

May 24, 2013

Announcements

United Technologies Professor in Cancer Research

I am pleased to announce that Lieping Chen, MD, PhD, is the inaugural United Technologies Corporation (UTC) Professor in Cancer Research at Yale Cancer Center. United Technologies Corporation's \$3 million gift to endow the professorship will continue their intention to support tremendous science at Yale Cancer Center and clinical investigations at Smilow Cancer Hospital.



Dr. Lieping Chen and Mr. Louis Chênevert, Chairman and CEO, United Technologies

Dr. Chen focuses his research on developing new treatment options for cancer. His laboratory discovered the B7-H1/PD-1 immune inhibitory pathway and established the principle of cancer therapy by blocking this pathway. United Technologies Corporation and Yale Cancer Center share the same passion for excellence in research and we're extremely grateful for the partnership we continue to build together.

[Read More >>](#)

ASCO Annual Meeting

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the ASCO annual meeting at the end of next week. Yale Cancer Center will have very good representation at the meeting, with participation in the scientific symposium, oral presentations, and poster sessions. Two of our abstracts were selected as part of the official ASCO media program; Dr. Herbst participated and presented the

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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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

phase I PD-L1 data during the press conference call on May 15, generating great media coverage for the immunotherapy clinical trials here at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Please take a moment to review Yale Cancer Center's participation in ASCO and plan your itinerary to support your colleagues if you will be in Chicago next week. You can download the schedule of participation from Yale through the link below. We will be posting news and announcements from ASCO on @YaleCancer, please follow us on Twitter and consider posting tweets from the meeting (including @YaleCancer) when making presentations or attending presentations for your colleagues.

[Download Itinerary >>](#)

[Check out last week's media coverage >>](#)

CME Planning

Moving forward, Rogerio Lilenbaum, Chief Medical Officer of Smilow Cancer Hospital, will take a more formal role in the strategy planning for Oncology related CME programs for Yale School of Medicine, Yale Cancer Center, and Smilow Cancer Hospital. Rogerio will be working with Renee Gaudette to confirm that all oncology CME events meet the strategic needs of our cancer center and hospital, and to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts within departments and programs. Please make sure that all your CME-related plans and ideas are brought to Rogerio's attention so we can maximize our efforts and continue to plan programs that meet the needs of our referring provider community.

Centerpoint Magazine

The spring-summer issue of Centerpoint Magazine is now available online and features articles on the new United Technologies Professorship in Cancer Research, advances in nanotechnology drug delivery, an inspiring story from a patient living with advanced pancreatic cancer, the Palliative Care Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and Yale Cancer Center's Cadet Program for mentoring junior faculty members.

[Read More >>](#)

Notables

Yale immunobiologist **Akiko Iwasaki, PhD**, a member of the Yale Cancer Center Molecular Virology Research Program, has been selected as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigator, one of the most prestigious designations in biomedical science. She was one of 27 of the nation's top researchers to receive this honor.

[Read More >>](#)

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 >>](#)

Events

May 24; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

WWW 208

*Marrow Assessment for
Hemophagocytic
Lymphohistiocytosis
Demonstrates Poor
Correlation with Disease
Probability*

Ligeng Tian, MD

*Microvesicles in
Multiple Myeloma*
M. Hakan Kocoglu, MD

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

Roy Herbst, MD, PhD, Julie Boyer, PhD, Harriet Kluger, MD, and Chad Ellis, PhD represented Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital last week at the AACI, ASCO, AACR, and Friends of Cancer Research Capitol Hill Day. The event provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of cancer research and clinical trials to legislators. Connecticut Representative Rosa DeLauro was honored for her commitment to cancer research by the groups at a reception the evening before.

[Read More >>](#)



Representative Rosa DeLauro with Dr. Roy Herbst

Updates from Smilow



Dr. Raymond Russell, Dr. Kerry Russell, and Jessica Coviello, APRN

May 25; 1:00 PM YCC Genetics and Genomics Research Program

SHM I-116

*Basic and Translational
Studies of Genomic
Instability*

Gary Kupfer, MD

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

May 26; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

*Decreasing the Burden
of Cancer*

Cary Gross, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 28; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium
*Biological Resistance to
Targeted Therapy*

Raffaella Sordella, PhD

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

May 30; 8:30 AM 14th Annual Richard D. Frisbee III Laboratory Medicine Visiting Professorship

Fitkin Amphitheatre

*Diagnosis and Management of
Fungal Pneumonia in AML
and BMT Patients*

John R. Wingard, MD

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

May 30; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412

*Breast Reconstruction and
Post Mastectomy Radiation*

Alexander Au, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

May 30; 4:00 PM Pharmacology Special Seminar

Hope 110

*A Systems Biology Approach
to DNA Damage Signaling:*

Cardio-Oncology Program

The Cardio-Oncology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital is pleased to announce the addition of Jessica Coviello, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC to the program. Coviello is an Associate Professor at the Yale School of Nursing who has developed expertise in the field of Cardio-Oncology. Her research interests focus on cardiovascular risk assessment in women with breast cancer. She will help to expand the services offered by the Cardio-Oncology Program, under the direction of Drs. Kerry and Raymond Russell, by providing pre-chemotherapy cardiovascular risk assessment in patients who will be receiving potentially cardiotoxic agents or chest radiation. This assessment includes not only a determination of a patient's risk for developing cardiotoxicity but also for evaluating their traditional cardiac risk factors and helping patients reduce their long-term risk of cardiovascular disease.

For questions or to set up an appointment, please call (203) 785-7867. Referrals may also be entered via EPIC by entering an order under "referrals" to YNH SMILOW CARDIO ONCOLOGY.

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 medical staff at the West Haven Veterans Administration Hospital. Please consider effectiveness as a teacher and mentor, involvement in clinical conferences and lectures, and "bedside teaching" when choosing your nominations. 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.

Yale Cancer Center Carves New Path in Immunotherapy

A Rational Approach to Optimizing Combination Chemotherapy for Cancer Treatment

Michael Yaffe, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

June 2; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center
Answers

WNPR

Issues the LGBT Population Faces when it comes to Cancer

Liz Margolies, LCSW

[Learn More >>](#)

June 5; 4:30 PM
Yale Cancer Center/CME
Evening Oncology Series

NP4-101 A&B

Head and Neck Cancers

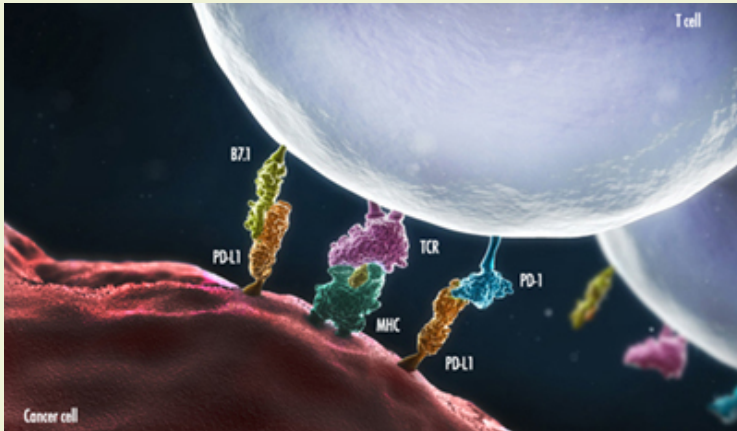
[Learn More >>](#)

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 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 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



Cancer immunotherapy is showing promise in treating patients with a variety of advanced, metastatic tumors, as evidenced by two newly unveiled studies from Yale Cancer Center. The research will be formally presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in Chicago, but abstracts were made public by ASCO in advance of the meeting. Yale was a lead trial site for both studies.

Both are Phase 1 clinical trials. The first study involved an investigational antibody drug, known as MPDL3280A and manufactured by Roche/Genentech, which was designed to prevent a cancer cell's overexpressed PD-L1 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.

"We have been very impressed by the response in seriously ill patients whose cancer had metastasized. So far, almost none of those who showed tumor shrinkage have gotten worse, which is extraordinary," said lead investigator Dr. Roy Herbst, the Ensign Professor of Medical Oncology and Chief of Medical Oncology at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. "Immunotherapy treatment is providing new hope for cancer patients," he added.


In the second Phase 1 study, researchers from Memorial Sloan-Kettering (lead author), Yale Cancer Center (senior author), and elsewhere, presented data that evaluated the safety and efficacy of combining immunotherapy drugs - nivolumab and ipilimumab - in treating advanced melanoma. Each drug had been known to prolong survival or produce durable tumor regressions in some patients when administered individually, but combining them produced superior clinical results, researchers report, with rapid and deep tumor regressions in many patients.

[Read More >>](#)

announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and
Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

 Forward to a Friend

Do You Need Temporary



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

Staff are available at an hourly rate or can be temporarily dedicated to you as a % effort. They can help you with:

- IRB submissions
- Study coordination
- Medical record abstraction
- Patient identification, contact and consenting
- Analysis of Yale tumor registry data
- Patient interview
- Data entry
- Other research duties

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: Jennifer Pyle

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](#).

Working as an outpatient Practice Nurse in the Gynecologic Oncology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital,



Jennifer Pyle manages patient care in a different way than if she were by the bedside in an inpatient setting. She is responsible for assisting with all the various factors that go into a patient's care, including coordinating infusions, patient education, and helping physicians manage the clinic on a daily basis. She has been at Yale-New Haven for 21 years and enjoys working with people, especially those that need the most care.

"I always wanted to be a nurse and enjoy the long-term relationships that I develop working with patients that have a chronic illness. I also talk with family members and build a relationship with them. Being thanked for work in the clinic is wonderful, but when a patient hugs you and truly thanks you, that is what means the most to me," said Jennifer.

Jennifer commented that working in an outpatient clinic is not as straightforward or as simple as it may sound. There is a lot to coordinate and often patients require multiple disciplines to be involved, and she handles any issues that may arise. What is best for the patient is always first on Jennifer's mind, and then how she can make that work within the treatment guidelines and restrictions.

Maureen Major Campos, RN, MS, Program Manager for Women's Oncology Services at Smilow Cancer Hospital commented that Jennifer is a professional who partners well with the physician team, works well with the multidisciplinary team members and advocates for the best outcomes for her patients. "Jen works hard to care for the individual and centers her care plan around the patient and family experience. She is a tremendous asset to the Gynecologic Oncology Team."

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 >>](#)

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Quest for Cures

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is proud to announce The Quest For Cures (QFC), a new series of Request for Proposals (RFPs) to identify and develop safer, more effective treatment paradigms for patients with hematological malignancies. LLS has formed a partnership with Celgene to create the first of such RFPs that will build the foundation of this new LLS initiative. This initiative will identify and fund priority research areas, with support from biotech and pharmaceutical partners in order to address significant unmet medical needs. The near-term goal of this program is to advance the scientific and medical understanding of the various hematological malignancies.

This RFP represents a new LLS research grant paradigm; QFC projects should, if successful, have a measurable impact on the diagnosis or treatment of patients with hematologic malignancies over the next 5 to 10 years. Proposals must include specific timelines, milestones and deliverables that researchers believe are achievable with their proposed funding. The range of funding available is from \$200,000 to \$400,000 annually, for research to be completed in a period of 2 years.

Letters of Intent Due: June 3, 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 >>](#)

Recent Publications

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 >>](#)

Molecularly targeted therapies for nonmelanoma skin cancers.

Liu LS, Colegio OR.
Int J Dermatol. 2013 Jun;52(6):654-65.

[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 >>](#)

Walking speed, physical activity, and breast cancer in postmenopausal women.

Kwan K, Chlebowski RT, McTiernan A, Rodabough RJ, La Monte MJ, Martin LW, Bell C, Lane DS, Kaplan RC, Irwin ML.
Eur J Cancer Prev. 2013 May 10.

[Read More >>](#)

Are Breast Cancer Subtypes Prognostic for Nodal Involvement and Associated with Clinicopathologic Features at Presentation in Early-Stage Breast Cancer?

Jones T, Neboori H, Wu H, Yang Q, Haffty BG, Evans S, Higgins S, Moran MS.

Ann Surg Oncol. 2013 May 10.

[Read More >>](#)

Gastric carcinoids (neuroendocrine neoplasms).

Kidd M, Gustafsson B, Modlin IM.

Gastroenterol Clin North Am. 2013 Jun;42(2):381-97.

[Read More >>](#)

Histone demethylases set the stage for cancer metastasis.

Cao J, Yan Q.

Sci Signal. 2013 Apr 30;6(273):pe15.

[Read More >>](#)

A Multidisciplinary Approach: Group Dynamics.

Taddei TH.

J Clin Gastroenterol. 2013 Apr 29.

[Read More >>](#)

Ipilimumab-induced Perforating Colitis.

Mitchell KA, Kluger H, Sznol M, Hartman DJ.

J Clin Gastroenterol. 2013 Apr 29.

[Read More >>](#)

**Liver Transplantation for Hepatocellular Carcinoma:
A Surgical Perspective.**

Fortune BE, Umman V, Gilliland T, Emre S.

J Clin Gastroenterol. 2013 Apr 29.

[Read More >>](#)