

# DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

March 17, 2023

## Announcements

### Yale Cancer Center Welcomes ESAB

We are pleased to welcome our External Scientific Advisory Board (ESAB) to Yale West Campus today for a full day of presentations from the Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital leadership team. The feedback and critique of each of our advisors will be instrumental in assisting us in preparation of our Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) submission to the National Cancer Institute on September 29 and our subsequent site visit. Yale Cancer Center leaders will present on topics including diversity, community outreach, shared resources, education and training, and highlights from each of our six research programs.

Our ESAB membership includes:

#### Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil, ESAB Chair

Director, Abramson Cancer Center; Vice Dean, Cancer Programs; Vice President, Cancer Programs; University of Pennsylvania Health System; Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

#### Shine Chang, PhD

Director; Cancer Prevention Research Training Program; Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Division of OVP, Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences; MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### Edward Chu, MD, MMS

Director, Albert Einstein Cancer Center; Professor, Department of Oncology (Medical Oncology); Professor, Department of Medicine (Oncology & Hematology); Professor, Department of Molecular Pharmacology; Interim Chair, Department of Oncology

#### Gail Eckhardt, MD, FASCO

Professor and Chair, Department of Oncology; Director, LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes; Associate Dean of Cancer Programs; LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes; University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School

#### Chad Ellis, PhD

Deputy Director, Research Administration; UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

#### Ann Greene

Community Research Liaison; Teacher

#### Patrick Hwu, MD

President and CEO, Moffitt Cancer Center

### Eric P. Winer, MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Network

Yale  
NewHaven  
Health  
Smilow Cancer  
Hospital

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

## News Center



Improving Care of Patients Receiving  
Advanced Cancer Treatment



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Involving Hospitalists in Inpatient Cancer

President and CEO, Moffitt Cancer Center

### **Erin N. Kobetz, PhD, MPH**

Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship; Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Public Health and ObGyn; John K. and Judy H. Schulte Senior Endowed Chair in Cancer Research; Chief, Population Health and Cancer Disparities; Associate Director of Population Science and Cancer Disparities; Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

### **Electra D. Paskett, PhD**

Marion N. Rowley Professor of Cancer Research and Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, College of Medicine; Professor of Epidemiology, College of Public Health; Associate Director for Population Sciences and Community Outreach, Comprehensive Cancer Center; Founding Director, Center for Cancer Health Equity; Ohio State University

### **Helen Piwnica-Worms, PhD**

Vice Provost of Science; Professor, Experimental Radiation Oncology; MD Anderson Cancer Center

### **Erle Robertson, PhD**

Harry P. Schenck Professor and Vice Chair in Otorhinolaryngology; Professor of Microbiology and Radiation Oncology; Program Leader of Tumor Virology; Perelman School of Medicine; University of Pennsylvania

### **Geoffrey Shapiro, MD, PhD**

Director, Early Drug Development Center; Clinical Director, Center for DNA Damage and Repair; Institute Physician; Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

### **Eric J. Small, MD**

Doris and Donald Fisher Distinguished Professorship in Clinical Cancer Research; Stanford W. Ascherman and Norman R. Ascherman Endowed Chair, UCSF; Professor In Residence of Medicine and Urology; Deputy Director and Chief Scientific Officer; Co-Leader, Prostate Cancer Program, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center; University of California Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

### **Brian C. Springer, MHA**

Vice President, Research Administration; Associate Center Director, Administration; H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute

### **Joann Sweasy, PhD**

Director, Cancer Center; Nancy C. and Craig M. Berge Endowed Chair for the Director of the Cancer Center; Cancer Biology Program; University of Arizona

### **Jenny Ting, PhD**

Distinguished Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Genetics; Director, Center for Translational Immunology; Co-Director of the Inflammatory Diseases Institute; Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center; University of North Carolina

### **Matthew Vander Heiden, MD, PhD**

Lester Wolfe Professor of Molecular Biology; Director, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research; Massachusetts Institute of Technology

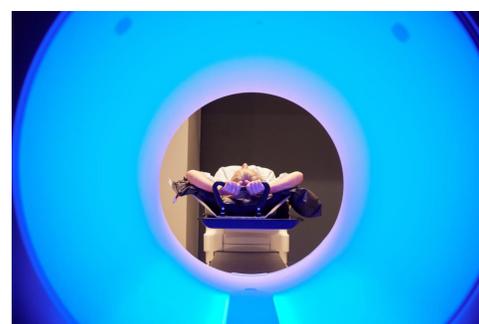
### **Care Reduces Patient Stays, Oncologist Stress**



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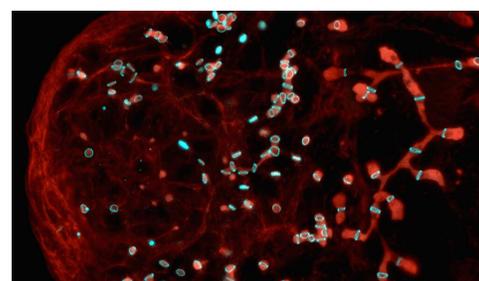
### **YNHH's Smilow Cancer Hospital Pioneers New Radiotherapy Technology**



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### **New Insights into Cellular 'Bridges' Shed Light on Development, Disease**



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### **Tagrisso Demonstrated Strong Overall Survival Benefit in the ADAURA Phase III Trial for Adjuvant Treatment of Patients with Early-Stage EGFR-mutated Lung Cancer**



## Eileen White, PhD

Deputy Director, Chief Scientific Officer, Associate Director for Basic Science; Distinguished Professor, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey; Rutgers University

## In Memoriam: Fanqing Guo, PhD

Fanqing Guo, PhD, a devoted clinical medical physicist for Smilow Cancer Hospital and a beloved colleague in the Department of Therapeutic Radiology, passed away on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at the age of 53.

Dr. Guo was a first-generation immigrant who not only realized the fullness of the American dream but also made impactful contributions to biomedical science, patient care, and the greater New Haven community. He joined Yale New Haven Hospital in 2007 as a clinical medical physicist and was appointed to the faculty of the Department of Therapeutic Radiology as an assistant professor in 2008. Dr. Guo's professional activities at Yale focused on patient care, teaching, and clinical research. He was certified by the American Board of Radiology for practicing therapeutic medical physics and was an integral part of the multidisciplinary radiation oncology team for the care of cancer patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital.



Dr. Guo specialized in the physics aspects of a variety of radiation therapy procedures, including high dose rate brachytherapy, Gamma Knife stereotactic radiosurgery, and eye plaque brachytherapy. He also played a vital role in managing the technical aspects of protocol credentialing and data submission for radiation therapy patients enrolled in national clinical trials. Dr. Guo was a dedicated mentor to students, postdoctoral research associates, and particularly the residents in Radiation Oncology and Medical Physics, contributing directly to the success of the physics residency program. Dr. Guo was also involved in a wide range of research projects aimed at improving the efficacy and safety of radiation therapy. As a member of the Yale community for nearly 16 years, Dr. Guo was widely recognized as a dedicated and compassionate clinical medical physicist, mentor, and researcher who devoted his time and energy to advancing radiation therapy and the treatment of cancer patients. Most importantly, he was a great colleague—humble, friendly, hardworking, and always ready to help whenever needed.

## U.S. News Best Hospitals Survey Closes March 24

There is one week left to vote in the *U.S. News & World Report* annual survey for the Best Hospitals through Doximity. Please login through [www.doximity.com](http://www.doximity.com) or on the Doximity app to vote and support cancer services throughout our Smilow Cancer Network by selecting Smilow



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## Health Headlines: Yale Cancer Center doctor discusses at-home colon cancer tests



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## Jeremy Kortmansky, MD, in Recognition of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month



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## When Cancer Upends Your Sex Life



[Read More](#)

## Dr. Rimm on the Use of Multiplex Spatial Proteomic Profiling in Breast Cancer



Cancer Hospital/Yale New Haven Hospital. Your selection will help to recognize the great team that you are a part of each day—each vote makes a difference.



Watch Now

### Closer to Free Launch Party

Please join the Closer to Free community on Sunday, March 26 for the official Closer to Free Launch Party! Thank you to Bear's Smokehouse, New Haven for hosting the event as our official launch sponsor.

[Learn More](#)  
[Register](#)

Follow us!

## Notables

The **American Cancer Society** has awarded a four-year grant to **Shi-Yi Wang, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology (Chronic Diseases) and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, **Cary Gross, MD**, Professor of Medicine (General Medicine) and Epidemiology (Chronic Diseases), Director of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Outcomes, Public Policy and Effectiveness Research Center (COPPER), and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, and **Anne Chiang, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), Associate Cancer Center Director for Clinical Initiatives, and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Developmental Therapeutics Research Program. Their research proposal seeks to determine which treatment sequences produce the best results for people with advanced cancer while examining the cost of these treatments.

**Yuval Kluger, PhD**, a member of Yale Cancer Center's Genomics, Genetics, and Epigenetics Research Program, who works in the broad fields of bioinformatics, machine learning, and applied mathematics to develop new approaches for analyzing large biological data sets, was recently appointed the **Anthony N. Brady Professor of Pathology**.

**Marcus Bosenberg, MD, PhD**, Director of the Yale Center for Immunology, Co-Director of the Yale Skin Cancer SPORE, and a member of our Cancer Immunology Research Program, was recently appointed the **Anthony N. Brady Professor of Dermatology, Pathology, and Immunobiology**. Dr. Bosenberg is an accomplished clinician, teacher, and researcher who studies the factors that regulate anti-cancer immune responses.

**Jacquelyne Gaddy, MD, MSc**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, has been appointed **Deputy Director of the Diversity Enhancement Program in Oncology** and a **core faculty member** of the **Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity**. In addition, she has been selected **Co-Director of the Oncology Summer Internship** sponsored by ASCO and to participate in Dr. Kemi Doll's "Get That Grant" coaching program. She recently received an **American Cancer Society Pilot Award for Underrepresented Minorities** to support her project, "Relationship of Race/Ethnicity to Timely Palliative Medicine Referral for Patients Diagnosed with Gastrointestinal (GI) Malignancies."

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YALE CANCER ANSWERS

On Monday, leadership from Yale Cancer

Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital welcomed new Cancer Center faculty, hosting a retreat and orientation. Leaders provided informational presentations for each of their areas, including Clinical Operations, Clinical Trials, Marketing and Communications, and Business Operations.

Patients Diagnosed with Gastrointestinal (GI) Malignancies.

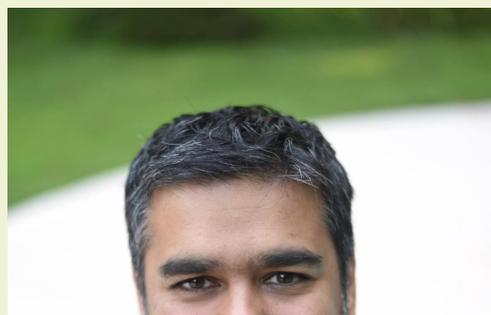
The **Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)** has awarded Trainee Top Ten Awards to two of our oncology pharmacy residents. Their projects were selected, from nearly 100 submissions, after a thorough review by a committee of national content experts. Congratulations to **Jessica Zhao, PharmD**, who is studying, “Biomarker Testing Rates in Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer” and **Heidi Roeder, PharmD**, for her work on “Real world evaluation of antifungal prophylaxis in allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients, is routine antifungal prophylaxis needed?”

**Christi Kim, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine (Medical Oncology), has been appointed to a second two-year term on the **Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) Clinical Practice Committee** beginning on April 1, 2023.

**Anne Mongiu, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, has been selected to serve as a **Co-Director of the Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Program** in the **Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital**. She will join Drs. Michael Cecchini and Xavier Llor in leading this Program. Thank you to Dr. Vikram Reddy for his service for the past two years in this role. We look forward to the future of the CRC Program under this leadership team as we strive to improve patient care, research, and education for CRC.

**Susan Baserga, MD, PhD**, William H. Fleming, MD Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Professor of Genetics and of Therapeutic Radiology, and a member of Yale Cancer Center’s Genetics, Genomics, and Epigenetics Research Program, and **Mark Lemmon, PhD, FRS**, incoming chair and Alfred Gilman Professor of Pharmacology, Co-Director of the Cancer Biology Institute, and a member of Yale Cancer Center’s Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program, have been named new **Fellows of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB)**.

The **Genetics, Genomics, and Epigenetics Research Program** welcomes **Salil Garg, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. Dr. Garg’s research centers on understanding how cells that share the same genetic information can vary so dramatically in their behavior. A molecular pathologist, Dr. Garg’s clinical responsibilities often involve diagnosing whether a specimen is benign or malignant based on large-scale genomic sequencing. The focus of Dr. Garg’s work is on understanding non-genetic cell-to-cell variation, and how developmental programs in the embryo become drivers of non-genetic variation in tumors. He is specifically



Communications, and Business Operations to name a few.

We’re happy to welcome our new faculty to Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital!



[Read More](#)

Last week, Alyssa Gateman and Kira Pavlik represented the Yale Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office (CTO) at the Southern Connecticut State University Career and Internship Fair for Healthcare and Public Health. It was the first year where SCSU offered career fairs specific to majors, and it was open to all students seeking internship and post-graduation employment opportunities.

Approximately 40 Healthcare and Public Health students as well as SCSU administration and faculty stopped by the table. Several undergrads expressed interest in exploring clinical research through our internship program, as well as others who were soon to graduate and looking for entry level CTO positions where there was room to grow.



researching gene regulation in melanoma and pan-tumor quantitative analysis of development in cancer.



[Read More](#)

In honor of Kidney Cancer Awareness Month, Dr. Harriet Kluger participated in a Q&A, sharing insight into the progress made in the treatment of kidney cancer and how more work still needs to be done.

## DEI Update

### A Conversation on Daring Leadership

Join the Yale School of Medicine Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion virtually for a fireside chat on daring leadership with Dr. Brené Brown on Friday, April 14 at Noon. Dr. Brown is a research professor at the University of Houston, where she holds the Huffington Foundation Endowed Chair at the Graduate College of Social Work. She also holds the position of visiting professor in management at the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business.

Dr. Brown has spent the past two decades studying courage, vulnerability, shame, and empathy; is the author of six #1 New York Times bestsellers; and is the host of two award-winning podcasts, *Unlocking Us* and *Dare to Lead*. Her TED talk on the Power of Vulnerability is one of the top five most-viewed TED talks in the world, with over 60 million views. Dr. Brown is the first researcher to have a filmed lecture on Netflix, and in March 2022, she launched a new show on HBO Max that focuses on her latest book, *Atlas of the Heart*.

[Register to attend](#)

### Yale School of Medicine Faculty Climate Survey Results

Last December, President Salovey announced the results of the University-wide faculty climate survey. The survey was part of the Belonging at Yale initiative, which seeks to identify opportunities to foster a productive, vibrant, and inclusive culture. The results for Yale School of Medicine relative to the overall university are now posted on the Yale University website [here](#).

## Employee Profile: Joanna Cole, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC

Joanna Cole, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, born in Monrovia, Liberia,

has always had a passion for caring for underserved populations. She continues that passion while caring for patients within the Adult Sickle Cell Program, part of the Hematology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Joanna manages not only preventive sickle cell care and disease modifying therapies.



**Kidney Cancer Awareness Month**



**Harriet Kluger, MD**  
Harvey and Kate Cushing Professor of Medicine (Oncology) and of Dermatology; Chief, Division of Skin and Kidney Cancer

The biology of kidney cancer is fascinating, and the understanding of tumor and immune cell activity in kidney tumors is evolving rapidly. Being able to translate knowledge to the clinic and study some of the clinical observations in the lab is the biggest privilege one can have as a clinician and as a scientist.

YaleNewHavenHealth  
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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

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A breast cancer diagnosis can be frightening for any woman. But due to significant and systemic health disparities, it can be an especially daunting prognosis for African American women who are 41 percent more likely than white women to die from the disease. Since 1999, the New Haven faith-based organization [Sisters' Journey Inc.](#) has strived to ensure that no woman of color should have to endure or experience the obstacles of a breast cancer diagnosis alone.



**Sisters' Journey**

YaleNewHavenHealth

Yale CANCER CENTER

but also serious complications that often results from the debilitating blood disorder. Her goal is to improve the overall health and quality of life of her patients.

Over the last decade, Joanna has spearheaded practice changing standards that have decreased overall hospital admissions and lengths of stay related to sickle cell vaso-occlusive pain crisis. Joanna, along with the multidisciplinary team in the Adult Sickle Cell Program, were awarded the achievement award for Excellence in the Workplace by the Connecticut Nursing Association in 2018. Additionally, Joanna collaborates closely with the inpatient team to provide continuity of care for a patient population that has been historically marginalized.

“When I became a nurse practitioner, I knew I wanted to focus on caring for patients with sickle cell disease. They are an underserved population, and it is difficult for the patients to trust providers,” said Joanna. “I do my best to mitigate those fears and be the trusted caregiver they need. It is a complex disease in the sense that it affects every organ and there are many layers to care, including psychosocial.”

Also, a Professor of Nursing at Yale School of Nursing, Joanna enjoys teaching the next generation of nurse practitioners with a dedicated focus on teaching evidenced-based inclusive care. She commented that with new therapies in the pipeline, combined with a dedicated team at Yale with a commitment to caring for patients with sickle cell disease, there is hope for the effective and compassionate management of quality of life for their patients.

Dr. Cece Calhoun, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology) and Medical Director of the Sickle Cell Program commented, “Joanna is a cornerstone of our program. Her deep care for the people we serve inspires all of us to show up better each day.”

## Recent Publications

Burtness B.

### **First-Line Nivolumab Plus Ipilimumab in Recurrent/Metastatic Head and Neck Cancer-What Happened?.**

*Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of*

*Clinical Oncology*, JCO2202349.

[Read More](#)

Cecchini M.

### **A commentary on: Molecular residual disease and efficacy of adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with colorectal cancer.**

PracticeUpdate website. Accessed March 09, 2023

[Read More](#)

Nassar, A. H., Abou Alaiwi, S., Baca, S. C., Adib, E., Corona, R. I., Seo, J. H., Fonseca, M. A. S., Spisak, S., El Zarif, T., Tisza, V., Braun, D. A., Du, H., He, M., Flaifel, A., Alchoueiry, M., Denize, T., Matar, S. G., Acosta, A., Shukla, S., Hou, Y., Freedman, M. L.

**Epileptic charting and functional annotation of risk loci in renal cell**



[Read More](#)

Recently on Yale Cancer Answers, medical oncologist Dr. Laura Baum, discussed the treatment of gastrointestinal cancers, use of palliative care, and her research on chemotherapy use near the end-of-life in honor of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Listen on Connecticut Public Radio or download our podcast from iTunes.



[Read More](#)

Thank you to the boys' swim and dive teams from The Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC) who completed lap-a-thons to raise money for Lion Heart, a fundraising organization supporting breast cancer research at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. The teams raised more than \$20,000 for Lion Heart, kickstarting their fundraising efforts to support breast cancer research at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center for 2023!



[Read More](#)

**Epigenomic charting and functional annotation of risk loci in renal cell carcinoma.**

*Nature communications*, 14(1), 346.

[Read More](#)

Puthenpura V, Ji L, Xu X, Roth ME, Freyer DR, Frazier AL, Marks AM, Pashankar FD.

**Loss to follow-up of minorities, adolescents, and young adults on clinical trials: A report from the Children's Oncology Group.**

*Cancer*. 2023 Feb 22. doi: 10.1002/cncr.34701.

[Read More](#)

Voruganti T, Soulos PR, Mamtani R, Presley CJ, Gross CP.

**Association Between Age and Survival Trends in Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer After Adoption of Immunotherapy.**

*JAMA Oncol*. 2023 Jan 26:e226901. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2022.6901.

[Read More](#)

Dinan MA, Pitafi S, Greenup RA, Long JB, Gross CP.

**Genetic testing in privately insured women with surgically treated breast cancer.**

*Breast Cancer Res Treat*. 2023 Feb;198(1):177-181.

[Read More](#)

Lee K, Haramati LB, Ye K, Lin J, Mardakhaev E, Gohari A.

**Lung Cancer Screening Penetration in an Urban Underserved County.**

*Lung Cancer Screening*. 2023 Mar 9.

[Read More](#)

Aguadé-Gorgorió G, Costa J, Solé R.

**An oncospace for human cancers.**

*Bioessays*.

[Read More](#)

Gallego-Paez LM, Edwards WJS, Chanduri M, Guo Y, Koorman T, Lee CY, Grexa N, Derksen P, Yan J, Schwartz MA, Mauer J, Goult BT.

**TLN1 contains a cancer-associated cassette exon that alters talin-1 mechanosensitivity.**

*Journal of Cell Biology*.

[Read More](#)

Goldberg SB, Herbst RS.

**The end of the beginning: progress and next steps in KRAS-mutant non-small-cell lung cancer.**

*The Lancet*.

[Read More](#)

Chen Z, Yu F, Zhu B, Li Q, Yu Y, Zong F, Liu W, Zhang M, Wu S.

**Integrated analysis of competitive endogenous RNA networks in elder patients with non-small cell lung cancer.**

*Medicine (Baltimore)*.

[Read More](#)

Zhan PL, Canavan ME, Ermer T, Pichert MD, Li AX, Maduka RC, Udelsman BV, Nemeth A, Boffa DJ.

**Association Between Metastatic Pattern and Prognosis in Stage IV Gastric Cancer: Potential for Stage Classification Reform.**

*Annals of Surgical Oncology*.

[Read More](#)

Dunnack Yackel H, Xu W, Lee JW, Cong X, Salner A, Duffy VB, Judge MP.

**Symptom Patterning Across the Cancer Care Trajectory for Patients Receiving Chemoradiation for Head and Neck Cancer: A Retrospective Longitudinal Study Using Latent Transition Analysis.**

*Cancer Nursing*.

[Read More](#)

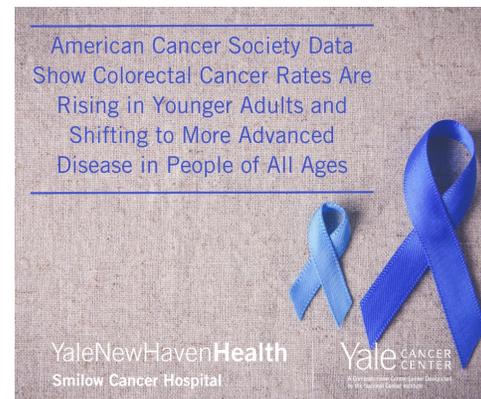
Congratulations to the Melissa Marottoli Hogan Foundation on their successful gala to support lung cancer research and patient care at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Thank you for your incredible efforts!



[Read More](#)

The ASCO Post has shared findings from a new report by the American Cancer Society showing that the proportion of individuals diagnosed with advanced-stage colorectal cancer has increased from 52% in the mid-2000s to 60% in 2019.

The main reason for the increase is the number of people younger than age 55 diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Diagnoses for this age group nearly doubled from 11% (1 in 10) in 1995 to 20% (1 in 5) in 2019. There was also a shift to left-sided tumors, with the proportion of rectal cancer increasing from 27% in 1995 to 31% in 2019. Racial and ethnic disparities in colorectal cancer continue, with Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Black individuals experiencing the highest incidence and mortality rates compared to white patients.



[Learn More](#)

Fang Z, Monteiro VS, Renauer PA, Shang X, Suzuki K, Ling X, Bai M, Xiang Y, Levchenko A, Booth CJ, Lucas C, Chen S.

### **Polyvalent mRNA vaccination elicited potent immune response to monkeypox virus surface antigens.**

*Cell Research.*

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Rudin CM, Cervantes A, Dowlati A, Besse B, Ma B, Costa DB, Schmid P, Heist R, Villaflor VM, Spahn J, Li S, Cha E, Riely GJ, Gettinger S.

### **Safety and clinical activity of atezolizumab plus erlotinib in patients with non-small-cell lung cancer.**

*ESMO Open.*

[Read More](#)

Morris JC, Gould Rothberg BE, Prsic E, Parker NA, Weber UM, Gombos EA, Kottarathara MJ, Billingsley K, Adelson KB.

### **Outcomes on an inpatient oncology service after the introduction of hospitalist comanagement. J**

*ournal Hospital Medicine.*

[Read More](#)

Grant MJ, Aredo JV, Starrett JH, Stockhammer P, van Alderwerelt van Rosenburgh IK, Wurtz A, Piper-Valillo AJ, Piotrowska Z, Falcon C, Yu HA, Aggarwal C, Scholes D, Patil T, Nguyen C, Phadke M, Li FY, Neal J, Lemmon MA, Walther Z, Politi K, Goldberg SB.

### **Efficacy of osimertinib in patients with lung cancer positive for uncommon EGFR exon 19 deletion mutations.**

*Clinical Cancer Research.*

[Read More](#)

Wang R, Shallis RM, Stempel JM, Huntington SF, Zeidan AM, Gore SD, Ma X, Podoltsev NA.

### **Second malignancies among older patients with classical myeloproliferative neoplasms treated with hydroxyurea.**

*Blood Advances.*

[Read More](#)

Li Z, Belitzky E, Blaha O, Cavaliere A, Katz SR, Aboian M, Melegari L, Rajabimoghadam K, Kurpiewski S, Zhu X, Marquez-Nostra B.

### **ImmunoPET Imaging Identifies the Optimal Timepoint for Combination Therapy in Xenograft Models of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer.**

*Cancers (Basel).*

[Read More](#)

Potnis KC, Di M, Isufi I, Gowda L, Seropian SE, Foss FM, Forman HP, Huntington SF.

### **Cost-effectiveness of chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy in adults with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma.**

*Blood Advances.*

[Read More](#)

Weizman OE, Luyten S, Krykbaeva I, Song E, Mao T, Bosenberg M, Iwasaki A.

### **Type 2 Dendritic Cells Orchestrate a Local Immune Circuit to Confer Antimetastatic Immunity.**

*The Journal of Immunology.*

[Read More](#)

Badar T, Litzow MR, Shallis RM, Patel A, Saliba AN, Burkart M, Bewersdorf JP, Stahl M, De Camargo Correia GS, Guru Murthy GS, Abaza Y, Duvall A, Bradshaw D, Kota V, Dinner S, Goldberg AD, Palmisiano N, Al Kali A, Atallah E.

### **Disparities in receiving disease-directed therapy, allogeneic stem cell transplantation in non-Hispanic Black patients with TP53-mutated acute myeloid leukemia.**

For International Women's Day and beyond, let's all fully #EmbraceEquity.

It's not just something we say. It's not just something we write about.

It's something we need to think about, know, value and embrace.

It's what we believe in, unconditionally.

Equity means creating an inclusive world.

We can all challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination, draw attention to bias, and seek out inclusion.

Everyone everywhere can play a part.



[Read More](#)

Meet Hari Deshpande, MD, a medical oncologist at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr.

Deshpande focuses his care on patients with sarcomas, cancers of unknown primary, and thyroid cancers.

A recent patient of Dr. Deshpande shared the following, "Dr. Deshpande has a wonderful demeanor about him. He will answer all of your questions and never rush you no matter how short staffed he might get.

He and his staff respond to all of my messages in MyChart in a prompt manner as well. I feel good being under his care."



Hari Deshpande, MD  
Medical Oncologist

Dr. Deshpande has a wonderful demeanor about him. He will answer all of your questions and never rush you no matter how short staffed he might get. He and his staff respond to all of my messages in MyChart in a prompt manner as well.

**Read More**

Mao Q, Lin X, Yin Q, Liu P, Zhang Y, Qu S, Xu J, Cheng W, Luo X, Kang L, Taximaimaiti R, Zheng C, Zhang H, Wang X, Ren H, Cao Y, Lin J, Luo X.

**A significant, functional and replicable risk KTN1 variant block for schizophrenia.**

*Sci Rep.*

**Read More**

Webersinke G, Burghofer J, Malli T, Rammer M, Jahn SW, Niendorf A, Tavassoli FA, Moinfar F.

**TERT Promoter Mutation c.-124C>T Commonly Occurs in Low-Grade Fibromatosis-like Metaplastic Breast Carcinoma.**

*Archives Pathology & Laboratory Medicine.*

**Read More**

Danziger N, Sokol ES, Graf RP, Hiemenz MC, Maule J, Parimi V, Palmieri C, Pusztai L, Ross JS, Huang RSP.

**Variable Landscape of PD-L1 Expression in Breast Carcinoma as Detected by the DAKO 22C3 Immunohistochemistry Assay.**

*Oncologist.*

**Read More**

Bhatt N, Calhoun C, Longoria J, Nwosu C, Howell KE, Varughese T, Kang G, Jacola LM, Hankins JS, King A.

**Health literacy correlates with abbreviated full-scale IQ in adolescent and young adults with sickle cell disease.**

*Pediatric Blood Cancer.*

**Read More**

Vasquez JC, Luo LY, Hiniker SM, Rhee DS, Dasgupta R, Chen S, Weigel BJ, Xue W, Venkatramani R, Arndt CA.

**Rhabdomyosarcoma with isolated lung metastases: A report from the Soft Tissue Sarcoma Committee of the Children's Oncology Group.**

*Pediatric Blood Cancer.*

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## Funding and Award Opportunities

**AACR Cancer Disparities Research Fellowship**

The AACR Cancer Disparities Research Fellowship represents an effort to encourage and support postdoctoral or clinical research fellows to conduct cancer disparities research and to establish a successful career path in this

field. The proposed research may be in basic, translational, clinical, or population sciences and must have direct applicability and relevance to cancer disparities.

**Application Deadline:** March 23, 2023

**Read More****AACR Breast Cancer Research Fellowships**

The AACR Breast Cancer Research Fellowships represent a joint effort to encourage and support postdoctoral or clinical research fellows to conduct breast cancer research and to establish a successful career path in this field. The research proposed for funding may be basic, translational, clinical, or epidemiological in nature and must have direct applicability and relevance to breast cancer.

**Application Deadline:** March 23, 2023

**Read More****Yale Head and Neck SPORE (YHN-SPORE) Career Enhancement Program (CEP)**

The CEP of the Yale Head and Neck SPORE has been established to

**Read More**

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the surfacing of the best and the worst of the healthcare system and many new discoveries. Dr. Sajid Khan took the opportunity to evaluate racial disparities in quality of care for patients with gastrointestinal cancer treated with surgery. What he found was both expected, and shocking.

**Read More**

Tonight at 8pm, Dr. Scott Huntington @sfhYALE will be one of three panelists in a #Leukemia and #Lymphoma webinar.



A study led by first author Dr. Michael Grant @MJGrantMD from the Yale #SPORE in #LungCancer

reviews the efficacy of osimertinib with uncommon EGFR mutations in patients with lung cancer.



A new study from @politikaterina and colleagues in @BrJCancer shows research on a new compound to block MUC1-CT in lung cancer cells that might apply to many other types of cancers.



Thank you to Dr. Eva Hernando-Monge @nyugrossman for presenting #GrandRounds on #melanoma and why it remains a major clinical challenge despite recent advances in #immunotherapy and #targetedtherapies.

educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in head and neck cancer. The CEP will provide support to promising junior investigators and/or establish investigators who have not previously conducted head and neck cancer focused research.

**Letter of Intent Due:** March 24, 2023

**Read More**

### **Yale Head and Neck SPORE (YHN-SPORE) Developmental Research Program (DRP)**

The Yale Head and Neck SPORE's DRP provides seed money to investigators to support studies with a strong translational component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated as, a full YHN-SPORE project or to generate preliminary data or evidence of collaboration for other new NIH grant applications.

**Letter of Intent Due:** March 24, 2023

**Read More**

### **ASTRO-LUNGevity Residents/Fellows in Radiation Oncology Seed Grant**

This seed grant fosters and develops the research careers of residents and fellows interested in radiation oncology-related basic, translational, and/or clinical research to benefit patients with lung cancer.

**Letters of Intent Due:** March 24, 2023

**Read More**

### **Breast Cancer Research Program 2023 Awards**

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

- Breakthrough Award Levels 1 and 2
- Era of Hope Scholar Award
- Clinical Research Extension Award
- Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Development Award (TBCCDA)

**Letters of Intent Due:** March 28, 2023

- Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award
- Breakthrough Award Level 3
- Breakthrough Award Level 4
- Innovator Award

**Letters of Intent Due:** March 29, 2023

**Read More**

### **The ROS1+ Cancer Innovation Award**

This award aims to fund high-risk, high-reward research projects focused on ROS1+ cancer. The one-year \$75,000 seed grant can be used for pre-clinical, translational, or clinical research and is open to investigators who

hold a doctorate degree and a faculty appointment at an academic or non-profit research institution anywhere in the world.

**Letters of Intent Due:** March 31, 2023

**Read More**

### **The Chênevert Family Brain Tumor Center at Yale Developmental Research Awards**

The Chênevert Family Brain Tumor Center at Yale is pleased to announce Developmental Research Awards with first funding beginning 07/01/2023 to projects in amounts up to \$100,000 over two years.

The projects must focus on primary or metastatic brain tumors, and they must have a translational focus or high potential to lead to a translational project or a clinical trial.

**Internal Submission Deadline:** March 31, 2023

**Read More**

### **BCA Exceptional Project Grant**

Breast Cancer Alliance invites clinical doctors and research scientists at any stage of their careers, including post docs, whose current proposal is focused on breast cancer, to apply for an Exceptional Project Grant. This award recognizes creative, unique and innovative research and is open to



Leadership from @YaleCancer @SmilowCancer hosted an

orientation to welcome our new faculty this week. Leaders provided informational presentations on Clinical Operations, Clinical Trials, Marketing and Communications, and the Business Office to name a few.



Dr. Michael Cecchini @Cecchini\_OncMD wrote a

commentary suggesting that the ability of detectable ctDNA to predict ACT benefit for #colorectalcancer needs longer follow-up and additional studies.



Join us online at 12pm for #GrandRounds with Dr. Eva

Hernando-Monge, Professor of #Pathology from NYU School of Medicine @NyuMed presenting "Back Home: Mechanisms of neural mimicry in melanoma brain metastasis." Register:



A phase 1 trial led at Yale by Dr. Patricia LoRusso for patients with

advanced #cancer resistant to anti-PD-(L)1 therapy shows FS118 was well-tolerated.



"Being able to translate knowledge to the clinic & study some of the

clinical observations in the lab is the biggest privilege one can have as a clinician & scientist," said Dr. Harriet Kluger for #kidneycancerawarenessmonth.



Treatment options and types of

chemotherapy-induced #alopecia in patients with #breastcancer is reviewed in @YaleCancer study published in @MASCC\_JSCC.



Congratulations to Rachel Perry, PhD @RachelPerryLab1, who has

been selected to receive the American Physiological Society's @APSPPhysiology New Investigator Award for 2023!



Tonight at 7:30pm on Yale Cancer Answers, @LauraVanBaum

discusses the treatment of #gastrointestinalcancers, #palliativecare, and her research on chemotherapy use near the end-of-life.

applicants at institutions throughout the contiguous United States.

**Application Deadline:** March 31, 2023

[Read More](#)

### **BCA Young Investigator Grant**

To encourage a commitment to breast cancer research, Breast Cancer Alliance invites clinical doctors and research scientists who are in the early stages of their careers, including post docs, whose current proposal is focused on breast cancer, to apply for funding for the Young Investigator Grant. This grant is open to applicants at institutions throughout the contiguous United States. This is a two-year grant for a total of \$125,000, with half the grant award being paid out each year.

**Application Deadline:** March 31, 2023

[Read More](#)

### **ACS Research Priority Area: Screening**

Detecting cancer early saves lives. Unfortunately, the important benefits of cancer screening are not reaching enough people. The purpose of this RFA is to fund innovative research that will facilitate more widespread cancer screening and early detection culminating in reduced cancer mortality.

**Internal Submission Deadline:** April 3, 2023

[Read More](#)

### **HESI THRIVE Grant**

A proud partner of the **Biden Cancer Initiative**, THRIVE provides seed grants for clinical and translational research and technology-based solutions that enhance our ability to predict when and how adverse effects may occur in patients who have received cancer treatment. THRIVE also supports the development of approaches to avoid or lessen these effects.

**Letters of Intent Due:** April 10, 2023

[Read More](#)

### **2023 Leslie H. Warner Postdoctoral Fellowships for Cancer Research**

The Fellowships will support early-stage promising trainees that are conducting innovative basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research with a Yale Cancer Center member. Relevance of proposed research to our catchment area priorities is also encouraged. Candidates may have up to one year of postdoctoral experience from the time of application.

**Internal Submission Deadline:** April 10, 2023

[Read More](#)

### **2024 Pew-Steward Scholars for Cancer Research**

The Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research supports assistant professors of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of a cure for cancer. For the 2024 award, one nomination will be invited from Yale University.

**Internal Submission Deadline:** April 10, 2023

[Read More](#)

### **NCCN, Fight CRC, and Pfizer Quality Improvement Initiative: Optimizing Biomarker-Directed Therapy in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer**

NCCN<sup>®</sup> is pleased to announce a collaboration with Fight Colorectal Cancer (Fight CRC) and Pfizer Global Medical Grants (GMG) to offer a new grant opportunity seeking proposals for quality improvement initiatives focused on optimizing biomarker-directed therapy in metastatic colorectal cancer.

**Application Deadline:** April 10, 2023

[Read More](#)

### **Diversity Enhancement Program in Oncology at Yale Cancer Center**

The Diversity Enhancement Program in Oncology is an initiative established by the Section of Medical Oncology at YCC. The Program is designed to foster underrepresented in medicine (URiM) trainees' interest in careers in hematology/medical oncology (heme/onc) and to build a pipeline to bring URiM candidates to the YCC Heme/Onc Fellowship Program and YCC-Advanced T32 Training Program for Physician-Scientists.



New Haven faith-based organization Sisters' Journey

@sistersjourney has strived to ensure that no #womanofcolor should have to endure or experience the obstacles of a #breastcancer diagnosis alone.



"The damage that is done is not only physical; they feel like their whole sense of self is different," said Dr. Elena Ratner on how #cancer can devastate a woman's sexual function in countless ways.

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## Calendar

### **Endocrinology Clinical Dilemma**

**March 17; 12:00 PM**

Carolina Gonzalez-Lopez, MD

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale CCEH Rising Stars in Hematology Series**

**March 17; 12:00 PM**

*Heme- and iron-mediated phenotypic and functional switching of macrophages*

Francesca Vinchi, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale Cancer Answers**

**March 19; 7:30 PM**

*Benefits of Psycho-Oncology*

Shannon Mazur, DO, MA

[Learn More](#)

### **Radiobiology and Genome Integrity Research Program Conference**

**March 20; 11:00 AM**

*Extensive Protein Dosage Compensation in Aneuploid Human Cancers and Oncogene-like Addiction to Aneuploidy in Human Cancers*

Klaske Schukken, MD & Jason Sheltzer, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### **Genetics Thesis Seminar**

**March 20; 2:30 PM**

*Identifying Non-Coding and Protein Regulators of Ribosome Biogenesis*

Cecelia Harold

[Learn More](#)

### **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

The Diversity Enhancement Program in Oncology supports 2 URiM medical students or residents to spend an 8-week oncology rotation at Yale in summer 2023. The rotation will include an oncology clinical experience in conjunction with a clinical or translational research project. The selected medical student(s) or resident(s) will be mentored by YCC faculty and co-mentored by Heme/Onc T32 Fellows. The Section of Medical Oncology at YCC will cover the expenses including living, transportation, and research for up to \$5,000 per person.

**Application Deadline: April 19, 2023**

**Read More**

### **Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Career Enhancement Program (CEP)**

The CEP of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer has been established to educate the next generation of investigators committed to translational research in lung cancer. The CEP 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.

**Letters of Intent Due: April 21, 2023**

**Read More**

### **Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer Developmental Research Program (DRP) Award**

The DRP of the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer provides seed money to investigators to support studies with a strong translational component that have the potential to evolve into, or be incorporated as, a full Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer project. The purpose is also to generate preliminary data or evidence of collaboration for new NCI grant applications.

**Letters of Due: April 21, 2023**

**Read More**

### **Yale Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers: 2023-2024 Seed Grant Program**

This intramural seed grant program of the Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers (CGIC) is designed to spur team-based basic, translational, clinical, or population health research in GI cancers by providing pilot funding to support new or existing projects in early stages. Funds are intended to be used to formalize collaborations and acquire preliminary data that allow for competitive submissions for extramural funding, including multi-PI R01 and program project grants. Two (2) projects will be funded for academic year 2023-2024.

**Internal Submission Deadline: May 15, 2023**

**Read More**

### **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

**March 21; 12:00 PM**

*Cancer Care in Resource-Limited Countries:*

*The KHCC Story*

#### **King Hussain Cancer Foundation and Center**

HRH Princess Ghida

Dr. Asem Mansour, CEO and Director General

Dr. Hikmat Abdel-Razeq, Deputy Director General, Chief Medical Officer, Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine  
Dr. Kamal Al-Rabi, Head of Medical Oncology and Hematology

**Learn More**

#### **Genetics Thesis Seminar**

**March 22; 12:00 PM**

*Understanding the Organization and Function of Diverse Stem Cell Niche Architectures*

Haoyang Wei

**Learn More**

#### **Joint CSEI and BME Seminar**

**March 22; 12:00 PM**

*Learning the Shape of the Immune and Protein Universe*

Armita Nourmohammad, PhD

Assistant Professor of Physics and Applied Mathematics, University of Washington

**Learn More**

#### **Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital Town Hall**

**March 22; 5:00 PM**

Hosted by Eric Winer, MD, and Lori Pickens, MHA

Kevin Billingsley, MD, MBA, FACS, and Kim Slusser, RN, MSN.

Pamela Kunz, MD, and Anne Mongiu, MD, PhD.

Xavier Llor, MD, PhD.

**Learn More**

#### **Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

**March 23; 9:00 AM**

*Dental Management of Patients Receiving Head & Neck Radiotherapy*

Jeffrey Eskendri, DMD & Alan B. Sheiner, DDS

**Learn More**

#### **Immunobiology Seminar Series**

**March 23; 10:30 AM**

*SWI/SNF complexes in development and*

disease

Diana Hargreaves, PhD

[Learn More](#)

**Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar**

**March 23; 2:30 PM**

[Learn More](#)

**Yale Cell Biology Beyond-the-Bench Seminar**

**March 23; 3:30 PM**

*Alternative academic careers: EHS and Core Facilities*

Maren Schniederberend, PhD & Yulia Surovtseva MD

[Learn More](#)

**Pharmacology Yung-Chi Cheng Lecture Series**

**March 23; 4:00 PM**

*HIV Drug Discovery: Past, Present and Lessons for the Future*

Daria Hazuda, MD

[Learn More](#)

**Center for GI Cancers Seminar Series**

**March 23; 4:15 PM**

*Care Pathways in GI Cancers*

Deborah Rhodes, MD, FACP & Daniel Heacock, PA

[Learn More](#)

**YCC Seminar**

**March 24; 11:00 AM**

*Connecting the dots - Investigating immunotherapy at work in patients, immunotype and beyond*

Margaret Callahan, MD, PhD

Associate Attending, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

[Learn More](#)

**Genetics Thesis Seminar**

**March 24; 11:00 AM**

*Uncovering the regulation and role of tissue-wide calcium signaling in the regenerating epidermis*

Jessica Moore

[Learn More](#)

**Center for Thoracic Cancers Seminar Series**

**March 24; 11:45 AM**

Kwok-Kin Wong, MD, PhD

[Learn More](#)

### **Endocrinology Clinical Dilemma**

**March 24; 12:00 PM**

Robert Weingold, MD

**Learn More**

### **Digestive Diseases Pathophysiology Seminar**

**March 24; 1:00 PM**

*Image-guided Therapies of Primary Liver Cancer*

Julius Chapiro, MD, PhD

**Learn More**

### **Closer to Free Launch Party**

**March 26; 12:00 PM**

*The 13th Annual Closer to Free Ride returns on September 9, 2023!*

**Bear's Smokehouse BBQ — 470 James Street, New Haven, CT 06513**

**Learn More**

### **Yale Cancer Answers**

**March 26; 7:30 PM**

*Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month*

Harry Aslanian, MD

**Learn More**

### **Integrative Medicine & Support Services at Smilow Cancer Hospital**

**March 27; 10:00 AM**

*Support Group for Women with Cancer*

Ellen Riccardi, LPC

**Learn More**

### **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

**March 28; 12:00 PM**

*Redesigning Supportive Cancer Care*

*Delivery -- Aligning Goals*

Manali I. Patel, MD, MPH, MS

Assistant Professor, Division of Oncology;  
Staff Oncologist, VA Palo Alto Health Care System

**Learn More**

### **Breast Cancer CME Symposium and Dinner**

**March 29; 6:30 PM**

Barbara A. Ward, MD

Linda Latrenta, MD

Alyssa Gillego, MD

Mariya Rozenblit, MD

Allison Campbell, MD/PhD

Janet Freedman, MD, PhD

**Learn More**

**Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

**March 30; 9:00 AM**

Ehud Mendel, MD, MBA

[Learn More](#)

**Pharmacology Seminar Series**

**March 30; 12:30 PM**

*Fibronectin matrix assembly and its dysregulation in fibrosis*

Jean Schwarzbauer, Professor, Princeton University

[Learn More](#)

**Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar**

**March 30; 2:30 PM**

*CRISPR and Saturation Genome Editing*

Catherine Mayo, CGC, Ambry Genetics

[Learn More](#)

**Center for GI Cancers Seminar Series 2022-2023**

**March 30; 4:15 PM**

[Learn More](#)



**Share your news!**

Please submit your recent publications, awards, and grant announcements to:

**[Renee Gaudette](#)**

Director, Public Affairs and Communications

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