

March 6, 2015

Announcements

Robert Garofalo Joins YCC as Associate Director for Research Affairs

I am pleased to announce that after a national search we will welcome Robert Garofalo, PhD, to our leadership team as Associate Director for Research Affairs. Bob will oversee our Research Program infrastructure, as well as the Core Grant activities for our NCI renewal efforts and annual progress reports. Bob will begin his new role at Yale Cancer Center on Monday, March 23.

Prior to joining Yale Cancer Center, Bob most recently served as Chief of Endocrine, Metabolism, Nutrition, and Reproductive Sciences Integrated Review Group at the Center for Scientific Review at the NIH. His extensive scientific background, as well as his leadership experience at the NIH will be a great addition to our team. I look forward to introducing you to Bob in the coming months, and at our annual membership retreat on May 20.

Join us at ASCO

Please save Saturday night at ASCO to attend a reception and dinner hosted by Yale Cancer Center. The event will be held on May 30, 2015 at 7:00 PM at Quartino Ristorante, located at 626 N. State Street in Chicago. This will be a time for all Yale Cancer Center faculty and members who are attending ASCO to get together and should be a wonderful evening. Please send your RSVP to [Christen Ruff](#) by Friday, May 1, 2015.

from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL
AT YALE-NEW HAVEN

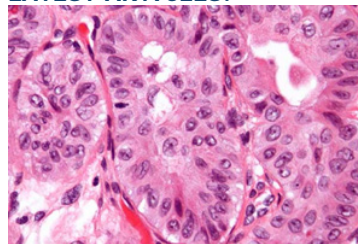
Yale CANCER
CENTER

A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute

Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center [News Center >>](#)

LATEST ARTICLES:



Regimen Slows Advanced
Urothelial Cancer

[Read More >>](#)



Closer to Free Ride Launch Party

I hope you will join us next Wednesday to kick off the 2015 Closer to Free ride season at our Launch Party at BAR, 254 Crown Street in New Haven, from 5:00 - 8:00 PM.

[Register Here >>](#)

Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies

As many of you know, Ken Burns is producing and directing a documentary on Cancer, which will air in three parts on PBS. Based on the 2010 Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* by Siddhartha Mukherjee, this "biography" of cancer covers its first documented appearances thousands of years ago through the epic battles in the 20th century to cure, control and conquer it, to a radical new understanding of its essence. The series also features the current status of cancer knowledge and treatment -the dawn of an era in which cancer may become a chronic or curable illness rather than its historic death sentence in some forms.

Dr. Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., The Amy and Joseph Perella Professor of Medicine at Yale Cancer Center and former director of our Center, will be featured in parts one and two of the documentary. It entire piece will air on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 30-April 1, from 9:00 - 11:00 PM on PBS stations.

[Learn More >>](#)

Notables

Congratulations to Yale Cancer Center members **Peter Glazer, Alanna Schepartz, Craig Crews, and Vasilis Vasiliou**, who were recently elected into the **Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering**. Election to the Academy is on the basis of scientific and engineering distinction achieved through significant contributions in scientific and engineering excellence.

[Learn More >>](#)

Many Yale Cancer Center faculty members participated in the **15th Annual Targeted Therapies of Lung Cancer Meeting**



Adding Anti-PD-L1 Antibody to Bevacizumab Induces Responses in mRCC

[Read More >>](#)



Liquid Biopsy: A Real Time Blood Test for Solid Lung Cancer Tumors

[Read More >>](#)

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LATEST POSTS:

The FDA approved Nivolumab today, an immunotherapy drug for patients with previously-treated advanced squamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Nivolumab was first used in a phase I clinical trial at Yale Cancer Center for metastatic lung cancer back in 2011, and Maureen is one of the many patients who showed immediate benefit from the drug and is still doing well.

"The approval of Nivolumab marks a new era in the treatment of lung cancer, one in which a patient's own immune system will be increasingly harnessed to

in Santa Monica, CA last week, co-chaired by **Roy Herbst, MD, PhD**. Sponsored by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, the invitation-only meeting gathers the top scientists to discuss the latest advances in the treatment of lung cancer with targeted therapies.

Research in the News

FDA approves new immunotherapy drug used at Yale Cancer Center for metastatic lung cancer

The FDA has approved an immunotherapy drug for patients with previously-treated advanced squamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Nivolumab, used in multiple clinical trials at Yale Cancer Center for metastatic lung cancer and melanoma, is the only FDA-approved monotherapy in 15 years to demonstrate proven superior overall survival compared to standard of care for this type of cancer.

Nivolumab, called Opdivo by manufacturer Bristol-Myers Squibb, is one of several promising PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors that allow the body's immune system to recognize and attack the cancer. The drug has been in clinical trials for advanced lung cancer at Yale for five years, said Roy Herbst, MD, PhD, Ensign Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and professor of Pharmacology; and chief of Medical Oncology at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven.

[Read More >>](#)

Yale researchers devise a faster and less expensive way to analyze gene activity

A team of Yale researchers has developed a simple method that could significantly reduce the time and cost of probing gene expression on a large scale. The findings were published March 2 in the journal *Nature Methods*.

The team, led by Abhijit Patel, M.D., assistant professor of therapeutic radiology at the Yale School of Medicine, created a tool that takes advantage of new high-throughput DNA sequencing technologies to make it easier to simultaneously measure gene activity in large numbers of cells or tissues. While DNA is considered the blueprint of life, knowledge of which genes are activated or de-activated under different conditions is fundamental to our understanding of biology and disease.

[Read More >>](#)

Liquid Biopsy: A Real Time Blood Test for Solid Lung Cancer Tumors

attack and control cancer. This is just the beginning," Dr. Scott Gettinger, Maureen's oncologist and the principal investigator of the Nivolumab clinical trial at Yale said.



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Yale Cancer Center has over 100 clinical trials available to our patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital and the 11 Smilow Cancer Care Centers throughout the state. Make sure to ask your oncologist about the latest trials available and how you can benefit.



“ I encourage other patients to try clinical trials. I definitely would recommend that they fully listen to what the nurses and the clinical trials people tell them so that they can make the best decision, a decision that's right for them. I'm very open to doing another clinical trial if I need to. Looking back, I know I asked the right questions and made the right choices all along the way.”

- Jessica

[Read More >>](#)

Rare conditions, such as Gaucher disease (GD), can often result in cancers that are difficult to treat. A recent Yale study, led by Dr. Madhav Dhodapkar helped shed light on why this occurs. He and his team found that GD alters glycosphingolipids, which results in a 30-fold increased risk of some blood cancers for patients with GD. These lipids are recognized by a new kind of immune cell (Natural Killer T Cells) and help B cells make antibodies.

This research has provided a new

In the rapidly changing world of molecular profiling for genetic diseases, cancer researchers are increasingly optimistic about the reality of a simple blood test to monitor and treat solid tumor cancers.

In an editorial published March 26 in *JAMA Oncology*, Yale cancer researchers Roy S. Herbst, MD, Katerina Politi, PhD, and co-author Daniel Morgensztern, MD, of Washington University in St. Louis, say recent studies show that liquid biopsy, conducted through a blood test, could be a surrogate for standard tissue biopsies in assessing genomic changes in certain non-small cell lung cancer tumors. Specifically, the authors commented on a study looking at non-small cell lung tumors with particular genetic alterations that could be detected in blood.

[Read More >>](#)

Sunlight continues to damage skin in the dark

Much of the damage that ultraviolet radiation (UV) does to skin occurs hours after sun exposure, a team of Yale-led researchers concluded in a study that was published online Feb. 19 by the journal *Science*.

Exposure to UV light from the sun or from tanning beds can damage the DNA in melanocytes, the cells that make the melanin that gives skin its color. This damage is a major cause of skin cancer, the most common form of cancer in the United States. In the past, experts believed that melanin protected the skin by blocking harmful UV light. But there was also evidence from studies suggesting that melanin was associated with skin cell damage.

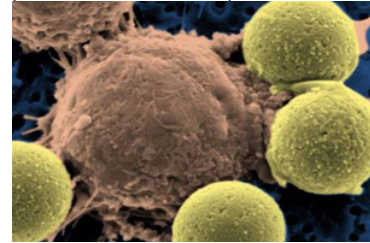
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Employee Profile: Lynn Buchwalder

The Clinical Research Support Lab (CRSL) at Yale Cancer Center is an in-service provider that assists in the clinical trials process by ensuring that biospecimen samples from patients are processed, stabilized, and submitted to the appropriate final analyzing labs. Lynn Buchwalder, MS, Assistant Director of the CRSL, joined almost three years ago as the volume of patient samples and number of clinical trials steadily



pathway to target for cancer prevention in these patients.



[Read More >>](#)

Melanoma ranks among the most deadly cancers, causing about 80 percent of all skin cancer deaths. Scientists have been puzzled by the signals and mechanisms that cause the genetic mutations that enable melanoma cells. Dr. Narendra Wajapeyee, recently revealed one of melanoma's biggest weaknesses: microRNA-146a, a cellular material that causes the growth and spread of skin cancer cells, including melanoma




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LATEST TWEETS:

 FDA approves nivolumab for some #lungcancers

 A new era for patients with #squamous #nslc with approval

increased. Currently the lab is responsible for thousands of samples from over 700 patients across more than 160 clinical trials that span a variety of oncology disease areas.

The majority of trials they support are industry sponsored through pharmaceutical companies, but some are investigator initiated or cooperative group trials. As samples are collected from patients, they need immediate stabilization and processing. This can entail isolating various components of the blood and cells, working with tissue biopsies, or banking the specimens for future use. Many of the samples are being collected to discover potential genetic and protein biomarkers that might play a role in cancer.

Lynn is responsible for overseeing all activities of the lab and making sure that there is constant communication between the lab and the other teams involved in the trial so that samples are correctly collected and processed according to each specific protocol. She reviews every lab manual and protocol and their amendments thoroughly to ensure accuracy. Prior to the activation of every trial, Lynn meets with each Principal Investigator and his/her team making sure the lab portion is completely sorted out.

"I work with an outstanding team and our program keeps growing. There are so many different areas involved in the clinical trials process needed in order for it to be successful, and I enjoy working with these different people who each contribute their own crucial part," said Lynn. "After running basic research labs for over 20 years, it is fascinating to be on the clinical side and see the good that all this research can achieve and the hope in new treatments that these trials bring to many people."

Lynn describes her own team as dedicated hard workers and emphasizes the fact that it is 100% a team effort. Rocco Carbone, MS, started the lab from the ground up and continues to contribute to its success. The lab expanded quickly and there are currently 7 full-time lab technicians, with plans to hire more. Lynn not only oversees the daily activities of the lab, but also many of the long-term goals and logistics as YCC grows.

Dr. Howard Hochster, Associate Director for Clinical Sciences at Yale Cancer Center, supervises Lynn and directs the CRSL. He added, "Lynn Buchwalder is a true gem. I am thankful every day that she came back to Yale when we needed a lab director. Lynn is incredibly hard-working and dedicated. She is also so exacting in the laboratory procedures and sample handling that she inevitably finds errors in the protocols that were overlooked by teams of protocol writers at the drug companies. She has a heart of gold and her wonderful, dedicated CRSL staff are completely

of #immunotherapy drug today nivoluma/opdiva

🐦 Checkout "Yale aims to increase clinical trial participation"

🐦 Staring Down the Barrel: Patient Narrative

🐦 The Bipartisan Colon, or how #coloncancer tumors on the left for right behave

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Events

March 6; 9:00 AM
Hematology Symposium
Park Street Auditorium
Honoring Dr. Thomas Duffy
[Read More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center Answers
March 8; 6PM
WNPR
Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Part I
James Farrell, MD
[Read More >>](#)

Yale Stem Cell Center Seminar Series
March 9; 2PM
TAC N-107
Development of the Musculo-Skeletal Axis
Olivier Pourquie, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

devoted to her. She is an amazing resource for our clinical trials efforts at YCC."

Funding and Award Opportunities

2015 Taub Foundation Grants Program for MDS Research

Funding up to \$600,000 over 3 years.

The Taub Foundation Grants Program for Myelodysplastic Syndromes Research was created to support high-impact, innovative translational research to understand the underlying causes of MDS and to advance its treatment and prevention. The Program specifically focuses on MDS research, exclusive of AML and MPN. Studies focusing on molecular genetics, epigenetics, splicing factors, stem cells, the microenvironment and novel therapeutic targets relevant to MDS are encouraged. The Taub Program supports independent investigators at all stages of their careers. Awards are not restricted to investigators currently working in MDS. Applications from investigators in other fields and collaborative efforts are encouraged.

Application Deadline: March 17, 2015
[Learn More >>](#)

2015 New York Stem Cell Foundation - Innovator Awards for Early Career Investigators in Translational Stem Cell Research

Funding up to \$1.5 M over 5 years.

NYSCF is soliciting applications from early career investigators for Innovator awards to be used for exploring the basic biology and translational potential of stem cells. The goal of this initiative is to foster bold and innovative scientists with the potential to transform the field of stem cell research, and advance understanding and use of stem cells in the development of treatments for human disease. In addition to providing funding, NYSCF partners with investigators to advance and translate their research. To be eligible, candidates must be within 5 years of starting a faculty or comparable position on June 1, 2015.

Application Deadline: March 18, 2015
[Learn More >>](#)

2015 Sontag Foundation - Early Career Distinguished Scientist Award for Brain Cancer Research

Career development award supporting early career scientists with inspiring, potential-laden brain cancer proposals. The foundation is highly interested in researchers that may bring

YCC Signal Transduction Research Program

March 9; 3PM

SHM I-116

Single-Cell, 42-Plex Cytokine Profiling For Deep Functional Phenotype Analysis

Minsuk Kwak

[Read More >>](#)

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

March 10; 9:30AM

TAC N-107

TBA

Jian Cao, PhD and Deborah Ayeni

[Read More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

March 10; 12PM

Park Street Auditorium

Protein Pathway Activation Mapping: Applications for Personalized Cancer Therapy

Emanuel F. Petricoin, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

YNHH Transforming Healthcare Grand Rounds

March 10; 5PM

Fitkin Amphitheater, LMP 1094

A Dialogue with Dr. Kenneth L. Davis

Kenneth L. Davis, MD

[Read More >>](#)

Cancer Metabolism Interest Group Meeting

March 11; 12PM

Giarman Room, SHM B-201

Mitochondrial Hexokinase II (HKII) and Phosphoprotein Enriched in Astrocytes (PEA15)

Form a Molecular Switch

Governing Cellular Fate

Depending on the Metabolic State

Zejian Liu, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

March 12; 9AM

NP4-101A

Yale Palliative Care Program: Expansion and Opportunities

Jennifer Kapo, MD

new perspectives to bear on the complex questions related to brain cancer.

Applicant's initial faculty appointment must have been no earlier than March 2012.

Up to \$600,000 over 4 years.

Application Deadline: March 19, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

PhRMA 2015 Research & Hope Awards

The PhRMA Research & Hope Awards is a prestigious honor that recognizes advances made across a critical disease or health condition by individuals or organizations in the biopharmaceutical sector, academia/government, and the provider and patient communities. It is a celebration of the science, achievements to date, the possibilities to come and the vital role played by members of the biomedical research ecosystem in addressing unmet medical needs and public health imperatives.

The 2015 Research & Hope Awards will honor innovators in the area of oncology research and development, including recent advances in prevention or treatment and/or promising projects in development. Within the "Excellence in Research" categories, honorees may be nominated from across the spectrum of the ecosystem - scientists working in academic research institutions, government agencies and biopharmaceutical companies (domestic and international).

Application Deadline: March 23, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

The Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (Y-CORE PCOR) is an AHRQ-funded K12 program within the Yale-New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation that is designed to train junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows in patient-centered outcomes research. Y-CORE PCOR will provide training and career development support for 2 scholars who have a clinical or research doctoral degree and are committed to a career in patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and comparative effectiveness research (CER).

Application Deadline: April 1, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Infrastructure Grants

We understand the expense of labor intensive pediatric clinical trials. The **Infrastructure Grant** is designed to help an institution build capacity for and maintain a pediatric oncology

[Read More >>](#)

Schwartz Center Rounds

March 12; 12PM

Park Street Auditorium
Thomas Lynch, Jr., MD

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Pathology Grand Rounds

March 12; 12:30PM

Fitkin Amphitheatre LMP 1094
Hepcidin and Iron Disorders: New Biology and Therapeutic Applications

Elizabetha Nemeth, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

YCC Research in Progress Meeting

March 13; 12PM

NP4-101A

TBA

Patricia LoRusso, DO

[Read More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center Answers

March 15; 6PM

WNPR

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Series Part II

Xavier Llor, MD

[Read More >>](#)

Epigenetics Interest Group Meeting

March 16; 12PM

BCMM 206/208

Insights Into Telomerase Action From High-Throughput Sequencing of Telomeres

Na Liu, PhD

A LacO/LacI-GFP System to Monitor DNA Double-strand Break Resection and Position

Bryan Leland, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

Pathology Research in Progress Talks

March 17; 9:30AM

TAC N-107

TBA

Phase I and II clinical trials program by providing funding for adequate staffing, patient care, data management, etc.

Application Deadline: April 10, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

NCCN Request for Proposals (RFP): Phase I/II Clinical Trials and Pre-Clinical Trials of Enzalutamide for Endometrial Cancer

Funds of \$450,000 are still available to support novel preclinical and clinical studies of enzalutamide in patients with endometrial cancer. Pre-clinical laboratory and correlative/translational studies investigating the clinical relevance of AR expression to disease biology and progression or mechanisms of resistance to enzalutamide will also be considered. Clinical trials and preclinical studies involving rational enzalutamide combination approaches will be considered if supported by strong mechanistic rationale.

Application Deadline: April 27, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation "A" Awards

Designed for early career scientists with an original project who can demonstrate outstanding mentorship and have a strong future commitment to pediatric cancer investigation. The grant is open to MD, MD/PhD and PhD investigators. Maximum of \$450,000 awarded over three years.

Application Deadline: May 22, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

The bipartisan colon.

Hochster HS.

J Natl Cancer Inst. 2015 Feb 24;107(3).

[Read More >>](#)

Could PD-L1 prove to be an effective therapeutic target for bladder cancer?

Hafez N, Petrylak DP.

Immunotherapy. 2015;7(1):1-2.

[Read More >>](#)

Phase 1/2 study of orteronel (TAK-700), an investigational 17,20-lyase inhibitor, with docetaxel-prednisone in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.

Yajaira Suarez, PhD and Mate Nagy

[Read More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

March 17; 12PM

Park Street Auditorium

TGF- β Navigates the

Cytoskeleton Towards Prostate

Tumor Metastasis

Natasha Kyprianou, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series

March 17; 5PM

Smilow First Floor Conference

Room, 1-330

Updates in Breast Cancer

Prevention

Erin Hofstatter, MD

[Read More >>](#)

YCC Cancer and Prevention Research Program

March 18; 12PM

LEPH, Room 216

Interventional Pulmonary and

Malignancy: Improving Patient

Care through Research

Jonathan Puchalski, MD

[Read More >>](#)

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

March 19; 9AM

Bishop Room, 1058-CB

MRI of the Prostate and Targeted

Prostate Biopsy

Preston Sprenkle, MD

[Read More >>](#)

Pathology Grand Rounds

March 19; 9:30AM

Fitkin Amphitheatre LMP 1094

Tumor-type Specific

Translocations in Salivary Gland

Carcinomas

Ilmo Leivo

[Read More >>](#)

YCC Research in Progress Meeting

March 20; 12PM

NP4-101A

Petrylak DP, Gandhi JG, Clark WR, Heath E, Lin J, Oh WK, Agus DB, Carthon B, Moran S, Kong N, Suri A, Bargfrede M, Liu G.

Invest New Drugs. 2015 Jan 4.

[Read More >>](#)

EGFR Mutations in Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: Find, Divide, and Conquer

Daniel Morgensztern, MD¹; Katerina Politi, PhD; Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD

JAMA Oncol. Published online February 26, 2015.

[Read More >>](#)

Patients selected for definitive concurrent chemoradiation at high-volume facilities achieve improved survival in stage III non-small cell lung cancer.

Wang EH, Rutter CE, Corso CD, Decker RH, Wilson LD, Kim AW, Yu JB, Park HS.

J Thorac Oncol. 2015 Feb 21.

[Read More >>](#)

Photochemistry. Chemiexcitation of melanin derivatives induces DNA photoproducts long after UV exposure.

Premi S, Wallisch S, Mano CM, Weiner AB, Bacchiocchi A, Wakamatsu K, Bechara EJ, Halaban R, Douki T, Brash DE. Science. 2015 Feb 20;347(6224):842-7.

[Read More >>](#)

Direct Interactions with the Integrin β 1 Cytoplasmic Tail Activate the Abl2/Arg Kinase.

Simpson MA, Bradley WD, Harburger D, Parsons M, Calderwood DA, Koleske AJ.

J Biol Chem. 2015 Feb 18.

[Read More >>](#)

TBA

Joseph Kim, MD

[Read More >>](#)

YCC Developmental Therapeutics & Molecular Virology Research Program March 20; 1PM

SHM I-116

Assessing Toxicity Potential of Nucleotide Inhibitors of the Hepatitis C Virus In Vitro

Joy Y. Feng

[Read More >>](#)

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

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