

# DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

June 20, 2014

## Announcements

### Dr. Patricia LoRusso Joins Yale Cancer Center to Further Innovation in Cancer Research

I am very excited to announce that Patricia M. LoRusso, DO will join Yale Cancer Center in August as a Professor of Medicine and Associate Director of Innovative Medicine at Yale Cancer Center. Pat is widely-regarded as a leading expert on developing new cancer drugs through clinical trials and will be a wonderful addition to our leadership team. She brings more than 25 years of expertise in medical oncology, drug development, and early phase clinical trials to Yale.



She is currently serving in numerous leadership roles at Wayne State University's Barbara Karmanos Cancer Institute, most recently as director of the Phase I Clinical Trials Program and of the Eisenberg Center for Experimental Therapeutics.

[Learn More >>](#)

### Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Program Ranked by U.S. News & World Report

Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital has once again been ranked among the best in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* in their 2014-15 Best Children's Hospitals rankings, published online this month. Cancer was one of the ranked subspecialties for Yale-New Haven Hospital,

from the desk of

**Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD**

Director; Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



## Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

## LATEST ARTICLES:



E1308: Reduced-dose IMRT effective for certain patients with HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancer

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New Study Aims to Rapidly Test Lung Cancer Drugs

ranking #45 in the nation. "We are proud to once again be considered amongst the top pediatric oncology programs in the nation. This is tangible evidence of the continued growth of our program," Gary Kupfer, Chief of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, said.

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### Yale ASCO Review Next Friday

Please join us for our annual ASCO Review next Friday, June 27 at the New Haven Country Club in Hamden, CT. The ASCO Review will include a full day of highlights from the annual ASCO meeting held earlier this month in Chicago, as well as research developments from Yale Cancer Center laboratories and clinical trials open for patients.

[Learn More and Register >>](#)

## Notables

**Valentina Greco, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Genetics and Dermatology and a member of our Molecular Virology Program, has been selected as the recipient of the American Society for Cell Biology **Women in Cell Biology 2014 Junior Award** for Excellence in Research Award. The award recognizes exceptional scientific contributions to cell biology, development of a strong independent research program, and exhibiting the potential for continued scientific achievement and leadership.

**Alfred L.M. Bothwell, PhD**, Professor of Immunobiology and a member of our Immunology and Immunotherapy Program, has received the **Inaugural Wendy U. and Thomas C. Naratil Pioneer Award from Women's Health Research at Yale** to support his project to study **"Personalized Medicine" for the Most Lethal Endometrial Cancer**. Dr. Bothwell will look for new, more effective treatments for uterine serous cancer, a particularly aggressive form of endometrial cancer that accounts for 10 percent of endometrial cancer cases, but is responsible for nearly 40 percent of endometrial cancer deaths.

**Andrew T. Putnam, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and a member of Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven's Palliative Care Medicine Program, was awarded his certification for completion of the 2013-2014 Medical Education Fellowship thru the Yale School of Medicine's Teaching and Learning Center at the Yale Medical Education conference. Dr. Putnam also presented a poster at the conference entitled, "Faculty Development to Acquire Effective Communication Skills: Tailoring our

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Clinical Trial Targets Advanced Lung Cancer

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## Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

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### LATEST TWEETS:

 Electronic Cigarette Executives Get Schooled In Senate Hearing <http://ti.me/1uDwtsy> via @TIMEHealth

 Three-time melanoma survivor achieved total response on #Immunotherapy trial <http://bloom.bg/1pi7k77> @sloan\_kettering #CIMchat

 @YalePsych: Study: Safe, effective to use multiple nicotine replacements <http://ow.ly/y3I3m> via @ConnPost @YaleCancer

 Dr.Mario Sznol made the point at #asco14 that we've really only looked closely at two checkpoints. Many more to examine with great potential

 #LungMAP was a big announcement this week. It includes an immunotherapy agent among the five investigational drugs. #CIMchat

 Thank you @ClaireNewHaven for the wonderful cooking demo at our celebration of cancer survivors. @SurvivorsDay

 @LurieCancer: It's "a big deal" Study by @Jamesbyu @YaleCancer proves #ColorectalCancer Screening Saves Lives <http://nyti.ms/1oagHyf> @nytimeswell #crscsm

Communication  
to Best Suit our Patients."

## Closer to Free

**Brookfield High School Seniors, Brooke Sands and Jasmine DaSilva raise over \$3,000 for Closer to Free!**



Two seniors at Brookfield High School chose to paint a mural in Whisconier Middle School for their senior project in order to raise awareness of cancer and bring the community together in the fight for a cure. Along with their mural, they raised \$3,000 with the students in Whisconier Middle School. "Many families have been affected by this disease in Brookfield in the past two years which inspired us to raise money for the local Smilow Cancer Hospital and their Closer to Free campaign. There have been many fundraisers at Brookfield High School, which is why we chose to target our fundraiser in the middle school. We want the younger students to know that they can make a difference as well, and support those families in Brookfield who need it the most," the girls said. Their mural is a tree with the students' handprints as the leaves. It symbolizes the strength they have as a community to come together and make a difference.

## Employee Profile: Kirsten Pedersen

*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.*

## Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook

Like us on Facebook 

### LATEST POSTS:

Join us for a celebration of survivorship for pediatric cancer survivors and their families this Sunday from noon to 3pm at the Carriage House at Edgerton Park in Hamden. Let's Luau! is hosted by Yale Pediatric Oncology and the Tommy Fund. Come connect with other families and hang with Smilow Cancer Hospital doctors and nurses.



[Read More >>](#)

Funding is essential to research: it supports materials, equipment, and staff. Grants, however, are often not awarded to high risk projects, although they could yield high reward. This leads to a 'Catch 22' scenario, whereby innovative ideas cannot always advance enough to receive research funding.



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Cancer is a growing public health concern. According to the CDC, cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. That is why researchers at the Yale School of Public Health, like Professor Melinda L. Irwin, PhD, have teamed up with Yale Cancer Center to better understand how to reduce the occurrence of cancer.

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

Kirsten A. Pedersen, RN, OCN, Service Line Educator for Hematology-Oncology on Smilow 7 and 11, has been a nurse for over thirty years. She has worked with many physicians and nurses and is inspired by the staff at Smilow Cancer Hospital. One recent case sticks out in her mind from Smilow 11 that exhibits the professional and caring manner in which patients are treated.

The patient was a man diagnosed with Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma that had been hospitalized for seven months. Unfortunately, his disease was not responsive to conventional or investigational therapies. His condition required the team to work together to accomplish even the most basic tasks as this patient was covered in open wounds and any intact skin he had was red, scaly, and very itchy. The nurses utilized resources to determine how to limit debridement of his skin and determined that layering bed-sized non-adhering dressings liberally smeared with emollient worked well. Kirsten explained that when he lost his vision, he was able to identify all of the staff by their voices and when he wasn't able to voice his concerns in a constructive manner, the staff was able to assist him.

"The physicians and nurses involved in his care were able to see him as a person and provided care that reflected their expertise and compassion. Their passion to ease suffering while maintaining hope in a terminally ill man was something that I will always remember," said Kirsten. "I am so grateful that I work at a hospital that employs such wonderful people, and that I am a nurse who cares for such brave patients."

Kirsten explained that the Palliative Care Team was instrumental in helping this patient attain pain control and also provided much needed support, and that she is proud of everyone involved in this very special man's care. "They are all my role models and I am thankful to them for providing such care that I would want my family member or myself to receive. Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven are fortunate to have such employees. "

## 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



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The National Institutes of Health chose Yale Cancer Center from among 150 applicants to conduct MATCH (Molecular Analysis for Therapy Choice), a groundbreaking study on cancer genomics and experimental drugs.

In MATCH's first phase, Yale's Tumor Profiling Laboratory will analyze tissue samples from approximately 3,000 patients in order to detect molecular mutations. Once this phase is completed, patients will be matched with clinical trials designed to test therapies targeted against specific mutations.



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**Closer to Free**

**closer to free**

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

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## Events

**June 22; 12:00 PM**

**Let's Luau!**

The Carriage House at Edgerton Park  
*A Celebration of Survivorship*

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

**June 22; 6:00 PM**

**Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

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.

### **The Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research Grants Program**

Tina's Wish grants are to support research in ovarian cancer prevention and early detection. The research for which support is requested should be new and innovative, and not currently funded or being conducted. The proposal can describe up to a two calendar year program of research and specify costs of up to \$100,000 per year total costs.

Yale Cancer members who want to be considered for the Tina's Wish Program should send [Daniel DiMaio](#) their CV and a one page research summary by July 7th.

### **NCCN Nintedanib Research Grant Opportunity**

National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it has received a research grant from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., to support NCCN investigator initiated clinical and correlative studies of nintedanib in the treatment of specific solid tumors. The Request for Proposals (RFP) clearly outlines the scope and process that will be followed for the submission of proposals.

**Application Deadline:** June 30, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program**

This program supports innovative research that will advance knowledge in the field of hematology/oncology. The award provides financial support to 2 junior faculty researchers for a 2-year period up to \$130,000.

**Application Deadline:** September 5, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Damon Runyon Fellowship Award**

*CT Cancer Partnership*  
Lucinda Hogarty, MPH  
[Read More >>](#)

### **June 23; 2:00 PM Pharmacology Special Seminar**

Brady Auditorium, B131  
*Mechanisms Governing Metastatic Dormancy and Reactivation*  
Filippo G. Giancotti, MD, PhD  
[Read More >>](#)

### **June 26; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

Smilow, LL-412, Room E  
*Optimizing a Lupus Autoantibody for Targeted Cancer Therapy*  
James Hansen, MD  
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### **June 27; 7:00 AM Yale ASCO® Review 2014**

New Haven Country Club  
*Highlights of the Annual Meeting*  
Vincent DeVita Jr., MD  
[Read More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### **June 29; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR  
*Treatment for Head and Neck Cancer*  
Barbara Burtness, MD  
[Read More >>](#)

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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 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.

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## **Submissions**

Please submit your recent

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 >>](#)

### **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.
- 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

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

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 >>](#)

## **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 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

[Learn More >>](#)

## **Komen Awards**

### *Career Catalyst Research Grants - Basic/Translational Research*

This award mechanism is appropriate for both basic (i.e. Ph.D.) or clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows proposing research projects that are laboratory- or field- based and do not meet Komen's definition of clinical research. Studies focusing on quality of life or survivorship issues are not appropriate for this mechanism.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** July 17, 2014

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

### *Career Catalyst Research Grants - Clinical Research*

This award mechanism is appropriate for clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows/faculty proposing clinical, patient-oriented research projects that involve direct interactions with human subjects/patients. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

Komen defines clinical research as hypothesis driven,

patient-oriented research for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects/patients, in conjunction with laboratory-based research, as appropriate. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** July 17, 2014

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

#### *Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants - Basic/Translational Research*

This grant mechanism is appropriate for both basic (i.e. Ph.D.) or clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows proposing research projects that are laboratory- or field- based and do not meet Komen's definition of clinical research. Studies focusing on quality of life or survivorship issues are not appropriate for this mechanism.

A separate PDF-Clinical Research RFA is available for clinical fellows proposing clinical research studies on breast cancer.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** July 17, 2014

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

#### *Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants - Clinical Research*

This grant mechanism is appropriate for clinical (i.e. M.D.) fellows proposing clinical, patient-oriented research projects that involve direct interactions with human subjects/patients. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

Komen defines clinical research a hypothesis driven, patient-oriented research for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects/patients, in conjunction with laboratory-based research as appropriate. This includes studies such as therapeutic interventions or clinical trials.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** July 17, 2014

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

#### *Graduate Training in Disparities Research (GTDR)*

GTDR Grants (formerly Post-Baccalaureate Training in Disparities Research Grants, PBTDR) are intended to establish and/or to sustain a training program for a minimum of three graduate students who are seeking careers dedicated to understanding and eliminating disparities in breast cancer outcomes across population groups.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** July 17, 2014

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

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## Recent Publications

**Weight Loss Interventions and Breast Cancer Survival: The Time Is Now.**

Irwin ML.  
J Clin Oncol. 2014 Jun 16.  
[Read More >>](#)

**[Colorectal cancer: From the laboratory to the patient, a now indispensable step].**

Llor X.  
Rev Gastroenterol Mex. 2014 Apr-Jun;79(2):71-2.  
[Read More >>](#)

**Management of Clinical Stage IIIA Primary Lung Cancers in the National Cancer Database.**

Hancock J, Rosen J, Moreno A, Kim AW, Detterbeck FC, Boffa DJ.  
Ann Thorac Surg. 2014 Jun 12.  
[Read More >>](#)

**Impact of Body Mass Index on Surgical Outcomes and Analysis of Disease Recurrence for Patients With Endometrial Cancer Undergoing Robotic-Assisted Staging.**

Menderes G, Azodi M, Clark L, Xu X, Lu L, Ratner E, Schwartz PE, Rutherford TJ, Santin AD, Silasi DA.  
Int J Gynecol Cancer. 2014 Jun 12.  
[Read More >>](#)

**Perceptions of Active Surveillance and Treatment Recommendations for Low-risk Prostate Cancer: Results from a National Survey of Radiation Oncologists and Urologists.**

Kim SP, Gross CP, Nguyen PL, Smaldone MC, Shah ND, Karnes RJ, Thompson RH, Han LC, Yu JB, Trinh QD, Ziegenfuss JY, Sun M, Tilbert JC.  
Med Care. 2014 Jul;52(7):579-85  
[Read More >>](#)

**Addressing the evidence for FDA nicotine replacement therapy label changes: a policy statement of the association for the treatment of tobacco use and dependence and the society for research on nicotine and tobacco.**

Fucito LM, Bars MP, Forray A, Rojewski AM, Shiffman S, Selby P, West R, Foulds J, Toll BA; Writing Committee for the SRNT Policy and Treatment Networks.  
Nicotine Tob Res. 2014 Jul;16(7):909-14.  
[Read More >>](#)

**Clinical evaluation of compounds targeting PD-1/PD-L1 pathway for cancer immunotherapy.**

Lu J, Lee-Gabel L, Nadeau MC, Ferencz TM, Soefje SA.  
J Oncol Pharm Pract. 2014 Jun 9.  
[Read More >>](#)

**An unexpected mass of the urachus: A Case Report.**

Pasternak MC, Black JD, Azodi M, Garipey A.  
Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2014 Jun 6.

[Read More >>](#)

**Targeted resequencing of the microRNAome and 3'UTRome reveals functional germline DNA variants with altered prevalence in epithelial ovarian cancer.**

Chen X, Paranjape T, Stahlhut C, McVeigh T, Keane F, Nallur S, Miller N, Kerin M, Deng Y, Yao X, Zhao H, Weidhaas JB, Slack FJ.  
Oncogene. 2014 Jun 9.

[Read More >>](#)

**Enhanced skin toxicity associated with the combination of clofarabine plus cytarabine for the treatment of acute leukemia.**

Zhang B, Bolognia J, Marks P, Podoltsev N.  
Cancer Chemother Pharmacol. 2014 Jun 8.

[Read More >>](#)

**HITS-CLIP reveals key regulators of nuclear receptor signaling in breast cancer.**

Pillai MM, Gillen AE, Yamamoto TM, Kline E, Brown J, Flory K, Hesselberth JR, Kabos P.  
Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2014 Jun 7.

[Read More >>](#)

**Public Awareness of Head and Neck Cancers: A Cross-Sectional Survey.**

Luryi AL, Yarbrough WG, Niccolai LM, Roser S, Reed SG, Nathan CA, Moore MG, Day T, Judson BL.  
JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2014 Jun 5.

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