

July 22, 2016

Announcements

New Phase I Unit Opens

We are pleased to announce the opening of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Phase I Unit on the first floor of the Park Street Building. This is the first expansion to our infusion space on our main campus since opening Smilow in 2009. This unit has 12 infusion chairs and 4 exam rooms and is uniquely designed to manage patients who are enrolled in early therapeutic clinical trials, one of the fastest growing segments of our clinical research portfolio.

The unit was developed, designed, and opened in record time thanks to the tireless work and attention of many of our colleagues. Special mention and appreciation goes to Dr. Pat LoRusso, Rich Lisitano, David Vinas, and Kathleen Moseman. The unit is under the direction of Dr. LoRusso and Kathleen Moseman, RN, Patient Services Manager.

Please join us in congratulating the Phase I team.

from the desk of
Peter G. Schulam, MD, PhD
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief,
Smilow Cancer Hospital (Interim)

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I thought melanoma would kill me. Here's why it didn't.

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Notables

Erin Hofstatter, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and Co-Director of the Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital, is one of 13 recipients of the **2016 National**

Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award (CCITLA). The award recognizes and supports outstanding mid-career clinical investigators at NCI-designated Cancer Centers who are working to improve the lives of people with cancer through extensive involvement in NCI-funded collaborative clinical trials and whose leadership, participation and activities promote clinical trials and research.

Lynn D. Wilson, MD, MPH, FASTRO, Professor and Vice Chair of Therapeutic Radiology, has been elected **Education Council Vice-Chair of the American Society of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO).** The term for his new position will begin at the Annual Business Meeting at ASTRO's 58th Annual Meeting, to be held September 25-28, 2016 in Boston.

Sidi Chen, PhD, a member of our Genomics, Genetics, and Epigenetics Research Program, has received a one-year grant from the **St. Baldrick's Foundation** to study medulloblastoma, the most common malignant pediatric brain tumor. Dr. Chen is targeting methylation mutations to develop improved therapeutics for two highly-aggressive subgroups of medulloblastoma. To systematically identify protein targets required for survival of MB cells, Dr. Chen and colleagues are performing a genome screen to look for possible targets, in order to enhance understanding of this disease and lead to novel therapeutic routes.

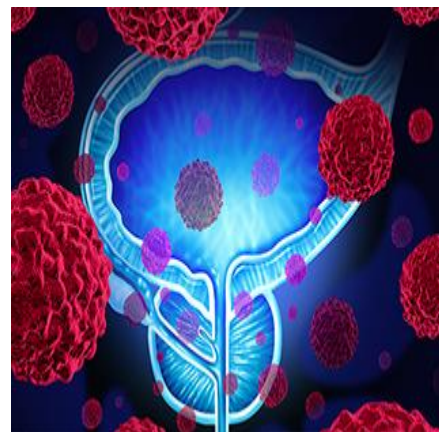
New Member Highlight: Kathleen Akgün, MD

The Virus and Other Infection-Associated Cancers Research Program is proud to welcome **Kathleen Akgün, MD, MS,** to its program. Dr. Akgün is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine and is board-certified in pulmonary, critical care, and hospice and palliative care medicine.



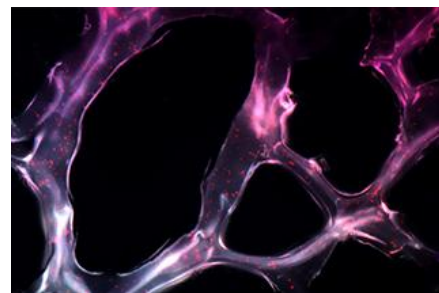
Radiosurgery and Immunotherapy for Melanoma Patients With Brain Metastases

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Study finds differences in care for patients with low-risk prostate cancer based on institution and region

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Her primary clinical research focuses on risk factors and outcomes for HIV-infected patients compared with uninfected patients admitted to the hospital and medical intensive care unit (MICU) using the [Veterans Aging Cohort Study](#) (VACS). As a pulmonary physician researcher, she co-authored a peer-reviewed manuscript on incidental findings on chest CT testing for HIV-infected patients who participated in lung cancer screening. Dr. Akgün's long-term goals are to advance understanding of the impact of MICU admission on patient-centered outcomes for patients living with serious life-limiting diseases such as lung cancer, and to develop feasible and effective strategies for incorporating palliative care principles into their care. Membership in YCC's VOIC program will facilitate Dr. Akgün's engagement with patients living with HIV and non-AIDS cancer in order to begin exploring priorities and preferences for integrating palliative care into the care for patients living with HIV and cancer.

Employee Profile: Terri Passante

Terri Passante, RN always wanted to be a nurse and focus on caring for patients with cancer. She began her career at Saint Raphael's on the Hematology/Oncology unit and has been with the Gynecologic Oncology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital for the past three years. Given the nature of gynecologic cancers, a lot of communication and coordination is required from the moment of diagnosis, which is when Terri first meets with patients. She follows each individual treatment plan and works to educate patients, and their families.

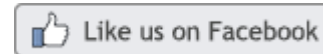


"Many people think of cancer as being very grim, which it can be, but I like to view it as a journey that patients are on and I am so privileged to be able to interact with them during this time," said Terri. "And it is not just the patient that is on this journey, but their family as well. Especially during end-of-life care, it is the family that most often needs our support."

Deadly and beautiful: The mesmerizing images of cancer research

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LATEST POSTS:

Special thanks to our Lion Hearts - celebrating 10 years of making a difference in Breast Cancer research and care at Yale. Watch this fantastic video highlighting their journey of fundraising, survivorship, and research advances.



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We are happy to announce that Smilow Cancer Hospital is now offering Integrative Medicine clinical consultations to our patients. This gives our patients the opportunity to have access to guidance on the risks and benefits of using dietary supplements, acupuncture, massage, meditation, and other methods of treating disease. The program is led by Ather Ali, ND, MPH, MHS, an experienced practitioner of the holistic approach to chronic illness management.

Terri works to educate patients and their families about the treatment regimen they will receive, and what to expect in terms of side effects, etc. so that everyone is made aware. She commented that being understanding and knowing when to talk and when someone just needs you to listen, is one of the most important skills needed to provide quality care, and it cannot be taught; it is something acquired over time.

"Terri is an extraordinary nurse who has the admiration and respect of all staff including physicians, APP's, administrative staff and unit leadership. She works tirelessly to ensure quality care is provided to our patients and she does this with a smile and good humor. She is a special member of a very talented and special staff," said Peter Schwartz, MD, Section Chief of Gynecologic Oncology.

Maureen Major Campos, RN, MS, Program Manager for Women's Oncology Services, commented, "Terri joined our unit and hungered for knowledge, trying to understand the subtle nuances of each disease within this department. She had a full clinic day and was a busy mom, but found time to read important journals addressing GYN Oncology care. I knew we had a nurse with special talents for this team and the patients that they serve."

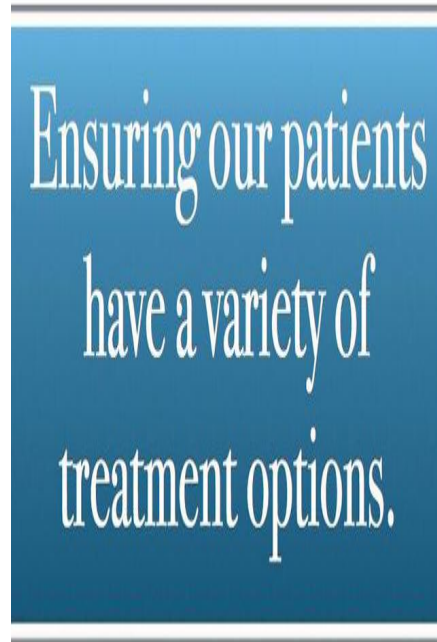
Funding and Award Opportunities

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.

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Lung Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16)

The FY16 Defense Appropriations Act provides \$12 million (M) to the Department of Defense (DoD) Lung Cancer Research Program (LCRP) to support innovative, high-impact lung cancer research. The LCRP is providing the information in this pre-announcement to allow investigators time to plan and develop applications.



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Congratulations to Dr. Lynn Wilson on his appointment as Education Council Vice Chair at the American Society for Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology.

"It is an essential, key priority for the Education Council to continue to provide educational tools, and methods of education delivery, but also to consider new and innovative methods for providing content that stretch beyond our traditional offerings," Dr. Wilson said of his new role.

Concept Award

Investigators at all academic levels. Supports highly innovative, untested, potentially groundbreaking concepts in lung cancer.

Preproposal Due: July 28, 2016

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Ovarian Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2016

The FY16 Defense Appropriations Act provides \$20 million (M) to the Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OCRCP) to support high-impact ovarian cancer research.

Clinical Development Award

Must be an independent investigator at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent). Supports the translation of promising preclinical findings into products for clinical applications, including prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, or quality of life.

Application Due: August 10, 2016

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Investigator-Initiated Research Award

Must be an independent investigator at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent). Supports meritorious basic and clinically oriented research in ovarian cancer.

Application Due: August 10, 2016

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Ovarian Cancer Academy Award

Early-Career Investigator must be within the first 3 years of his/her first faculty position (or equivalent) at the time of submission. Supports the addition of new Early-Career Investigators to the unique, interactive virtual academy that will provide intensive mentoring, national networking, and a peer group for junior faculty.

Application Due: August 10, 2016

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Pilot Award

Investigators at or above the postdoctoral level (or equivalent). Supports innovative, high-risk/high-reward research that could ultimately lead to



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Congratulations to Yale Cancer Center's Erin Hofstatter, MD, for being awarded one of the National Cancer Institute's 2016 Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Awards. The award is given to researchers who have proven their ability in promoting a culture of successful clinical investigations. We're happy to have a team full of people like Dr. Hofstatter who keep the Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital on the cutting edge of current cancer research.



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critical discoveries or major advancements that will drive the field of ovarian cancer research forward.

Application Due: August 10, 2016

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Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2016

The FY16 Defense Appropriations Act provides \$50 million (M) to the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) to support innovative, high-impact cancer research. The PRCRP is providing the information in this pre-announcement to allow investigators time to plan and develop applications. FY16 PRCRP Program Announcements and General Application Instructions for the following award mechanisms are anticipated to be posted on the Grants.gov website in April and July 2016. Pre-application and application deadlines will be available when the Program Announcements are released.

Horizon Award

PI: A predoctoral candidate within two years of successfully passing qualifying examinations or a postdoctoral fellow within three years of completion of his/her terminal degree (excluding medical residency or family medical leave).

Application Due: August 17, 2016

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SU2C CIRM CLIN 2 Grant Program

Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) calls upon members of the SU2C community to contribute ideas for clinical research to the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine's (CIRM) CLIN 2 grant program.

CIRM and SU2C are working together to identify clinical trials that may qualify for support under the CIRM Clinical Trial Stage Projects [CLIN 2 grant program](#). In addition to traditional stem cell research, CIRM would like to support projects that involve memory t-cells, progenitor cells (e.g. monocyte-derived dendritic cells), or treatments that target cancer stem cells as their primary mechanism of action.


Deadline: Send proposals


to proposals@su2c.org by September 2nd. After that date, SU2C and CIRM will review letters of intent on a monthly basis.


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 Upfront immunotherapy for [#LungCancer](#)? Not yet
<http://wb.md/29SMbx3>


 I thought melanoma would kill me. Here's why it didn't.


 Jeff Geschwind, MD of @YaleCancer discusses potential role that PD-1 inhibitors play in treatment of liver cancer

 Veronica Chiang, MD discusses [#immunotherapy](#) study for [#melanoma](#) brain metastases that shows rapid tumor shrinkage
<http://bit.ly/297Y5pd>

 Congratulations to Dr. Lynn Wilson (@xrtldw) on his appointment @ASTRO_org Education Council Vice Chair.
<http://bit.ly/29ABxKJ> [#ASTRO16](#)

 Learn how Yale's @markgerstein is helping @statnews @carlzimmer decipher his personal genome in [#GameofGenomes](#)

 Recommended bone density testing isn't routine for older women w [#cancer](#) before begin Rx @NCCNnews @myCARG [#GeriOnc](#)

 New treatment option for [#cancer](#) patients with brain metastases.
<http://bit.ly/29EE6P3> [#btsm](#) [#lscsm](#) [#melanoma](#)

Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2016

The FY16 Defense Appropriations Act provides \$80 million (M) to the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) to support innovative, high-impact prostate cancer research.

Clinical Consortium Research Site Award

Independent investigators at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent). Supports the addition of a Clinical Research Site to the Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium. Trials that incorporate investigations of biomarkers for risk assessment, early detection, prediction of aggressiveness, and/or progression of prostate cancer are encouraged.

Pre-Application Due: September 15, 2016

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Susan G. Komen 2016/2017 GRADUATE TRAINING IN DISPARITIES RESEARCH (GTDR) Grants

GTDR Grants are intended to establish and/or to sustain a training program for graduate students who are seeking careers dedicated to understanding and eliminating disparities in breast cancer outcomes across population groups.

Application Due: September 2016

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Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16)

The Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Defense Appropriations Act provides \$120 million (M) to the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) to support innovative, high-impact breast cancer research to accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer.

FY16 BCRP Program Announcements and General Application Instructions for the following award mechanism is posted on the Grants.gov website. Breakthrough Award Funding Levels 1 and 2 will be available in late August.

Breakthrough Award Funding Levels 1 and 2:

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

July 23; 11AM

Cancer Screening & Prevention Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital Informational Table

Roberto Clemente Field

Community Fun Day

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July 28; 12PM

Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Seminar

TAC N 107

Imaging of Prostate Cancer: Challenges and Opportunities

Bernd Hamm, MD

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August 4; 9:30PM

Cancer Prevention and Control YCC-Wide Retreat

BCMM 206/208

Transdisciplinary and Translational Research for Cancer Prevention and Control

Melinda Irwin, PhD, MPH and Xiaomei Ma, PhD

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Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu



- Investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)
- Postdoctoral fellows are eligible and encouraged to apply
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Funding Levels 3 and 4:

- Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)
- Supports promising research that has the potential to lead to or make breakthroughs in breast cancer.
- Potential impact of the research may be near-term or long-term, but it must be significant and go beyond an incremental advancement.
- Pre-Application Submission Deadline: September 14, 2016

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Recent Publications

National sociodemographic disparities in the treatment of high-risk prostate cancer: Do academic cancer centers perform better than community cancer centers?

Mahal BA, Chen YW, Muralidhar V, Mahal AR, Choueiri TK, Hoffman KE, Hu JC, Sweeney CJ, Yu JB, Feng FY, Kim SP, Beard CJ, Martin NE, Trinh QD, Nguyen PL.
Cancer. 2016 Jul 19.

[Read More >>](#)

The American Society for Radiation Oncology's 2015 Core Physics Curriculum for Radiation Oncology Residents

Burmeister J, Chen Z, Chetty IJ.
Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2016 Jul 15;95(4):1298-303.

[Read More >>](#)

Loss of TRIM33 causes resistance to BET bromodomain inhibitors through MYC- and TGF- β -dependent mechanisms.

Shi X, Mihaylova VT, Kuruvilla L, Chen F, Viviano S, Baldassarre M, Sperandio D, Martinez R, Yue P, Bates

JG, Breckenridge DG, Schlessinger J, Turk BE, Calderwood DA.

Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2016 Jul 18.

[Read More >>](#)

Sociodemographic disparities in treatment and survival of small localized renal cell carcinoma: surgical resection versus thermal ablation.

Kokabi N, Xing M, Duszak R Jr, Howard DH, Camacho JC, Kim HS.

J Comp Eff Res. 2016 Jul 18.

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Structural Basis for KDM5A Histone Lysine Demethylase Inhibition by Diverse Compounds.

Horton JR, Liu X, Gale M, Wu L, Shanks JR, Zhang X, Webber PJ, Bell JS, Kales SC, Mott BT, Rai G, Jansen DJ, Henderson MJ, Urban DJ, Hall MD, Simeonov A, Maloney DJ, Johns MA, Fu H, Jadhav A, Vertino PM, Yan Q, Cheng X.

Cell Chem Biol. 2016 Jul 13.

Lancet Oncol. 2016 Jun 3.

[Read More >>](#)

A first-in-human phase I study to evaluate the MEK1/2 inhibitor, cobimetinib, administered daily in patients with advanced solid tumors.

Rosen LS, LoRusso P, Ma WW, Goldman JW, Weise A, Colevas AD, Adjei A, Yazji S, Shen A, Johnston S, Hsieh HJ, Chan IT, Sikic BI.

Invest New Drugs. 2016 Jul 16.

[Read More >>](#)

Radiotherapy for human papillomavirus-positive oropharyngeal cancers in the National CancerData Base.

Cheraghlou S, Kuo P, Judson BL.

Cancer. 2016 Jul 15.

[Read More >>](#)

Tissue-Engineered Vascular Rings from Human iPSC-Derived Smooth Muscle Cells.

Dash BC, Levi K, Schwan J, Luo J, Bartulos O, Wu H, Qiu C, Yi T, Ren Y, Campbell S, Rolle MW, Qyang Y.

Stem Cell Reports. 2016 Jul 12;7(1):19-28.

[Read More >>](#)

Harnessing shared antigens and T-cell receptors in cancer: Opportunities and challenges.

Dhodapkar K, Dhodapkar M.

Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2016 Jul 7.

[Read More >>](#)

Systemic immune-inflammation index predicts the clinical outcome in patients with metastatic renal cell cancer treated with sunitinib.

Lolli C, Basso U, Derosa L, Scarpi E, Sava T, Santoni M, Crabb SJ, Massari F, Aieta M, Conteduca V, Maruzzo M, La Russa F, Wheeler M, Berardi R, Galli L, De Giorgi U.

Oncotarget. 2016 Jul 9.

[Read More >>](#)

Meta-dimensional data integration identifies critical pathways for susceptibility, tumorigenesis and progression of endometrial cancer.

Wei R, De Vivo I, Huang S, Zhu X, Risch H, Moore JH, Yu H, Garmire LX.

Oncotarget. 2016 Jul 9.

[Read More >>](#)

Chronic Glutathione Depletion Confers Protection against Alcohol-induced Steatosis: Implication for Redox Activation of AMP-activated Protein Kinase Pathway.

Chen Y, Singh S, Matsumoto A, Manna SK, Abdelmegeed MA, Golla S, Murphy RC, Dong H, Song BJ, Gonzalez FJ, Thompson DC, Vasiliou V.

Sci Rep. 2016 Jul 12;6:29743.

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