

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

April 1, 2016

Announcements

YCC Welcomes Advisory Board

Yale Cancer Center welcomed our external advisory board to campus earlier this week. Chaired by retired United Technologies Corporation Chairman and CEO, Louis Chênevert, the Board is comprised of members of the business and philanthropic community who support Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. The meeting included a report on our fundraising initiatives and priorities from Julie Parr, Director of Development, and an update on activities and progress from our Center and Hospital over the last six months. In addition, Drs. Marcus Bosenberg, Jennifer Kapo, Andrea Silber, and Ranjit Bindra gave faculty presentations. The meeting concluded with an inspiring testimonial from one of our patients on the care he is receiving from his team at Smilow.

NCCN Update

It's been two years since Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital joined the prestigious National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and many of our faculty members are actively working within the NCCN organization. NCCN has 41 guidelines panels, focused on treatment, detection and prevention, and supportive care, and each of the 41 panels has representation from Yale. In addition, we have 61 committee members from Yale serving on a variety of planning committees within NCCN from Yale. Beginning in our next issue of DirectConnect, we will feature an NCCN update in each publication to provide you with updated information from our representatives on the guideline panels and committees.

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:



Immunotherapy Trial for Triple Negative Breast Cancer

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Notables

Katerina Politi, PhD, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Signal Transduction Research Program, has been awarded the 2017 **American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) Cotran Early Career Investigator Award**. The award recognizes early career investigators with demonstrated excellence as an investigator with recently established or emerging independence and with a research focus leading to an improved understanding of the conceptual basis of disease. Dr. Politi will receive the award at the ASIP annual meeting later this month.

Don Nguyen, PhD, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Signal Transduction Research Program, has received a **Department of Defense IDEA Award**, which supports "conceptually innovative high-risk/high-reward research" (2 years, \$350,000). His lab's proposal, "*The Extracellular Matrix as a Companion Therapeutic Target in Metastatic Lung Cancer*," will study how novel therapies can be used to modify the microenvironment of metastasis from lung cancer.

Sally Adua, a second year graduate student in the lab of **Don Nguyen**, has been selected as the 2016/17 recipient of the **George Robert Pfeiffer Fellowship**. The George R. Pfeiffer Endowment Fund was established in 2005 by the Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Research Foundation to support a meritorious BBS student who is conducting research of translational or clinical relevance. Sally is identifying the molecular and physiological mechanisms, which link drug resistance to brain metastasis in EGFR mutant lung cancers.

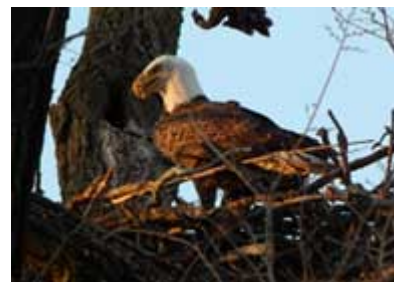
Aarti Bhatia, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology in the Head and Neck Cancers Program, has been approved for grant funding by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) for her proposal "*Single-Arm Phase II Trial of Dual Inhibition of EGFR with Afatinib and Cetuximab with Correlative Studies in the Second Line Treatment of Recurrent or Metastatic Squamous Cell Cancers of the Head and Neck*." The clinical trial will begin at Smilow later this year.

Employee Profile: Kim Lapia



March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

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Nearby Bald Eagles Remind us that Recovery is Possible

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Study finds racial differences in smoking patterns, screening

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Kim Lapia, RN, began working in The Breast Center 12 years ago in the Mammography Department caring for patients undergoing breast procedures, such as biopsies. She has been a nurse at YNHH for almost 37 years, starting on a surgical floor and then in dermatology caring for melanoma and pediatric patients. In her current role, she works directly with the radiology staff in The Breast Center, along with nurses, social workers, surgeons, and oncologists throughout the breast team. She coordinates biopsies and provides emotional and physical support to patients as well as education.



"I have the unique opportunity to meet with women at the very beginning of their journey," said Kim. "It is frightening when they are told they need a biopsy, and waiting is the hardest part; waiting for the procedure, waiting for results and follow-up appointments. I try as best I can to help them through this process. I am amazed and impressed on a daily basis by the strength and spirit they hold. Sometimes a hug or smile can make a huge difference. Helping them through this very stressful point in their lives is immensely rewarding."

Kim commented that she is blessed to be a part of such an incredible team of individuals that work together to make patients feel comfortable and cared for, and who are sensitive, hard working, dedicated, and extremely intelligent. Kim's manager, Maureen Major-Campos, RN, MS, Program Manager, Women's Oncology Services commented, "Kim embodies patient-centered care. Her calm presence is not only beneficial to the patients but provides reassurance and education. The information sharing before and during the visit is invaluable allowing the patient a sense of peace. Kim is a valuable team member and a go-to employee for questions or concerns regarding patient care and process. I am fortunate to collaborate with Kim, she makes leading a team not only pleasurable but she inspires all of us to bring the best we have to our patients."

Jackie Crenshaw, Manager, Breast Imaging, also commented, "Our Press Ganey survey comments have

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LATEST POSTS:

March 30th, was National Doctors' Day! First celebrated in 1933, Doctors' Day honors physicians for their service to our country by caring for all of its citizens. To celebrate your doctors, share a comment to tell our physicians how much you appreciate them!



[Read More >>](#)

The first day of spring and last night's snow is quickly melting from view from Smilow Cancer Hospital. Soon the flowers will be in full bloom in our healing garden!



[Read More >>](#)

mentioned Kim numerous times, citing her holding a patient's hand or rubbing their back through a procedure. Kim also performs follow-up phone calls to our biopsy patients and that reassures them that we are centered on the patient."

Funding & Award Opportunities

All current funding opportunities are archived on the Yale Cancer Center website, and searchable by topic, funding agency, and due date. Please check the site often for new opportunities. [Learn More >>](#)

2016 AACR Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research

The 2016 Award is funded by Susan G. Komen. The recipient of this award will receive a \$10,000 honorarium and present a 25-minute lecture at the annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, San Antonio, TX.

Application Deadline: April 13, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Grants

Breakthrough Award

Investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent). Senior postdoctoral fellows who do not meet the eligibility requirements of the Breakthrough Fellowship Award are encouraged to apply under Funding Levels 1 and 2. Supports promising research that has the potential to lead to or make breakthroughs in breast cancer. Potential impact of the research may be near-term or long-term, but it must be significant and go beyond an incremental advancement.

Breakthrough Fellowship Award (*NEW!*)

Successfully completed the requirements for a doctoral or medical degree, and been in the laboratory or clinical research setting in which the proposed research is to be performed for no more than 2 years, and A total of less than 4 years experience in a postdoctoral fellowship or mentored clinical research training program (excludes any clinical residency or fellowship training).

Era of Hope Scholar Award

Independent, non-mentored investigators within 6 years of their last training position (e.g., postdoctoral fellowship, medical residency, clinical fellowship)

Since more than 90% of cancer deaths occur because of cancer that spreads, or metastasis, Dr. Levchenko explains, "The main problem isn't the growth of the primary tumor, it's the ability of cancer cells to change their behavior to invasive migration and travel to secondary sites." Studying the movement of breast cancer cells, Dr. Levchenko discovered how cancer cells enter the bloodstream and band together to target other areas of the body.



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Winsome Smith has been a nurse for 40 years. As a member of Yale-New Haven Hospital's Apheresis/Transfusion Service since the 1980's, Winsome helps to provide 24/7 support to the hospital for acutely ill patients.

"Winsome is the epitome of excellent nursing care. Kind and caring, she is able to forge connections with even the most anxious patients in a very short amount of time."



[Read More >>](#)

as of the application submission deadline. Supports exceptionally talented, creative early-career scientists who have demonstrated that they are the "best and brightest" in their fields.

Innovator Award

Associate Professor or above (or equivalent). Supports visionary individuals who have demonstrated creativity, innovative work, and leadership in any field. Provides opportunity to pursue novel, visionary, high-risk ideas that will accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer. Please must include breast cancer advocates on their research team.

Letter of Intent Deadline: April 21, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

YCCI Scholar Awards

YCCI Scholar Awards, which provide salary and/or research funds to a select number of junior faculty members who are strongly committed to careers in clinical research, community-based research or translational research. Individuals must be nominated by a department chair, division head/section chief, or center/program director. The primary aim of these awards is to prepare the applicant for successful independent research careers, and emphasis will be placed on career development and mentoring plans. Awards will be for a total of 2 years. Funds can be requested to cover up to 75% of an individual's salary (with a maximum of \$100,000 including fringe benefits per year) and up to \$20,000 of research support per year for a clinical community, or translational research project. Applicants who already have either a career development award or a substantial Departmental start-up package are not eligible for salary support, but may submit an application for up to \$20,000 in research support per year. The Specific Aims of this additional research support must be distinct from the Specific Aims of the career development award.

Letter of Intent Deadline: April 25, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Developmental Research Program Award

Provide support of up to \$50,000 for innovative pilot projects focused on a broad spectrum of research, and/or technology development applicable to human lung cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment.

Letter of Intent Deadline: April 29, 2016

Undergraduate and graduate students will join together on Friday, April 15 for Yale University's annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life event. Held in Payne Whitney Gym, this event supports cancer survivors, and raises awareness and support for the ACS. Through grants and other initiatives, the ACS supports many research efforts at Yale Cancer Center. Please consider sharing your support of both Yale students and the American Cancer Society by supporting the Relay for Life.




Yale's Relay for Life
supports **important research**


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LATEST TWEETS:

 "Where in the world is @YaleCancer?" Dr. David Caruso traveled to #Moscow this week.

 Exploring new options for treating early-stage TNBC: Immunotherapy Trial for Triple Negative Breast Cancer

 Dr. Lajos Pusztai on investigating #immunotherapy for early-stage, triple negative #breastcancer patients #bcm

 Dr. Francis Collins reminds that the pursuit of fundamental knowledge is the gateway to discovery:

[Learn More >>](#)

Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Career Development Program Award

The goal of the Career Development Program (CDP) of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer (YSILC) is to educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in lung cancer. The CDP will provide support of up to \$50,000 to promising junior investigators and/or establish investigators who have not previously conducted lung cancer focused research. Proposed pilot projects should be innovative and be focused on a broad spectrum of research, and/or technology development applicable to human lung cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment.

Letter of Intent Deadline: April 29, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Prostate Cancer Foundation Challenge Awards

Challenge awards are awarded to investigations of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer. These awards will be funded depending on the level of innovation in applications received. High risk, currently unfunded projects are most desired.

Application Deadline: April 29, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Prostate Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award


PCF Young Investigator Awards will be three (3) years in duration and will provide \$75,000 per year. The award funds may be used flexibly to advance the career and research efforts of the awardee. Every PCF Young Investigator is required to be under the direct supervision of a mentor. Applicants should be within six-years following completion of a professional degree or clinical training such as MD, PhD, MD-PhD, DSc, ScD, DDM, DDS, DMD, MBBS or equivalent and hold the title of Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructor, Research Associate, Assistant Professor, or equivalent.

Application Deadline: April 29, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Taub Foundation Grants

The Taub Foundation Grants Program for Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) Research was created to support high-impact, innovative translational research to understand the underlying causes of MDS

 Quitting smoking is not easy for most people, but there are so many resources to help.

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

April 1; 8AM

2016 YCC Developmental Therapeutics Half-Day Retreat

300 George Street Auditorium

Undruggable Targets

[Read More >>](#)

April 1; 12PM

YCC Research in Progress Seminar

TBA

Lucia Jilaveanu, MD, PhD

NP4-101 B

[Read More >>](#)

April 3; 6PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Head and Neck Cancer Screening

Clarence Sasaki, MD and

Adam Pearl, MD

[Read More >>](#)

April 4; 11AM

YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program Seminar

SHM I-304

Highly Specific Protein Interactions

Involving Exceptionally Simple

Transmembrane Domains

Li He, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

April 4; 12PM

and to advance its treatment and prevention. The Program specifically focuses on MDS research, exclusive of AML and MPN. The Program supports translational research that includes bidirectional efforts, building upon research in the laboratory and therapeutic outcomes in the clinic. Studies focusing on molecular genetics, epigenetics, splicing factors, stem cells, the microenvironment and novel therapeutic targets relevant to MDS are encouraged. The Taub Program supports independent investigators at all stages of their careers. Awards are not restricted to investigators currently working in MDS. Applications from investigators in other fields and collaborative efforts are encouraged. Proposals focused on the progression of MDS to AML are not within the scope of this funding.

Application Deadline: May 13, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

2016 AACR Distinguished Lecture on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities

Funded by Susan G. Komen®, the recipient of this award will receive a \$5,000 honorarium and present a 45 minute lecture at the Ninth AACR International Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved.

Application Deadline: May 18, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Damon Runyon Innovation Award

The Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award is designed to provide support for the next generation of exceptionally creative thinkers with "high-risk/high-reward" ideas that have the potential to significantly impact our understanding of and/or approaches to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of cancer.

The Innovation Award is specifically designed to provide funding to extraordinary early career researchers who have an innovative new idea but lack sufficient preliminary data to obtain traditional funding. It is not designed to fund incremental advances. The research supported by the award must be novel, exceptionally creative and, if successful, have the strong potential for high impact in the cancer field.

Application Deadline: July 1, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

YCC Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar Series

BCMM 206/208

The Long Noncoding RNA TERRA Promotes Telomere Recombination in Telomerase-negative Cells

Yan Hu, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

April 5; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Anna Arnal Estape, PhD and
Vasiliki Pelekanou, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

April 5; 12PM

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

The Annual State of the School

Robert J. Alpern, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

April 6; 4:30PM

YCC/SCH Free Head and Neck Cancer Screening

Bridgeport Hospital, MedEase

[Read More >>](#)

April 7; 9AM

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

NP4 101-A

Adrenocortical Carcinoma: From the OR to the Laboratory and Back

Tobias Carling, MD, PhD, FACS

[Read More >>](#)

April 7; 2PM

YCC/SCH Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Meeting

CGPP, Suites 107-109

The Breast-Thyroid Cancer Link: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Colleen Dougherty, MS, CGC

Recent Publications

The Wnt Antagonist Dickkopf-1 Promotes Pathological Type 2 Cell-Mediated Inflammation.

Chae WJ, Ehrlich AK, Chan PY, Teixeira AM, Henegariu O, Hao L, Shin JH, Park JH, Tang WH, Kim ST, Maher SE, Goldsmith-Pestana K, Shan P, Hwa J, Lee PJ, Krause DS, Rothlin CV, McMahon-Pratt D, Bothwell AL.

Immunity. 2016 Feb 16;44(2):246-58.

[Read More >>](#)

Prevalence and predictors of anxiety and depression after completion of chemotherapy for childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia: A prospective longitudinal study.

Kunin-Batson AS, Lu X, Balsamo L, Graber K, Devidas M, Hunger SP, Carroll WL, Winick NJ, Mattano LA Jr, Maloney KW, Kadan-Lottick NS.

Cancer. 2016 Mar 29.

[Read More >>](#)

A Molecular Chipper technology for CRISPR sgRNA library generation and functional mapping of noncoding regions.

Cheng J, Roden CA, Pan W, Zhu S, Baccei A, Pan X, Jiang T, Kluger Y, Weissman SM, Guo S, Flavell RA, Ding Y, Lu J.

Nat Commun. 2016 Mar 30;7:11178.

[Read More >>](#)

Mitochondrial Redox Signaling and Tumor Progression.

Chen Y, Zhang H, Zhou HJ, Ji W, Min W.

Cancers (Basel). 2016 Mar 25;8(4).

[Read More >>](#)

Final analysis of a phase II study of modified FOLFIRINOX in locally advanced and metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Stein SM, James ES, Deng Y, Cong X, Kortmansky JS, Li J, Staugaard C, Indukala D, Boustani AM, Patel V, Cha CH, Salem RR, Chang B, Hochster HS, Lacy J.

Br J Cancer. 2016 Mar;114(7):809-12.

[Read More >>](#)

April 10; 11AM

The Jim McNiff Fund for Kidney Cancer Research at YCC

H Salon

Fourth Annual Cut-a-thon Fundraiser

[Read More >>](#)

April 10; 6PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR 90.5

Survivor Perspective: House of Heroes CT

Bill May

[Read More >>](#)

April 11; 11AM

YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-304

Triplex Structure Induce DNA Double-Strand Breaks Via Replication Fork Collapse in NER Deficient Cells

Meetu Kaushik, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

April 11; 3PM

YCC Special Seminar

Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094

Mechanisms of Resistance to Endocrine Therapy: Insights from Translational Studies in Breast Cancer

Carlos L. Arteaga, MD

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April 12; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress

TAC N-107

TBA

Susan Scanlon and Yuting Liu

[Read More >>](#)

April 12; 12PM

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Targeting the Nucleolus for Cancer Therapy

[Read More >>](#)

Treatment trends and survival effects of chemotherapy for hypopharyngeal cancer: Analysis of the National Cancer Data Base.

Kuo P, Sosa JA, Burtness BA, Husain ZA, Mehra S, Roman SA, Yarbrough WG, Judson BL.

Cancer. 2016 Mar 28.

[Read More >>](#)

Dnmt3a haploinsufficiency transforms Flt3-ITD myeloproliferative disease into a rapid, spontaneous, and fully-penetrant acute myeloid leukemia.

Meyer SE, Qin T, Muench DE, Masuda K, Venkatasubramanian M, Orr E, Suarez L, Gore SD, Delwel R, Paietta E, Tallman MS, Fernandez H, Melnick A, Le Beau MM, Kogan S, Salomonis N, Figueroa ME, Grimes HL.

Cancer Discov. 2016 Mar 25.

[Read More >>](#)

Variation in Practice of the Diagnostic Workup of Asymptomatic Patients Diagnosed with Invasive Breast Cancer.

Chagpar AB, Babiera GV, Aguirre J, Hunt KK, Hughes T.

Front Oncol. 2016 Mar 11;6:56.

[Read More >>](#)

Systemic Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Brain Metastases.

Cohen JV, Kluger HM.

Front Oncol. 2016 Mar 9;6:49.

[Read More >>](#)

Adjuvant Chemotherapy for T3 Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with Additional Tumor Nodules in the Same Lobe.

Salazar MC, Rosen JE, Arnold BN, Thomas DC, Kim AW, Detterbeck FC, Blasberg JD, Boffa DJ.

J Thorac Oncol. 2016 Mar 21.

[Read More >>](#)

Jeffrey Townsend, PhD

Susan Baserga, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

April 12; 4:30PM

YCC/SCH: Free Head and Neck Cancer Screening

Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Waterbury

[Read More >>](#)

April 12; 5PM

YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series

Smilow first floor conference room, 1-330

TBA

[Read More >>](#)

April 12; 5PM

YNHH Transforming Healthcare Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheater, LMP 1094

The Michigan Model Misunderstood: It's NOT 'Apologies Save Money

Richard C. Boothman, JD

[Read More >>](#)

April 14; 9AM

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow NP4 101-A

Pediatric Medulloblastoma and Ependymoma: Outcomes & LET/RBE Correlations

Shannon MacDonald, MD

[Read More >>](#)

April 14; 12PM

YCC Schwartz Center Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

[Read More >>](#)

April 14; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094

The Melanoma 'Epidemic': How and Why it is Not

Earl Glussac, MD

DNA-damaging autoantibodies and cancer: the lupus butterfly theory.

Noble PW, Bernatsky S, Clarke AE, Isenberg DA, Ramsey-Goldman R, Hansen JE.

Nat Rev Rheumatol. 2016 Mar 24.

[Read More >>](#)

Concordance Between Timeline Follow-Back and Single Question Assessment of Self-Reported Smoking in a Clinical Trial.

Bernstein SL, Rosner J, Toll B.

Subst Abus. 2016 Mar 23:0.

[Read More >>](#)

Interaction between Simian Virus 40 Major Capsid Protein VP1 and Cell Surface Ganglioside GM1 Triggers Vacuole Formation.

Luo Y, Motamedi N, Magaldi TG, Gee GV, Atwood WJ, DiMaio D.

MBio. 2016 Mar 22;7(2).

[Read More >>](#)

[Read More >>](#)

April 14; 2PM

YCC/SCH Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Meeting

CGPP, Suites 107-109

TBA

[Read More >>](#)

April 15; 12PM

YCC Research in Progress Series

NP4-101 B

TBA

Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

April 15; 2PM

YCC/SCH Free Head and Neck Cancer Screening

YNHH, East Pavilion Cafeteria

[Read More >>](#)

April 15; 3PM

YCC / American Cancer Society Fundraiser

Payne Whitney Gymnasium

11th Annual Relay for Life Walk-a-Thon

[Read More >>](#)

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

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