

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

November 26, 2014

Announcements

Yale Cancer Center Awards Prizes at Conclave

Monday evening's Conclave was truly an evening of celebration for Yale Cancer Center at our sixth annual event, and a wonderful kick-off to the Thanksgiving week. It was an honor to be able to applaud the accomplishments of so many of our goals for 2014, including our acceptance into the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN); our steady increase in clinical trial accruals to a predicted 715 therapeutic accruals for this fiscal year; the addition of two more Care Centers to our network and a new letter of intent signed with Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford for 2015; and amazing Press Ganey (outpatient) and HCAPHS (inpatient) patient satisfaction scores for Smilow Cancer Hospital. We also reflected on November 2009, 5 years ago when we officially opened Smilow Cancer Hospital, and look forward to celebrating the 5-year anniversary of the Hospital throughout 2015 with you.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement, Clinical, and Research prizes. The senior leadership team reviewed the nominations and selected the recipients of these seven awards in recognition of their outstanding contribution to cancer care and research.

A special presentation was made by former Yale Cancer Center directors, Dr. Vincent T. DeVita and Dr. Richard Edelson, along with colleague and mentee Melinda Irwin, to **Dr. Susan Mayne**, honoring her 27 years at Yale and over 20 years of leadership to Yale Cancer Center in Cancer Prevention and Control. Dr. Mayne will begin a new post as Center Director for the Center for Applied Food Safety and Nutrition at the FDA in January.

from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



Recent News

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

LATEST ARTICLES:



City looks to be smoke-free

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Tom Lynch, Vincent DeVita, Susan Mayne, Melinda Irwin, and Richard Edelson

Sara Rockwell, PhD, FASTRO, Professor Emerita of Therapeutic Radiology, was honored with the **Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award**. Dr. Joann Sweasy presented the award to Dr. Rockwell, and Dr. Susan Higgins accepted the award on her behalf. Dr. Rockwell was unable to attend the Conclave but sent a video message thanking the Cancer Center membership for the honor.

Dr. Rockwell has had a long and distinguished career in cancer translational research at Yale School of Medicine, beginning in 1974, and was a major driving force in tumor biology research and tumor hypoxia. Her research paved the way for current research to find novel ways to target hypoxic cells in tumor environments. Dr. Rockwell has also mentored many students over her four decades on the faculty at Yale, and her work continues on in their labs throughout the country. She is a fellow of the American Society of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO).


Concert raises \$10,000 for Yale Brain Tumor Center

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LATEST TWEETS:

 Heavy-drinking smokers who want to quit cigarettes can find help with tobacco quitlines <http://bit.ly/1zRIMpk>

 Yale, St. Francis cancer hospitals mull partnership <http://blog.ctnews.com>

 Yale scientists from four labs find new way to deliver drugs inside aggressive tumors <http://bit.ly/1BJp2sz> @nature @YaleMed @Yale

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LATEST POSTS:

This Thursday, in addition to being Thanksgiving, is National Family History Day. Take some time when you are with your family on Thanksgiving to learn about your family's health history. When discussed in consultation with a doctor, these health histories may help evaluate your risk of developing certain diseases and will yield recommendations so as to reduce that risk.



Joann Sweasy, Susan Higgins accepting the award on behalf of Dr. Rockwell, and Tom Lynch

Nina Horowitz, MD, FACS was honored with the **Yale Cancer Center Award for Clinical Excellence**. The award was presented by Dr. Anees Chagpar and Catherine Lyons. Dr. Chagpar commented, "Nina is the quintessential clinician, colleague, and friend." Cathy continued on the podium sharing both her professional and personal relationship with Dr. Horowitz, explaining to the audience, "Nina made a devastating diagnosis so much easier for so many of us."

Dr. Horowitz is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital. She has cared for patients with breast cancer at Yale-New Haven for nearly 30 years, and joined Smilow Cancer Hospital in 2011.



Catherine Lyons, Anees Chagpar, Nina Horowitz, and Tom Lynch



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Smokers who drink heavily have a tougher time quitting cigarettes than smokers who drink moderately or not at all. However, a new study led by researchers at Yale Cancer Center found telephone counseling with quitlines can help.

"This was the first quitline study to offer alcohol intervention counseling to hazardous drinking smokers, and we found that the quitline coaches can be trained to counsel that group effectively to improve smoking cessation and limit alcohol use," Dr. Benjamin Toll, the study's principal investigator, said. "If quitlines across the country use this method, we could reach millions of people seeking help."



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Olivia Pavco-Giacca, a [Yale University](#) junior, is working to inspire the next generation of female scientists, doctors, researchers, and nurses. As the founder of [Lab Candy](#), a fledgling social enterprise started on Yale's campus with the support of the [Yale Entrepreneurial Institute](#), Olivia is working to create fun and fashionable apparel - like lab coats and goggles - in addition to inspirational stories for young and inspiring scientists.

Matthew Burke, MBA, RN, MSN, APRN-BC received the third annual **Ruth McCorkle Oncology Advanced Practice Provider Award** presented by Ruth McCorkle. Matthew was noted for being a nursing leader and collaborative team leader and for putting patients first and recognizing our patients individuality. "When not thinking of patients, Matthew is working to determine how best to support the nursing staff and to educate them. He is a leader by example of what an APP is has to offer," Ruth explained. Matthew also co-led the system-wide implementation of Smilow's stress screening initiative and was a big supporter of our annual Closer to Free Ride through Team Immune Brigade.



Ruth McCorkle, Matthew Burke, Tom Lynch, Catherine Lyons

Valentina Greco, PhD received the **Yale Cancer Center Basic Science Research Prize** for her paper *B-Catenin Activation Regulates Tissue Growth Non-Cell Autonomously in the Hair Stem Cell Niche* published in *Science*. Dr. Greco is an Associate Professor of Genetics and a member of the Signal Transduction Research Program. The award was presented by Dr. Marcus Bosenberg, Associate Professor of Pathology and Dermatology.



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Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Events

November 30; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR

Pediatric Oncology and Stem Cell Transplant

Debbie Chirnomas, MD, MPH

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December 2; 9:30 AM
Pathology Special Seminar
TAC N-107

Deregulated Lineage-specific Transcriptional Program and Signaling in Lung Cancer Metastasis

William Kachun Cheung, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

December 2; 12:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

55 Park Street Auditorium

Patricia LoRusso, MD and David Hafler, MD

December 3; 7:00 AM
Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences Program



Marcus Bosenberg, Valentina Greco, Tom Lynch, and Daniel DiMaio

Narendra Wajapeyee, PhD received the **Yale Cancer Center Translational Research Prize** for his paper *miR146a Promotes the Initiation and Progression of Melanoma by Activating Notch Signaling* published in *Elife*. Dr. Wajapeyee is an Assistant Professor of Pathology and a member of the Signal Transduction Research Program. The award was presented to him by Dr. David Stern, Professor of Pathology and co-director of the Signal Transduction Research Program.



Roy Herbst, David Stern, Narendra Wajapeyee, and Tom Lynch

Meena Moran, MD received the **Yale Cancer Center Clinical Research Prize** for her paper *SSO ASTRO Consensus Guideline on Margins for Breast-Conserving Surgery with Whole-Breast Irradiation in Stages I and II Invasive Breast*

Yale West Campus Conference Center
30th Annual Ella T. Grasso Memorial Conference
Peter E. Schwartz, MD
[Read More >> \(PDF\)](#)

December 5; 12:00 PM
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
NP4-101A
TBA
Veronique Neumeister, MD
[Read More >>](#)

December 7; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
Healthy Eating for the Holidays
Maura Harrigan, MS, RD, CSO
[Read More >>](#)

December 8; 12:00 PM
Epigenetics Interest Group Meeting
BCMM 206/208
New Evidence for Piwi Association with Specific Sites in the Drosophila Genome
Nils Neuenkirchen, PhD, MSc
[Read More >> \(PDF\)](#)

December 9; 9:30 AM
Pathology Research in Progress Talks
TAC N-107
TBA
Rong Cong, PhD and Zongzhui Lui, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

December 9; 12:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds
55 Park Street Auditorium
Nina Kadan-Lottick, MD, MPH, and Martin Slade, PhD

December 12; 12:00 PM
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
NP4-101A
TBA
David Stern, PhD
[Read More >>](#)

Cancer in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. Dr. Moran is an Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology. Dr. Lynn Wilson, Professor and Vice Chairman of Therapeutic Radiology, presented the award.



Lynn Wilson, Meena Moran, Tom Lynch, and Howard Hochster

Theodore Holford, PhD was awarded the **Yale Cancer Center Population Science Research Prize** for his paper *Tobacco Control and the Reduction in Smoking-Related Premature Deaths in the United States, 1964-2012*, published in the [Journal of the American Medical Association](#). Dr. Holford is the Susan Dwight Bliss Professor of Public Health. The award was presented to him by Dr. Susan Mayne.



Susan Mayne, Theodore Holford, and Tom Lynch

Holiday Party!



Save the date to join Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital for our annual holiday party at the Peabody Museum!

Thursday, December 18th
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Families are welcome!

[Learn More >>](#)

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](#)

Saint Francis Signs Letter of Intent with Smilow and Yale

I'm delighted to announce that Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center have signed a letter of intent (LOI) with Saint Francis Care to explore the possibility of creating an integrated oncology program.

This preliminary step allows the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven to explore an oncology services relationship that builds off an existing partnership that has been collaborative and highly productive for many years. By combining the resources of two highly respected institutions, Smilow Cancer Hospital specialists will be able to provide expanded treatment options and research initiatives in collaboration with the 11 medical oncologists at Saint Francis.

This is an exciting opportunity for the research and innovation of Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital to impact patients in the Hartford area. With Saint Francis as our partner, we aim to enhance one of the nation's top cancer programs.

[Learn More >>](#)

Doximity and U.S. News & World Report Rankings

As many of you know, our annual ranking for reputation through *U.S. News & World Report's* annual Best Hospital's Guide is not a true reflection of the exciting translational research, innovative science, and fantastic patient care happening here at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. Each year the methodology for calculation of reputation and rank changes, and this past year *U.S. News* introduced online voting for reputation scores through www.doximity.com.

Thank you to those of you who have already registered and who voted online last year through Doximity. We recently learned that the deadline for registering to be included in the 2015 voting is **Friday, December 5th**. If you have not already created or verified your account, please take a moment to do so.

U.S. News & World Report's partnership with Doximity allows board certified physician members of the online website to nominate up to five hospitals in their specific certified specialty for the Best Hospital's designation. Once you have registered through Doximity, you will be prompted to vote through an email early in 2015.

Please take the time to do this, and to recognize the great work you're a part of each day at Smilow in cancer patient care and translational research.

Smilow 5-Year Anniversary Awards

In celebration of the 5th anniversary of Smilow Cancer Hospital, and in recognition of our care providers, we will be honoring four providers with awards during our 5-year anniversary celebration on Friday, January 30 at the Omni Hotel.

[Learn More >>](#)

Smilow Compassionate Caregiver Awards

The Smilow Compassionate Caregiver Awards celebrate caregivers who put in their whole heart to take excellent care of our patients, advocate for our patients, and work in partnership with the healthcare team to ensure the care plan is followed to achieve the treatment goal.

Three awards will be given to honor a Physician, Nurse, and Social Worker.

[Download Application >>](#)

Smilow Achievement Award

The Smilow Achievement Award will be presented to a role model who has made a significant contribution to the culture and patient care at Smilow Cancer Hospital or at our Care Centers. Their career has demonstrated a sustained and lasting contribution to the field of oncology and their influence has made a positive impact on care for our patients.

One award will be given to honor an individual whose influence, mentorship, and positive impact on cancer care has made a positive difference at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

[Download Application >>](#)

Notables

Congratulations to our **Yale Pathology Tissue Services** team!

Last week, Yale University President Peter Salovey awarded the inaugural **President's Award for Staff Excellence** to our Pathology Tissue Services Team, one of Yale Cancer Center's Shared Resources. The lab is an extremely valuable resource for translational research because it provides tissue samples to investigators for laboratory testing. Congratulations to the entire team on this well deserved recognition of excellence!



Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Ensign Professor of Medicine and Professor of Pharmacology and Chief of Medical Oncology at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, was one of four US oncologists honored recently with the **Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation's (ALCF) Excellence in Collaboration and Innovation Award**. Earlier this year, the foundation gave Dr. Herbst its 2014 Addario Leadership Award for his expertise in lung cancer treatment and research.



Congratulations to **Kathryn Pratt, RN, BSN** who was honored as one of 5 finalists for the 2014 **The Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award** at the Schwartz Center annual dinner last week. Kathryn is a nurse coordinator for our Stem Cell Transplant Unit. "Kathryn gives patients confidence in their decisions to move forward with transplant and provides the connection and support they need during this very scary time," said her nominating colleague.



Marna Borgstrom, Kathryn Pratt, and Catherine Lyons.

Photos courtesy of Sue Farone

Research in the News

Protein predicts response to new immunotherapy drug

The presence of an immune-suppressing protein in non-cancerous immune cells may predict how patients with different types of cancer respond to treatment, a multi-center phase I study using an investigational immune therapy drug has found.

The trial included patients with melanoma or cancers of the lung, kidney, colon, GI tract, or head and neck, whose tumors were evaluated for PD-L1 expression by a novel assay. PD-L1 is a protein expressed by many tumor types that is believed to act as a stop sign that prevents the immune system from attacking cancer cells. Patients were treated with MPDL3280A, a drug that blocks PD-L1 and is being developed by Genentech, a member of the Roche group.

[Learn More >>](#)

Quitting cigarettes tougher for heavy-drinking smokers, but phone counseling can help

Smokers who drink heavily have a tougher time quitting cigarettes than smokers who drink moderately or not at all. However, a multi-center study led by researchers at Yale Cancer Center found that modifying tobacco-oriented telephone counseling to help hazardous drinkers can help them quit smoking.

[Learn More >>](#)

Employee Profile

For Angela Khairallah and Andrea Seigerman, Licensed Clinical Social Workers for the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, teamwork and communication are key components of the care of their patients. Angela has been with the Breast Center for a year and a half as well as serving as social worker for the Survivorship Clinic at Yale Cancer Center, and Andrea, a



hospital employee of 37 years, joined The Breast Center team about 10 years ago.

They both enjoy working with a patient population where they are surrounded by strong, motivated and courageous women on a daily basis. Their goal is to meet with every new patient diagnosed with breast cancer, and beyond that, they make themselves available to women receiving biopsies and mammograms that may need extra support.

"I co-facilitate two breast cancer support groups, one for early stage breast cancer patients, and one for metastatic. I also co-facilitate the Young Adult Cancer Support Group for patients with any cancer diagnosis between 18 and 40 years of age as well as the Kidney Cancer Support Group, the first one established on the East Coast. We are there for our patients every step of the way," said Angela.

"I coordinate a patient-to-patient program where volunteers are matched up with newly diagnosed patients, or anyone that wants to talk to other patients," said Andrea. "Male breast cancer patients are a small but very important population as well. We tailor our services to fit their needs and work with them to find resources."

Everyone manages stress differently and Andrea and Angela work with families to help them learn coping skills and how to take on new roles. "All of the women we work with are amazing wives, mothers, sisters and daughters, but it takes a really strong woman to admit when she needs help, and to accept it," said Andrea. "There is no such thing as Wonder woman and oftentimes it is hard for women to realize that."

Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Manager of Oncology Social Work at Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented, "Andee and Angela are a great team, they complement each other and work together to ensure that all women are given the psychosocial care that is required. Both come with a myriad of clinical skill and knowledge and are looked upon as the 'go to' people for any kind of issue or need that occurs. Both receive such positive accolades from their patients and family members as well as from the staff. Smilow Cancer Hospital is lucky to have them as members of the team!"

Funding and Award Opportunities

YCCI Clinical and Community Research Scholar Awards

We are pleased to announce a request for applications for YCCI Clinical and Community-Based Research Scholar Awards, which will provide salary and/or research funds to a

select number of junior faculty members who are strongly committed to careers in clinical and/or community-based research. Individuals must be nominated by a department chair, division head/section chief, or center/program director. Awards will be for a total of 2 years. Funds can be requested to cover up to 75% of an individual's salary (with a maximum of \$100,000 per year including fringe benefits) and up to \$20,000 of research support per year for a research project.

Letter of Intent Deadline: December 12, 2014

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

YCCI Pilot Awards

The Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI) is pleased to announce the 2014 round of pilot grants.

YCCI's pilot program is a funding venue for conducting small-scale research projects to generate data that potentially could lead to further research and funding opportunities. YCCI will accept proposals in the following categories:

Translational and Interdisciplinary Research

This award is aimed at fostering interdisciplinary teams to work collaboratively on key experiments that may lead to the next phase of discovery. These projects should be strategically targeted to conduct research that will lead to the next step along the road to translation. Investigators may request up to \$50,000 per year for two years of funding totaling \$100,000.

Outcomes, Research into practice, and Community-Engaged Research

Ensuring that research is translated into practice is a difficult transition to navigate. This award is for comparative outcomes and community engagement projects that bridge the gap between science and the proven efficacy of treatments in order to translate these findings into practice. Investigators may request up to \$25,000 per year for two years of funding totaling \$50,000.

Novel Clinical and Translational Methodologies

This award is to advance technologies post discovery with an eye toward preclinical development. The aim is to provide funding for mature new technologies that are clinically viable or for the translational advancement of medical devices/treatments. These projects should be able to generate data that will facilitate industry collaboration in order to move concepts into the healthcare market. Investigators may request up to \$20,000 total cost for a 12 month period. Proposals of \$10-15,000 are particularly encouraged.

Established Cores

Yale has several world-class cores but conducting research that utilizes these technologies is costly. This award is for pilot

projects using such established cores as flow cytometry, genomics, and imaging for research that will lead to the funding of full-fledged grants. YCCI solicits applications from Yale faculty for translational and clinical research projects that utilize the resources and expertise found in the PET Center, MMRC, Flow Cytometry, CyTOF, or YCGA. Investigators may request up to \$20,000 total cost for a 12 month period.

Emerging Cores

Core technologies change as science progresses.

Letter of Intent Deadline: December 12, 2014

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

Recent Publications

Accumulation of abasic sites induces genomic instability in normal human gastric epithelial cells during *Helicobacter pylori* infection.

Kidane D, Murphy DL, Sweasy JB.
Oncogenesis. 2014 Nov 24;3:e128.

[Read More >>](#)

Oncogenic Ras stimulates Eiger/TNF exocytosis to promote growth.

Chabu C, Xu T.
Development. 2014 Nov 19.

[Read More >>](#)

Stereotactic body radiation therapy: Let's not give up on progress.

Yu JB, Sandler HM.
Pract Radiat Oncol. 2014 Oct 14.

[Read More >>](#)

MicroRNA silencing for cancer therapy targeted to the tumour microenvironment.

Cheng CJ, Bahal R, Babar IA, Pincus Z, Barrera F, Liu C, Svoronos A, Braddock DT, Glazer PM, Engelman DM, Saltzman WM, Slack FJ.
Nature. 2014 Nov 17.

[Read More >>](#)

Murine Model for Non-invasive Imaging to Detect and Monitor Ovarian Cancer Recurrence.

Sumi NJ, Lima E, Pizzonia J, Orton SP, Craveiro V, Joo W, Holmberg JC, Gurra M, Yang-Hartwich Y, Alvero A, Mor G.
J Vis Exp. 2014 Nov 2;(93).

[Read More >>](#)

A Phase II trial of Belinostat (PXD101) in patients with relapsed or refractory peripheral or cutaneous T-cell lymphoma.

Foss F, Advani R, Duvic M, Hymes KB, Intragumtornchai T, Lekhakula A, Shpilberg O, Lerner A, Belt RJ, Jacobsen ED, Laurent G, Ben-Yehuda D, Beylot-Barry M, Hillen U, Knoblauch P, Bhat G, Chawla S, Allen LF, Pohlman B.

Br J Haematol. 2014 Nov 17.

[Read More >>](#)

The regulatory role of serum response factor pathway in neutrophil inflammatory response.

Taylor A, Halene S.

Curr Opin Hematol. 2014 Nov 13

[Read More >>](#)

The H19/let-7 double-negative feedback loop contributes to glucose metabolism in muscle cells.

Gao Y, Wu F, Zhou J, Yan L, Jurczak MJ, Lee HY, Yang L, Mueller M, Zhou XB, Dandolo L, Szendroedi J, Roden M, Flannery C, Taylor H, Carmichael GG, Shulman GI, Huang Y.

Nucleic Acids Res. 2014 Nov 15.

[Read More >>](#)

Aberrant methylation of miR-34b is associated with long-term shiftwork: a potential mechanism for increased breast cancer susceptibility.

Liu R, Jacobs DI, Hansen J, Fu A, Stevens RG, Zhu Y.

Cancer Causes Control. 2014 Nov 15.

[Read More >>](#)

Metabolic isoenzyme shifts in cancer as potential novel therapeutic targets.

Ononye SN, Shi W, Wali VB, Aktas B, Jiang T, Hatzis C, Pusztai L.

Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2014 Nov 14.

[Read More >>](#)

Mucinous Tubular and Spindle Cell Carcinoma (MTSCC) of the Kidney: A Retrospective Detailed Study of Radiologic, Pathologic and Clinical Outcomes.

Kenney PA, Vikram R, Prasad SR, Tamboli P, Matin SF, Wood CG, Karam JA.

BJU Int. 2014 Nov 14.

[Read More >>](#)

**Comparison of Lymphedema Incidence Between 2
Lymphadenectomy Techniques in Patients With
Uterine Cancer Undergoing Robotic Staging.**

Menderes G, Azodi M, Schwartz P, Silasi DA.

Int J Gynecol Cancer. 2014 Nov 10.

[Read More >>](#)