

SPRING|SUMMER 2016

## WELCOME

This Spring, Smilow Cancer Hospital received notification that our application was selected for participation in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Oncology Care Model. This represents a tremendous opportunity for Smilow. The program will provide revenue to support critical infrastructure that will provide our patients with urgent care, expanded palliative care, care management, and clinical pathways---each a critical element to improving the value and quality of care we deliver. Our participation in the CMS Oncology Care Model will also provide us with an opportunity to change the way care is delivered to some patients, providing better access and improved collaborations with our colleagues throughout the State. I look forward to working with the team as we hear new ideas, implement new programs, and work with you to care for all of our patients.



Quality care is a central component of our daily workforce at Smilow and in all of our Care Centers. In recognition of this, I am proud to announce that Smilow Cancer Hospital and all of our Care Centers now have the prestigious Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) certification from ASCO. The QOPI certification demonstrates our commitment to quality, reduction in errors, and adaptation of best practices throughout all of our oncology clinical practices in Connecticut.

As Smilow Cancer Hospital continues to evolve its patient care and our services in the community, first and foremost, I hope that we are providing the right access and the best collaborations for you to benefit your patients. I welcome the opportunity to discuss any

# Yale NewHaven Health Smilow Cancer Hospital

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Yale **CANCER  
CENTER**

A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated  
by the National Cancer Institute

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## FACULTY UPDATES



ideas that you may have, or any concerns. Please contact my office directly at (203) 200-1344 with your feedback.

### **Rogério Lilenbaum, MD**

Professor of Medicine  
Yale Cancer Center  
Chief Medical Officer  
Smilow Cancer Hospital

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Fertility Expertise**

Dr. Pasquale Patrizio, Director of the Yale Fertility Center and Fertility Preservation Program, has launched a weekly clinic in Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Patrizio's expertise will help young men needing sperm banking and premenopausal women with a new diagnosis of cancer. Referrals should be made for consultation prior to treatment beginning. He is available to consult with patients with all cancer diagnoses, including pediatrics for those young male and female patients that could benefit from fertility preservation and will closely collaborate with the referring team to coordinate care.

Contact:  
(203) 785-4708

[Learn More >>](#)

### **SpaceOAR Available for Patients with Prostate Cancer**

Patients with prostate cancer in need of radiation therapy have a new option available to them to protect from additional damage from therapy, while at the same time delivering a more convenient therapy. Smilow Cancer Hospital now offers SpaceOAR, a hydrogel approved by the FDA in 2015, which is inserted between the prostate and rectum to protect the rectal tissue during stereotactic body radiation treatment (SBRT) for prostate cancer. Led by Dr. Preston C. Sprenkle, Assistant Professor of Urology, and Dr. James B. Yu, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, Smilow Cancer Hospital is the first hospital in Connecticut to offer SpaceOAR to our patients.

Contact:  
(203) 200-4822

### **Park Avenue Medical Center (PAMC) Opens**

Yale New Haven Health's new three story, 100,000-square-foot center at 5520 Park Avenue in Trumbull combines new and existing

### **Janina Longtine, MD**

Director of Tumor Profiling  
Laboratory at Smilow Cancer  
Hospital

Janina A. Longtine, MD has been appointed as Vice Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Director of Molecular and Genomic Diagnostics at Yale School of Medicine and Director of our Tumor Profiling Laboratory for Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Longtine joined Yale from Mount Sinai Hospital. In addition, she recently served as President of the Association for Molecular Pathology (2014-2015 term).

Dr. Longtine has considerable expertise and leadership in molecular pathology, and her vision will place patient management and individualized cancer care at the forefront of our Tumor Profiling Laboratory. In her new role, she will also be working to more cohesively integrate various molecular diagnostic services offered by Pathology, Laboratory Medicine, and the Center for Genome Analysis at West Campus.



**Mark Swidler, MD**

Director of Outpatient Palliative Care

services provided on the same campus by Bridgeport Hospital, Smilow Cancer Hospital, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, and Northeast Medical Group. The PAMC includes the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Trumbull, as well as Radiation Oncology services. Along with expanded services that the new Medical Center has to offer - including modern operating rooms for outpatient surgery, radiology, rehabilitation services, and specialty care - the Smilow enterprise in Fairfield County will continue to grow to provide innovative cancer care to our patients.

Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Trumbull

Contact: (203) 502-8400

### Survivorship Clinic

The Survivorship Clinic is comprised of a team of Yale Cancer Center's leading clinicians and scientists. The primary focus is on providing guidance and direction to empower survivors to take steps to maximize their health, quality of life, and longevity. Additionally, the team educates survivors on the prevention, detection, and treatment of complications resulting from cancer treatment.

Prior to the clinic visit, the team reviews the patient's past cancer diagnosis and treatment history, including cumulative doses of chemotherapy and radiation therapy. This information helps to design an individualized treatment summary and survivorship care plan for each patient. On the day of the clinic visit, patients undergo a focused evaluation with customized recommendations in the following areas:

- Individualized surveillance and screening guidelines and medical provider identification
- Wellness education tailored to cancer type and treatment history
- Psychosocial support for survivors and their families
- Nutritional counseling
- Exercise and fitness recommendations

At the conclusion of the visit, patients leave the Survivorship Clinic with a written plan tailored to their specific needs and concerns. A copy of this plan is also sent to their referring physician or primary caregiver.

Our main Clinic is at Smilow Cancer Hospital. We also offer convenient appointments at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers in Orange, North Haven, and Guilford.

Contact: (203) 785-CARE

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### Cancer Screening and Prevention Program

Please welcome Dr. Mark Swidler to Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Swidler joined the Palliative Care Program on May 15 as Associate Director and Director of Outpatient Palliative Care. He will oversee the palliative care services for our outpatient clinics at Smilow Cancer Hospital. His specialties are in Geriatric Medicine, Hospice, and Palliative Medicine. Prior to joining the faculty at Yale, Dr. Swidler was an Associate Professor in the Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development and Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.



**Justin Blasberg, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery  
(Thoracic Surgery)

Dr. Justin Blasberg has been appointed an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine and is a member of the Thoracic Oncology program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. His practice includes minimally invasive and open management for diseases of the esophagus, lung, mediastinum, chest wall, thoracic outlet, and diaphragm. In addition, he has a particular interest in benign and malignant diseases of the trachea, as well as complex lung resections requiring bronchoplasty. Dr. Blasberg received his undergraduate degree from

The Cancer Screening & Prevention Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital brings together doctors and researchers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center who are focused on merging the best science with the best cancer prevention and screening programs.

Contact:  
(203) 200-3030  
[Learn More >>](#)

## CLINICAL TRIAL SUMMARIES

A full list of all clinical trials available through Yale Cancer Center is updated daily and available [online](#) by disease type. In addition, a list of Phase I trials for patients through our [Phase I Clinical Trial Program](#) can be accessed at any time.

**HIC# 1403013529**

*Principal Investigator:* [Rogério Lilenbaum, MD](#)

### **Single Agent Versus Combination Chemotherapy to Treat High-risk Elderly With Non-small Cell Lung Cancer**

This study will enroll elderly (age 71+) patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer who are at high risk of developing chemotherapy toxicity (side effects). Patients will receive treatment with either a platinum-based doublet chemotherapy with carboplatin/nab-paclitaxel or single agent nab-paclitaxel of chemotherapy. Response to treatment and treatment toxicity will be compared in the two treatment groups to determine the best treatment strategy for this group of patients.

[Learn More >>](#)

**HIC# 1505015871**

*Principal Investigator:* [Daniel Petrylak, MD](#)

### **A Phase III, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study of Ramucirumab Plus Docetaxel Versus Placebo Plus Docetaxel in Patients With Locally Advanced or Unresectable or Metastatic Urothelial Carcinoma Who Progressed on or After Platinum-Based Therapy**

The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the study drug ramucirumab in combination with docetaxel in participants with urothelial cancer who failed prior platinum-based therapy.

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Binghamton University, his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and a master's degree in science from University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

## SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Brain Tumor  
(203) 200-1638

Breast Center  
(203) 200-2328

Endocrine Cancers  
(203) 200-3636

Gastrointestinal Cancers  
(203) 200-4422

Gynecologic Oncology  
(203) 200-4176

Head & Neck Cancers  
(203) 200-4622

Hematology  
(203) 200-4363

Melanoma  
(203) 200-6622

Pediatric Hematology & Oncology  
(203) 785-4081

Prostate & Urologic Cancers  
(203) 200-4822

Sarcoma  
(203) 737-5660

Thoracic Oncology  
(203) 200-5864

## SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL CARE CENTERS

At Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers, we offer state-of-the-art cancer services at several convenient locations throughout the region. In addition to the

**HIC# 1512016946**

*Principal Investigator:* [Howard Hochster, MD](#)

**A Phase III Study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) vs. Chemotherapy in Microsatellite Instability-High (MSI-H) or Mismatch Repair Deficient (dMMR) Stage IV Colorectal Carcinoma (KEYNOTE-177)**

In this study, participants with MSI-H or dMMR advanced colorectal carcinoma will be randomly assigned to receive either pembrolizumab or the Investigator's choice of 1 of 6 standard of care (SOC) chemotherapy regimens for the treatment of advanced colorectal carcinoma. The primary study hypothesis is that pembrolizumab will prolong progression-free survival (PFS) compared to current SOC chemotherapy.

[Learn More >>](#)

**HIC# 1512016953**

*Principal Investigator:* [Harriet Kluger, MD](#)

**A Phase II Trial of Pembrolizumab Plus Bevacizumab in Patients With Metastatic Melanoma or Non-small Cell Lung Cancer With Untreated Brain Metastases**

The purpose of this phase 2 trial is to study the activity of pembrolizumab in combination with bevacizumab in patients with untreated brain metastases from melanoma or NSCLC to determine activity and safety of the drug combination. Furthermore, in patients who undergo resection of biopsy of a brain metastasis, we will evaluate biomarkers predictive of treatment benefit, and will also conduct correlative biomarker studies on extra-cerebral specimens in all patients in whom a systemic biopsy is feasible or in archival tumor tissue when available.

[Learn More >>](#)

**HIC# 1509016491**

*Principal Investigator:* [Iris Isufi, MD](#)

**An Open-Label, Multicenter, Phase I Trial Evaluating the Safety and Pharmacokinetics of Escalating Doses of BTCT4465A in Patients With Relapsed or Refractory B-Cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia**

This study is designed to evaluate the safety and pharmacokinetics of BTCT4465A when administered as a single agent by intravenous (IV) infusion to participants with relapsed or refractory B-cell NHL and CLL. The study will consist of a dose-escalation stage and an

flagship Smilow Cancer Hospital in New Haven, we have care centers across the region.

Derby  
(203) 734-1664

Fairfield  
(203) 255-2766

Greenwich  
(203) 422-7970

Guilford  
(203) 453-9192

Saint Francis Campus - Hartford  
(860) 714-4680

North Haven  
(203) 407-8002

Old Saybrook  
(203) 453-9192

Orange  
(203) 795-1664

Torrington  
(860) 482-5384

Trumbull  
(203) 502-8400

Waterbury  
(203) 755-6311

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**YCC in the News...**



**It's Time to Train All Doctors on How to Talk to Patients About End-of-Life Care**

expansion stage where participants will be enrolled into indication-specific cohorts.

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## RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

### Yale researchers discover drug target in rare, lethal glandular cancer

Using a novel cell culture approach, Yale Cancer Center researchers have discovered critical vulnerabilities in adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC), a rare and lethal glandular cancer with a high recurrence rate and few treatment options.

Aside from surgery, there are few treatments for ACC, which until now has proven largely resistant to radiation therapy. It is this resistance that prompted Yale researchers to develop a novel cell culture technique to isolate and study ACC cancer stem cells, known to be the root of tumor growth, aggressiveness, and resistance to chemotherapy and radiation, said co-senior author Sergey Ivanov, Research Scientist in Surgery (Otolaryngology).

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### Understanding the cancer-killing properties of a chemical commando

A Yale lab has unlocked the process by which a natural anti-cancer agent is able to bind to DNA and directly break both strands.

The discovery may be helpful in developing synthetic molecules for cancer therapies that can effectively disrupt the replication of DNA in diseased cells, say the researchers. The findings appeared online in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

For nearly a decade, the Yale lab has investigated certain chemical properties of lomaiviticin A, a natural byproduct of marine bacteria found on coral reefs. Lomaiviticin A has been shown to be effective in cleaving both strands of the DNA structure - to form what are known as double-strand breaks - but until now, scientists did not understand the process.

Using sophisticated, computational modeling, plus nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, the researchers were able to find the key: proximity. Lomaiviticin A has the ability to bind with DNA in such a way that it places two essential reactive parts of the molecule in close proximity to each DNA strand. "Lomaiviticin is like a chemical Navy SEAL," Seth Herzon, PhD, Professor of Chemistry and corresponding author of the study, said.

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A recent national poll found that although 99% of the physicians feel end-of-life and advance care planning discussions are important, nearly half reported they do not know what to say and less than a third reported any prior training for these conversations. These findings are not surprising considering a 2011 study found that 45% of those becoming oncologists reported having no explicit training in end-of-life communication.

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Honoring a distinguished physician, teacher & mentor

### Dr. Thomas Duffy Honored with Duffy Hematology Firm

Thomas P. Duffy, MD, Professor Emeritus of Medicine (Hematology) at Yale School of Medicine, was honored earlier this month at a naming ceremony for the Duffy Hematology Firm at Yale New Haven Hospital. Dr. Duffy began his career at Yale in 1976 and has served as a distinguished physician, teacher, mentor and role model for generations of house staff and fellows.

He is highly respected for his dedication and care of his patients, his incredible regard and talent for teaching, and his mentorship at Yale Cancer Center and Yale New Haven Hospital. Dr. Duffy is well-deserving of the honor of the Duffy Hematology Firm.

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### **Yale team screens cardiac drugs that also attack cancer**

Several drugs now being used to treat heart failure and atrial arrhythmia also show promise as DNA disruptors in cancer cells and could be readily repurposed as anticancer agents, according to a new study by Yale researchers.

Cardiac glycosides, which are bioactive natural products found in certain plants and insects, aid in cardiac treatment because they cause the heart to contract and increase cardiac output. They are used in prescription medications such as Digoxin and Strophanthin.

Now researchers at Yale have also discovered that cardiac glycosides block the repair of DNA in tumor cells. Because tumor cells are rapidly dividing, their DNA is more susceptible to damage, and inhibition of DNA repair is a promising strategy to selectively kill these cells. The Yale scientists showed that cardiac glycosides inhibit two key pathways that are involved in the repair of DNA. "This has many therapeutic implications for new cancer drugs," said Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Therapeutic Radiology.

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### **Precision medicine the theme at world's biggest cancer conference**

A new era of cancer treatment is beginning in which patients get drugs matched specifically to their tumor, according to scientists at the American Society of Clinical Oncology conference.

Precision or personalized medicine, as it is called, "is about targeting treatment so that it's more powerful, while reducing the toxicity, so there are fewer side-effects", said Prof Roy Herbst, chief of medical oncology at Yale Cancer Center. "At the moment it's more like using a cannonball to kill an ant - and creating a whole lot of damage at the same time."

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### **Centerpoint: Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital's Magazine**



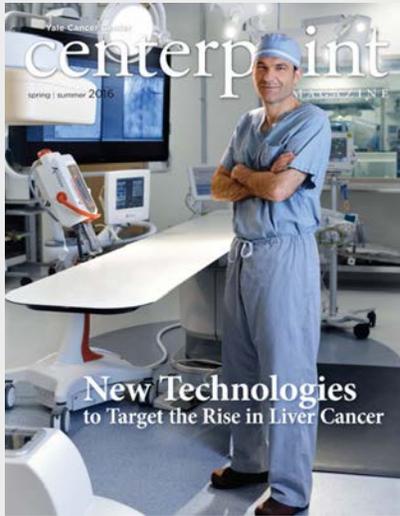
### **Trial to Investigate Link Between Weight, Fitness, and Cancer Recurrence**

A large trial is being launched this summer to establish whether diet and exercise regimes should be prescribed by doctors for women who have had breast cancer in the same way that they prescribe drugs, to prevent the disease returning and potentially save lives.

Prof Melinda Irwin, associate director at Yale Cancer Center and professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health, said: "We found a strong connection between exercise after diagnosis and mortality afterwards.

"Most interestingly, it showed the impact on changes in activity on mortality - even if you've never been active before taking regular exercise seemed to show a great impact."

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The Spring|Summer issue of *Centerpoint* is available online, featuring new research advances for liver cancer, new cellular therapy breakthroughs from our Advanced Cell Therapy Laboratory, the Emotional Distress Tool for patients at Smilow, and clinical trial options at the VA Cancer Center in West Haven.

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