

June 7, 2013

## Announcements

### ASCO Annual Meeting

Yale Cancer Center made headlines during this year's ASCO meeting with significant presentations from Mario Sznol and Roy Herbst on immunotherapy clinical trial outcomes from Smilow Cancer Hospital. Their abstracts on PD-1 and PD-L1 made news throughout the weekend and major headlines in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Reuters*, *The Economist*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, and on *NBC Nightly News*, with several of Scott Gettinger's patients featured. Thank you to Mario, Roy, Scott, and Harriet and their entire team for their work on these breakthrough clinical trials!

Over 50 members of Yale Cancer Center traveled to Chicago for the weekend to present their work and to highlight the exciting research ongoing at YCC and Smilow Cancer Hospital. National meetings and our continued presence at the podium will enhance our reputation and educate our colleagues across the country about the important work going on here. Keep up the good work and continue to submit your research findings to national meetings!

[Check all of our last week's media coverage >>](#)

### [NBC Nightly News](#)

*Immunotherapy Offers Hope for Some Cancer Patients*

### [Reuters](#)

*Immunotherapy is not just for Melanoma Anymore*

### [USNews & World Report](#)

*Immune Based Drug Shows Promise Against Advanced Melanoma*

### [USA Today](#)

*New Drugs Improve Options for Melanoma Patients*

### [Wall Street Journal](#)

*New Cancer Drugs Harness Power of the Immune System*

from the desk of

**Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD**

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



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### Closer to Free

## closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

### Links of Interest

#### CV Library

The CV library is a new resource available to our members, with

## [The Economist](#)

*A New Class of Drugs is Being Deployed in the Struggle Against Cancer*

### **Cancer Survivors Day on Wednesday**

Please join us for Cancer Survivors Day on Wednesday, June 12 from 5-6:30 in the auditorium at 55 Park Street. Patients and their families enjoy this event every year, and look forward to seeing their physicians and caregivers outside of the clinics and at this special evening. I hope you will take the time to join us before you go home for the evening on Wednesday.

[Learn More >>](#)

RSVP to attend by emailing [Emily Fenton](#).

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## Notables

Congratulations to **Mehmet Kocoglu**, a third year medical oncology-hematology fellow, who received a Young Investigators Award from the Conquer Cancer Foundation on Sunday during the ASCO Awards Program. The funding will support Mehmet's research into microvesicles in multiple myeloma.



The Department of Social Work had two posters accepted for presentation at the annual **National Association of Oncology Social Work** conference this week. **Mary Crooks** is presenting "A Description of Patients' Emotional Distress and Associated Problems Before and After Transplant" (Stuart Seropian, Mei Bai, and Ruth McCorkle are co-authors) and **Nora Rightmer** is presenting "Social Work Rounds: Combatting Compassion Fatigue by Validating the Caregiver."

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 >>](#)

### **In the News**

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center.

[Read 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.

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

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

[Learn More >>](#)

### **DirectConnect Archives**

[Learn More >>](#)

### **ASCO Connection Blog**

Stop the Madness!  
by Anees Chagpar, MD

[Read More >>](#)

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## Events

**June 7; 12:00 PM**  
**YCC Research in Progress Meeting**

WWW 208

Title TBA

Ali Raza, MD, and Hamid Saadati, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

**June 9; 6:00 PM**  
**Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

*Health Equity and Cancer*

Lovell Jones, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

**June 10; 10:00 AM**  
**YCC Special Seminar**

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## Updates from Smilow

### Medical Oncology and Hematology Teaching Prizes

Yale Cancer Center is accepting nominations from current fellows for the David S. Fischer Teaching Award for the best teacher/mentor from both the Medical Oncology Faculty and the Hematology Faculty, including the staff at the West Haven Veterans Administration Hospital. The awards will be given out at the graduation dinner. Please contact [Savannah Woods](#) at (203) 785-5196 for a nomination form or for more information. Nominations are due to Savannah by June 10.

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## Research in the News

### Promising drug prevents cancer cells from shutting down immune system

An investigational drug that targets the immune system's ability to fight cancer is showing promising results in Yale Cancer Center (YCC) patients with a variety of advanced or metastatic forms of the disease.

The drug, known as MPDL3280A and manufactured by Roche/Genentech, is designed to prevent a cancer cell's mutated and overexpressed PD-L1 gene protein from putting the immune system to sleep. The overexpressed PD-L1 protein turns off the immune system's T-cells by binding to its PD-1 and B7-1 proteins. In doing so, it disguises itself and evades detection and destruction by the body's immune response. Yale oncologists report that the efficacy of MPDL3280A was evaluated in 140 patients with locally advanced or metastatic solid tumors who had exhausted other means of therapy. Tumor shrinkage was observed in patients with non-small cell lung cancer, melanoma, kidney cancer, colorectal cancer, and gastric cancer.

Yale oncologists say ongoing, durable responses were observed in nearly all patients who responded to the drug. Overall, 29 out of 140 patients (21 percent) experienced significant tumor shrinkage, and the highest number of responses were in patients with lung cancer and melanoma. [Read More >>](#)

### Racial and economic gap in awareness of lifesaving HPV vaccine

There are worrisome racial, economic, educational, and gender gaps in awareness about the lifesaving vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV), a Yale Cancer Center study has found. The Yale research team gathered data from the National Health Interview Survey, which is conducted annually by the Centers

WWW 208

*Targeting Autophagy: From the Bench to the Bedside and Back*  
Janice Mehnert, MD  
[Learn More >>](#)

### June 11; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium  
*The Biosimilar Horizon: Hope or Hype?*  
Steven Lucio, PharmD, BCPS  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### June 12; 4:30 PM Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital Celebrate Cancer Survivors Day 2013

Park Street Auditorium  
Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### June 13; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412

*PHY906 Trial*  
Susan Higgins, MD  
[Learn More >>](#)

### June 14; 1:00 PM YCC Molecular Virology Research Program

SHM I-116  
*HCV Infection and cancer risk: Investigation of possible mediators using population-based claims data*  
Fatma Shebl, MD, PhD  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### June 14; 1:00 PM Yale Medical Research Scholars Program

Winslow Auditorium (LEPH)  
*Personal Genomics, Personalized Medicine*  
Richard Lifton, MD, PhD  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

### June 16; 6:00 PM

for Disease Control (CDC). The 2010 survey of more than 20,000 people between the ages of 18 and 64 provided a great deal of data about HPV awareness.

The researchers found many gaps in awareness about the lifesaving potential of HPV vaccines. Among the findings:

- 68.1% of women had heard about the vaccine, but just 34% of men;
- 57.8% of whites surveyed were aware of the vaccine, but only 46.1% of blacks, 36% of Asians, and 32.5% of Hispanics;
- 57.8% of those with private insurance were aware, but only 36.2% of those covered by Medicare, and 37.6% of those with no health insurance;
- 72.2% of those with doctorate degrees and 61% of those with bachelors degrees were aware, but only 28.2% of those who did not complete high school;
- 62.7% of families with an income above \$100,000 were aware of the vaccines, but only 41.9% of those with an income under \$35,000

[Read More >>](#)



## Closer to Free

Our **Closer to Free** community continues to inspire us with their commitment to our cancer research and patient care. It also provides financial support to a variety of programs at YCC and SCH. For a second year, the *Jim McNiff Memorial Golf Outing* organized by his wife Mary McNiff (pictured above with Harriet Kluger, MD) has contributed funds for kidney cancer research. Last year, proceeds from the golf, dinner, raffle, sponsors, and cut-a-thon made possible the purchase of special equipment

## Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

*Cancer Care in the Underserved Population*

Elmer Huerta, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

## June 18; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

*Novel Targets in HPV*

*Negative Head and*

*Neck Cancer*

Barbara Burtness, MD

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

## June 19; 11:00 AM Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program

SHM I-304

*Mechanistic and Structural Insights of the Hop2-Mnd1-*

*DMC1-ssDNA Ensemble in*

*Homologous DNA Pairing*

Weixing Zhao, PhD

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

## June 20; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412

*Title TBA*

Hari Deshpande, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

## June 21; 7:30 AM Yale ASCO® Review 2013

New Haven Country Club

*Highlights of the Annual*

*Meeting*

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD

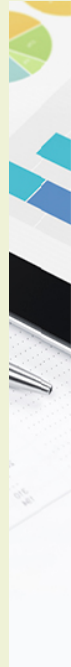
[Learn More >>](#)

## Employment Opportunities

We seek your assistance in the recruitment of qualified Oncology Research Nurses to join the Cancer Center for full time research opportunities. Positions traditionally require a

needed to grow kidney cancer cells. The \$17,000 donation this year will aid in establishing a kidney cancer tumor bank overseen by Dr. Kluger. Over 240 people were part of this year's golf outing. Mrs. McNiff reports that being able to show that the proceeds have a tangible and immediate benefit inspired people to participate in the golf outing.

## Do You Need Temporary



### Experienced Yale Cancer Center Rapid Case Ascertainment (RCA) staff can help you with your CURRENT research needs

RCA is a unique Shared Resource of Yale Cancer Center and you should consider incorporating their services in your future research. RCA functions as an agent of the Connecticut Tumor Registry and allows you access to data from all hospitals in Connecticut. Examples of studies that are done through RCA are:

- 1 Prospective identification interview studies: RCA identifies newly diagnosed cases of cancer at hospitals, performs medical record abstraction, and retrieves pathology slides/tumor blocks for standardization of histologic interpretation and tissue assays (as the study design warrants).
- 2 Studies based in the Connecticut Tumor Registry (CTR): RCA identifies cancer patients from the CTR, collects tumor (or other data) information from the CTR, then performs medical record abstraction and/or retrieval of pathology slides/tumor blocks at hospitals.

## Research Help?

Please contact the RCA Director, [Rajni Mehta](#) at (203) 764-9087 with any questions or to request additional information.

[Learn More >>](#)

## Employee Profile: Shirley Pinette

*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](#).*

minimum of BSN and 4 years of research nursing experience with a strong preference within oncology. In lieu of research experience, trained oncology nurses with little or no research experience are considered for positions of the same level. Should you know of any potential candidates, please encourage them to go on-line to [www.yale.edu/jobs](http://www.yale.edu/jobs) and navigate to the STARS employment website in search of positions 18343BR and 18943BR, upload the resume and apply. They may also contact [Sandra Greer](#) for further information.

## Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

**Renee Gaudette**  
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

[renee.gaudette@yale.edu](mailto:renee.gaudette@yale.edu)

 Forward to a Friend

Shirley Pinette, Outreach Manager for the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, is responsible for many aspects of community outreach and patient care. One component includes attending health fairs, charity walks, and arranging for the Yale-New Haven digital mobile mammography van to visit various locations within the community. She talks to groups of women and organizations about the importance of screening mammography and of breast health awareness. She has been at Yale since 1979 and has been the Outreach Manager for the past four years.



"I talk to women and stress the importance of annual mammograms, monthly self breast exams, and annual clinical breast exams, all of which are key components to the early detection of breast cancer. A lot of women are so busy taking care of their homes and families rather than focusing on their own health, which frequently takes a back seat. I try to help them understand that staying healthy benefits not only them, but also their families in the long run," Shirley explained.

Another component of Shirley's job is managing the Administrative staff within the Breast Center. This can include assisting with the phones, assisting at the front reception desk, and handling issues that patients may have. Shirley commented that she has a phenomenal staff that understands how important it is that every patient be treated the way they would want any member of their family treated.

Shirley enjoys every aspect of her job, especially interacting with the community. She explained, "Not everyone gets to see what happens outside the walls of Smilow and the real difference we are making in people's lives. I hear from men and women all the time about the excellent care their friend, sister, mother or they themselves received at Smilow Cancer Hospital. That makes me feel proud!"

Maureen Major Campos, RN, MS, Program Manager for Women's Oncology Services at Smilow Cancer Hospital commented, "Shirley is a dynamic leader whose sole focus is the patient experience and high standards of excellence. She manages a very successful staff with great patient care outcomes. Her most notable tribute is her flexibility; it is not uncommon for Shirley to be arriving patients in the morning and answering patient telephone calls in the afternoon. In between she manages to oversee her staff, have a presence on the unit and perform outreach work in the community. We are very

fortunate to have her on the Breast Center team!"

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## Funding and Award Opportunities

### **The Edith P. Rausch Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven**

Two to three grants will be awarded to provide seed money 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. Preference will be given to research that has a high likelihood of having a demonstrable community impact in the Greater New Haven area. Members of Yale Cancer Center or faculty who have applied for membership are eligible to apply. Award amounts will be up to \$30,800 for one year commencing August 1, 2013.

**Application Deadline: July 1, 2013**

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research Medical Research Grants**

To support the conduct of innovative and insightful medical research on the hematologic malignancies.

- Funds are provided for clinical or basic science research that will lead to novel therapeutic approaches that could replace, or be used in combination with existing effective therapies for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers of the blood.
- For assistant professors (or equivalent) with the MD or PhD.
- \$225,000 to be used over a period of 3 years.

**Application Deadline: June 28, 2013**

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) Grants**

**Springboard Grants:** ALSF offers the Springboard Grant in response to cut-backs in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding of **new** R01 and P01 applications. The Springboard Grant is designed to jump-start new projects that have high impact potential for childhood cancer research while other funding is sought. Applicants must have applied for a new R01 or P01 and scored  $\leq$  20th percentile. *Awards will provide \$100,000 for up to 12 months of supplies and personnel expenses.*

**Bridge Grants:** ALSF is excited to offer Bridge Grant funding once again. The grant is designed for sustaining research projects falling between the end of funding by the NIH R or P award and the beginning of a competitively renewed NIH Award. Bridge Grants are intended to keep projects on track while reapplying for NIH funding.

Researchers must have applied to the NIH for an R01 or P01 renewal for an ongoing project or to continue the project via new R01 or P01 within the last 6 months. The application must have been scored  $\leq$  25th percentile, but outside of the agency's fundable range. ALSF's Bridge Grant will provide \$100,000 to cover up to 12 months of supplies and personnel expenses.

**Applications Due: June 21, 2013**

[Learn More >>](#)

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## Recent Publications

### **Nivolumab plus Ipilimumab in Advanced Melanoma.**

Wolchok JD, Kluger H, Callahan MK, Postow MA, Rizvi NA, Lesokhin AM, Segal NH, Ariyan CE, Gordon RA, Reed K, Burke MM, Caldwell A, Kronenberg SA, Agunwamba BU, Zhang X, Lowy I, Inzunza HD, Feely W, Horak CE, Hong Q, Korman AJ, Wigginton JM, Gupta A, Sznol M.

N Engl J Med. 2013 Jun 2.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Being prepared: essential to self-care and quality of life for the person with cancer.**

Knobf MT.

Clin J Oncol Nurs. 2013 Jun 1;17(3):255-61.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Genomic landscape of squamous cell carcinoma of the lung.**

Morgensztern D, Devarakonda S, Govindan R.

Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2013;2013:348-53.

[Read More >>](#)

### **The NCI Community Oncology Research Program.**

McCaskill-Stevens W, Lyss AP, Good M, Marsland T, Lilenbaum R.

Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2013;2013:84-9.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Socially-assigned race, healthcare discrimination and preventive healthcare services.**

Macintosh T, Desai MM, Lewis TT, Jones BA, Nunez-Smith M. PLoS One. 2013 May 21;8(5):e64522.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Control of Alveolar Differentiation by the Lineage**



**Transcription Factors GATA6 and HOPX Inhibits Lung Adenocarcinoma Metastasis.**

Cheung WK, Zhao M, Liu Z, Stevens LE, Cao PD, Fang JE, Westbrook TF, Nguyen DX.  
Cancer Cell. 2013 May 21.

[Read More >>](#)

**Declining rates of high-grade cervical lesions in young women in Connecticut, 2008-2011.**

Niccolai LM, Julian P, Meek J, McBride V, Hadler J, Sosa L.  
Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2013 May 23.

[Read More >>](#)

**Microbiota-induced activation of epithelial IL-6 signaling links inflammasome-driven inflammation with transmissible cancer.**

Hu B, Elinav E, Huber S, Strowig T, Hao L, Hafemann A, Jin C, Eisenbarth SC, Flavell RA.  
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2013 May 21.

[Read More >>](#)

**Sarcomatoid Lung Carcinomas Show High Levels of Programmed Death Ligand-1 (PD-L1).**

Velcheti V, Rimm DL, Schalper KA.  
J Thorac Oncol. 2013 Jun;8(6):803-5

[Read More >>](#)

**The identification of gut neuroendocrine tumor disease by multiple synchronous transcript analysis in blood.**

Modlin IM, Drozdov I, Kidd M.  
PLoS One. 2013 May 15;8(5):e63364.

[Read More >>](#)

**Claudins Overexpression in Ovarian Cancer: Potential Targets for Clostridium Perfringens Enterotoxin (CPE) Based Diagnosis and Therapy.**

English DP, Santin AD.  
Int J Mol Sci. 2013 May 17;14(5):10412-37.

[Read More >>](#)

**Stereotactic laser induced thermotherapy (LITT): a novel treatment for brain lesions regrowing after radiosurgery.**

Torres-Reveron J, Tomasiewicz HC, Shetty A, Amankulor NM, Chiang VL.  
J Neurooncol. 2013 May 16.

[Read More >>](#)

**An Insulin-like Growth Factor-II Intronic Variant Affects Local DNA Conformation and Ovarian Cancer Survival.**

Lu L, Risch E, Deng Q, Biglia N, Picardo E, Katsaros D, Yu H.  
Carcinogenesis. 2013 May 14.

[Read More >>](#)

**Chronic lymphocytic leukemia: molecular heterogeneity**

**revealed by high-throughput genomics.**

Dan A Landau and Catherine J Wu

Genome Medicine 2013, 5:47

[Read More >>](#)