 countries have been recognized since the program began in 1998.

In the US, the For Women In Science fellowship program awards five post-doctoral women scientists annually with grants of \$60,000 each. Applicants are selected from a variety of fields, including the life and physical/material sciences, technology (including computer science), engineering, and mathematics.

I invite you to collaborate with us and spread the word to your community about this special fellowship program for exceptional female post-doctoral researchers who are also committed to serving as role models for the next generation of girls in STEM.

**Application Deadline:** February 5, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

## **Recent Publications**

### **Randomized Trial Comparing Telephone Versus In-Person Weight Loss Counseling on Body Composition and Circulating Biomarkers in Women Treated for Breast Cancer: The Lifestyle, Exercise, and Nutrition (LEAN) Study.**

Harrigan M, Cartmel B, Lofthfield E, Sanft T, Chagpar AB, Zhou Y, Playdon M, Li F, Irwin ML.  
J Clin Oncol. 2015 Nov 23.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Preoperative Breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Contralateral Breast Cancer Occurrence Among Older Women With Breast Cancer.**

Wang SY, Long JB, Killelea BK, Evans SB, Roberts KB, Silber A, Gross CP.  
J Clin Oncol. 2015 Nov 30.

[Read More >>](#)

[Read More >>](#)

**December 17; 6:30PM**

### **The Lymphoma Research Foundation Event**

Hilton Garden Inn Milford

*Ask the Doctor About Lymphoma*

Gottfried von Keudell, PhD,  
Scott Huntington, MD and  
Francine Foss, MD

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**December 18; 1PM**

### **YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program**

SHM I-116

*Integration of New Small Molecules  
in Myeloid Malignancies*

Thomas Prebet, MD, PhD

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**December 20; 6PM**

### **Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

*Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines*

Lynn Tanoue, MD

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## **Submissions**

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**

Director, Public Affairs and  
Marketing

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

 Forward to a Friend

**Expression of CD30 as a Biomarker to Predict Response to Brentuximab Vedotin.**

Xu ML, Acevedo-Gadea C, Seropian S, Katz SG. Histopathology. 2015 Dec 9.

[Read More >>](#)

**A Phase 1, First in Human Study of FP-1039 (GSK3052230), a Novel FGF Ligand Trap, in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors.**

Tolcher AW, Papadopoulos KP, Patnaik A, Wilson K, Thayer S, Zanghi J, Gemo AT, Kavanaugh WM, Keer HN, LoRusso PM. Ann Oncol. 2015 Dec 8.

[Read More >>](#)

**Augmentor  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  (FAM150) are ligands of the receptor tyrosine kinases ALK and LTK: Hierarchy and specificity of ligand-receptor interactions.**

Reshetnyak AV, Murray PB, Shi X, Mo ES, Mohanty J, Tome F, Bai H, Gunel M, Lax I, Schlessinger J. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2015 Nov 16.

[Read More >>](#)

**An update on the current pharmacotherapy for endometrial cancer.**

de Haydu C, Black JD, Schwab CL, English DP, Santin AD. Expert Opin Pharmacother. 2015 Dec 2.

[Read More >>](#)

**Top 25 cited articles on Gamma Knife surgery published since 2005 in journals of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.**

Chiang VL, Knisely JP. J Neurosurg. 2015 Dec;123 Spec Suppl:1-2.

[Read More >>](#)

**Integrated genomic characterization of IDH1-mutant glioma malignant progression.**

Bai H, Harmancı AS, Erson-Omay EZ, Li J, Coskun S, Simon M, Kriscsek B, Özduman K, Omay SB, Sorensen EA, Turcan Ş, Bakırcıoğlu M, Carrión-Grant G, Murray PB, Clark VE, Ercan-Sencicek AG, Knight J, Sencar L, Altınok S, Kaulen LD, Gülez B, Timmer M, Schramm J, Mishra-Gorur K, Henegariu O, Moliterno J, Louvi A, Chan TA,

Tannheimer SL, Pamir MN, Vortmeyer AO, Bilguvar K, Yasuno K, Günel M.  
Nat Genet. 2015 Nov 30.

[Read More >>](#)

**Contemporary Breast Radiotherapy and Cardiac Toxicity.**

Yeboa DN, Evans SB.  
Semin Radiat Oncol. 2016 Jan;26(1):71-8.

[Read More >>](#)

**TAS-102: a novel antimetabolite for the 21st century.**

Uboha N, Hochster HS.  
Future Oncol. 2015 Nov 30.

[Read More >>](#)

**Tailoring the Treatment of Melanoma: Implications for Personalized Medicine.**

Duan L, Mukherjee EM, Narayan D.  
Yale J Biol Med. 2015 Nov 24;88(4):389-95.

[Read More >>](#)

**Melanoma: Clinical Presentations.**

Kibbi N, Kluger H, Choi JN.  
Cancer Treat Res. 2016;167:107-29.

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