

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

June 8, 2012

Announcements

YCC, SCH, and SCRI Sign Agreement

I am pleased to announce that after a year of planning, Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital have signed an agreement with Sarah Cannon Research Institute (SCRI) to collaborate. Our relationship with SCRI will bring their broad clinical trial management experience and knowledge together with Yale's drug discovery expertise to benefit our patients.

As part of the collaboration, SCRI physician scientists will partner with physician scientists from Yale Cancer Center to discuss strategic scientific priorities and develop clinical research protocols. SCRI's role in the management of the clinical trials office will be to provide assistance in opening research studies at Yale and within their community network, as well as to augment clinical trial availability and participation of patients in Yale's service area.

[Learn More >>](#)



Dell Yarbrough to Lead Head and Neck Cancer Program

I am happy to announce that **Wendell G. Yarbrough, MD, MMHC**, has been proposed for appointment as section chief of otolaryngology at Yale-New Haven Hospital and Yale School of Medicine. He will also be director of the head and neck cancer program in Smilow Cancer Hospital and co-director of the molecular virology research program for Yale Cancer Center.

Dr. Yarbrough joins us from Vanderbilt University, where he is professor of otolaryngology and of cancer biology. Dr. Yarbrough is also the Ingram Professor of Cancer Research and co-leader of the thoracic and head and neck program at the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center.

from the desk of
Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD
Director, Yale Cancer Center
Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer
Hospital at Yale-New Haven



Countdown to the CCSG Submission

109 days

until our CCSG grant is due on September 25, 2012.

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I am confident that Dell's experience and leadership and his goals for head and neck cancer research and care will strengthen our head and neck cancer program at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven and look forward to welcoming him on August 1.

ASCO Booth Sees Lots of Visitors



Smil

ow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center participated in the Exhibit Hall at the annual American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting last week in Chicago with a booth highlighting our *Closer to Free* campaign. The booth was staffed full time for three days and welcomed many visitors from around the world who were interested in learning more about our research and clinical care missions.

ASCO Review on June 22

Members of the Yale Cancer Center faculty will host an ASCO Review CME Symposium on Friday, June 22 at the New Haven Lawn Club. The presentations will include the latest information presented at ASCO earlier this month on the treatment of lung, breast, colorectal, gynecological, prostate cancers and hematological malignancies. Cancer genetics and case studies will also be presented, as well as a lecture on novel agents.

[Learn More >>](#)

YCC Retreat Survey

Please take a moment to complete the survey on the Yale Cancer Center Annual Retreat, held on May 15, 2012. The results of the survey will help to plan for next year's retreat and will ensure that we meet the needs of our membership.

[Take Survey>>](#)

Notables

Inside
yalecancercenter.org

CV Library

The CV library is a new resource available to our members, with CVs of post-docs and others looking for positions at Yale. Please browse the listings if you have openings, and send the CVs you receive to share.

[Learn More >>](#)

Research in Progress

Video presentations from Yale Cancer Center faculty on current research projects are now available online.

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In the News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center.

[Learn More >>](#)

Subscribe to Yale Cancer Center Answers on iTunes

Yale Cancer Center's weekly radio program on CT Public Radio is ranked number 2 in the world for cancer programs on iTunes.

Subscribe to the show.

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Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Video presentations from Yale Cancer Center members are now available online.

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Events

June 10; 6 PM
Yale Cancer Center
Answers

WNPR

Pediatric Cancers

Paul Jubinsky, MD

Congratulations to the following Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital physicians who were named to the 2012 *New York Magazine* Best Doctors List:

Masoud Azodi, Jean Bolognia, John Colberg, Frank Detterbeck, Andrew Duffy, Richard Edelson, Sukru Emre, Roy Herbst, Howard Hochster, Silvio Inzucchi, John Kveton, David Leffell, Walter Longo, Pasquale Patrizio, John Persing, Richard Peschel, Carrie Redlich, Kenneth Roberts, Clarence Sasaki, Gordon Sze, Robert Udelsman, Jeffrey Weinreb, and Lynn Wilson.

Rebecca Sipples, Marianne Davies, Amanda Reid, and Emily Duffield recently published chapters in a new resource for patients with lung cancer, *Lung Cancer Choices*.

[Learn More >>](#)

Roy Herbst will be hosting a Briefing on **Capitol Hill** with AACR on Tuesday, June 12 on "The Science Behind Tobacco Control: How Research Informs Policy to Save Lives and Money." **Senator Richard Blumenthal** is also scheduled to give remarks.

Kelly Chacon, a student in the **DiMaio Laboratory**, graduated from Yale College in May with an Intensive Bachelor of Science in Biology degree with distinction in the major. She was named the recipient of the **Edgar J. Boell Prize**, which is awarded annually to a Yale College senior for excellence in biology and senior research. The title of her senior research project was *Unintelligent Design of an Oncoprotein*. She will continue this work in the DiMaio laboratory next year.

Tom Magaldi obtained his PhD degree for research done in the **DiMaio Laboratory** concerning the interactions of tumor viruses with their host cells. His doctoral dissertation, *Genetic Analysis of SV40 Receptor Usage*, received the **Outstanding Thesis Award** from the **Department of Genetics**. This summer, he will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health.

In the News

New antibody drug engages the immune system in fight against cancer

About a quarter of patients with deadly cancers had significant reductions of tumor size after taking a new antibody drug, according to results of a large early-stage clinical trial conducted by scientists from Yale School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and other major institutions. The study appears in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Nearly 300 patients with advanced melanoma, non-small cell lung cancer, or renal cell cancer whose cancer progressed after receiving standard treatments were given the drug, which boosts the

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June 12; 12 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Smilow Auditorium
Clinical Implications of Genome Sequencing
Ramaswamy Govindan, MD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

June 14; 12:00 PM Schwartz Center Rounds

Smilow Auditorium
Fear of Litigation
Thomas Lynch, MD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

June 14; 2:00 PM Smilow Wellness Workshop

SCH Room 202
Finding My Voice
Beth Patella
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

June 17; 6 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR

Advances in Liver Cancer
Drs. Stacey Stein and Tamar Taddei
[Learn More >>](#)

June 19; 12 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Smilow Auditorium
Topic TBD
Vali Papadimitrakapoulou
[Learn More >>](#)

June 20; 11:00 AM Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program Conference

SHM I-304
The Lymphatic Endothelium:
Suppressing Anti-Cancer
Immune Therapies
Amanda Lund, PhD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

June 22; 7:30 AM ASCO Review CME Symposium

New Haven Lawn Club
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

Funding Opportunities

V Foundation for Cancer Research: V Scholar Grants
Yale Cancer Center has the

immune system's capacity to fight cancer.

The study drug - BMS-936558 - is an antibody designed to block a protein known as "programmed death-1" (PD-1), which is present on the surface of immune lymphocyte cells and inhibits their function. Administration of BMS-936558 is thought to restore the function of cancer-fighting lymphocytes.

[Learn More >>](#)

A Retrospect on Cancer Research: 200 Years of Progress

The study and treatment of cancer has evolved from a black box to a blueprint, according to Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., MD, co-author of *Two Hundred Years of Cancer Research* published in *the New England Journal of Medicine*. Beginning with the description of the cellular origin of cancer in 1863, and the discovery of metastatic disease in 1889, the black box began to reveal what cancer was, and how it developed and affected the human body. In 1943, the first successful administration of anticancer drugs was given at Yale-New Haven Hospital for the treatment of lymphoma using nitrogen mustard.

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Top Lung Cancer Studies from ASCO



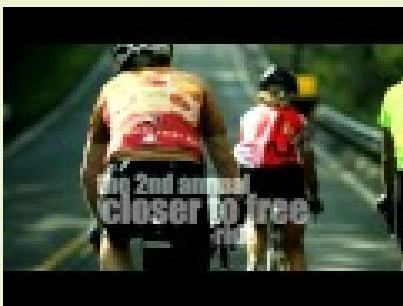
[Watch Video >>](#)

News Clips from ASCO

[View Clips >>](#)

Closer to Free Bike Ride

Join us on September 8, 2012



opportunity to nominate one person for consideration for a 2012 V Scholar Grant, which provides \$100,000/year for two years for cancer research.

Candidates must have completed at least two years of fellowship training, hold a tenured track faculty position, have been at the assistant professor level for no more than five years, and be no more than 10 years since obtaining their MD or PhD degree. Researchers who have secured their own R01 funding are not eligible, but K08 recipients are eligible.

Please submit by email a one-page letter of introduction, a two-page outline of a proposed research project and its rationale, and a current CV for consideration to [Janice Zulkowski](#) in Daniel DiMaio's office by Friday, June 29th at 5:00 PM.

Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities

Visionary Postdoctoral Fellowship Award

Eligibility - Principal Investigator: M.D./Ph.D. graduate with a total of less than 4 years of postdoctoral research experience

Mentor(s): Independent investigator at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent at the time of the award

Research must be in one or more of the FY12 PRCRP Topic Areas

Supports training of postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of an early-career investigator (mentor) with expertise in one or more of the FY12 PRCRP Topic Areas

Supports training of postdoctoral fellow to include a

[Watch Video >>](#)

Employee Profile: Lisa Schlenk

The Employee Profile recognizes the diverse contributions made by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital staff have 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](#).

The Rapid Case Ascertainment (RCA) Shared Resource at Yale Cancer Center facilitates population-based studies of cancer for YCC investigators, as well as outside investigators. Lisa Schlenk is a Research Associate for the RCA and is responsible for obtaining re-approvals from the state of Connecticut, and Connecticut hospitals, for the studies. She also keeps track of the information throughout the study, such as how many patients are enrolled, and any preliminary results, in order to create a progress report for the hospital's Institutional Review Boards.



"The challenges I face are keeping track of all the studies and meeting the various deadlines. Each study needs to receive re-approval yearly, and it is my job to make sure this gets done. It requires you to be very good at coordinating several things at once, and staying organized," said Lisa. Currently she is working on about 20 studies that require annual re-approval.

Lisa has been with the Medical School for 25 years and with the RCA since 2004. 2 years ago she was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer and commented that she is grateful for all the amazing and caring staff at Smilow, and realizes that the administrative support the RCA provides is an important factor that contributes to cancer research.

Lisa Calvocoressi, PhD, is the Project Director on one of the studies Lisa and the RCA support. She commented, "Lisa Schlenk has re-designed and streamlined much of the reporting that we need to do and we are so fortunate to have such a knowledgeable, organized, and efficient member of the RCA working with us. In addition to the outstanding quality of her work, Lisa is such a pleasure to work with. She is always willing to extend herself to help others to get the job done while remaining cheerful, upbeat and flexible."

budget option for research supplies

Applications must not address breast, prostate, lung (excluding mesothelioma), or ovarian cancer research

Pre-application Due Date: June 19, 2012

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Avon Safety Net Grant Opportunities

The Avon Foundation for Women "Safety Net" program supports public, community, and safety net hospitals and health care systems that provide breast care to low-income, at-risk, uninsured and underinsured individuals. The goal of this initiative is to support programs that improve access to quality breast diagnostics and access to treatment for the medically underserved. A demonstrated commitment to providing health care to underserved populations will be considered in the review process.

Letter of Intent Due: June 22, 2012

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Employment Opportunities

Yale Cancer Center has several positions open.

Please share these opportunities with colleagues who may be interested in joining our team.

Genetic Counselor 2
Req# 16457

Coordinator 4: Project Manager
Req# 16563

CRN 2: Clinical Research Nurse
Req# 16345

CRN 3: Clinical Research Nurse

Development Update

First Annual Jim McNiff Golf Outing Yields \$18,000 for Closer to Free Fund and Renal Cell Carcinoma Research



Mary McNiff of Orange, CT lost her husband Jim to renal cell carcinoma in 2008. To honor him and raise funds to support research in this disease area, she recently organized a golf outing at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course, in Fairfield, CT. The event was an

overwhelming success, raising \$18,000 in its first year. The proceeds donated to the **Closer to Free Fund** will cover the costs of important research being conducted by Dr. Harriet Kluger at Yale Cancer Center. The funds from the Jim McNiff Golf Outing will allow Dr. Kluger to create a renal cancer tissue bank at Yale. The tissue bank will provide her team of investigators access to the important tissue samples used to conduct research in renal cell carcinoma.

Recent Publications

Safety, Activity, and Immune Correlates of Anti-PD-1 Antibody in Cancer.

Topalian SL, Hodi FS, Brahmer JR, Gettinger SN, Smith DC, McDermott DF, Powderly JD, Carvajal RD, Sosman JA, Atkins MB, Leming PD, Spigel DR, Antonia SJ, Horn L, Drake CG, Pardoll DM, Chen L, Sharfman WH, Anders RA, Taube JM, McMiller TL, Xu H, Korman AJ, Jure-Kunkel M, Agrawal S, McDonald D, Kollia GD, Gupta A, Wigginton JM, Sznol M.
N Engl J Med. 2012 Jun 2.

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The Duality of OncomiR Addiction in the Maintenance and Treatment of Cancer.

Cheng CJ, Slack FJ.
Cancer J. 2012 May;18(3):232-7.

[Read More>>](#)

Two Hundred Years of Cancer Research.

Devita VT Jr, Rosenberg SA.
N Engl J Med. 2012 May 30.

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Gaucher disease gene GBA functions in immune regulation.

Manager
Req# 14923

Senior Administrative
Assistant
Req# 16771

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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](#)

Liu J, Halene S, Yang M, Iqbal J, Yang R, Mehal WZ, Chuang WL, Jain D, Yuen T, Sun L, Zaidi M, Mistry PK.
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2012 Jun 4.

[Read More>>](#)

Current status of lung cancer screening.

Ahmad U, Detterbeck FC.
Semin Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2012 Spring;24(1):27-36.

[Read More>>](#)

National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) Results for Radiation Oncology: 2011 Update.

Aneja S, Wilson LD, Haffty BG, Yu JB.
Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2012 Jul 1;83(3):771-2.

[Read More>>](#)

A fluorodeoxyglucose avid mediastinal parathyroid adenoma masquerading as metastatic bladder cancer.

Adewole AD, Roman SA, Kraev AI, Kim AW.
Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg. 2012 May 29.

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Treg depletion through CD127 positive selection results in a population enriched in memory T cells: implications for anti-tumoral cell therapy.

Touil S, Rosenzwajg M, Landau DA, Le Corvoisier P, Charlotte F, Klatzmann D, Maury S, Cohen JL.
Haematologica. 2012 May 11.

[Read More>>](#)

A Prospective, Multicenter Study of Complementary/Alternative Medicine (CAM) Utilization During Definitive Radiation for Breast Cancer.

Moran MS, Ma S, Jagsi R, Yang TI, Higgins SA, Weidhaas JB, Wilson LD, Lloyd S, Peschel R, Gaudreau B, Rockwell S.
Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2012 Jun 1.

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Radiation Therapy Oncology Group Protocol 02-29: A Phase II Trial of Neoadjuvant Therapy With Concurrent Chemotherapy and Full-Dose Radiation Therapy Followed by Surgical Resection and Consolidative Therapy for Locally Advanced Non-small Cell Carcinoma of the Lung

Mohan Suntharalingam, Rebecca Paulus, Martin J. Edelman, Mark Krasna, Whitney Burrows, Elizabeth Gore, Lynn D. Wilson, Hak Choy
Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2012 Apr 27.

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Patterns of Cellular and HPV 16 Methylation as Biomarkers for Cervical Neoplasia.

Patel DA, Rozek LS, Colacino JA, Van Zomeren-Dohm A, Ruffin MT, Unger ER, Dolinoy DC, Swan DC, Onyekwuluje J, Degraffinreid CR, Paskett ED.

J Virol Methods. 2012 Jun 1.

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Basal cell adenocarcinoma arising in salivary gland metaplasia of the breast: a novel salivary gland-type tumor developing in the breast.

Flynn C, Kadivar M, Kwon MY, Bonzanini M, Haines GK 3rd, Tavassoli FA.

Hum Pathol. 2012 Jun 1.

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Histone ubiquitination and deubiquitination in transcription, DNA damage response, and cancer.

Cao J, Yan Q.

Front Oncol. 2012;2:26. Epub 2012 Mar 12.

[Read More>>](#)

Genetic polymorphisms in IL10RA and TNF modify the association between blood transfusion and risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Bi X, Zheng T, Lan Q, Xu Z, Chen Y, Zhu G, Foss F, Kim C, Dai M, Zhao P, Holford T, Leaderer B, Boyle P, Deng Q, Chanock SJ, Rothman N, Zhang Y.

Am J Hematol. 2012 Apr 26

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Ultrasensitive measurement of hotspot mutations in tumor DNA in blood using error-suppressed multiplexed deep sequencing.

Narayan A, Carriero NJ, Gettinger SN, Kluytenaar J, Kozak KR, Yock TI, Muscato NE, Ugarelli P, Decker RH, Patel AA.

Cancer Res. 2012 May 10.

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Evidence of a stabilizing mutation of β -catenin encoded by CTNNB1 exon 3 in a large series of sporadic parathyroid adenomas.

Starker LF, Fonseca A, Akerström G, Björklund P, Westin G, Carling T.

Endocrine. 2012 May 11.

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Neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NACT) is an effective way of managing elderly women with advanced stage ovarian cancer (FIGO Stage IIIC and IV).

Glasgow MA, Yu H, Rutherford TJ, Azodi M, Silasi DA, Santin AD, Schwartz PE.

J Surg Oncol. 2012 May 30. doi: 10.1002/jso.23171.

[Read More>>](#)

Etiology, assessment, and management of aromatase inhibitor-related musculoskeletal symptoms.

Park SH, Knobf MT, Sutton KM.

Clin J Oncol Nurs. 2012 Jun 1;16(3):260-6.

[Read More>>](#)

Intermedin is Overexpressed in Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Regulates Cell Proliferation and Survival.

Guo X, Schmitz JC, Kenney BC, Uchio EM, Kulkarni S, Cha CH. Cancer Sci. 2012 May 25.

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Multilevel interventions: study design and analysis issues.

Cleary PD, Gross CP, Zaslavsky AM, Taplin SH. J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr. 2012;2012(44):49-55.

[Read More>>](#)

Occupational solvent exposure, genetic variation in immune genes, and the risk for non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Deng Q, Zheng T, Lan Q, Lan Y, Holford T, Chen Y, Dai M, Leaderer B, Boyle P, Chanock SJ, Rothman N, Zhang Y. Eur J Cancer Prev. 2012 May 18.

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Quantitative in situ measurement of estrogen receptor mRNA predicts response to tamoxifen.

Bordeaux JM, Cheng H, Welsh AW, Haffty BG, Lannin DR, Wu X, Su N, Ma XJ, Luo Y, Rimm DL. PLoS One. 2012;7(5):e36559. Epub 2012 May 11.

[Read More>>](#)