

# DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

January 20, 2017

## Announcements

### Please Join Us

It has been my privilege to attend many of the regular meetings at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital and meet many of you during my first few weeks on campus. I look forward to meeting with many more of you in the coming weeks. We will be hosting two "meet and greet" events in February, and I hope you will be able to join me at one of two upcoming events. I will host breakfast on Thursday, February 2 from 9-10am and a coffee break on Monday, February 13 from 2-3pm in WWW 208. I look forward to meeting the entire Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital community.

### Liver Cancer Program Launched at Smilow

Smilow Cancer Hospital now has a dedicated Liver Cancer Program for our patients. The incidence of liver cancer continues to rise in the United States, and we recognize the need for a dedicated team of clinicians to treat our patients. Well known to Yale, [Mario Strazzabosco, MD, PhD](#) has returned to campus full time to lead the program, which includes a multidisciplinary team of outstanding physicians from several departments. The clinic is on the 8th floor of the hospital and the team meets weekly and in tumor board to review cases and ensure innovative care to our patients. To contact the program, please call (203) 200-5487 (LIVR).

*from the desk of*

**Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH**  
Director, Yale Cancer Center  
and Physician-in-Chief  
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale  
NewHaven  
**Health**  
Smilow Cancer  
Hospital

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Yale **CANCER  
CENTER**

A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated  
by the National Cancer Institute

### Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from  
Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

LATEST ARTICLES:

## Daryl Klein Appointed to Cancer Biology Institute

Mark Lemmon, PhD, Co-Director of the Cancer Biology Institute, has announced the appointment of Daryl Klein, MD, PhD, to the Institute, and as Assistant Professor of Pharmacology. Dr. Klein is a trained physician-scientist who applies biophysical methods to decipher how cells respond to their environment. His lab hopes to crack this signaling code in order to direct cellular fates in cells whose circuits have been hijacked by oncogenic programs. Dr. Klein trained in both Medicine and Biochemistry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Most recently he was a Fellow of Molecular Medicine in Steve Harrison's lab at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital.

## Global Oncology Retreat

Please join us for a Global Oncology Retreat on Monday, January 30 at Yale's West Campus. The program will feature a keynote address by Edward Trimble, MD, PhD, Director of the National Cancer Institute's Center for Global Health, as well as several presentations from faculty focused on oncology around the world from throughout Yale University. Submissions for poster presentations on global oncology are being accepted now. Please contact [Susan Silva](#) for more information.

[Register Now >>](#)

## Notables

**Craig Crews, PhD** will be honored by the **American Association for Cancer Research** at the annual meeting in April with the **Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry in Cancer Research Award**. The award is presented for outstanding, novel, and significant chemistry research, which has led to important contributions to the fields of basic cancer research, translational cancer research, cancer diagnosis, the prevention of cancer, or the treatment of patients with cancer. Dr. Crews' lab pioneered the use of small molecules to control intracellular protein levels, and is currently working on protein targeting drug development.

## Innovative breast reconstruction: An amazing result enhances self-esteem



[Read More >>](#)

## Krishnan-Sarin: Youths, E-Cigarettes A Bad Combination



[Read More >>](#)

## NCI-designated Cancer Centers Endorse Updated HPV Vaccination Recommendations



[Read More >>](#)

## New Haven cancer doctors working to draw people of color into clinical trials

**Tae Kon Kim, MD, PhD** is the recipient of an **American Society of Hematology Scholar Award**. The title of the proposal is "Overcoming immune evasion in acute myeloid leukemia with antibody dependent cell cytotoxicity by PD-1H targeting and an immune modulator, anti-4-1BB antibody." The award will provide \$100,000 to fund his research for two years.

**Monica Fradkin, RN, MPH, OCN** has been appointed to the position of **Clinical Program Director, Smilow Network**. In this position, Monica will oversee the clinical operations of our Smilow Care Centers in Torrington, Waterbury, Derby, Orange, North Haven, Guilford and Old Saybrook. Monica has more than 20 years experience in Oncology in a variety of clinical roles in different organizations and has been at YHHH/Smilow for the past 10 years. Please join us in congratulating her.

**Dr. Clarence Sasaki** recently received the **Giotakis-Psyrris Award** from the **Hellenic Society of Head and Neck Cancer**. The award honors Dr. Sasaki for his lifelong and distinguished contribution to oncology education and research and for his devotion to patients with neoplastic diseases. The Hellenic Society of Head and Neck Cancer is an international society that aims to disseminate knowledge of the different aspects of oral precancerous lesions and head and neck cancers.

#### **ASCO GI Cancers Symposium**

Our Gastrointestinal Cancers Program is presenting research and outcomes at ASCO's 2017 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium January 19-21 in San Francisco.

The following abstracts and posters have been accepted for presentation:

#### **Oral Abstract**

*Cancers of the Esophagus and Stomach*

Charles S. Fuchs

#### **General Session**

*The Tumor Genome-Molecular Subtypes in Colorectal Cancer*

Howard S. Hochster



[Read More >>](#)

**National Organization of Italian American Women Will Honor Dr. Pat LoRusso**



[Read More >>](#)

**Lung cancer patients may benefit from delayed chemotherapy after surgery**



[Read More >>](#)

**Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook**

## Poster Sessions

*Interim safety and clinical activity in patients (pts) with advanced gastric or gastroesophageal junction (G/GEJ) adenocarcinoma from a multicohort phase 1 study of ramucirumab (R) plus pembrolizumab (P)*

Roy S. Herbst, Charles S. Fuchs

*Quality of life and self-management strategies after gastroesophageal cancer surgery*

Ruth McCorkle

*Efficacy and safety of ramucirumab (RAM) for metastatic gastric or gastroesophageal junction (GEJ) adenocarcinoma across age subgroups in two global phase 3 trials*

Charles S. Fuchs

*Interim analysis of perioperative modified FOLFIRINOX (mFOLFIRINOX) in resectable pancreatic cancer*

Michael Cecchini, Ronald R Salem, Wajih Zaheer Kidwai, Jeremy S. Kortmansky, Neal A. Fischbach, Abhijit Patel, Howard S. Hochster, Jill Lacy

*SWOG S1505: A randomized phase II study of perioperative mFOLFIRINOX vs. gemcitabine/nab-paclitaxel as therapy for resectable pancreatic adenocarcinoma*

Howard S. Hochster

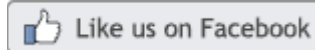
*Association of change in AFP > 15 ng/ml/month with stage at diagnosis and mortality in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)*

Tamar H. Taddei, Basile Njei

*Interim results of a multicenter phase II trial of nab-paclitaxel (nab-P) plus gemcitabine (G) for patients (Pts) with locally advanced pancreatic cancer (LAPC)*

Jill Lacy

*Efficacy and safety of atezolizumab (atezo) and bevacizumab (bev) in a phase Ib study of microsatellite instability (MSI)-high metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC)*



## LATEST POSTS:

We're happy to announce that the Yale Alumni Association of Greenwich, along with the Greenwich Library, will be hosting a panel of Yale experts on Sunday, January 22nd to discuss recent developments in cancer research. The panel is at 3:30 pm in the Cole Auditorium of the Greenwich Library at 101 West Putnam Avenue, with doors opening at 3.

Online registration is suggested - visit [greenwichlibrary.org](http://greenwichlibrary.org) to let them know you're coming. We hope to see you there!

**1. 22. 17** **Recent Developments in Cancer Research**  
A panel discussion featuring researchers from Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center.

[Read More >>](#)

We're excited to announce that the 2017 Lion Heart grant recipients have been chosen! The grants, coming from the \$145,000 raised by the Lion Hearts in 2016, will go to investigate cutting edge therapies and pressing questions in the field of breast cancer.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**2017 Lion Heart Grant recipients**

**ZHONG YUN, PHD**

[Read More >>](#)

A young boy from Venezuela who beat the odds against soft tissue sarcoma is a medical miracle according to his doctor, and it probably wouldn't have happened without the generosity of several New Haven area

Howard S. Hochster

*Randomized trial of irinotecan and cetuximab with or without vemurafenib in BRAF-mutant metastatic colorectal cancer (SWOG 1406)*

Howard S. Hochster

## New Member Highlight: Iris Isufi, MD

Drs. Barbara Burtress and Karen Anderson are delighted to welcome Iris Isufi, MD, to the Developmental Therapeutics (DT) Research Program. Dr. Isufi has years of clinical trial experience for aggressive lymphomas, and serves as local PI for industry and cooperative-group sponsored lymphoma trials including Phase I.



Currently, she is local PI on three actively recruiting Phase I trials with novel agents in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, and chronic lymphocytic leukemia, as well as a large upfront Phase 3 study in diffuse large B cell lymphoma.

## Employee Profile: Shanda Nardelli

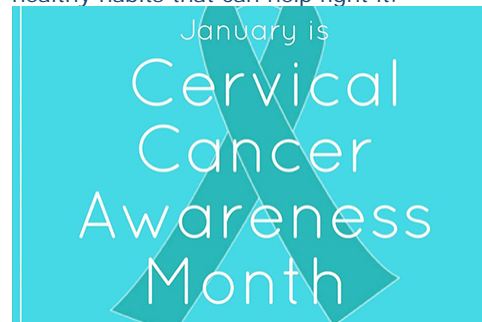
institutions.

Maurizio Candido, known as Mauri, has been coming to New Haven periodically over the past 10 years for treatment.



[Read More >>](#)

Each year in the United States 11,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and more than 4,000 U.S. women die from the disease. The good news is that death rates have declined dramatically due to better screening, and most cervical cancer deaths can be prevented by regular testing and follow-up care. In addition, the availability of the HPV vaccine to prevent Human papillomavirus, which can lead to cervical cancer, has reduced incidence. Join us this month in raising awareness, and the healthy habits that can help fight it.



[Read More >>](#)

Wow! We have 25,000 followers for our Facebook page, and it wouldn't be possible without you! Thank you for following us and staying up to date with what's going on at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center.

Shanda Nardelli, BSN, OCN, CNIII, started work in a lab studying biochemistry. She quickly realized, however, that she wanted to interact with patients, and 13 years ago she began a career in nursing. She currently works in the Women's Infusion Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, caring for patients with breast and gynecologic cancers.



Shanda evaluates patients when they come in, checks their blood work, and makes sure they are feeling well enough to receive treatment. Most patients are receiving chemotherapy and Shanda performs patient assessments throughout to make sure they are tolerating their regimen well. She also works with the PAs and APRNs to help manage any side effects patients may be experiencing outside of the clinic.

Some patients come in weekly, others monthly, and Shanda commented that she gets to know not only their diagnosis, but their family and friends as well. "This patient population is so strong. Even though they are struggling with cancer, they remain positive and hopeful and are able to maintain their roles as women, as mothers, and also their careers. It is hard not to be upbeat when you are around these women every day, they are so inspiring," said Shanda. She commented that while the majority of her patients are women, they do have a few male patients with breast cancer.

Most new patients come in not knowing what to expect, but find that they leave with a positive outlook on their care and where they are being treated. Shanda attributes this to the wonderful staff and the positive environment they create. Maureen Major Campos, RN, MS, Program Manager, Women's Oncology Services, commented, "Shanda is one of a kind. She is warm and caring to her patients and provides a level of clinical excellence




[Read More >>](#)


## Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter


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### LATEST TWEETS:

 Join Dr. Charles Fuchs as he presents "Cancer of the Esophagus and Stomach" at #G117 in the ballroom now.

 Dr. Krishnan-Sarin @YaleCancer discusses a rise in use of e-cigarettes in youth  
@hartfordcourant @hartfordcourant

 The U.S. has already seen a 64% decline among girls aged 14-19 in the 4 HPV types protected for by the #HPV vaccine.

 Impact of exercise on weight & bone density in #breastcancer survivors taking aromatase inhibitors @mirwin\_yale

 Tune in to @wnpr tonight at 7:30 to @YaleCancer Answers. Tonight's show will discuss the latest hematology advances. #ASH16#hematology

 We're committed to providing better access to #clinicaltrials by bringing trials into the community  
@DrRoyHerbstYale

that I am proud to boast about! We are lucky to have her on our team."

## Funding and 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 >>](#)

### David & Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowships in Science & Engineering

For faculty members in the first 3 years of their appointment who have demonstrated unusual creative ability in their research work.

**Internal Deadline:** January 23, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

### The Dana Foundation 2017 David Mahoney Neuroimaging Program

For pilot testing of promising but high-risk innovative ideas in either or both areas:

Physiological/Structural Imaging (anatomical imaging of white or gray matter and measures of physiological functioning; Cellular/Molecular Imaging of biochemical actions of specific brain cells, or their interactions with immune cells.

**Internal Deadline:** January 24, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)


### Feasibility Studies to Build Collaborative Partnerships in Cancer Research (P20)


Through this FOA, the NCI invites P20 planning grant applications for developing collaborative partnership between institutions serving underserved health disparity populations and underrepresented students (ISUPS) and NCI-designated Cancer Centers.


**Application Deadline:** January 27, 2017


[Learn More >>](#)

### Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Early Detection Targeted Grant

 New Haven cancer doctors working to draw people of color into #clinicaltrials @YNHH#NHV via @nhregister

 [@NOIAW](#) will honor @YaleCancer's Dr. Patricia LoRusso Jan 15 for her work in #clinicaltrials & drug development

 Older #lungcancer patients face significant treatment burden [@myCARG](#) [@CPresGeriOncMD](#) [@cpgYALE](#) [@YaleCOPPER#lcs](#)

 New study from @YaleCancer reveals that #lungcancer patients may benefit from delayed chemo after surgery #lcs

## Closer to Free

# closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

## Upcoming Events

**January 20-22; 8AM**

**CBIT/Radiology/Biomedical Imaging Healthcare Hack-a-thon**

Harkness Auditorium

*Re-Engineering Patient Experience and Provider Engagement*

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 20; 1PM**

**YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program**

SHM I-304

*Development of Yiviva906 (PHY906): A Traditional Chinese Formula, as a Platform Drug for Treatment of Cancer*

Yung-Chi Cheng, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 20; 5PM**

Supports studies utilizing NCI/NIDDK cohort of new onset diabetics with high risk of sporadic pancreatic cancer; projects will focus on blood biomarkers.

**Application Deadline:** February 1, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Precision Medicine Targeted Grant**

Supports translational and clinically relevant projects that are identified as next steps for our Precision Promise initiative.

**Application Deadline:** February 1, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

### **NIH Reducing Overscreening for Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal Cancers among Older Adults (R01)**

The purpose of this FOA is to promote research on interventions, based in healthcare settings, designed to reduce overscreening for breast, cervical, or colorectal cancers among average-risk older adults.

**Application Deadline, Cycle 1:**

February 5, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

### **NIH Consortium for Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC) Translational Studies on the Tumor Microenvironment (U01)**

The purpose of this FOA is to stimulate research in the area of PDAC microenvironment with the ultimate goal of understanding the interaction between tumors and the microenvironment.

**Letter of Intent Due:** February 7, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

### **NIH Resource Center for the Consortium for Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC) Translational Studies (U24)**

This FOA invites applications to establish a Resource Center for the Consortium for PDAC Translational Studies on the Tumor Microenvironment (Consortium) that has the ultimate goal to design new immunotherapy and combination interventions in PDAC.

**Letter of Intent Due:** February 7, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Beaumont Medical Club**

SHM, L-114

*Dr. Saul Hertz RAI and The Origin of Nuclear Medicine ... Challenges and Institutional Politics*

Barbara Hertz, M Ed

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 22; 3:30PM**

### **Yale Alumni Association of Greenwich and Greenwich Library Seminar**

Greenwich Library/Cole Auditorium

*Recent Developments in Cancer Research*

Roy S. Hersbt, MD, PhD, Daniel Petrylak, MD, Tara Sanft, MD, Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD and Susan Kaech, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 22; 7:30PM**

### **Yale Cancer Answers**

WNPR 90.5

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 23; 11AM**

### **YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**

SHM I-304

*The Biological Understanding and Targeting of PPM1D Mutations*

Nathan Fons

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 23; 2PM**

### **Yale Cancer Biology Institute Research Seminar**

Hope 216

*Roles of RNA Modifications in Normal Homeostasis and Cancer*

Claudio R. Alarcon, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 24; 9:30AM**

### **Pathology Research in Progress Talk**

TAC N-107

*Measurement and Assessment of EGFR Activation in Lung Cancer*

Maria Toki, MD

*Applying Inducible and Multiplexed CRISPR/Cas9 in Cancer Studies*



### **NIH Reducing Overscreening for Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal Cancers among Older Adults (R21)**

The purpose of this FOA is to promote research on interventions, based in healthcare settings, designed to reduce overscreening for breast, cervical, or colorectal cancers among average-risk older adults.

#### **Application Deadline, Cycle 1:**

February 16, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Utilizing the PLCO Biospecimens Resource to Bridge Gaps in Cancer Etiology and Early Detection Research (U01)**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages the submission of applications that propose to advance research in cancer etiology and early detection biomarkers, utilizing the advantages of the unique biorepository resources of the NCI-sponsored Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer (PLCO) Screening Trial.

**Application Due Date:** February 15, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

## **Recent Publications**

### **Autocrine and Paracrine Mechanisms Promoting Chemoresistance in Cholangiocarcinoma.**

Cadamuro M, Brivio S, Spirli C, Joplin RE, Strazzabosco M, Fabris L.

Int J Mol Sci. 2017 Jan 13;18(1).

[Read More >>](#)

### **Hypomethylating agents in combination with histone deacetylase inhibitors in higher risk myelodysplastic syndromes: Is there a light at the end of the tunnel?**

Stahl M, Zeidan AM.

Cancer. 2017 Jan 17.

[Read More >>](#)

Jian "CJ" Cao, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 24; 11AM**

### **Cushing/Whitney Medical Library Training**

SHM C-103

*Excelra Biomarker Discovery Database*

Sreeni Devidas, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 24; 12PM**

### **YCC Grand Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

*Targeted Cancer Next-Generation Sequencing Panels: Update on the YNHH Tumor Profiling Laboratory*

Janina Longtine, MD

*Targeted Therapy for patients with Homologous DNA Repair Defects*

Joseph Paul Eder, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 24; 5PM**

### **SCSU/Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital Health Fair**

SCSU/Adanti Student Center

*Movie Screening: Someone You Love/The HPV Epidemic*

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 25; 12PM**

### **YCC Cancer Metabolism Interest Group Journal Club**

BMCC 206/208

*Effects of Targeted Inhibitors on Melanoma Metabolism*

Marcus Bosenberg, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 26; 9AM**

### **Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

Smilow, LL505

*Healthcare Applications of Deep Learning Analysis*

Sanjay Aneja, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

**The Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function (BRIEF) to Identify Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) Survivors At Risk for Neurocognitive Impairment.**

Viola A, Balsamo L, Neglia JP, Brouwers P, Ma X, Kadan-Lottick NS.

J Pediatr Hematol Oncol. 2017 Jan 12.

[Read More >>](#)

**DNA polymerase beta germline variant confers cellular response to cisplatin therapy.**

Nemec AA, Abriola L, Merkel JS, deStanchina E, DeVeaux M, Zelterman D, Glazer PM, Sweasy JB.

Mol Cancer Res. 2017 Jan 10.

[Read More >>](#)

**Comparison of Survival Outcomes Among Human Papillomavirus-Negative cT1-2 N1-2b Patients With Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Cancer Treated With Upfront Surgery vs Definitive Chemoradiation Therapy: An Observational Study.**

Kelly JR, Park HS, An Y, Contessa JN, Yarbrough WG, Burtness BA, Decker R, Husain Z.

JAMA Oncol. 2017 Jan 5.

[Read More >>](#)

**January 26; 10AM**

**Cushing/Whitney Medical Library Training**

SHM, Rm 103

*Next Gen Sequencing for Biologists Series: RNA-Seq Standard Analysis*

Nur-Taz Rahman, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 26; 12:30PM**

**Pathology Grand Rounds**

LMP 1094

*The Changing Landscape of Gynecological Cancer Diagnostics: Present State and the Way Forward*

Blake Gilks, MD, FRCPC

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 26; 2:30PM**

**Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar**

SRC, Suites 107-109

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 27; 11AM**

**Smilow Screening & Prevention Informational Table**

YNHH EP Café Entrance

*National Cervical Health Awareness Month*

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 29; 7:30PM**

**Yale Cancer Answers**

WNPR 90.5

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 30; 8:30AM**

**YCC 2017 Global Oncology Retreat**

West Campus

Edward Trimble, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 30; 3PM**

**Yale Cancer Biology Institute / YCC Cancer Metabolism Interest Group Seminar**

Hope 216

*Advanced Solutions for Metabolism & Metabolomics Research*

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 31; 9:30AM**

**Pathology Research in Progress Talks**

TAC N-107

TBA

Franz Villarroel, PhD and Michael Stankewich, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**January 31; 12PM**

**YCC Grand Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

*Toward a Definitive Standard of Germline Structural Variants using Multiple Genomic Technologies*

Charles Lee, PhD, FACMG

[Learn More >>](#)

**February 1; 12:30PM**

**YCC Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program**

YSPH, Rm 216

*Prostate Cancer Research: A Roundtable Discussion About Current and Future Prostate Cancer Prevention and Control Research*

[Learn More >>](#)

**February 2; 8:30AM**

**Medical Grand Rounds**

*Emerging Opportunities in Lung Disease*

Patricia Finn, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

**February 2; 9AM**

**YCC Meet and Greet the Director**

WWW 208

Dr. Charles Fuchs

[Learn More >>](#)

**February 2; 10AM**

**Cushing/Whitney Medical Library Training**

SHM C-103

*Make New Discoveries with your OMICs Data: Hypothesis testing and assumption-free exploration*

Yana Khalina-Stackpole, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**February 2; 12:30PM**

**Pathology Grand Rounds**

LMP 1094

*Clinical Cancer Genotyping: Detection of Gene Fusions*

Anthony John Iafrate, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**February 2; 2:30PM**

**Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar**

SRC, Suites 107-109

[Learn More >>](#)

## Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**

Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

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

 Forward to a Friend