

February 21, 2014

Announcements

YCC Granted a Lead Academic Site Grant (u10) for NCTN

The NCTN (National Clinical Trials Network) begins operation on March 1, 2014. All NCI funding of cooperative group clinical trials will now be through this mechanism as a new grant process. I am excited to announce that Yale Cancer Center is funded as one of 30 Lead Academic Participating Sites (LAPS), after a highly competitive grant application selection process.

Dr. Howard Hochster is the Principal Investigator for the Yale LAPS grant, with Dr. Peter Glazer and Dr. Thomas Rutherford as the co-PIs. This grant will fund 90 therapeutic accruals per year to all adult cooperative group studies, including hematology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, and gynecologic oncology trials. All phase II and phase III trials for cooperative groups will be approved and supervised through the NCI CIRB and all accrual registrations will go through CTSU (OPEN) system.

President's Cancer Panel Report Highlights HPV Vaccination Priorities

The most recent issue of the President's Cancer Panel Report spotlights the need for increased administration of HPV vaccinations through education and improved access. This is in direct alignment with one of the major goals of Yale Cancer Center. Linda Niccolai of the YCC Cancer Prevention and Control Program, whose research focuses on this topic, and Daniel DiMaio and Wendell Yarbrough of the Molecular Virology Program, who study HPV and the cancers they cause, are leading this effort at Yale.

The report outlines three critical goals that must be achieved to increase HPV vaccine uptake - with the ultimate goal being completion of the full three-dose series by all age-eligible adolescents:

1. Reducing missed clinical opportunities to

from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center.

[News Center >>](#)

LATEST ARTICLES:



First person: Celebrating being 'Closer to Free' February 18, 2014



What works, What doesn't: Colorectal Cancer February 12, 2014



New Guideline on Lumpectomy Margins Should Reduce Re-excision February 11, 2014



CVS Is Kicking The Tobacco Habit February 5, 2014



Indoor tanning exposure linked to more cases of cancer than smoking January 31, 2014

- recommend/administer HPV vaccines;
2. Increasing parents'/adolescents' acceptance of HPV vaccines; and
3. Maximizing access to HPV vaccination services.

Read the complete report [here](#).

Read a [recent article](#) on Linda Niccolai's research on HPV vaccination rates and her efforts for compliance.

Guideline on Lumpectomy Margins Should Reduce Re-excision

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) recently announced the publication of the consensus guideline on margins for breast-conserving surgery with whole-breast irradiation in stages I and II invasive breast cancer. The guideline document represents an intensive collaboration among experts in the radiation oncology and surgical oncology fields, led by Yale Cancer Center's Meena S. Moran, MD, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology at Yale School of Medicine, on behalf of ASTRO, and Monica Morrow, MD, SSO immediate past president and Chief of Breast Surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, co-chairs of the Margin Consensus Panel. In addition to determining the ideal margin width that minimizes the risk of ipsilateral breast tumor recurrence, the guideline outlines an evidence-based surgical treatment path that could reduce unnecessary surgery for patients.

"Our hope is that this guideline will ultimately lead to significant reductions in the high re-excision rate for women with early-stage breast cancer undergoing breast-conserving surgery. Based on the consensus panel's extensive review of the literature, the vast majority of re-excisions are unnecessary because disease control in the breast is excellent for women with early-stage disease when radiation and hormonal therapy and/or chemotherapy are added to a women's treatment plan," said Dr. Moran.

[Read More >>](#)

Upcoming CME Symposiums Offered

Please join us for the second **Dinner CME Symposium** of the 2014 Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital series on Thursday, March 6, 2014 highlighting updates on **Breast Cancer** treatment and care, including the latest information presented at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium in December.


[Learn More >>](#)


On Friday, April 11th, the Yale Palliative Medicine Service will present "**Getting to the Goals: Patient and Family Centered Communication**" with Dr. Timothy E. Quill. Dr. Quill


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LATEST TWEETS:


 New study from @YaleCancer shows fewer complications w/ video-assisted surgical resection of stage I lung cancer. #lscsm

 @politikaterina. Goldberg: limited but encouraging data for afatinib in Her2 mutant lung cancer. @kNOwlungcancer @YaleCancer

 @politikaterina. Up now Scott Gettinger discussing AP26113 for ALK-rearranged lung cancer. @kNOwlungcancer @YaleCancer

 @YaleTomLynch will present on "The Return of Gefitinib" at the 14th annual Targeted Therapies of Lung Cancer Meeting this morning. #lscsm

 In cancer research it's easy to become overwhelmed, working w students helps keep perspective w fresh ideas & young enthusiasm. @ranjitbindra

 Members of the @YaleCancer Lung Cancer team are headed to the 14th annual Targeted Therapies for Lung Cancer meeting in CA, co-chaired by @DrRoyHerbstYale. #lscsm

 @YaleCancer welcomes Dr. Matthew Meyerson @harvardmed to Grand Rounds today to discuss Cancer Genomes and Targeted Therapies.

Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook

has published and lectured widely about various aspects of the doctor-patient relationship, with special focus on end-of-life decision making, including delivering bad news, nonabandonment, discussing palliative care earlier, and exploring last-resort options.

[Learn More >>](#)

Save the date for our annual **ASCO Review** on Friday, June 27th at the New Haven Country Club. The ASCO Review will include a full day of highlights from the annual ASCO meeting earlier in the month in Chicago.

[Learn More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center Scientific Retreat

Save the Date for **YCC's Annual Scientific Retreat**. Our Annual Scientific Retreat will occur on Wednesday, May 21st, at West Campus Conference Center. Yale Cancer Center Members are invited to attend this year's full day event, which features a highly interactive agenda and exciting new science.

Research in the News

A Tiny RNA With a Big Role in Melanoma

A Yale-led study has identified a key mechanism in the regulation of gene expression that promotes the proliferation of melanoma cells. The finding opens a possible avenue for development of treatments that target this mechanism. The study appears online Feb. 18 in the journal *eLife*.

The Yale team identified a microRNA called miR-146a that accelerates in activity in the presence of these oncogenes by activating a cancer promoting signaling pathway called Notch.

The authors suggest that Notch and another signaling pathway called MAP kinase, which is activated by these same oncogenes, represent a valuable drug development target. "Our study has identified a new genetic vulnerability in melanoma, and it is likely that simultaneous inhibition of MAP Kinase pathway and NOTCH signaling pathway will emerge as a better therapeutic option to treat melanoma patients," said senior author Narendra Wajapeyee, assistant professor of pathology at Yale School of Medicine and a member of Yale Cancer Center.

[Read More >>](#)

Development Update

We are pleased to announce that Shelly and Michael Kassen of Westport, CT have established a Young Investigator Award

Like us on Facebook 

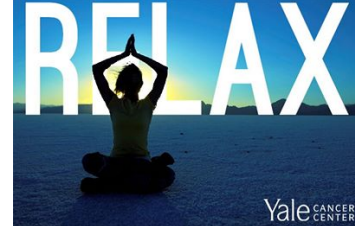
LATEST POSTS:

A recent study shows that women who maintain a healthy weight, eat a healthy diet and participate in physical activity have a lowered risk of certain cancers.



[Learn More >>](#)

According to the National Institutes of Health, stress may affect a person's overall health and ability to cope with cancer. By managing stress, we can all lead a healthier and happier life.



[Learn More >>](#)

In recent decades there has been little advancement in the treatment of gliomas. Unfortunately most radiosensitizers - drugs that are supposed to make tumor cells more sensitive to radiation - work poorly on these malignant brain tumors as these tumors seem to repair their DNA quickly.

In an effort to help patients with gliomas, Yale Cancer Center's Ranjit S. Bindra MD, PhD is working to find a radiosensitizer that could disable a glioma's DNA repair system.

in Hematology. Their support will provide vital assistance to junior faculty in the early stages of their careers. The award will be given annually in honor of Dr. Dennis Cooper, and is a meaningful tribute to his contribution to the cancer field.

Closer to Free



Tomorrow, Saturday, February 22nd will mark the sixth annual Yale Women's Basketball Pink Zone fundraiser to support **Closer to Free**. The Bulldogs tip off at 7PM against Columbia in the John J. Lee Amphitheater at Payne Whitney Gym. Wear pink and be admitted free of charge. Proceeds from a silent auction and the sale of special Pink Zone t-shirts all go to benefit breast cancer research. Come cheer on the home team and support **Closer to Free**.

Every gift, large or small, has a positive impact on the patients and their families, researchers and care providers - all of us who make up the **Closer to Free** community. Information about making a donation or organizing an event is available on the **Give Closer to Free website** or by contacting [Susan Frankenbach](#). Don't forget to "like" us on [Facebook](#)!

Funding and Award Opportunities

CT Breast Health Initiative

Our mission is to make a difference locally in the fight against breast cancer through support, education and research. To accomplish this mission, CT BHI plans on funding a diversified portfolio of clinical/ translational research with emphasis on programs that have not yet qualified for federal grants targeting breast cancer cause and survival.

Through the support of our signature fundraiser, the CT RACE IN THE PARK, other events, individual donations and corporate support, the CT BHI will contribute monies this year to programs that aim to fulfill our mission. This funding is limited and awarded through a competitive process. All grant applications are subjected to rigorous review by a GRANTS PANEL of medical professionals, breast cancer survivors, public health and interested business professionals that is responsible for making recommendations to the CT BHI Board

In screening hundreds of compounds, Dr. Bindra came across mibefradil, a previously FDA approved drug that has proven to prevent DNA repair in tumor cells. Thanks to the collaborative nature of Yale Cancer Center, Dr. Bindra is excited to soon begin Phase I clinical trials of mibefradil, which could lead to the first breakthrough in decades for the treatment of gliomas.



[Learn More >>](#)

Events

February 21; 12:00 PM

YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP4-101A

Determinants of locoregional melanoma prognosis... and other stories

Bonnie Gould Rothberg, MD, PhD, MPH

[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

February 21; 1:00 PM

Developmental Therapeutics Research Program Meeting

SHM I-116

Clock-cancer connection: from epidemiology to pharmacology

Yong Zhu, PhD

[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

February 22; 7:00 PM

Yale Women's Basketball Event

Payne Whitney Gym

Pink Zone: To Support Cancer Awareness

[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

February 23; 6:00 PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR

The Value of Cancer Care

of Directors.

The funding period is for 12 months to be awarded in May.

Application Deadline: February 28, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

We are pleased to announce that grant guidelines and applications are now open for submission in the following categories:

Bridge Grants Cycle

This grant is designed to sustain research projects falling between the end of funding by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) R or P Award and the beginning of a competitively renewed NIH Award. Renewal applications which scored less than or equal to the 35th percentile but were not funded will be eligible for Bridge Grants. Applicants must have a plan to resubmit for NIH funding. This is a one year award of \$100,000 in total costs.

Application Deadline: April 10, 2014

Springboard Grants Cycle

This grant supports new National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 or P01 research applications which were scored less than or equal to the 25th percentile but were not funded. Applicants must have a plan to resubmit for NIH funding. This is a one year award of \$100,000 in total costs.

Application Deadline: April 10, 2014

'A' Awards

NEW in 2014, the award amount has increased to \$150,000 per year for three years! Designed for early career scientists with an original project who can demonstrate outstanding mentorship and have a strong future commitment to pediatric cancer investigation. This award totals \$450,000 over three years and is open to MD, MD/PhD and PhD candidates.

Application Deadline: May 23, 2014

Reach Awards

Our Reach Awards are designed to move hypothesis-driven research toward the clinic. The goal of this award is to support selected "late translational" studies needed to ultimately initiate a clinical trial. A successful application will identify an unmet clinical need relevant to the care of pediatric cancer patients and describe how the proposed project will allow for the pre-clinical research to be translated to the clinic while keeping broader clinical testing and implementation in view. Maximum of \$250,000 in total costs awarded over two years.

Application Deadline: May 30, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

Joseph Jacobson, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 25; 9:30 AM Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Valentina Pirazzoli, PhD and

Mingzhu Yin, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 25; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

*Personalizing Colorectal Cancer
Therapy*

Wafik El-Deiry, MD, PhD

[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

February 26; 1:00 PM YCC Genetics and Genomics Research Program

Giarman Conf. Rm, SHM B-201

Cellular And Signaling

*Mechanisms Skin Regeneration
And Cancer*

Valentina Greco, PhD

[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

February 27; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412, Room E

*From Gene Expression Profiling
to High-Throughput Screening:*

Elucidating and Exploiting

Radiation Sensitivity at Both

Ends of the Spectrum

Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 28; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP4-101A

Discovering Novel Targets and

Therapeutics: Targeting

Transcription Factors

Peter Koo, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

March 2; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR

Introducing Effective Palliative

Care to Patients

Laura Morrison, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

March 4; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand

Employee Profile: Evelio "Junior" Escalante

The Employee Profile recognizes the diverse contributions made by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital staff to meet our patient care, research, education, and outreach goals. The staff profiled are examples of the great work being done here, and the dedication and values we possess.

To suggest someone to be profiled, please contact

[Emily Fenton](#).

Many people might not think about or notice who changed the light bulb in the hallway, or who was responsible for fixing the drain in the bathroom, but at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers, they know the man behind the work is Evelio 'Junior' Escalante, Maintenance Specialist for the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers and the Department of Neurology. Junior handles all of the work orders that are submitted, including minor repairs that may take a couple of hours, to ongoing projects that sometimes take him days.



Work orders are prioritized and then Junior is dispatched to whichever Care Center requires his attention. He also will take care of things 'on demand' such as changing a light bulb or other minor work while he is there. "Not interfering with patients is my top priority. Before heading out I will make sure the repair needed will not bother patients in any way. If it does, I plan to come in early and have it taken care of before patients arrive," said Junior.

Junior also works with some medical equipment. Certain machines have regular service maintenance done, but if something breaks, he tries to troubleshoot the problem and take care of it on site. If not, he brings the machine to be repaired and then back to the Center as quickly as possible. He must travel to each care Center and some days this means going from the Smilow Cancer Hospital Sharon Care Center to the Shoreline Care Center in Guilford. Not being able to be in two places at once is one of the challenges faced on a daily basis, Junior commented, but he does his best to accommodate everyone as quickly as possible. He enjoys working with the staff at the Centers and said they help out and are understanding, which makes his job a lot easier.

Diane Corjulo, Clinical Program Manager for the Smilow

Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

TBA

Jonathan Ellman and Jason Crawford

[Learn More >>](#)

March 5; 5:00 PM
YCC 2014 Closer to Free
Ride: Kick Off Event

Bar Night Club

[Learn More >>](#)

March 6; 8:00 AM
YCC Developmental
Therapeutics Biannual
Retreat

Yale's West Campus

[Learn More >>](#)

March 6; 4:30 PM
Yale Cancer Center Evening
Oncology Series

NP 4-101 A & B

Breast Cancer and BRCA

Positive Patients

Thomas Lynch Jr., MD

[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

March 7; 12:00 PM
YCC Research in Progress
Meeting

NP 4-101A

TBA

[Learn More >>](#)

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Employment Opportunities

Success in any clinical research endeavor, but especially in cancer research, requires the most qualified, dedicated staff, committed to excellence and the mission of Yale Cancer Center. The combination of education, oncology research experience, and exceptional nursing skills is enormously difficult to find. Your

Cancer Hospital Care Centers, commented, "Junior's positive attitude makes him a pleasure to work with. His usual motto is 'Whatever you need, I will get it done, no problem' and he always does, and does a great job."

Recent Publications

Quantitative Analysis of [(11)C]-Erlotinib PET Demonstrates Specific Binding for Activating Mutations of the EGFR Kinase Domain.

Petrulli JR, Sullivan JM, Zheng MQ, Bennett DC, Charest J, Huang Y, Morris ED, Contessa JN.
Neoplasia. 2013 Dec;15(12):1347-53.

[Read More >>](#)

Master Protocol for squamous cell lung cancer readies for launch

Nature Biotechnology 32,116-118, (2014).

[Read More >>](#)

Reduced NF1 expression confers resistance to EGFR inhibition in lung cancer.

de Bruin EC, Cowell CF, Warne PH, Jiang M, Saunders RE, Melnick MA, Gettinger SN, Walther Z, Wurtz A, Heynen GJ, Heideman DA, Gomez-Roman JJ, García-Castaño A, Gong Y, Ladanyi M, Varmus H, Bernards R, Smit EF, Politi K, Downward J.

Cancer Discov. 2014 Feb 17.

[Read More >>](#)

A tissue quality index: an intrinsic control for measurement of effects of preanalytical variables on FFPE tissue.

Neumeister VM, Parisi F, England AM, Siddiqui S, Anagnostou V, Zarrella E, Vassilakopoulou M, Bai Y, Saylor S, Sapino A, Kluger Y, Hicks DG, Bussolati G, Kwei S, Rimm DL.

Lab Invest. 2014 Feb 17.

[Read More >>](#)

Fewer complications result from a video-assisted approach to anatomic resection of clinical stage I lung cancer.

Boffa DJ, Dhamija A, Kosinski AS, Kim AW, Detterbeck FC, Mitchell JD, Onaitis MW, Paul S.

J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2014 Jan 15.

[Read More >>](#)

Engineering Human Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Grafts That Are Depleted of Naïve T Cells and Retain Functional Pathogen-Specific Memory T cells.

Bleakley M, Heimfeld S, Jones LA, Turtle C, Riddell SR, Shlomchik W.

Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2014 Feb 10.

participation, as knowledgeable colleagues, is invaluable at this time.

Should you know individuals with outstanding clinical research nursing experience, and who are ready to join our team, please direct resumes to [Sandra Greer](#), Sr. Staffing and Career Development Representative or call (203) 432-5822. All referrals will be held in strictest confidence.

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

 Forward to a Friend

[Read More >>](#)

Society of Surgical Oncology-American Society for Radiation Oncology Consensus Guideline on Margins for Breast-Conserving Surgery With Whole-Breast Irradiation in Stages I and II Invasive Breast Cancer.

Moran MS, Schnitt SJ, Giuliano AE, Harris JR, Khan SA, Horton J, Klimberg S, Chavez-Macgregor M, Freedman G, Houssami N, Johnson PL, Morrow M.

Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2014 Mar 1;88(3):553-64.

[Read More >>](#)

New modalities of cancer treatment for NSCLC: focus on immunotherapy.

Davies M.

Cancer Manag Res. 2014 Feb 3;6:63-75.

[Read More >>](#)

Society of Surgical Oncology-American Society for Radiation Oncology Consensus Guideline on Margins for Breast-Conserving Surgery With Whole-Breast Irradiation in Stages I and II Invasive Breast Cancer.

Moran MS, Schnitt SJ, Giuliano AE, Harris JR, Khan SA, Horton J, Klimberg S, Chavez-Macgregor M, Freedman G, Houssami N, Johnson PL, Morrow M.

J Clin Oncol. 2014 Feb 10.

[Read More >>](#)

Society of Surgical Oncology-American Society for Radiation Oncology Consensus Guideline on Margins for Breast-Conserving Surgery With Whole-Breast Irradiation in Stages I and II Invasive Breast Cancer.

Moran MS, Schnitt SJ, Giuliano AE, Harris JR, Khan SA, Horton J, Klimberg S, Chavez-Macgregor M, Freedman G, Houssami N, Johnson PL, Morrow M.

Ann Surg Oncol. 2014 Feb 10.

[Read More >>](#)

Poorer Prognosis of African-American Patients With Mycosis Fungoides: An Analysis of the SEER Dataset, 1988 to 2008.

Nath SK, Yu JB, Wilson LD.

Clin Lymphoma Myeloma Leuk. 2014 Jan 3.

[Read More >>](#)

Targetome profiling and functional genetics implicate miR-618 in lymphomagenesis.

Fu A, Hoffman AE, Liu R, Jacobs DI, Zheng T, Zhu Y.

Epigenetics. 2014 Feb 6;9(5).

[Read More >>](#)