

Ira Mellman, PhD

Named Scientific Director of the Yale Cancer Center

RICHARD L. EDELSON, MD, DIRECTOR OF YALE CANCER CENTER, has announced the appointment of Ira Mellman, PhD as Scientific Director of the Center. Mellman, an expert in immunology and cell biology, is the Sterling Professor of Cell Biology and Immunobiology at Yale University School of Medicine and Chairman of the Department of Cell Biology.

Ira Mellman, PhD



Jerry Doman

“Ira Mellman brings all of the right ingredients to the critical leadership position of Scientific Director of the Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Mellman’s demonstrated leadership skills and intricate familiarity with the research community at Yale make him the ideal choice for this position. He will have a central role in the recruitment of additional world-class cancer scientists, to complement the extraordinary investigative strengths existing at the Center. In enhancing our cancer research programs, Dr. Mellman will be collaborating closely with

two other senior leaders of the Center: Dr. José Costa, Deputy Director, and Dr. Edward Chu, Director of Clinical Research and Chief of Medical Oncology,” Dr. Edelson said.

Dr. Mellman’s research merges the disciplines of cell biology and immunology in an effort to understand the fundamental mechanisms of antigen processing and presentation by dendritic cells. Dr. Mellman’s combined focus on cell biology and immunology has led him to explore the role of the cellular and molecular function of dendritic cells. The study of the mechanisms of dendritic cells is leading to new strategies for the development of cancer vaccines. His work on epithelial cells is revealing aspects of cell biology directly relevant to metastasis and the development of antibody-based anti-tumor therapies.

“This is an important moment for cancer research and a crucial time for us to harness basic science for the benefit of patients,” said Dean Robert J. Alpern, MD, the Ensign Professor of Medicine. “Ira Mellman’s appointment as scientific director provides a key link joining the Cancer Center to Yale’s vibrant research community in pursuit of that goal.”

Long affiliated with the Ludwig Institute of Cancer Research (LICR), Dr. Mellman’s appointment will solidify the existing scientific affiliations between Yale Cancer Center and the LICR, an international organization that utilizes the strength of leading scientists worldwide in a collective fight against cancer. “A partnership between Yale Cancer Center

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Cancer Center Advisory Board

Strengthened with Three New Members

JENNIFER A. K. PATTERSON, MD, RON SOMMER, PHD, AND JIM VLOCK, were recently welcomed to the Yale Cancer Center Advisory Board. Led by Dr. Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., the Board supports the development goals of the Center and helps to promote the Center’s mission to expand both research and clinical initiatives.

Dr. Jennifer Patterson held appointments at both Columbia University and the New York University Medical Center before starting a private dermatology practice in 1989 in New York City. Educated at Middlesex Hospital Medical School at the University of London, Dr. Patterson became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1975 and was later licensed in New York in 1980. She lives in New York City and in Oxfordshire, England with her husband, Sir Howard Stringer, Vice Chairman of Sony Corporation, and their two children.

Former CEO of Deutsche Telekom, Ron Sommer, PhD, is currently the Head of Advisory Committee for AFK Sistema in Moscow, Russia. Sistema Joint-Stock Financial Corporations is one of Russia’s largest diversified holding companies. Established in 1993, the corporation manages a diversified portfolio of investments in various industries including telecommunications, technology, finances and securities, travel and tourism, retail, and others. Mr. Sommer holds a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Vienna. He lives in Cologne, Germany with his wife, Ingrid.

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Robert J. Alpern, MD Named Dean of YSM

Dr. Robert J. Alpern, former Dean of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, was named the 16th Dean of Yale University School of Medicine on June 1. Alpern, who is a distinguished nephrologist, brings a strong background of accomplishment as a scientific and clinical leader to Yale.

“Dr. Alpern has a most impressive record of leadership at Southwestern in research, education, and patient care,” Yale University President Richard C. Levin said. “He has the intelligence, clarity, openness, and integrity to be a superb Dean of the School of Medicine.”

Alpern received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in 1972 and his MD from the University of Chicago in 1976. He completed his internship and residency training at Columbia University before joining the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California to complete his postdoctoral fellowship in nephrology and renal physiology. Dean Alpern was recruited to Southwestern to become Chief of Nephrology in 1987 and later became Dean in 1998.



Terry Dagnadi

Teresa A. Ponn, MD

Joins the Yale-New Haven Breast Center



Jerry Dornan

Teresa Ponn, MD

DR. TERESA A. PONN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of Surgery at Yale University School of Medicine, has been named the new Associate Director for Breast Surgery at the Yale-New Haven Breast Center. A veteran of private practice in the New Haven area, Dr. Ponn looks forward to concentrating her practice on breast care for patients of the Yale-New Haven Breast Center.

"I am excited to be able to give my patients the comprehensive care that the Yale-New Haven Breast Center offers," Dr. Ponn said.

A graduate of the University of Florida College of Medicine, Dr. Ponn completed her internship and residency at Stanford University and was the chief surgical resident from 1981-1982. In 1985, Dr. Ponn moved to New Haven and has since focused her surgical practice on caring for patients with breast malignancies. Dr. Ponn joins Dr. Donald Lannin, Executive Director of the Yale-New Haven Breast Center and Professor of Surgery.

"We are delighted that Terry Ponn has joined the faculty in the Department of Surgery. She brings a wealth of clinical experience with a specialty in breast care and joins Don Lannin in caring for our patients in the Yale-New Haven Breast Center. I am particularly pleased to have both a male and female breast surgeon who offer state of the art care to our patients, locally, regionally and nationally," Dr. Robert Udelsman, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, said.

In addition to maintaining a busy clinical practice in the breast center, Drs. Lannin and Ponn hope to begin combining their personal patient databases, which contain over 20 years of clinical data on breast cancer, in an effort to initiate research projects using the data. "We have a wealth of patient information that we can gather and begin to compare," Dr. Ponn said. Drs. Lannin and Ponn will use student resources to begin their research and will also be mentoring a surgical resident in the breast center.

The Yale-New Haven Breast Center offers a full range of care to

women seeking information about breast health with physicians and staff trained to provide every patient with extraordinary clinical care in a supportive environment. The Center offers convenient appointments, rapid diagnosis and treatment, and access to the most up-to-date technology and latest research protocols. To make an appointment for care at the Center, please call 203.785.2328.

research

\$7.5 Million Grant Awarded

Daniel DiMaio, MD, the Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Genetics and Director of the Molecular Virology Research Program at Yale Cancer Center, was recently awarded a 5-year, \$7.5 million program project grant by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to continue research into the relationship between viruses and the development of cancer. The grant, which is in its 31st year of consecutive funding from the NCI, is one of the longest-running basic science grants at the Yale University School of Medicine.

"Because viruses are so well-defined and relatively simple compared to their host cells, we are optimistic that studies supported by this grant will continue to identify new targets for therapy and suggest new approaches to prevent and treat cancers," explained Dr. DiMaio.

DiMaio studies human papillomaviruses (HPV) and their link to cervical cancer. Collaborators on the grant include, George Miller, MD, who studies the Epstein-Barr Virus and the Kaposi Sarcoma herpesvirus, Joan Steitz, who also studies herpesviruses, and Joann Sweasy, who focuses on the effect of mutant DNA polymerases in malignant cells. "Working collaboratively on these related projects has enabled us to make much more rapid progress in understanding the molecular basis of cancer," said DiMaio.

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and the LICR will help to build a unique, academically-based effort that applies the best of cell biology, molecular biology, genetics, chemistry, and biochemistry to directly benefit our patients," Dr. Mellman explained. "Cancer patients coming to Yale are not only being cared for by one of the most skilled and dedicated teams of healthcare professionals anywhere, but also by a team of distinguished scientists singularly committed to understanding and devising treatments for their disease."

Mellman received his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College, his PhD in genetics from Yale University School of Medicine, and performed his fellowship training at Rockefeller University before joining the faculty at Yale in 1981. He has also served as the Newton Abraham Professor at Oxford University. The recipient of numerous honors, awards, and distinguished lectureships, he has authored more than 160 published articles throughout his career and is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Cell Biology*. He also serves on the editorial boards of *Cell*, *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, and the *International Journal of Cancer* as well as on the advisory boards of key research institutes and cancer research foundations worldwide.

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Jim Vlock is the Chairman and CEO of the Fox Steel Company and Fox Steel Products, Inc. in Orange, Connecticut. He received his MBA from Cornell University. Active in local community organizations, Mr. Vlock serves on the Board of Directors for the New Haven Jewish Community Center, is the Chairman of the Mayor's Committee on the Elderly in New Haven, is President of the Community Developers, Inc., and is an Associate Fellow of Morse College at Yale University. Mr. Vlock lives in Woodbridge with his wife, Gail Brekke Vlock.

Benefit Concert for the Dr. Mel Goldstein Multiple Myeloma Research Fund



Jocelyn Maminta, Host and Event Chair

ON SUNDAY, November 21, 2004, the Yale Cancer Center Advisory Board will honor Dr. Mel Goldstein, Chief Meteorologist for News Channel 8 – WTNH, with an extraordinary jazz concert to support the Dr. Mel Goldstein Multiple Myeloma

Research Fund. Hosted by WTNH News Anchor, Jocelyn Maminta, *The Ellis Marsalis Quartet* will perform at Battell Chapel in New Haven at 4:30 PM.

November marks the 8th anniversary of Dr. Mel's diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow with an average life expectancy of three years. In 1999, he established the Dr. Mel Goldstein Multiple Myeloma Research Fund at Yale Cancer Center to help fund clinical trials for this incurable form of cancer. He is the author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Weather*, and has donated all proceeds from two editions of the book to this special fund.

Dr. Mel has loved jazz since living in Greenwich Village in the sixties and played jazz piano until recent years when the progression of the multiple myeloma made it impossible. Yale Cancer Center is grateful to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Mel's work for countless charities in Connecticut over his 35-year career with a concert by the legendary jazz pianist and teacher, Ellis Marsalis.

Universally recognized as a premier jazz pianist, Ellis Marsalis has taught some of the best young talent in jazz today beginning with his own sons Branford, Wynton, Delfeayo, and Jason, as well as jazz sensations Harry Connick, Jr., Peter Cincotti, Terence Blanchard, and Donald Harrison. The Director of Jazz Studies at the University of New Orleans until his retirement in 2001, Marsalis continues to perform throughout the country inspiring new generations of jazz piano enthusiasts.

For more information or to purchase concert tickets please call 203.737.2439 or go to www.yalecancercenter.org and print an order form. Concert tickets are \$35 and \$50. Concert tickets with supper following at the Union League Café are \$250.

Ellis Marsalis



Ellis Marsalis Concert Ticket Information

\$35-Open Seating

\$50-Reserved Seating

Credit Card Orders

Call 203.737.2439

Payment by Check

Download an order form
at www.yalecancercenter.org
and mail to:

Yale Cancer Center
Office of Medical Development
100 Church Street South, Suite 211
PO Box 7611
New Haven, CT 06519-1714

Tickets Purchased on November 21, 2004

Please visit the Info New Haven

Downtown Visitor Center

12:00 – 5:00 PM

1000 Chapel Street

Corner of Chapel and College Streets

New Haven, CT 06510

203.773.9494

community

STAFF BRIEFS

The Clinical Trials Office has hired **Michele Antisdel** as protocol coordinator.

Susan Chmael, RN has joined the staff of the medical oncology clinic as the gastrointestinal nurse coordinator.

Dr. Edward Uchio, Assistant Professor of Surgery, has joined the Section of Urology and will serve as Director of Urologic Oncology at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center. Dr. Uchio treats patients with renal, prostate, and bladder cancer.

The Yale-New Haven Breast Center welcomes **Dr. Teresa Ponn** as the new Associate Director for Breast Surgery.

Mario Sznol, MD has been appointed a Professor of Medical Oncology at Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Sznol received his undergraduate degree from Rice University and his MD from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. He is the Vice President of Clinical Affairs for Vion Pharmaceuticals, a cancer treatment discovery company located in New Haven. Dr. Sznol will be caring for patients with melanoma and renal cell carcinoma in the medical oncology clinic at Yale Cancer Center and will head the melanoma disease unit for the Center.

Yale CANCER CENTER

Director
Richard L. Edelson, MD

Deputy Director, Administration
Nancy Scanlon

Associate Director,
Development and Community Affairs
Judith Winslow

Editor
Renee Gaudette

Design
Beth Crowell / Cheung/Crowell Design

Yale-New Haven Hospital
Yale University School of Medicine
P.O. Box 208028
New Haven, CT 06520-8028
www.yalecancercenter.org



A Comprehensive Cancer Center
Designated by the National Cancer Institute

Patient & Community Calendar

All Events are Free and Open to the Public

2004

November 10, 2004

What Vitamins Should I Take?

2:30 – 3:30 PM, Max Taffel Room, YNHH
Alison Winter-Lai, MS, RD, CNSD
Call 203.688.6573 for information and registration

November 10, 2004

Understanding Cancer Lecture Series

Lymphoma and Hodgkin's Disease

Dr. Dennis Cooper, Professor of Medical Oncology
6:00 PM, YNHH East Pavilion Cafeteria
Call 1.888.700.6543 for reservations

November 17, 2004

The Management of Prostate Cancer

Dr. Kenneth Roberts, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, and Dr. John Colberg, Associate Professor of Surgery
6:30-8:30 PM, 111 Goose Lane, Guilford
Call 1.888.700.6543 for reservations

November 21, 2004

Ellis Marsalis Quartet Concert

To Benefit the Dr. Mel Goldstein Multiple Myeloma Research Fund at YCC

4:30-6:30 PM, Battell Chapel, Yale University
To purchase tickets call 203.737.2439

December 9, 2004

Patient and Family Holiday Party

5:30 PM, Harkness Lounge
Call 1.888.700.6543 for reservations

2005

January 12, 2005

Understanding Cancer Lecture Series

New Directions in Cancer Treatment

Dr. Richard Edelson, Director, YCC
Dr. Edward Chu, Chief of Medical Oncology
6:00 PM, YNHH East Pavilion Cafeteria
Call 1.888.700.6543 for reservations

February 9, 2005

Understanding Cancer Lecture Series

Surviving Cancer

Susan Mendelsohn, Cancer Survivor
6:00 PM, YNHH East Pavilion Cafeteria
Call 1.888.700.6543 for reservations

March 9, 2005

Understanding Cancer Lecture Series

Ovarian Cancer

Peter Schwartz, MD, John Slade Ely
Professor of Gynecologic Oncology
6:00 PM, YNHH East Pavilion Cafeteria
Call 1.888.700.6543 for reservations

April 13, 2005

Understanding Cancer Lecture Series

The Management of Anxiety and Depression for People with Cancer and their Family Members

Holly Prigerson, Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Epidemiology and Public Health
6:00 PM, YNHH East Pavilion Cafeteria
Call 1.888.700.6543 for reservations

For more information on patient programs and a current calendar of events, please go to www.yalecancercenter.org

Yale Cancer Center Support Groups

Womens' Group

For women who have been treated for cancer or are currently receiving treatment. For more information please call Pat Scholl at 203.688.5962 or Tish Knobf at 203.737.2357.

Stem Cell Transplant Group

For patients who have had stem cell transplants and their caregivers. For more information please call Bonnie Indeck at 203.688.6573 or Erin Medoff at 203.785.5820.

Brain Tumor Group

For patients who have been treated for a brain tumor and their families. For more information please call Betsey D'Andrea at 203.737.1671.

Parents' Support Group

For parents of children with cancer. For more information please call Connie Nicolosi at 203.688.7519.

Men's Forum

For men who have been treated for cancer or are currently receiving treatment. For more information please call Mark Lawless at 203.688.2766.

Family Support

For family members currently caring for a loved one with cancer. For more information please call Pat Scholl at 203.688.5962.

Community

Complementary Therapies

Offer a Diversion from Treatment

YALE CANCER CENTER is proud to offer our patients the opportunity to participate in therapeutic massage, guided imagery, and reiki during private appointments with a licensed therapist through the *Julie Hopkins Neilson Complementary Therapy Program*. Recognizing that cancer treatment is often a physically and emotionally overwhelming process, the program has been funded by the Reverend Albert P. Neilson, in memory of his late wife, to help provide cancer patients with a relaxing and stress-relieving opportunity free of charge.

“The therapies helped me to relax and enabled an emotional healing process to occur, which was very supportive to my treatment process,” a breast cancer survivor, who was receiving both chemotherapy and radiation treatment, explained. “The response

was sustainable and I looked forward to each therapy session.”

Spearheaded by Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Director of Patient Services at Yale Cancer Center, and Eileen Cain, LCSW, Manager, Adult Social Work, both members of the Department of Social Work at Yale-New Haven Hospital, the complementary therapy program at Yale Cancer Center has expanded, following a successful clinical trial with the support of Reverend Neilson, to provide therapy sessions to patients undergoing active cancer treatment in the outpatient clinics. In addition to the private therapy sessions, small group yoga classes are also offered.

Therapeutic massage is a gentle therapy used to reduce stress, ease muscle tension, improve circulation, relieve secondary pain, and reduce fluid retention. Similarly, reiki is an ancient Japanese method of healing using the hands to transfer energy from the practitioner to the patient. Guided Imagery allows the patient to focus on relaxing images of their choice with the help of a therapist to achieve a deep state of relaxation. Patients can make appointments for the therapy of their choice in the Hunter Complementary Therapy Room by calling Dana Shaffer at 203.688.7226.

A full day retreat is also coordinated every six months to help a small number of patients who are near the end of aggressive cancer treatment and their care partners to reconnect emotionally. The intimate program includes a presentation by social workers and a chaplain and is followed by a one hour therapy session, a seminar on nutrition, lunch, private sessions with a social worker for each couple, group therapy for the patients and caregivers separately, an art therapy program, and concludes with private guided imagery sessions. For more information on this program, please contact Bonnie Indeck at 203.688.6573.



Jerry Domian

Sue Brinigar and Gisela Boxleitner, Massage Therapists, with Dana Shaffer, Program Coordinator.

YCC Receives Institutional Research Grant

The American Cancer Society has awarded Yale Cancer Center an institutional research grant (IRG) for \$420,000 to support the research of junior faculty with the goal of attracting them to cancer research. The grant allows Dr. Richard L. Edelson, Director of the Cancer Center and Principal Investigator for the grant, to give seed money to individual faculty members for research into the prevention, detection, or cure of cancer of up to \$20,000 to enable them to obtain preliminary research findings before competing for national research grants.

In Memoriam: Marcia Israel-Curley

Yale Cancer Center Advisory Board member and longtime friend of Yale Cancer Center, Marcia Israel-Curley died on August 17, 2004 at the age of 83. Mrs. Israel-Curley supported early diagnostic methods for detecting breast cancer through the Marcia Israel-Curley Laboratory for the Earlier Detection of Breast Cancer at Yale Cancer Center, which was established in 1997.

Mrs. Israel-Curley was the founder of Judy's, a retail fashion institution, which began with one tiny store in Los Angeles in 1948 and grew to a major public company, with 104 stores and over 2,000 employees when it was sold in 1989. She was the author of *Defying the Odds*, an autobiography of her life as one of America's first female entrepreneurs.

Through the generosity of Arnold MotorSports and Mr. David Capasso, Yale Cancer Center and the pink ribbon symbol for Breast Cancer Awareness month were predominately displayed on the NASCAR Nextel Cup No. 50 car and the Germain/Arnold Racing team No. 30 NCTS Toyota Tundra truck at the September 18th and 19th races at the New Hampshire International Speedway.

“Given the high visibility NASCAR provides, and the growing popularity of the sport for women, the Germain/Arnold Racing team is proud to support the Yale Cancer Center and their efforts to promote Breast cancer awareness,” stated team co-owner Don Arnold.



Yale Cancer Center's quarterly newsletter is written to inform the public and the Center's friends, volunteers, donors, and staff on current items of interest at Yale Cancer Center. All inquiries should be addressed to Renee Gaudette, Public Affairs Manager, 100 Church Street South, Suite 211, New Haven, CT 06519-1714. Yale Cancer Center complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996.

Yale CANCER CENTER

Yale-New Haven Hospital
Yale University School of Medicine
P.O. Box 208028
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