

BREAST CANCER CONNECT

YaleNewHavenHealth
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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

February 2023

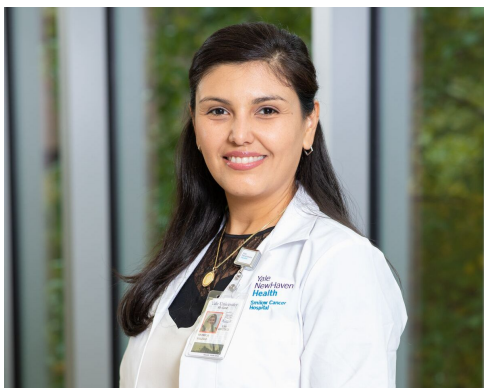
Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share our inaugural quarterly newsletter, Breast Cancer Connect, with our Center for Breast Cancer community. The newsletter has been created in response to feedback from all of you to have greater transparency and communication about the many happenings that are taking place across all the sites. Our intent will be to highlight all the multifaceted aspects of the program including the new initiatives, and most importantly the people who help make it happen.

It has been about a year and half since I first met many of you and the Center for Breast Cancer was launched. I know we are still growing and learning how to tackle some of the biggest challenges. As we embark on this next chapter of honing solutions to take us to the next level of growth, regular multi-modality communication will be one of my areas of focus, in addition to this quarterly newsletter, including office hours, social media, and email updates. I am open to hearing from each of you about the challenges you are facing and any ideas you might have that can help the program.

Thank you,
Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH
Chief of Breast Oncology
Director, Center for Breast Cancer

Clinician Spotlight



Monica Valero, MD

**Smilow Cancer Hospital Care
Center Locations:**
Trumbull: 203-337-8790



Sharynn Hall, MD, PhD

**Smilow Cancer Hospital Care
Center Locations:**
Waterbury: 203-755-6311

Dr. Valero is an Assistant Professor of Surgery (Surgical Oncology) and Director of the Hispanic Breast Cancer Program in Trumbull and Fairfield. Dr. Valero received her medical degree from Universidad Central de Venezuela Medical School in Caracas, Venezuela and completed her residency and fellowship training at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Her research interests include breast conserving surgery, racial disparities in breast cancer, and axillary management of breast disease. She is actively involved in quality improvement projects to optimize surgical treatment of underserved populations with breast cancer.

Dr. Hall cares for patients with a variety of hematologic and oncologic disorders, with a focus on breast cancer. She received her medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, and her PhD in Biological Chemistry & Molecular Pharmacology from Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Yale Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency Program, and her fellowship in Medical Oncology-Hematology at Yale School of Medicine.

Next Day Access

| Location | Department | Next Day Appropriate | Seen Next Day | Pct Appropriate Seen Next Day |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Breast Oncology | YNH SMILOW BREAST ONCOLOGY | 37 | 12 | 19% |
| Breast Oncology | YNH SMILOW BREAST ONCOLOGY GUILFORD | 17 | 2 | 12% |
| Breast Oncology | YNH SMILOW SU BREAST | 32 | 8 | 3% |
| Breast Oncology | YNH SMILOW SU BREAST-NORTH HAVEN | 14 | 7 | 21% |
| Breast Oncology | YNH SMILOW SU BREAST-SHORELINE | 25 | 10 | 24% |
| Breast Oncology | Total | 125 | 39 | 15% |
| Breast Surgery | YM SURGERY BREAST CENTER FAIRFIELD | 30 | 14 | 37% |
| Breast Surgery | YM SURGERY BREAST CENTER TRUMBULL | 69 | 29 | 26% |
| Breast Surgery | Total | 99 | 43 | 29% |

Thank you to all our sites currently participating in our Next Day Access initiative. The chart above shows six months of data from July-December 2022. Next Day Access (NDA) attempts to offer appointments to see a breast surgeon and/or medical oncologist within one business day of referral. NDA slots are available for newly diagnosed patients, second opinions, and transfers of care. A pathology report is required and every attempt is made to get diagnostic imaging prior to the appointment. If you are interested in participating, or have questions about the program, please reach out to **Dr. Maryam Lustberg** or **Dr. Sarah Schellhorn**.

Operational Updates

Radiology Navigator

In January, a new radiology navigation workflow launched in New Haven. Our excellent team of radiology nurses have adapted the new workflow aimed at reducing care delivery gaps, improving our patients' experience, and reducing the time to treatment for our newly diagnosed patients. The new radiology nurse navigators will support each patient from biopsy through diagnosis and facilitate the handoff to treatment. After communication with the radiologist, the navigators notify patients of positive biopsy results and directly connect them

with our breast intake team. We are coordinating the new workflow to our referring providers and are excited to offer this patient-centered navigation moving forward.

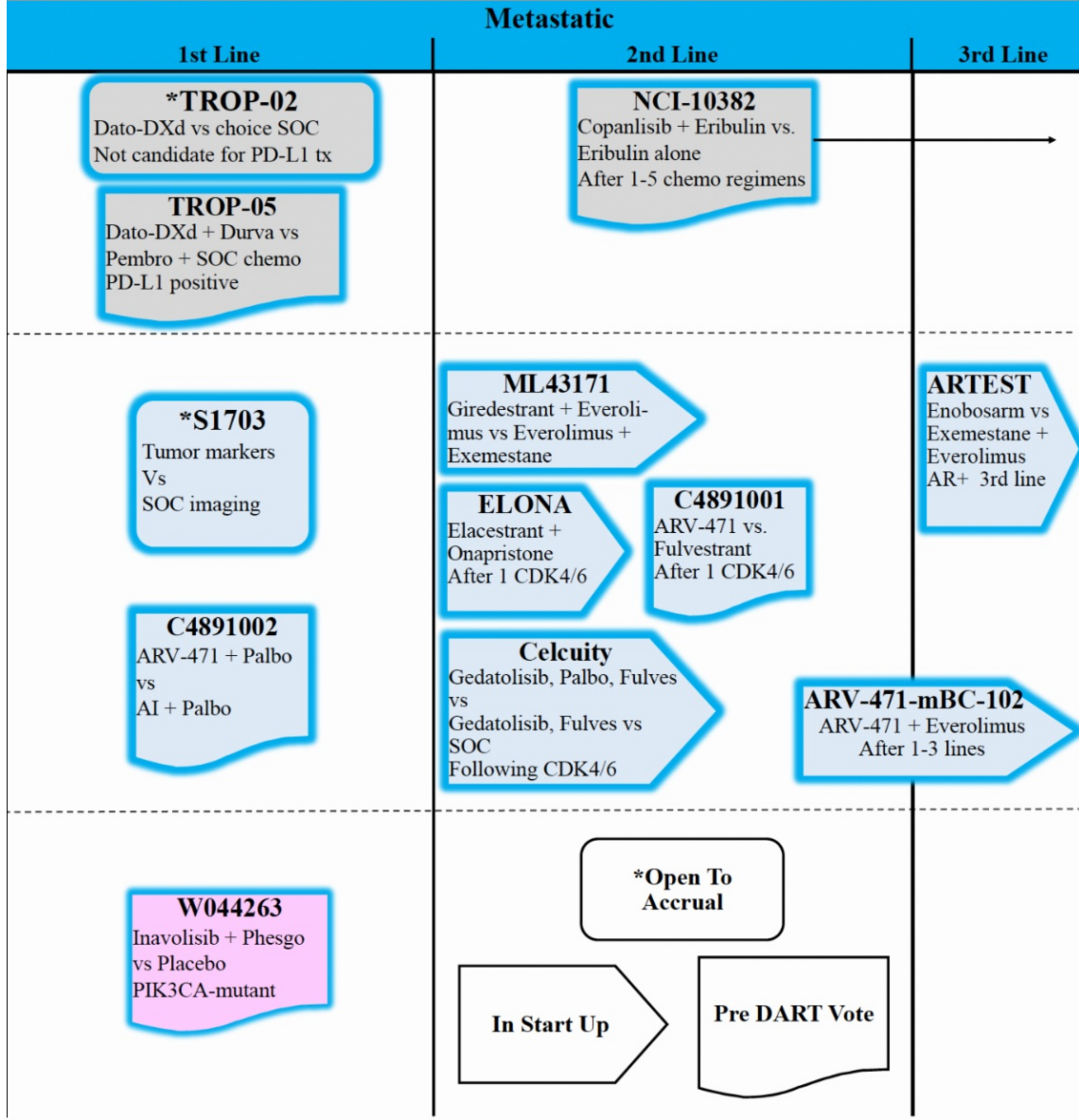
NP1 Move

After almost three years, the Smilow Breast Center on the York Street Campus has moved back to its original space on North Pavilion 1 (NP 1), Suite A. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team temporarily moved to Guilford for three months and then back to New Haven to the North Pavilion 4 (NP 4) multidisciplinary clinic for two years so that the Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic (SREC) could evaluate and treat COVID positive patients on NP 1.

Senior leaders would like to thank the entire breast clinical team and nurse managers for collaborating with IT, operations, and EVS to ensure a smooth transition and seamless patient care. The clinic was packed up from NP 4 on Friday, January 6 after a full day of appointments and opened on NP 1 on Monday, January 9 without any interruptions in patient Care. Congratulations to the entire team!

Clinical Trials

| BREAST 2/08/2023 | Surgical | Neoadjuvant | Adjuvant |
|----------------------|----------|--|--|
| TNBC | | <p>*ISPY2 Chemo Arms</p> <p>*NSABP FB-12 HER2-driven- ddAC + THP</p> <p>TBCRC-056 Niraparib + Dostarlimab BRCA or PALB2 mutation</p> | <p>GSK-213831 BRCA + or - Niraparib vs Placebo</p> <p>TROP-03 Dato-DXd vs Dato + Durva vs SOC After neoadjuvant tx w/ residual disease</p> |
| HR+ HER2- | | <p>*ISPY2 MP High: Chemo Arms</p> <p>Dapagliflozin IIT T + ddAC w Dapagliflozin</p> <p>*NSABP FB-12 HER2-driven: ddAC +THP</p> <p>TBCRC-056 Niraparib + Dostarlimab BRCA or PALB2 mutation</p> | <p>*DARE ctDNA testing: Palbo + Fulves vs ET</p> <p>GSK-213831 BRCA+ Niraparib vs Placebo</p> <p>RaPhLRR Ribo + ET Local recurrence</p> <p>Cambria AZD9833 (SERD) vs ET</p> <p>EMBER-4 Imlunestrant vs SOC After 2-5 yrs ET</p> |
| HER2 + | | <p>*ISPY2 Chemo Arms</p> <p>*Compass-pCR THP x 4</p> <p>*Destiny-Breast11 T-DXd vs T-DXd + THP vs ddAC THP</p> | <p>*Compass-RD T-DM1 w/ Tucatinib vs. Placebo</p> <p>Flamingo-01 GLSI-100 peptide vs placebo After all SOC adjuvant tx</p> |



Our clinicians and scientists focused on breast cancer have enthusiastically embraced translational medicine, including bringing the first FDA-approved immunotherapy for breast cancer to clinical trial.

All currently available trials for breast cancer are listed [online](#).

Trial Highlight

HIC 2000033096

Principal Investigator: **Mariya Rozenblit, MD**

ctDNA Trial: An observational study of circulating tumor DNA in triple negative breast cancers with residual disease after standard neoadjuvant treatment

In this observational trial, all treatment courses are at the discretion of treating oncologist as per standard of care. The study is available in New Haven, Trumbull, and Waterbury.

Key eligibility:

- Patients must have histologically confirmed ER-, PR-, and HER2- (TNBC). ER, PR, and HER2 negativity as per the 2018 joint ASCO/CAP guidelines.
- Patients must have residual invasive cancer less than 0.5cm in the breast or residual disease in an axillary lymph node after receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy.
- Patients must have completed all intended neoadjuvant treatment for TNBC as per standard of care and must have completed surgical resection.
- Patients must be within 6 weeks of definitive surgery to be eligible for registration.
- 18 years of age or older; ECOG Performance Status < 4.

Care Center Highlight: Trumbull

Led by **Dr. Melanie Lynch**, comprehensive breast cancer care is provided to patients at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers in Trumbull and Fairfield, in collaboration with Bridgeport Hospital.

The Center has an outstanding multidisciplinary team of specialists to provide comprehensive care for patients, including breast radiologists, breast surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, plastic surgeons, genetic counselors, social workers, advanced practice providers, and patient navigators. The breast surgery team includes **Dr. Melanie Lynch, Dr. Mehra Golshan, and Dr. Monica Valero**, who joined the team in the fall. **Dr. Melissa Mastroianni** provides breast reconstruction and the breast medical oncology specialists are **Dr. Michael Cohenuram, Dr. Kathleen Fenn, and Dr. Neal Fischbach**. In radiation oncology, **Dr. Shari Damast and Dr. Kevin Du** specialize in breast cancer treatment. **Dr. Kiran Sheikh and Dr. Laura Sheiman** partner to provide breast imaging to patients.



The Breast Center in Trumbull offers patients genetic counseling, a dietitian, and Integrative Medicine, which includes massage, acupuncture, counseling, and support groups. Many patients are able to take advantage of these offerings at no cost to them.

The Breast Center has an amazing staff dedicated to providing the best possible care to patients. Advanced practice providers, **Jenna Addison** and **Karen Pollard Murphy**, provide expertise, specifically with high-risk and survivorship patients. In addition, **Pam Fitzgerald** and **Rachel Abraham**, both Oncology Certified Social Workers and recipients of the Bridgeport Hospital Quality Award as well as the Smilow Luminary Award, are invaluable to our patients and families. Nursing support in surgical oncology includes **Allison Vallance, Pat Poniros, Kendra Davis, and Leigh Berrien**. **Sally Cascella** serves patients as the survivorship coordinator and plans events to support the patients throughout the year.

The nurse coordinators within medical oncology, **Jeannie Jones, Allison Pitts, and Jade Silks** are instrumental in supporting the multidisciplinary clinics, providing supportive guidance during the onboarding process for new patients, and helping to support patients transitioning to medical oncology for treatment. Intake specialists **Kathleen Simon** and **Angelica Melecio** ensure all required documents and scans are in place for the patient's first visit and are the friendly voices reaching out to patients to schedule their first visit.

The team is lucky to have a dedicated administrative staff, **Barbara Holahan, Tracy Otero, Martha Penasantos, and Zuri Lazaro**. They greet every patient with kindness and respect and are often complimented on their diligence. Ambulatory Care Associates, **Cynthia Umpierre, Sharnay Robinson, and Tiffany Garrett** work along with the providers to keep the clinic running smoothly and are a friendly face to everyone. **Gean Brown** is an integral part of the practice as Clinical Program Manager.

Patients who are cared for by the breast cancer team in Trumbull, Fairfield, and Bridgeport can sense the collaboration amongst providers and staff, which helps to establish trust in their care team. The team is committed to providing coordinated care through an integrated approach with a focus on medical excellence and compassionate care to patients and their families.

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