

June 6, 2014

Announcements

Long-term results encouraging for combination immunotherapy for advanced melanoma

The first long-term follow up results from a phase Ib immunotherapy trial combining drugs for advanced melanoma patients has shown encouraging results - long-lasting with high survival rates - researchers report. First author Mario Sznol, MD presented the updated data at ASCO.

The trial evaluated the safety and activity of the combination regimen of nivolumab (anti-PD-1), an investigational PD-1 immune checkpoint inhibitor, and ipilimumab (anti-CTLA-4; Yervoy) given either concurrently or sequentially, in patients with advanced melanoma who progressed after prior treatment. After an additional year of follow up of the cohort that received the concurrent combination regimen of nivolumab and Yervoy, the one-year overall survival (OS) rate was 94% and the two-year OS rate was 88%.

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Immune therapy for advanced bladder cancer yields promising results

A multi-center phase I study using an investigational drug for advanced bladder cancer patients who did not respond to other treatments has shown promising results in patients with certain tumor types, researchers report. Yale Cancer Center played a key role in the study, the [results](#) of which were presented at ASCO.

The trial included 68 people with previously treated advanced bladder cancer, including 30 patients identified as PD-L1 positive. PD-L1 is a protein expressed by many tumor types that can render the cancer invulnerable to immune attack. The patients in the study were treated with MPDL3280A, a drug being developed by Genentech, a member of the Roche group.

At six weeks, the objective response rate (ORR) was 43%; at 12 weeks, the ORR was 52% in patients with PD-L1-positive

from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



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Thomas J. Lynch, MD,
on the REVEL study
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Yale School of Public Health

tumors. A complete response - one showing no evidence of tumors - was seen in 7% of PD-L1 patients. In patients with PD-L1-negative tumors, the response rate was 11%.

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Screening has prevented half a million colorectal cancers

An estimated half a million cancers were prevented by colorectal cancer screening in the United States from 1976 to 2009, researchers from the Cancer Outcomes, Public Policy, and Effectiveness Research (COPPER) Center at Yale Cancer Center reported. Their study appeared in the journal *Cancer*.

During this more than 30-year time span, as increasing numbers of men and women underwent cancer screening tests - including fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopies, and colonoscopies - colorectal cancer rates declined significantly, the researchers found.

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Alessandro Santin Awarded U01 Grant

Congratulations to Dr. Alessandro Santin, Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and a member of our Molecular Virology Program. Dr. Santin has been awarded a U01 Grant from the National Institutes of Health to support his research on *Integrated genomic analysis of racial disparities in biologically aggressive endometrial carcinoma in African American and Caucasian women*. The 5-year, \$2 million grant will look at the striking racial disparity in survival between African American and Caucasian women with endometrial cancer; data has demonstrated up to a 30% worse survival rate for black women.

Notables

Simon Kim, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Urology, received a Career Development Award from the Conquer Cancer Foundation at this year's ASCO meeting. The three-year, \$200,000 grant will support his research project on "National Trends in Active Surveillance for Prostate Cancer and Barriers to its Use."

Yale School of Medicine presented The Charles W. Bohmfalk Prize for teaching in the basic sciences to **Susan Baserga, PhD, MD**, Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, of Genetics, and of Therapeutic Radiology, and a member of our Genetics and Genomics Research Program.

Alaine Nellis has joined the Yale Cancer Center Director's Office as a Senior Administrative Assistant supporting Dr. Thomas Lynch and Kevin Vest. Alaine is a graduate of Washington University and most recently worked as an

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What Can a Tanning Bed Do to Your Brain?


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LATEST TWEETS:

 New research from @jamesbyu and @cpgYALE @YaleCOPPER shows screening has prevented half a million colorectal cancers. <http://bit.ly/1nKVd48>

 Dr. Steven O'Day @ASCO says immune therapy a series of revolutions. Some therapies are "cruise missiles."

 Dr. Clifford Hudis said decline of federal funding for cancer research "disturbing." #ASCO14

 Seen outside the largest cancer conference in the US. We must do better helping people with this addiction. #asco14



 YCC's Dr. Dan Petrylak with Dr. Robert Israel @Progenics in front of their poster on antibody drug for prostate ca.

Assistant Administrator for the St. Louis Chapters of the Young Presidents' Organization and Entrepreneurs' Organization. Alaine can be reached at (203) 785-4371.

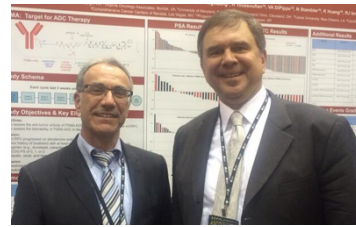
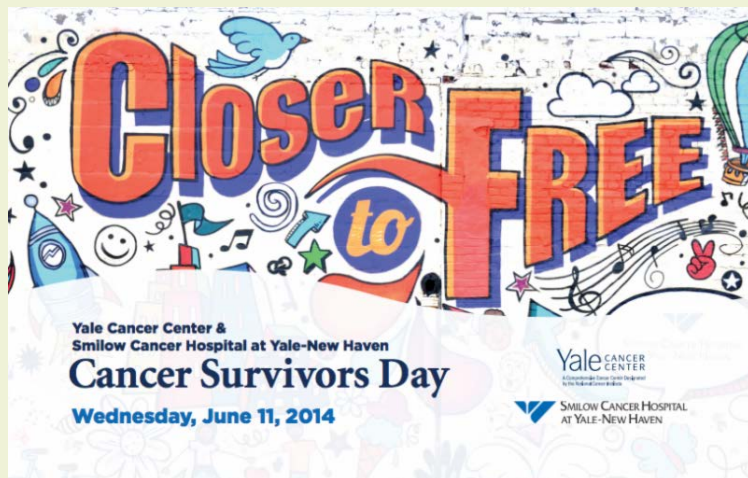
Polly Sather, APRN recently joined the Thoracic Oncology Program to work with the Lung Cancer Screening and Nodule (Lung SCAN) program. Polly is a graduate of the Yale School of Nursing and is board certified as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. She was the first mid-level provider in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at YNHH where she worked previously for the past 10 years.

Laura J. Morrison, MD, Director of Palliative Medicine Education, was recently invited by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine to attend the Academic Palliative Care Strategy Meeting in Chicago, May 21-22. She has also been asked by the Academy to Chair the national Hospice and Palliative Medicine Curricular Milestones and Entrustable Professional Activities Workgroup.

Cancer Survivors Day

Please join our patients and their families next Wednesday, June 11 at 5 PM at Yale's West Campus for Cancer Survivors Day and a celebration of Closer to Free. The evening will feature a presentation by Maura Harrigan, Registered Dietician in the Survivorship Clinic at Smilow Cancer Hospital, "Move More, Eat Smarter" and a cooking demonstration by Claire Criscuolo from Claire's Corner Copia. Please contact [Emily Fenton](#) to register to attend.

[Learn More >>](#)



YCC Dir. Tom Lynch discusses emerging drugs for lung ca. mutations with Chinese Soc. for Clinical Oncology #asco14



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LATEST POSTS:

Data presented at this year's meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (#ASCO14) indicates that early palliative care for advanced cancer patients appeared to benefit their caregivers, who experienced lower rates of depression and better quality of life.



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Tomatoes often get lots of attention for containing lycopene, a pigment that may help ward off certain cancers. Although the FDA does not know if there is enough scientific evidence to support this claim, preliminary research

Employee Profile: Nora Rightmer

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

To suggest someone to be profiled, please contact [Emily Fenton](#).

Nora Rightmer, Clinical Oncology Social Worker for Hematology, sees patients and their families as a unit, and makes sure to include both when counseling a patient. Nora meets with patients in the inpatient clinic on the 11th floor of Smilow and also on the 7th floor. She meets with and helps to assess patients when they first arrive, and provides them with information and resources as they try to adjust to their new diagnosis.



Nora commented that patients, particularly with a diagnosis of leukemia, can come into the hospital and have to be admitted right away, sometimes having to stay for up to a month without being able to go home. "Hematology patients are oftentimes dealing with a very serious illness that can be debilitating and overwhelming. My job is to help them cope with the initial shock of the diagnosis, to figure out how to fit it into their lives, and to follow them through treatment, survivorship and to end-of-life if necessary," said Nora.

Having been in her current role for twelve years, Nora has come to realize that even the smallest thing can have a big impact. Whether it is arranging for the care of a pet, or offering emotional support, every effort makes the journey smoother. Nora also likes to keep in mind that patients had a life before cancer, and will continue to have a life after cancer. "Making patients well again is obviously the most important thing, and there are excellent doctors and nurses here for that, but there are other issues patients are dealing with, and that's where we come in."

Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Manager of Oncology Social Work at Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented, "Nora is a valuable member of our social work team. People with hematological diagnoses often have great psychosocial needs and Nora is there to ensure that both the patient and their families get their

suggests that eating one cup of tomatoes a week may reduce the risk of prostate cancer.

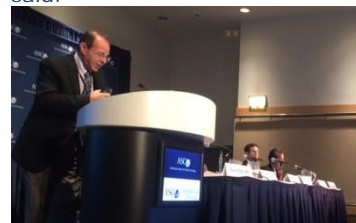
But watermelons should be getting more attention. This delicious summer fruit often contains more lycopene than tomatoes. For best results, according to the USDA, leave your melon on the counter to maximize its antioxidant content.



[Read More >>](#)

Dr. Mario Sznol presented encouraging data on the first long-term results of combination immunotherapy treatment for patients with advanced melanoma.

"The treatment of advanced melanoma has changed dramatically in the last few years, but there continues to be a need to increase the number of patients who experience a long-term survival benefit," Dr. Sznol said.



[Read More >>](#)

When Bill's melanoma recurred, his trusted dermatologist advised him to "get a second opinion from someone who is an expert in the field of melanoma cancer." He recommended Dr. Harriet Kluger at Yale Cancer Center.

After meeting with Dr. Kluger, Bill's diagnosis was discussed at a Melanoma Tumor Board at

needs met. Staff relies on her to manage the crisis, counsel those in need, connect to community resources and facilitate support groups. We are lucky to have Nora with us."

Funding and Award Opportunities

Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research Program

The Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research Program supports assistant professors of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of a cure for cancer. The award provides \$240,000 in flexible support-\$60,000 per year for a four-year period. Through the generosity of the Alexander and Margaret Stewart Trust, Pew was able to expand the Scholars program in 2014 to add an additional five researchers each year to be named Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research.

Yale Cancer Center members who want to be considered for the Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research Program should send [Daniel DiMaio](#) their CV and a one page research summary by June 27th.

Damon Runyon Fellowship Award

The Damon Runyon Fellowship Award is designed to provide early career scientists with resources to hone their cancer research skills and explore their own ideas while working with mentors in top universities and cancer research centers. Awards are intended to support the fellow under direct supervision of the sponsor.

The award provides a stipend of \$50,000 per year for three years for Level I funding, and \$60,000 per year for three years for Level II funding. (Physician-scientists who have completed their residencies, clinical training, and are board eligible will receive Level II funding.) The award may not be used for institutional overhead or indirect costs. Fellows also receive an annual \$2,000 expense allowance for educational and scientific expenses.

Application Deadline: August 15, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

For basic and clinical investigations relevant to the advancement of human health. Strong preference for creative and innovative approaches; risk-taking is encouraged.

- For individuals who will hold a full-time appointment at the rank of assistant professor by November 1, 2014, but who will not have been in such an appointment form more than 3 years as of **July 1, 2014**.

Smilow Cancer Hospital. He was placed on a clinical trial that tested ipilimumab and nivolumab, two immunotherapy drugs that work together by stimulating the patient's own immune system.



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This year, Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital will be celebrating Cancer Survivors Day on June 11th. With registration starting at 4:30pm, celebrations will be accompanied by a cooking demonstration by Claire Criscuolo, Chef and Founder of Claire's Corner Copia in New Haven, CT. The free program will focus on nutrition and lifestyle changes for healthy eating.

All cancer survivors and their families are welcome!



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Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Events

June 8; 6:00PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR

- 60,000 per year for 4 years. (\$240,000)

Application Deadline: June 16, 2014

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

Searle Scholars Program

- To pursue independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, or related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences.
- For assistant professors who began their first appointment on or after July 1, 2013.

\$100,000 per year for 3 years. (\$300,000)

Application Deadline: June 16, 2014

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

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research Medical Research Grants

- To support the conduct of innovative and insightful medical research on the hematologic malignancies.
- Funds are provided for clinical or basic science research that will lead to novel therapeutic approaches that could replace, or be used in combination with existing effective therapies for patients with leukemia, lymphoma and related cancers of the blood.
- For assistant professors (or equivalent) with the MD or PhD.

\$225,000 to be used over a period of 3 years. (\$225,000)

Application Deadline: June 16, 2014

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

The Hartwell Foundation 2014 Individual Biomedical Research Award

For early-stage, innovative, cutting-edge, and high risk biomedical research that has the potential to be transformative.

- Proposed research should not yet have qualified for significant funding from outside sources.
- **Research should benefit children of the United States.**
- Investigators whose prior research may not have focused on benefiting children, but who now propose a relevant project benefiting children, are also encouraged to apply.

Neurosurgery and Brain Tumors
Jennifer Moliterno, MD

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June 10; 9:30AM Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

Modulating T Cell Responses with Recombinant VSV-Based Vectors" and "Aldosterone-dependent Fibronectin Synthesis in Renal Fibroblasts

Dong Chen, MD and Kapil Bahl, PhD

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June 10; 12:00PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Approaches to the Treatment of Advanced Bladder Cancer

Daniel Petrylak, MD

Novel Clinical Trial Designs in the Genomic Era: The Lung Cancer Master Protocol (Lung-MAP)

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD

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June 10; 5:00PM Transforming Healthcare Grand Rounds

LMP 1094

It's Time to Rewrite the Rules of Change in Healthcare

Helen Bevan, PhD

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

June 10; 5:30PM YNHH Musculoskeletal Center at St. Raphael Campus Event

Anthony's Ocean View

Raffle and Auction

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June 11; 11:00AM YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-304

A 'Cellular Switch' to Interrogate BRCA2-Induced Tumorigenesis

Ryan Jensen, PhD

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

June 11; 4:30PM Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital Cancer Survivors Day 2014

Yale's West Campus

Cooking Demonstration

Claire Criscuolo, Owner, Claire's

- For U.S. citizens with a full-time faculty appointment.

\$100,000 per year for 3 years. (\$300,000)

Application Deadline: July 15, 2014

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

AGA Foundation - 2014 Funderburg Research Award in Gastric Cancer

The American Gastroenterological Association is inviting applications for the 2014 Funderburg Research Award. The award is designed to support an established investigator working on novel approaches in gastric cancer research, including the fields of gastric mucosal cell biology, regeneration and regulation of cell growth (not as they relate to peptic ulcer disease or repair), inflammation (including *Helicobacter pylori*) as precancerous lesions, genetics of gastric carcinoma, oncogenes in gastric epithelial malignancies, epidemiology of gastric cancer, etiology of gastric epithelial malignancies, or clinical research in the diagnosis or treatment of gastric carcinoma. Please note, AGA membership is required at the time of application submission. Funding up to \$100,000 over 2 years.

Application Deadline: August 29, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

Lung Cancer Research Foundation Grants

Support research on innovate strategies for better treatments, screening, and prevention of all cancers of the lung. These awards are designed to provide critical seed support for cutting-edge scientific research on all lung cancers and will support projects with a focus on basic science, translational research, clinical research, supportive care, and quality of care/outcomes. Up to \$50,000 for 1 year.

Application Deadline: June 16, 2014

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Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program

Era of Hope Scholar Award

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

- Supports exceptionally talented, creative early-career scientists who have demonstrated that they are the "best and brightest" in their fields.
- PIs should articulate a vision that challenges current dogma and demonstrates an ability to look beyond tradition and convention.
- PIs should exhibit strong potential for leadership in the breast cancer community
- PIs must include breast cancer advocates on their

Corner Copia

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June 12; 9:00AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412, Room E

M&M Conference

James Yu, MD

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June 13; 1:00PM YCC Molecular Virology Research Program

SHM I-116

HCV Infection and Cancer Risk:

Investigation of Possible

Mediators Using Population-Based Claims Data

Fatma Shebl, MD, PhD

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

June 15; 6:00PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Stem Cell Transplantation

Stuart Seropian, MD

[Read More >>](#)

June 17; 9:30AM Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Gilbert Moeckel MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

June 19; 9:00AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412, Room E

Biologically-Guided Radiation

Therapy (BGRT): Isoeffect

Calculations for Hypofractionation and Charged Particle

Radiotherapy

David Carlson, PhD

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Employment Opportunities

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

- research team.
- Maximum funding of \$2.5M for direct costs (plus indirect costs)
 - Period of performance not to exceed 5 years

Letter of Intent Deadline: August 1, 2014

Application Deadline: August 15, 2014

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Recent Publications

Estimating the magnitude of colorectal cancers prevented during the era of screening: 1976 to 2009.

Yang DX, Gross CP, Soulos PR, Yu JB.

Cancer. 2014 Jun 3.

[Read More >>](#)

Targeting CD137 enhances the efficacy of cetuximab.

Kohrt HE, Colevas AD, Houot R, Weiskopf K, Goldstein MJ, Lund P, Mueller A, Sagiv-Barfi I, Marabelle A, Lira R, Troutner E, Richards L, Rajapaska A, Hebb J, Chester C, Waller E, Ostashko A, Weng WK, Chen L, Czerwinski D, Fu YX, Sunwoo J, Levy R.

J Clin Invest. 2014 Jun 2;124(6):2668-82.

[Read More >>](#)

A RAS Renaissance: Emerging Targeted Therapies for KRAS-Mutated Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer.

Vasan N, Boyer J, Herbst RS.

Clin Cancer Res. 2014 Jun 3.

[Read More >>](#)

Surgery for Thyroid Cancer.

Callender GG, Carling T, Christison-Lagay E, Udelsman R.

Endocrinol Metab Clin North Am. 2014 Jun;43(2):443-458.

[Read More >>](#)

T-DM1, a novel antibody-drug conjugate, is highly effective against primary HER2 overexpressing uterine serous carcinoma in vitro and in vivo.

English DP, Bellone S, Schwab CL, Bortolomai I, Bonazzoli E, Cocco E, Buza N, Hui P, Lopez S, Ratner E, Silasi DA, Azodi M, Schwartz PE, Rutherford TJ, Santin AD.

Cancer Med. 2014 Jun 2.

[Read More >>](#)

Patient-oncologist alliance as protection against suicidal ideation in young adults with advanced cancer.

Trevino KM, Abbott CH, Fisch MJ, Friedlander RJ, Duberstein PR, Prigerson HG.

Cancer. 2014 May 28.

[Read More >>](#)

Quantitative measurements of HER2 and phospho-HER2

enormously difficult to find. Your participation, as knowledgeable colleagues, is invaluable at this time.

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

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

 Forward to a Friend

expression: correlation with pathologic response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy and trastuzumab.

Cheng H, Bai Y, Sikov W, Sinclair N, Bossuyt V, Abu-Khalaf MM, Harris LN, Rimm DL.
BMC Cancer. 2014 May 8;14(1):326.

[Read More >>](#)

MicroRNA and gynecological reproductive diseases.

Santamaria X, Taylor H.
Fertil Steril. 2014 Jun;101(6):1545-1551.

[Read More >>](#)

Prophylactic Bilateral Mastectomy and Contralateral Prophylactic Mastectomy.

Chagpar AB.
Surg Oncol Clin N Am. 2014 Jul;23(3):423-430.

[Read More >>](#)

Trend in Age and Racial Disparities in the Receipt of Postlumpectomy Radiation Therapy for Stage I Breast Cancer: 2004-2009.

Yeboa DN, Xu X, Jones BA, Soulos P, Gross C, Yu JB.
Am J Clin Oncol. 2014 May 29.

[Read More >>](#)

Impact of Financial Burden of Cancer on Survivors' Quality of Life?

Fenn KM, Evans SB, McCorkle R, DiGiovanna MP, Pusztai L, Sanft T, Hofstatter EW, Killelea BK, Knobf MT, Lannin DR, Abu-Khalaf M, Horowitz NR, Chagpar AB.
J Oncol Pract. 2014 May 27.

[Read More >>](#)

Point of care cutaneous imaging technology in melanoma screening and mole mapping.

Higgins li HW, Lee KC, Leffell DJ.
F1000Prime Rep. 2014 May 6;6:34.

[Read More >>](#)

Understanding Pathologic Variants of Renal Cell Carcinoma: Distilling Therapeutic Opportunities from Biologic Complexity.

Shuch B, Amin A, Armstrong AJ, Eble JN, Ficarra V, Lopez-Beltran A, Martignoni G, Rini BI, Kutikov A.
Eur Urol. 2014 May 20.

[Read More >>](#)

The global cancer divide: Relationships between national healthcare resources and cancer outcomes in high-income vs. middle- and low-income countries.

Batouli A, Jahanshahi P, Gross CP, Makarov DV, Yu JB.
J Epidemiol Glob Health. 2014 Jun;4(2):115-24.

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