

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

January 6, 2017

Announcements

Happy New Year!

I am so pleased to begin 2017 with all of you at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. I know this year will bring exciting opportunities for all of us here, and look forward to sharing new developments in cancer research, education, and care with you as the year progresses.

In the coming months, I plan to work with the leadership team at the cancer center and hospital to begin recruitments that will expand and build on the expertise and talent we have. We will also continue to invest in the research and clinical infrastructure that is critical to all of our success. All of these investments will build on the positive trajectory that the cancer center and hospital have experienced over the last several years.

I have had the privilege of meeting with many of you and look forward to continuing our conversations, and meeting others, as we work together to launch the next chapter for Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Yale Cancer Answers

Yale Cancer Center's weekly radio program, *Yale Cancer Answers*, is back on air! The show began on New Years Day and will air each week at 7:30pm. Hosted by Drs. Anees Chagpar, Steve Gore, and Susan Higgins, each episode features a different patient care or research topic and guest. Please tune in, or listen online through [iTunes](#) - our

from the desk of
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale
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Health

Smilow Cancer
Hospital

Yale **CANCER
CENTER**

A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute

program is the second highest ranked cancer podcast on iTunes and we recently celebrated our 10th year of podcasts! Please contact [Emily Fenton](#) to schedule a guest interview on the show.

Notables

Congratulations to the 2017 **Lion Heart** grant recipients. The Lion Heart mission is to fund brilliant, young researchers with novel ideas investigating leading edge therapies and burning questions in the field of breast cancer. This year's committee chose to fund three projects with the \$145,000 raised by the group in 2016.

Congratulations to:

Jian Cao, PhD: *Targeting KDM5s to Enhance the Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibition in Breast Cancer*

Rosa Munoz Xicola, PhD: *New DNA Repair Alterations in Hereditary Breast Cancer Susceptibility*

Zhong Yun, PhD: *A Novel Genetic Model of Tumor Hypoxia for Breast Cancer*

On Sunday, January 15, the **National Organization of American Italian Women** will honor **Patricia LoRusso, DO** at its eighth annual Epiphany Celebration brunch. Dr. LoRusso was chosen as an honoree for her significant advances in medical oncology, drug development, and early phase clinical trials.

Research in the News

Lung cancer patients may benefit from delayed chemotherapy after surgery

A new Yale study suggests that patients with a common form of lung cancer may still benefit from delayed chemotherapy started up to four months after surgery, according to the researchers.

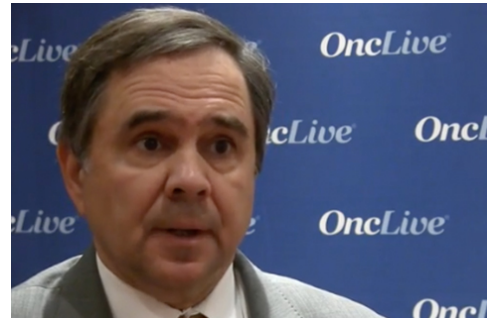
RECENT NEWS:

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

LATEST ARTICLES:

Dr. Petrylak on Novel Immunotherapy Research in Bladder Cancer



[Read More >>](#)

Dr. Burtness on Treatment Approaches in HPV-Positive Head and Neck Cancer



[Read More >>](#)

Yale doctor: Breast cancer test helps determine who will benefit from long-term therapy



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The study of 12,473 patients with stage I, II, or III disease who received chemotherapy suggests that the initiation of chemotherapy between 57 and 127 days postoperatively led to similar outcomes as patients who started closer to the currently recommended six-to-nine-week window, report the researchers. Furthermore, delayed chemotherapy was associated with a lower risk of death compared to those patients treated only with surgery.

[Read More >>](#)

Reducing Radiation Successfully Treats HPV-Positive Oropharynx Cancers and Minimizes Side Effects

Human papillomavirus-positive oropharynx cancers (cancers of the tonsils and back of the throat) are on rise. After radiation treatment, patients often experience severe, lifelong swallowing, eating, and nutritional issues. However, new clinical trial research shows reducing radiation for some patients with HPV-associated oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinomas can maintain high cure rates while sparing some of these late toxicities.

The study, published in the December 26 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, showed that patients treated with reduced radiation had less difficulty swallowing solids (40 percent versus 89 percent of patients treated with standard doses of radiation) or impaired nutrition (10 percent versus 44 percent of patients treated with regular doses of radiation).

[Read More >>](#)

Regular Aspirin Use May Reduce Risk for Pancreatic Cancer

Regular use of aspirin by people living in Shanghai, China, was associated with decreased risk for developing pancreatic cancer, according to data published in *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Data from the new study and meta-analysis of data from 18 other studies suggest that over the past two decades, as the general population's use of aspirin has increased, the effect of aspirin in decreasing pancreatic cancer risk has become more pronounced.

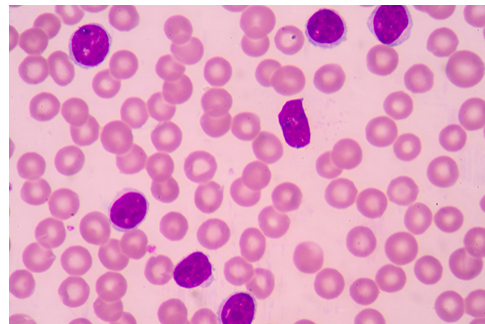
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Venezuelan boy with soft-tissue sarcoma attending Hamden Hall, being called a medical miracle



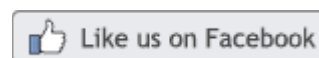
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Researchers Identify Heterogeneity of Tissue Resident Memory T Cells as Targets of Checkpoint Therapies



[Read More >>](#)

Read Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook



LATEST POSTS:

Happy 2017 from the team here at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center! The New Year can be a great time to make goals for many areas of life, including health and wellness. There are many ways you can make sure your lifestyle is keeping your cancer risk low

New Member Highlight: Nikhil Joshi, PhD

The Cancer Immunology (CI) Research Program is proud to announce its first new member of 2017, Nikhil Joshi, PhD, Assistant Professor of Immunobiology. Dr. Joshi is using his background in cancer immunology to guide his research using advanced, genetically-engineered mouse models of cancer for in vivo studies of cancer immunology. His translational approach provides his lab with the ability to address unanswered questions about how tumor-immune interactions in the native tumor microenvironment and immunotherapeutic interventions impact naturally arising cancers. Further, Dr. Joshi combines the emphasis on mechanisms of immune dysfunction with the development of novel genetic models to investigate these unexplored mechanisms.



Employee Profile: Karin Brinkman, RN

At the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Orange, Karin Brinkman, RN, Oncology Nurse Coordinator, is the go-to person for both patients and staff. She makes sure that everything runs smoothly between the various areas in the clinic and also delivers care to patients.



In addition to treating patients, Karin took on the role of Nurse Coordinator three years ago. This role

Looking for a
New Year's
resolution?



Check out these
tips to reduce
your cancer risk.

[Read More >>](#)

A new law passed by the Connecticut State Assembly requires insurance companies to cover 3D mammograms for women. 3D mammography, also called tomosynthesis, has been available to our patients at Smilow for five years now. "The machine will, instead of taking a straight image, will actually rotate through an arc," explains Dr. Liane Philpotts, Chief of Breast Imaging at Yale New Haven Hospital. "This technology allows us to see through the breast tissue better than just 2-D, and this enables us to find cancers that might be hiding, that we wouldn't have seen otherwise."



Starting in
2017,
insurance
companies in
Connecticut
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mammograms.

[Read More >>](#)

When 14-year-old Haad Khwaja's family heard from doctors in Karachi, Pakistan, that his type of brain cancer had a one percent survival rate, they immediately bought a plane ticket to seek medical treatment in the United States. The experts at Smilow developed a specialized treatment plan for Haad's tumor and helped him beat the odds to survive.

involves performing new patient consults, where she calls patients before their first visit to go over general medical history, and then meets with them for an initial nursing assessment. She also surveys patients after they meet with their doctor to get a better idea of the patient experience and what works and what needs improvement. If the nursing staff ever has any issues, they come to her as well to seek advice.

"The Care Center in Orange is small, which makes it unique. We all work together closely as a team to deliver the best patient care possible," said Karin. "We frequently hear that people feel less like a patient when they come here, and more like family. It's very much a family environment here."

Karin has been a nurse for 22 years, but started in oncology in 2002. She commented that it can be a difficult, but very rewarding job. Johanna LaSala, MD, Clinician in Medicine (Medical Oncology) and an oncologist at the Care Center at Orange commented, "Karin exemplifies what is truly unique about oncology nursing. She has a phenomenal understanding of oncology with unwavering compassion. I am so fortunate to work with her. She is a great partner and gift to me and the patients."

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.

[Learn More >>](#)

AACR-TESARO Career Development Award for Immuno-Oncology Research

The AACR and TESARO are pleased to offer the AACR-TESARO Career Development Award for Immuno-oncology Research to a researcher focused on biological mechanisms underlying checkpoint inhibitor resistance and/or approaches to overcome this resistance.

Application Deadline: January 10, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)



Haad's story of hope, endurance, and **beating the odds** against a 1% survival rate.

[Read More >>](#)

2016 has been an exciting year in the world of cancer research. Immunotherapy played a central role in the way we study and fight and treat cancer, and Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center place a heavy emphasis on immunotherapy research and treatment. Check out this article that highlights the past year's top 5 advances in oncology.

"THIS YEAR, WE SAW SEVERAL STUDIES SHOWING DRAMATIC RESULTS FOR IMMUNOTHERAPY."

[Read More >>](#)

New study from Yale Cancer Center and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) shows regular aspirin use may reduce the risk for pancreatic cancer.



[Read More >>](#)

Here at Smilow Cancer Hospital, we're proud to be an institution pushing the

NCCN Request for Proposals (RFP)

Phase I/II Clinical Trials, Preclinical and Correlative Studies of TAGRISSO™ (osimertinib) for Systemic or CNS EGFRm+ Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)

Application Deadline: January 12, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Avon Breast Cancer Crusade 2017

Funding These research initiative funds translational research using clinical studies, human cell culture, epidemiologic, and other progressive approaches to understand the causes of breast cancer and develop new treatments.

Access to Care - Safety Net Hospital Initiative

Supports public, community and safety net hospitals, and health care systems to improve their capacity to provide breast care to low-income, at-risk, uninsured, and underinsured individuals.

Letter of Intent Deadline: January 13, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Access to Care - Support Services Program

Application is by invitation only. To seek an invitation, please send a description of the proposed program to grants@avonbcc.org.

[Learn More >>](#)

NCCN Foundation 2017 Young Investigator Award

Through its Young Investigator Award (YIA) Program the NCCN Foundation invites proposals from young investigators with innovative ideas and an interest in improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of care provided to cancer patients.

Application Deadline: January 16, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

David & Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowships in Science & Engineering

For faculty members in the first 3 years of their appointment who have demonstrated unusual creative ability in their research work.

Internal Deadline: January 23, 2017

[Read More >>](#)

boundaries of specialized treatment and immunotherapy. Participating in Lung-MAP, a multi-drug, multi-arm clinical trial aimed at evaluating new treatments for squamous cell lung cancer, is just one of the ways we do this. Check out this video explaining the program, including a testimony from one man whose life was changed by Lung-MAP, as well as an overview of clinical trials as a whole.




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LATEST TWEETS:

 Dr. Deepak Narayan leads his first tumor board as the new program leader for the #Melanoma Program at #Smilow Cancer Hospital @YNHH

 The New Year is a great time to make new goals. #NewYearsResolution

 Today, we welcome Dr. Charles Fuchs, our new director @YaleCancer

 Top 5 Advances in Oncology "We saw several studies showing dramatic results for #immunotherapy in TNBC" @AneesChagpar

 Insurance to pay for 3-D #mammograms starting January 1st in CT - imaging to detect cancer at its earliest

Feasibility Studies to Build Collaborative Partnerships in Cancer Research (P20)

Through this FOA, the NCI invites P20 planning grant applications for developing collaborative partnership between institutions serving underserved health disparity populations and underrepresented students (ISUPS) and NCI-designated Cancer Centers.

Application Due Date: January 27, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Early Detection Targeted Grant

Supports studies utilizing NCI/NIDDK cohort of new onset diabetics with high risk of sporadic pancreatic cancer; projects will focus on blood biomarkers.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Precision Medicine Targeted Grant

Supports translational and clinically relevant projects that are identified as next steps for our Precision Promise initiative.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

Utilizing the PLCO Biospecimens Resource to Bridge Gaps in Cancer Etiology and Early Detection Research (U01)


This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages the submission of applications that propose to advance research in cancer etiology and early detection biomarkers, utilizing the advantages of the unique biorepository resources of the NCI-sponsored Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer (PLCO) Screening Trial.


Application Due Date: February 15, 2017


[Learn More >>](#)


Recent Publications


Family involvement for breast cancer decision making among Chinese-American women.

 New study shows reducing #radiation treats HPV-positive oropharynx cancers & minimizes side effects #HPV

 A child who beat the odds, and our community that pulled together to help #survivor #NHV @YNHH

 A Lopsided Shot at Hope for Minorities - OWN-IT brings trials to our community in New Haven

 How to Find #ClinicalTrials for Experimental Cancer Treatments - @YaleCancer's trials

 New study from @YaleCancer and @YaleSPH shows regular Aspirin use may reduce risk for #PancreaticCancer

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8; 7:30PM
Yale Cancer Answers

WNPR 90.5

Hematologic Malignancies

Scott Huntington, MD, MPH, MSc

[Learn More >>](#)

January 9; 11AM
YCC Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-304

Strategies to Combine Radiation and Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

Roy H Decker, MD, PhD and Zain A Husain, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

Lee SK, Knobf MT.

Psychooncology. 2016 Dec;25(12):1493-1499.

[Read More >>](#)

Experiences with the survivorship care plan in primary care providers of childhood cancer survivors: a mixed methods approach.

Iyer NS, Mitchell HR, Zheng DJ, Ross WL, Kadan-Lottick NS.

Support Care Cancer. 2017 Jan 3.

[Read More >>](#)

Quantification of Image-Guidance Benefit in Image-Guided Radiotherapy of Cancers.

Zhou L, Deng J.

Med Phys. 2016 Jun;43(6):3456.

[Read More >>](#)

Challenges and Opportunities for Implementing Biological Optimization in Particle Therapy.

Carlson D.

Med Phys. 2016 Jun;43(6):3822-3823.

[Read More >>](#)

Lessons Learned: Clinical Trials and Operations

Evans S.

Med Phys. 2016 Jun;43(6):3790.

[Read More >>](#)

MicroRNA-134-3p is a novel potential inhibitor of human ovarian cancer stem cells by targeting RAB27A.

Chang C, Liu T, Huang Y, Qin W, Yang H, Chen J.

Gene. 2016 Dec 30.

[Read More >>](#)

Weighing Risk of Cardiovascular Mortality Against Potential Benefit of Hormonal Therapy in Intermediate-Risk Prostate Cancer.

Lester-Coll NH, Johnson S, Magnuson WJ, Goldhaber SZ, Sher DJ, D'Amico AV, Yu JB.

J Natl Cancer Inst. 2016 Dec 31;109(6).

[Read More >>](#)

January 9; 12PM

YCC Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar

BCMM 206/208

Identification of Epigenetic Regulators of Breast Cancer Metastasis

Wesley Cai

[Learn More >>](#)

January 10; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talk

TAC N-107

Overcoming Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Acquired Resistance in Lung Cancer by Oligosaccharyltransferase Inhibition

Cecilia Lopez Sambrooks, PhD

Dissecting the Role of Hepatic Ncoa4 in Iron Metabolism

Abitha Sukumaran, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 10; 12PM

YCC Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Minimally Invasive Gene Editing by PNA Nanoparticles

Peter Glazer, MD, PhD

DNA Repair and Cancer

Joann Sweasy, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 10; 4PM

Palliative Care Conference

WWW 208

Realistic Survival Outcomes After Vasopressor Use in the Intensive Care Unit

Michael Gabriel, MD

Approaching Disagreement Between Faith based and Evidence based End-of-Life Care

Tom Walsh

[Learn More >>](#)

January 10; 4PM

Yale Pathology / Donald and Mary Elizabeth King Lecture

TAC N-107

From the Human Genome Project to Precision Medicine: A Journey to Advance Human Health

Eric D. Green, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

Body mass index, height and early-onset basal cell carcinoma in a case-control study.

Zhang Y, Cartmel B, Choy CC, Molinaro AM, Leffell DJ, Bale AE, Mayne ST, Ferrucci LM.

Cancer Epidemiol. 2016 Dec 28;46:66-72.

[Read More >>](#)

The effect of exercise on body composition and bone mineral density in breast cancer survivors taking aromatase inhibitors.

Thomas GA, Cartmel B, Harrigan M, Fiellin M, Capozza S, Zhou Y, Ercolano E, Gross CP, Hershman D, Ligibel J, Schmitz K, Li FY, Sanft T, Irwin ML.

Obesity (Silver Spring). 2016 Dec 27.

[Read More >>](#)

LZAP is a novel Wip1 binding partner and positive regulator of its phosphatase activity in vitro.

Wamsley JJ, Issaeva N, An H, Lu X, Donehower LA, Yarbrough WG.

Cell Cycle. 2016 Dec 27:1-11.

[Read More >>](#)

Defining outcomes of patients with clinical stage I small cell lung cancer upstaged at surgery.

Thomas DC, Arnold BN, Rosen JE, Salazar MC, Blasberg JD, Detterbeck FC, Boffa DJ, Kim AW. Lung Cancer. 2017 Jan;103:75-81.

[Read More >>](#)

Trends in stereotactic body radiation therapy for stage I small cell lung cancer.

Stahl JM, Corso CD, Verma V, Park HS, Nath SK, Husain ZA, Simone CB 2nd, Kim AW, Decker RH. Lung Cancer. 2017 Jan;103:11-16.

[Read More >>](#)

RESA identifies mRNA-regulatory sequences at high resolution.

Yartseva V, Takacs CM, Vejnar CE, Lee MT, Giraldez AJ.

Nat Methods. 2016 Dec 26.

[Read More >>](#)

January 10; 5:00PM

Transforming Healthcare Grand Rounds

LMP 1094

Online Healthcare Ratings: Signals or Noise?

Arun K. Venkatesh, MD, MBA, MHS

[Learn More >>](#)

January 12; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

LMP 1094

Targeting Muscle Stem Cells for Regenerative Medicine

Amy Wagers, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 13; 1PM

Digestive Diseases GI Core Curriculum Lecture

TAC S-247

Pancreatic Cysts

James Farrell, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 15; 7:30PM

Yale Cancer Answers

WNPR 90.5

[Learn More >>](#)

January 17; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Patricia Gaule, PhD and Jiesi Luo, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 17; 12PM

YCC Grand Rounds/Smilow Case Notes

Park Street Auditorium

Rogério Lilenbaum, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 18; 2PM

Therapeutic Radiology Special Seminar

TAC N-203

Fluorescence Multiplex Host Cell

Reactivation Assays to Promote

Personalized Disease Prevention and

Treatment

Interlesional diversity of T cell receptors in melanoma with immune checkpoints enriched in tissue-resident memory T cells.

Boddupalli CS, Bar N, Kadaveru K, Krauthammer M, Pornputtapong N, Mai Z, Ariyan S, Narayan D, Kluger H, Deng Y, Verma R, Das R, Bacchiocchi A, Halaban R, Sznol M, Dhodapkar MV, Dhodapkar KM. JCI Insight. 2016 Dec 22;1(21):e88955.

[Read More >>](#)

E1308: Phase II Trial of Induction Chemotherapy Followed by Reduced-Dose Radiation and Weekly Cetuximab in Patients With HPV-Associated Resectable Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx- ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group.

Marur S, Li S, Cmelak AJ, Gillison ML, Zhao WJ, Ferris RL, Westra WH, Gilbert J, Bauman JE, Wagner LI, Trevarthen DR, Balkrishna J, Murphy BA, Agrawal N, Colevas AD, Chung CH, Burtness B.

J Clin Oncol. 2016 Dec 28;JCO2016683300.

[Read More >>](#)

Zachary Nagel, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 19; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

LMP 1094

CD137-based Strategies for Combined Cancer Immunotherapy

Ignacio Melero, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 20-22; 8AM

CBIT/Radiology/Biomedical Imaging Healthcare Hack-a-thon

Harkness Auditorium

Re-Engineering Patient Experience and Provider Engagement

[Learn More >>](#)

SUBMISSIONS

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs & Communications

renee.gaudette@yale.edu