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Inside Yale Cancer Center

July 11, 2014

Announcements

Dr. Roy Herbst Testifies Before Congress

Yale Cancer Center's Dr. Roy S. Herbst, Chief of Medical Oncology and Associate Director for Translational Research, testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Health on Wednesday, July 9 on "21st Century Cures: Modernizing Clinical Trials" to explain the urgent need to find better ways to match patients with cancer



with treatment options.

"The medical community remains limited on our abilities to match the right patient to the right drug at the right time...Modernizing [the clinical trial] process with innovative approaches and new clinical trial designs is of high importance," Dr. Herbst explained.

[Read his testimony >>](#)

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

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LATEST ARTICLES:



Lunden cancer diagnosis shows ultrasounds help

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3-D Imaging Boosts Breast Cancer Detection Rate

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Patient Care Grant Program

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven are pleased to announce a new program to fund small projects to improve patient care at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Monies for this program have come through our "Closer to Free" fund. Any employee at Smilow Cancer Hospital who develops a small project may apply by submitting an application for review. Projects can range from a patient education program to stress management for staff. In order to be eligible, the employee must be sponsored by a current Cancer Center Member. A listing of active Cancer Center Members is available [here](#).

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The Scientific Publication Program

Yale Cancer Center is proud to announce a new Scientific Publication Program to connect members of Yale Cancer Center with a qualified freelance editor who can improve your publication and grant manuscripts. Whether your manuscript needs grammatical assistance because English is your second language, or organizational clarity, an editor will work with you to make those important revisions.

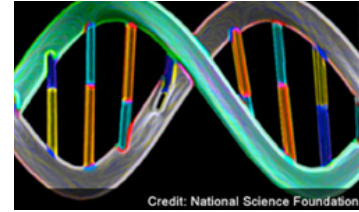
Open and free to all members of Yale Cancer Center (check [here](#) if you are unsure of your membership status), this program is being funded for one year with a chance for renewal by The Sands Family Foundation.

Contact [Christina Dreyfus](#) in the Office of Research Affairs for more information. Please allow as much time before your deadline as possible. We cannot guarantee that someone will be available to assist you on short notice.

Notables

Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), the Honor Society of Nursing, has announced its 2014 Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame inductees, which includes **Ruth McCorkle, PhD, RN, FAAN**, Assistant Director of Psychosocial Oncology Research at Yale Cancer Center, Florence Schorske Wald Professor of Nursing, and Professor of Epidemiology. The induction ceremony will take place during STTI's 25th International Nursing Research Congress in Hong Kong, July 24-28, 2014.

Abhijit Patel, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and a member of our Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Program, has been awarded an Early Detection Research Award from the **LUNgevity Foundation**. The award is for \$200K over 2 years and will support his research



Credit: National Science Foundation

Ambitious 'Lung-MAP' Trial Aims to Evaluate Biomarkers and New Drugs in Squamous Cell Lung Cancer
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LATEST TWEETS:

[@SDFatPhRMA](#):
Herbst of @YaleCancer:
#ClinicalTrials need to be modernized for the molecular age #path2cures

Trial of ancient Chinese herb combo available @YaleCancer to help with GI side effects of Rx for colon cancer <http://bit.ly/1j0xiM4>

Marion Morra Award @theNCI in 1991 for Cancer Info Service Repts honoring @YaleCancer's Morra w Marilyn Quayle. #tbt



Wishing our friends and colleagues at the AACR continued success beyond rebranding. We are proud to work with you. @AACR @AACRFoundation

Kudos to @STMYale - awarded the Excellence in Education Award from the Society for Epidemiologic Research today!
<http://bit.ly/1jRrJJs>

Drs. Len Farber, Vincent DeVita, and Mario Sznol after

into "Detection of early-stage lung cancers via tumor DNA in blood."

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Chief of Medical Oncology, Ensign Professor of Medicine, and Associate Director of Translational Medicine, was awarded the **Alvin S. Slotnik Lecture Award** for notable contributions to cancer research from Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center.

Susan Mayne, PhD, was selected for the inaugural **Excellence in Education Award** from the Society for Epidemiologic Research. The Excellence in Education award is presented to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the field of epidemiology through mentoring, training, and/or teaching.

Howard Hochster, MD has been appointed by Dr. Charles Blanke to represent SWOG on the **Gastrointestinal Steering Committee (GISC)**, effective July 1, 2014.

Laura J. Morrison, MD, Director of Palliative Medicine Education, and Yale internal medicine residents **Nicole Bournival, MD** and **Catherine Adams, MD, PhD**, presented a poster June 3, 2014 at the second annual Medical Education Day at Yale entitled, "Initial Steps Toward Assessing and Improving Palliative Care Competencies in the Yale Internal Medicine Outpatient Curriculum."

Dr. Andrew T. Putnam was invited to present collaborative work done with Dr. Matthew Ellman, Dr. Margaret Bia, Dr. Michael Green and Dr. Carol Pfeiffer (UConn SOM) with regards to preparing a palliative medicine OSCE. The presentation entitled, "Initial Steps toward Assessing and Improving Palliative Care Competencies in the Yale Internal Medicine Outpatient Curriculum." This was first presented on April 11th at the Yale School of Medicine to the Northeast Group on Educational Affairs. Dr. Putnam was also invited to present this material on April 27th at the 16th Annual Ottawa Conference in Ottawa, Canada.

Research in the News

Long-term use of aspirin may reduce risk for pancreatic cancer

Continual use of low-dose or regular-dose aspirin may cut a person's risk of developing pancreatic cancer in half, a Yale Cancer Center study has found. Further, the degree of protection may grow the longer one takes the aspirin. The study appears in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*.

The Yale researchers collected data from a Connecticut

@DeVitaDoctor's keynote lecture at our ASCO Review. #ASCO14



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LATEST POSTS:

Yale Cancer Center's Dr. Roy Herbst, Chief of Medical Oncology and Associate Director for Translational Research, will testify before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Health today on "21st Century Cures: Modernizing Clinical Trials" to explain the urgent need to find better ways to match patients with cancer with treatment options.



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Last month, Yale Cancer Center celebrated Cancer Survivors Day. The festivities this year focused on nutrition and lifestyle changes for healthy eating, featuring a cooking demonstration by Claire Criscuolo, Chef and Founder of Claire's Corner Copia, a local New Haven favorite.



population study of 362 newly diagnosed pancreatic cancer patients and a control group of 690 disease-free people. They analyzed associations between risk of pancreatic cancer and past aspirin use.

The study, which took place from 2005 to 2009, looked at regular use of both low-dose aspirin (75 to 325 mg. per day, taken for heart disease prevention) and regular-dose aspirin (325 to 1,200 mg. taken for pain or anti-inflammation purposes). Overall, both low-dose and regular-dose aspirin reduced the risk for developing pancreatic cancer by half. Significantly, among those who took aspirin for more than 10 years, the risk reduction was even higher - 60%.

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Medicare-backed breast cancer screenings skyrocket, but do patients benefit?

Breast cancer screening costs for Medicare patients skyrocketed between 2001 and 2009, but the increase did not lead to earlier detection of new breast cancer cases, according to a study published by Yale School of Medicine researchers

in the July 1 *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

While the number of screening mammograms performed among Medicare patients remained stable during the same time period, the study focused on the adoption of newer imaging technologies in the Medicare population, such as digital mammography. Dr. Brigid Killelea, Assistant Professor of Surgery, and Dr. Cary Gross, Professor of Internal Medicine at Yale School of Medicine and Director of the Cancer Outcomes, Public Policy and Effectiveness Research (COPPER) Center at Yale Cancer Center, were lead authors of the study.

"Screening mammography is an important tool, but this rate of increase in cost is not sustainable," said Killelea. "We need to establish screening guidelines for older women that utilize technology appropriately, and minimize unnecessary biopsies and over-diagnosis to keep costs under control."

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Closer to Free

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According to a new Yale Cancer Center study, the increased costs associated with breast cancer screenings in Medicare patients between 2001 and 2009 did not lead to earlier detection of breast cancer. The research, lead by Dr. Brigid Killelea, Assistant Professor of Surgery, and Dr. Cary Gross, Professor of Internal Medicine, suggests that better screening guidelines for older women are needed.



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Congratulations to Dr. Joan Steitz, Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator! Professor Steitz recently received the 2014 Yale Postdoctoral Mentoring Prize, which is awarded to the Yale faculty member who is judged to have had the greatest positive impact on his or her postdoctoral appointees.



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Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care



The Closer to Free Fund received over \$15,000 in support from the annual Jim McNiff Memorial Golf Tournament to fund the research efforts of Dr. Harriet Kluger.

Cancer Stem Cell Conference

Cancer Stem Cell Conference (CSC 2014) will be held in Cleveland on August 17-20, 2014. There is a \$100 discount for Yale Cancer Center members. This 4 day conference will have 53 internationally recognized speakers in the cancer stem cell space including Michael Clarke, John Condeelis, Antonio Iavarone, Robert Kerbel, Jan Lotvall, Luis Parada, Tannishtha Reya, Jeff Rosen, M. Celeste Simon, and Irving Weissman.

To get this discount, please register online [here](#) and use discount code "cancerctrcsc2014". Please also consider submitting an abstract for consideration in oral and poster presentations. Submitted abstracts will be evaluated at the end of July to determine speaking roles during the main program.

Profile: The oncology social workers in

Events

July 12; 7:30 AM

**YCC/Smilow Cancer Hospital
Event**

SCH Multi-Specialty Clinic, 4th floor
*Breathe Easy: Free Lung Cancer
Screening*

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July 13; 6:00 PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

A Look into Oncology Social Work
Nancy Varga, LCSW, OSW-C, LADC

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July 20; 6:00 PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

*Therapies for Advanced Breast
Cancer*

Maysa Abu-Khalaf, MD

[Read More >>](#)

July 24; 9:00 AM

**Therapeutic Radiology Grand
Rounds**

Smilow, LL-412, Room E

*Updates on the Role of Radiation
Therapy for Hodgkin Lymphoma:
Indications, Technique, Field and
Dose*

Andrea Ng, MD

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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.

Smilow

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.

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



Members of the Parenting at a Challenging Time (PACT) team

When one is diagnosed or treated for cancer, it often has a profound impact on the patient and his or her family. The Oncology Social Worker is a master's degree trained, licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), who is an integral part of the medical team. They counsel, support and guide patients and families with a new diagnosis as well as teach them how to cope more effectively with treatment, survivorship or end of life.

"The skill of the social worker lends itself to managing both the predictable and unanticipated crisis that occur on the cancer continuum," said Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Manager of Oncology Social Work at Smilow Cancer Hospital. "Through Distress Screening, the social worker is able to prioritize those people who are in greatest need and provide them with interventions that allow the treatment to proceed more smoothly. The social workers complete a comprehensive biopsychosocial evaluation, which includes medical, psychiatric, social, spiritual and environmental variables and consequently

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
renee.gaudette@yale.edu

 Forward to a Friend

intervene with individualized evidence based practices provided on a regular basis."

The social workers assess for high risk issues including, but not limited to self-harm, substance use, abuse / neglect, domestic violence and homelessness. They may work with people individually or meet with the entire family. They develop and facilitate support groups, now numbering about 20, as well as connect people to needed community resources. One of the most popular programs, co-run with child psychiatry, is "Parenting at a Challenging Time" where parents learn how to talk with their young children about their illness. They are also an essential part of Schwartz Rounds.

The social workers attend Transitional Care Rounds where a primary responsibility is helping to assess for barriers to care and or discharge and working to mitigate those issues. They also attend weekly Tumor Boards, allowing them to immediately identify patients who need assistance. The social worker introduces every new oncology admission to the role of social work as well as to the programs and services that are offered in Smilow.

Please do not hesitate to contact a Social Worker - they are here to help you and can be reached at (203) 688-2195.

Funding and Award Opportunities

National Cancer Institute Outstanding Investigator Award

The NCI is pleased to announce the Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA) funding opportunity announcement. The OIA will support investigators with outstanding records of productivity in cancer research with up to \$600,000 in direct costs per year for 7 years to provide funding stability. NCI anticipates making about 50 awards annually.

The OIA will allow funded investigators the freedom to embark on long-term projects of unusual potential in cancer research; the opportunity to take greater risks and be more adventurous in their lines of inquiry; and sufficient time to develop new techniques.

Applications must be submitted by Institutions who have nominated a Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) with outstanding productivity in cancer research as a recipient of NCI grant(s) for at least the past 5 years. The PD/PI will be expected to commit at least 50% of his/her research activities to the OIA; the Institution will be expected to commit at least 20% salary support.

Please contact [Daniel DiMaio](#) if interested in submitting a LOI

from Yale Cancer Center.

[Learn More >>](#)

Center for Cancer Research Clinical Investigator Development Program

The Center for Cancer Research (CCR), a Division of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is pleased to announce its annual call for applications for Clinical Investigator Development Program (CIDP). This is an exciting training opportunity intended for physicians interested in dedicating their careers to clinical research. Candidates may be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or possess (or be eligible for) the appropriate work visa and must have successfully completed subspecialty training at a U.S.-accredited institution in appropriate fields.

Application Deadline: October 30, 2014

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Damon Runyon Fellowship Award

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 >>](#)

2014 Rausch Pilot Research Grant from The Edith P. Rausch Fund of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

To provide seed money to members of Yale Cancer Center (YCC) to enable investigators to engage in innovative cancer research, with the goal of facilitating new research on the fundamental causes of, or an effective cure for, cancer. We anticipate funding two to three pilot grants. Priorities for the pilot grants include studying and/or ameliorating sociodemographic disparities in cancer incidence or outcomes; the prevention and/or treatment of women's cancers, as well as neighborhood/urban or other community factors that contribute to cancer etiology. Preference will be

given to research that has a high likelihood of having a demonstrable community impact in the Greater New Haven area.

Application Deadline: August 14, 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 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 >>](#)

NCCN Enzalutamide Research Grant Opportunity

National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it has received a research grant from Astellas Pharma, Inc. and Medivation, Inc. to support NCCN investigator initiated clinical and pre-clinical studies of enzalutamide in the treatment of selected solid tumors. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is available by clicking the link below. The document clearly outlines the scope and process that will be followed for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Proposals. In brief, investigators are asked to submit an LOI detailing proposed studies. Following the peer review of LOIs, selected investigators will be invited to submit full proposals. The overall aim of this RFP is to develop innovative studies of enzalutamide in prostate, breast, hepatocellular, bladder, and gynecologic cancers. It is hoped that the LOIs submitted in response to this RFP will prove useful in guiding the further development of enzalutamide. Collaborative studies between NCCN Member Institutions are encouraged.

Application Deadline: Monday, July 28, 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

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Recent Publications

Intraoperative accelerated partial breast irradiation: caution still warranted.

Moran MS, Truong PT.

Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2014 Jul 1;89(3):496-8.

[Read More >>](#)

Should triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) subtype affect

local-regional therapy decision making?

Moran MS.

Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2014:e32-6.

[Read More >>](#)

Interactions with RNA direct the Polycomb group protein SCML2 to chromatin where it represses target genes.

Bonasio R, Lecona E, Narendra V, Voigt P, Parisi F, Kluger Y, Reinberg D.

Elife. 2014 Jul 1;3:e02637.

[Read More >>](#)

Mitochondrial function in melanoma.

Theodosakis N, Micevic G, Kelly DP, Bosenberg M.

Arch Biochem Biophys. 2014 Jul 2.

[Read More >>](#)

Integrating a Behavioural Sleep Intervention into Smoking Cessation Treatment for Smokers with Insomnia: A Randomised Pilot Study.

Fucito LM, Redeker NS, Ball SA, Toll BA, Ikomi JT, Carroll

KM.

J Smok Cessat. 2014 Jun;9(1):31-38.

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Exploring the relationship between spiritual well-being and quality of life among patients newly diagnosed with advanced cancer.

Bai M, Lazenby M, Jeon S, Dixon J, McCorkle R.
Palliat Support Care. 2014 Jul 3:1-9.

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Worry about Breast Cancer Recurrence: A Population-based Analysis.

Tewari A, Chagpar AB.
Am Surg. 2014 Jul;80(7):640-5.

[Read More >>](#)

Hospital-based Acute Care After Outpatient Colonoscopy: Implications for Quality Measurement in the Ambulatory Setting.

Fox JP, Burkardt DD, Ranasinghe I, Gross CP.
Med Care. 2014 Jun 30.

[Read More >>](#)

Current strategies in chemoradiation for esophageal cancer.

Lloyd S, Chang BW.
J Gastrointest Oncol. 2014 Jun;5(3):156-65.

[Read More >>](#)

NY-ESO-1 as a Potential Immunotherapeutic Target in Renal Cell Carcinoma.

Giesen E, Jilaveanu LB, Parisi F, Kluger Y, Camp RL, Kluger HM.

Oncotarget. 2014 Jun 13.

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