

# DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

September 27, 2013

## Announcements

### Yale Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science Launched

Researchers at Yale will investigate the science of tobacco addiction thanks to a \$20 million federal grant from The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health that will create the Yale Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science.

The new Yale center will study how flavors, including menthol, and sweeteners affect the development of addiction to tobacco products. Researchers will also train a new generation of scientists, and provide pilot funding to stimulate research related to tobacco regulatory science.

Co-directors Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, and Stephanie O'Malley, Professor of Psychiatry and member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, will lead the Center's interdisciplinary team of researchers. The researchers include experts in sensory perception, brain reward pathways, adolescent tobacco use, and human behavioral pharmacology, as well as health economics and decision-making.

[Read More >>](#)

### Yale Cancer Center Announces Annual Awards

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce three annual awards in the areas of excellence in research and clinical care. Each award will be announced at the Yale Cancer Center Conclave on Monday, November 25, 2013. The nomination deadline for all three awards is Friday, October 25, 2013.

#### *Yale Cancer Center Research Prize*

This award is in support of excellence in the areas of basic science, translational research, clinical research, cancer prevention and control, epidemiological research, or case review. It will be awarded to the Cancer Center investigator whose paper is considered to have had the greatest impact on their field this year. Applicant must be a current member of the Cancer Center. The science in the publication must be cancer

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

focused. Please submit a PDF of your best publication (publication date from October 2012 to Sept 2013). To be eligible you must be either the first or last author of the publication. Email your publication to [Hilary Prosnitz](#).

#### *Yale Cancer Center Award for Clinical Excellence*

This award will be given to the physician who best exemplifies excellence in clinical care including superb clinical skills, use of a patient and family centered approach to care, and inclusion of a multi-disciplinary care model. Nominee must be a current member of Yale Cancer Center. Please nominate yourself or a peer and send a brief nomination letter (one page maximum) to [Hilary Prosnitz](#).

#### *Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award*

Yale Cancer Center recognizes the achievements of one of our senior members through our annual Lifetime Achievement award. Please send nomination suggestions for the award to [Dan DiMaio](#).

### **Yale Faculty Participate in ASTRO Annual Meeting**

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven had a wonderful presence at the annual American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) meeting this week. Congratulations to the following faculty members for their participation:

**Lynn Wilson** served as Chairman of the ASTRO Annual Meeting Scientific Committee for the second year of his three-year term and as Chairman of the Annual Meeting Steering Committee.

**Sara Rockwell** and **Lynn Wilson** are ASTRO Fellows.

**15 members of the Yale therapeutic Radiology Faculty** served as abstract reviewers in preparation for the annual meeting.

**Zhe (Jay) Chen** served as Associated Senior Editor on the editorial board for ASTRO's flagship journal, *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*.

**Ann Radlow** won a resident poster award for her abstract, "The Dissemination of New Technologies and Temporal Trends in Curative Therapy for Prostate Cancer Patients with Low Likelihood of Clinical Benefits." This work was initiated while she was a medical student at Yale, working with the COPPER group and the Department of Therapeutic Radiology at Yale.

#### *Oral Presentations:*

**Ranjit Bindra** presented, "Role of Radiation Therapy in the Treatment of Neuroblastoma."

**Roy Decker** presented, "Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy: Clinical, Biologic, and Physics Update."

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**

The Power of Cancer  
by Anees Chagpar, MD

[Read More >>](#)

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### **Events**

#### **September 27; 12:00 PM YCC Special Seminar**

NP4-101A

*The Secret of the  
Thundergod Vine*

Daniel von Hoff, MD

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

#### **September 29; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

*Hematopathology*

Demetrios Braddock, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

#### **September 30; 10:30 AM The 4th Annual Pink Hard Hat Event for Breast Cancer Awareness**

Amistad Park

[Learn More >>](#)

**Susan Higgins** presented, "Difficult Cases in Cervical Cancer Management."

**Brandon Mancini** presented, "PET Predicts Survival Following Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer."

**Meena Moran** presented, "Technical advancements and considerations in radiation therapy for early-stage breast cancer."

**John Soong**, an MD/PhD student in the lab of Ranjit Bindra, gave an oral presentation, "Development of a Novel Method to Create Double-Strand Break Repair Fingerprints Using Next-Generation Sequencing."

*Session Participation:*

**Ranjit Bindra** was an abstract discussant for the biology session, entitled "Targeted Radiosensitizers."

**Roy Decker** served as the moderator for the Scientific Session on "Lung Cancer."

**Suzanne Evans** moderated a Scientific Session on "Patient Safety" and participated in a panel discussion on "Medical Error Disclosure in Radiation Oncology."

Sheida Mani moderated a Scientific Session on "MM GYN-Endometrial/Vulvar Cancer."

**Meena Moran** was co-chair of the early stage breast cancer educational session.

**Lynn Wilson** served as a moderator for the clinical trials session as well as the moderator for the plenary session on Monday. He also served as a faculty member for a course on, "How to Review a Manuscript."

**James Yu** moderated a Scientific Session on "GU - Prostate Cancer: High Risk, Post-op and Metastatic Disease." He also served as the discussant for the health service research scientific session, and on the meeting faculty as part of the educational session "Difficult Cases in CNS Cancers."

**Poster Presentations:**

*The Dissemination of New Technologies and Temporal Trends in Curative Therapy for Prostate Cancer Patients with Low Likelihood of Clinical Benefits.*

A. Raldow, C. J. Presley, J. B. Yu, L. D. Cramer, P. R. Soulos, J. B. Long, D. V. Makarov, C. P. Gross

*The Impact of Proximity to Radiation Oncologists and General Surgeons on Receipt of Post-Mastectomy Radiation Therapy.*  
S. Aneja, A. P. Dosoretz, S. Lloyd, S. Evans, J. B. Yu

**September 30; 12:00 PM**  
**FITWEEK 2013 Kickoff**  
Entrance to Smilow  
[Learn More >>](#)

**October 1; 9:30 AM**  
**Pathology Research in Progress Talks**  
The Anlyan Center, N-107  
TBD  
[Learn More >>](#)

**October 1; 12:00 PM**  
**Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**  
Park Street Auditorium  
*Integrative Oncology: Challenges and Controversies*  
Donald I. Abrams, MD  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

**October 2; 11:00 AM**  
**Yale Cancer Center Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program**  
SHM I-304  
*Role of Histone Modifications in Mismatch Repair and Implications for Cancer Susceptibility and Therapy*  
Guo-Min Li, PhD  
[Learn More >>](#)

**October 3; 5:00 PM**  
**YCC Humanities**  
The Anlyan Center, N-107  
*In Search of the Man Who Broke My Neck*  
Joshua Prager, author  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

**October 6; 2:00 PM**  
**Smilow Cancer Hospital's Third Annual ArtBra New Haven**  
Omni Hotel  
*Afternoon Tea and Auction*  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

**October 6; 6:00 PM**  
**Yale Cancer Center Answers**  
WNPR  
*The Role of Epidemiology in Cancer*  
Harvey Risch, MD, PhD  
[Learn More >>](#)

**October 8; 9:30 AM**  
**Pathology Special Seminar**  
The Anlyan Center, N-107  
*In the Wrong Place at the Right Time: A Histone Demethylase Affects 3'UTR Length*

*Stereotactic Radiosurgery versus Stereotactic Radiosurgery and Whole Brain Radiation Therapy for One to Three Brain Metastases.*  
N. Lester-Coll, A. P. Dosoretz, J. B. Yu

*Stereotactic Radiosurgery versus Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy for Prostate Cancer: Comparison of Early Toxicity.*  
J. B. Yu, L. D. Cramer, J. Herrin, P. R. Soulos, A. L. Potosky, C. P. Gross

*Dosimetric and clinical predictors of the development of moist desquamation in breast cancer irradiation.*  
Charles Rutter, Li Qin, Susan Higgins, Meena Moran, Suzanne Evans

*Dosimetric impact of treatment couch on volumetric modulated arc therapy (VMAT).*  
JingJing Ye, Huan Liu, John Kim, Jun Deng, and Zhe (Jay) Chen

*Immediate DIEP Breast Reconstruction and Post-Mastectomy Radiotherapy: Clinical Experience at a Tertiary Care Institution.*  
S.K. Nath, S.K. Higgins

*Induction FOLFIRINOX Prior to Chemoradiation for Locally Advanced or Borderline Unresectable Pancreatic Cancer.*  
Brandon R. Mancini, Shane Lloyd, Jill Lacy, Charles E. Rutter, Bryan W. Chang

*Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Initial Results from the Radiation Oncology Academic Development and Mentorship Assessment a Project (ROADMAP).*  
Emma Holliday, Lynn Wilson

*Factors predicting survival in grade I-III Astrocytoma.*  
Chris Corso, James Yu, Joseph Contessa

*Glioblastoma Multiforme of the elderly- A multi-institutional experience comparing conventional versus accelerated radiation therapy with concurrent temozolomide.*  
Sabin Motwani, Chris Corso, Joseph Contessa, Jon Knisley

*Radiation Oncologists' Attitudes and Intentions Regarding Palliative Radiation Therapy near the End of Life.*  
S. Lloyd, A. P. Dosoretz, J. B. Yu, S. B. Evans, R. H. Decker

*Acute Treatment Toxicity and the Risk of Infection during Total Skin Electron Beam Therapy for Mycosis Fungoides.*  
S. Lloyd, Z. Chen, F. M. Foss, M. Girardi, L. D. Wilson

*Continuous Threshold-based Monitoring vs. Periodic Surveillance For Prostate Intrafraction Motion Management.*  
Wu Liu and Ravinder Nath

*A Minimum Tumor To Spinal Cord Distance of 3-4mm Is Needed For Optimal Planning Of Spine SBRT.*

Lauren Blair, PhD  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

**October 8; 12:00 PM  
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

Smilow Auditorium  
*Translational Approaches to Developing KTN3379, an Anti-ErbB3 Monoclonal Antibody*  
Theresa Lavalley, PhD  
TBD  
Patrick Kenney, MD  
[Learn More >>](#)

**October 8; 5:00 PM  
Transforming Healthcare Grand Rounds**

Fitkin Amphitheater  
*Is Quality Improvement a Science?*  
Frank Davidoff, MD, MACP  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

**October 10; 12:00 PM  
Schwartz Center Rounds**

Smilow Auditorium  
*Nobody Teaches You This Stuff: What Happens When You Put Your Heart Totally Into Your Work*  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

**October 11; 1:00 PM  
YCC Molecular Virology Research Program**

SHM I-116  
*UBXN1 and Viral Replication*  
Richard Sutton, PhD  
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

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## 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

J. R. Picone, J. Deng, S. Aneja, J. Kim, Z. Husain

*Factors predicting survival in Grade I-III astrocytomas.*

C.D. Corso, R. Bindra, J.B. Yu, J.N. Contessa

*Long-Term Survivors After Treatment of Intracranial Metastases with Radiosurgery.*

Dosoretz AP, Sanjay A, Chiang VL, Yu JB

*Radiation Oncologists' Attitudes and Intentions Regarding Palliative Radiation Therapy near the End of Life.*

S. Lloyd, A. P. Dosoretz, J. B. Yu, S. B. Evans, R. H. Decker

*Impact of the recession on radiotherapy after lumpectomy for invasive breast cancer.*

D. Yeboa, J.B. Yu

*Health State Utilities For Patients Who Underwent Gamma Knife Radiosurgery With Or Without Whole Brain Radiotherapy.*

C. Wang, N. H. Lester-Coll, J. B. Yu

*Changes In Early And Late Stage Colorectal Cancer Incidence During The Era Of Screening: 1976-2009.*

D. Yang, C. P. Gross, J. B. Yu

*Influence of BRAF and NRAS Mutations on Distant Intracranial Recurrence and Survival in Metastatic Melanoma Following Radiosurgery.*

Rutter CE., Giesen E, Yu JB, Bindra R, Kluger H, Chiang VL

*Prognostic Factors in Patients with Brain Metastases at Initial Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Diagnosis.*

Rutter CE, Mancini B, Chiang VL, Yu JB, Bindra R

*Cost-effectiveness research and radiation oncology: An analysis of the published literature.*

Stahl JM, Aneja S, Lloyd S, Yu JB, Dosoretz AP

*7Gy x 2- An effective brachytherapy regimen for stage I-II uterine papillary serous carcinoma.*

S Damast, S Higgins, E Ratner, M de Leon, S Mani, D Silasi, A Santin, M Azodi, T Rutherford, and P Schwartz

**Committee Members:**

**Ranjit Bindra** - Radiobiology Practice Exam and Study Guide Subcommittee

**David Carlson** - Served on the Science Council as a member of the Science Education and Program Development Committee

**Shari Damast** - Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee

**Roy Decker** - Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee

[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](mailto:Sandra.Greer@yale.edu) for further information.

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

 Forward to a Friend

**Jun Deng** - Research Grants Evaluation Committee

**Suzanne Evans** - Vice Chair: Multidisciplinary Quality Assurance Subcommittee; Patient safety Organization Steering Committee; Clinical Affairs and Quality Council; Annual Meeting Scientific Committee

**Susan Higgins** - Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee

**Meena Moran** - Chair of the Breast Abstract Review Committee

**Joanne Weidhaas** - Science Council Steering Committee; Vice Chair: Science, Education, and Program Development

**Lynn Wilson** - Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee

**James Yu** - Clinical, Translational, and Basic Science Advisory Committee

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## Notables

**Narendra Wajapeyee, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Pathology and a member of Signal Transduction Program, has received two awards. The National Lung Cancer Partnership and the United Against Lung Cancer Foundation jointly funded the first award in the amount of \$108,000 to support his research on targeting p53-mutant lung cancers. The Melanoma Research Foundation also provided him with \$100,000 to support his research to identify driver alterations in melanoma funds.

**Laurene Goode-Gade** has been promoted to a Senior Administrative Assistant II as team leader for the Breast group at 300 George St. Laurene is supporting Dr. Puztai, Dr. Abu-Khalaf, and Dr. Hatzis. Laurene is responsible for ensuring smooth operations in our 300 George space including operational activities and academic support.

**Christine Kendzierski** has been promoted to a Senior Administrative Assistant II as team leader for our administrative team location in the FMP office suites. Christine has been with the Cancer Center for almost 4 years and will also continue to support the Hematologic Malignancies faculty, as well as lead projects and workflow in her new role.

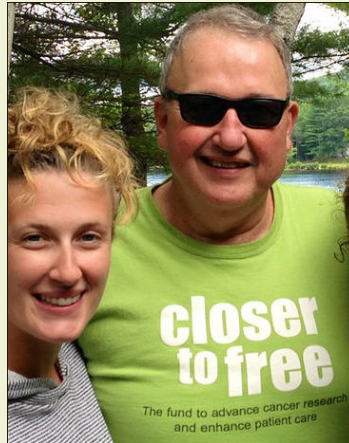
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## Closer to Free

### What would you do on your 62nd Birthday?

Gerard Campion is a successful business man, proud father, loving grandfather, and avid golfer who resides in Clinton, CT. He also has breast cancer. He was first diagnosed in 2006, and after treatment was cancer-free for five years. However, in 2011, his cancer recurred and he has been in treatment now for two years at Smilow. Gerry approaches everything he does with tremendous optimism and energy. As he approached his 62nd birthday in August, he pledged



to raise money to support Closer to Free and the important work being done here. His idea? Play 62 holes of golf in one day. He reached out to all of his business contacts, friends, and family to support his effort. His original fundraising goal was \$3,000, which he exceeded by raising over \$11,000! Gerry played all 62 holes in 12 hours on August 26th at the Clinton Country Club in Clinton, CT. You can see more pictures of Gerry and read about his efforts on his [website](#). Thank you to Gerry and to everyone who contributed to his mission!

**Sept. 30 - Oct. 6**

# FITWEEK®

Turn your workweek into a FITWEEK!™

- ✓ Buy a FITWEEK Pass and get FREE access to hundreds of fitness classes in your local area.
- ✓ Try workouts like Kettlebell, Zumba®, Crossfit, Salsa, Pound, Yoga, Jiu Jitsu and more!

**closer to free** 100% of FITWEEK Pass proceeds benefit Closer to Free to support cancer research and patient care at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital.

For Pass and Event info, visit [www.fitweek.com](http://www.fitweek.com)

Sponsored by:

### FitWeek

The second annual [FITWEEK](#) event is coming up to benefit Closer to Free. From September 30 through October 6 with the purchase of a \$20 [FITWEEK pass](#), hundreds of fitness classes and other activities in the New Haven and Fairfield county area are available. This is a great way to try a new class and special FITgroup activities and support Closer to Free. Yale employees can download a FITWEEK pass for free through [Being Well at Yale](#). Join Dr. Anees Chagpar and FITWEEK organizer, Shana Schneider, for the Kick-off

FITWEEK Walk on Monday, September 30 at noon at the Smilow Cancer Hospital entrance. T-shirts and pedometers will be given to participants!

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## Funding and Award Opportunities

### **American Association for Cancer Research Pancreatic Leadership Grant**

The American Association for Cancer Research is seeking applications from AACR members for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network-AACR Pathway to Leadership Grant, a joint effort with the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network to support outstanding early career investigators beginning in their postdoctoral cancer research positions and continuing through their successful transition to independence.

Research projects must have direct applicability and relevance to pancreatic cancer; may be in any discipline of basic, clinical, translational, or epidemiological research; and may fall within at least one of the categories of the Common Scientific Outline (biology; etiology; prevention; early detection, diagnosis, and prognosis; treatment; or cancer control, survivorship, and outcomes research).

**Application Deadline:** October 29, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Women's Health Research at Yale Pioneer and Pilot Project Opportunities**

The Pioneer and Pilot Project Program Awards are provided to investigators who are full-time Yale faculty. Because we are interested in encouraging interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research, investigators outside the Yale community are invited to collaborate with Yale principal investigators.

**Letters of Intent Due:** October 21, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation 2013 Grants**

This award is intended to support PhD, MD/PhD and MD physician scientists at early stages of their research careers to enable them to develop independent careers in breast cancer research. The foundation seeks to fund broadly across all relevant disciplines and as such focus areas can include basic, preclinical and clinical research. The award period is for two years with an interim renewal to occur upon successful completion of the first year. Stipends are \$45,000 - \$50,000 per year.

Prospective applicants are expected to submit a research plan, pre-approved by their mentor, to the foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee. The research plan must be fundamentally sound and will include statements of: (a) The scientific and technical merit of the research question; (b) The design, methodology, and feasibility of



the study; (c) The relevance of the proposed research plan to the applicant's career objectives; (d) The medical and health significance of the proposed research to breast cancer prevention, control and/or treatment; and (e) The appropriateness of the research plan as a vehicle for developing necessary research skills.

**Application Deadline:** October 31, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

### **The Mathew Larson Foundation for Pediatric Brain Tumor Research**

The Mathew Larson Foundation for Pediatric Brain Tumor Research seeks to fund translational and clinical projects in Pediatric Brain Tumor Research. The Primary Investigator on the application must be an MD or PhD at a not-for-profit, medical or scientific institution and must hold an academic rank of assistant professor (or equivalent) or instructor (or equivalent.) Investigators at higher ranks are excluded. Investigators at multiple institutions are invited to submit joint applications as long as both institutions give permission and agree to abide by all Foundation requirements.

**Pre-Application Deadline:** October 27, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

### **ASH Bridge Grant Program**

In 2013 and for the next two years, ASH's new bridge grant program will provide at least 30 one-year awards annually, in the amount of \$100,000 each, to ASH members who applied for an NIH R01 grant or equivalent but were denied funding due to budget cutbacks. The long-term goal of the award is to help sustain recipients' research and contribute to their retention in hematology investigation.

**Application Deadline:** November 1, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

### **CT Department of Public Health Funding**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is seeking proposals for innovative Connecticut-based biomedical research projects in the fields of heart disease, cancer and other tobacco-related diseases, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, and diabetes.

Funds may be used to conduct new research or to enhance existing projects.

- Each contract award resulting from this RFP will range from approximately \$300,000 to \$1,000,000(including 15% indirect costs)

- Total funding available: \$2,696,665 for up to 8 awards.

- The proposal budget and work plan should be developed for a one-year period.

- Resulting contracts will be awarded for a two-year period to allow time for startup issues and unexpected delays in the conduct of funded research.

- Multiple proposals from the same institution will be accepted as long as the research proposals have different goals.

**Proposal Deadline:** October 21, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

### **CDMRP Breast Cancer Research Program**

The CDMRP Breast Cancer Research Program has just announced a second round of funding available for its Breakthrough Awards.

#### Key Mechanism Elements

- Supports promising research that has the potential to lead to or make breakthroughs in breast cancer.
- Potential impact of the research may be near-term or long-term, but it must be significant and move beyond an incremental advancement.

**Pre-Application Submission Deadline:** October 8, 2013

[Learn More >>](#)

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## **Employee Profile: Angel Rivera and Amanda Ralabate**

*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.](#)*



For Angel Rivera and Amanda Ralabate, both Clinical Research Nurses for the Melanoma and Renal Cell Carcinoma disease teams within the Yale Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office, collaboration and communication are key. They work under the leadership of Drs. Mario Sznol and Harriet Kluger and are involved with the implementation and carrying out of clinical trials.

Recently they assisted with implementing and successfully executing a novel melanoma treatment that required both in-patient and ambulatory treatments.

This cutting-edge Phase I/II clinical trial evaluates the use of T cell therapy to treat malignant melanoma. The first patient enrolled at Yale was only the second patient to be enrolled in the United States.

The protocol involves taking T-cells from the patient, genetically modifying them to express a high affinity T-cell receptor specific for a specific type of protein on the patient's tumor, and then re-infusing these T cells back into the patient to target his or her cancer.

"The actual treatment involves in-patient chemotherapy to prepare the patient's immune system for the subsequent T cell re-infusion that is administered in the out-patient setting. However, the work that goes on behind the scenes to get to that point is immense," Angel said.

As clinical research nurses, Angel and Amanda are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the research data that is sent to, and reviewed by, the FDA as part of the drug approval process.

"Excellent communication between our team of physician investigators, the APRN sub-investigator, clinical nurses, Research Pharmacists, CTO staff, sponsors, monitors, and regulatory agencies is essential for protocol compliance and the generation of quality data. The integrity of the data is so important as it will effect drug approval for future commercial use," Amanda said.

Both Angel and Amanda find their current positions rewarding; it combines their love of science with patient care. Knowing that they are part of cutting-edge, clinical research that may change the way patients with melanoma and renal cell carcinomas are treated is why they both became clinical research nurses.

Kathleen Reed, RN, MS, AOCNS, Nurse Manager for the Clinical Trials Office commented, "As novice clinical research nurses, Angel and Amanda have done an outstanding job contributing to the successful execution of ground breaking clinical trials for melanoma and renal cell carcinoma. Their efforts, and the efforts of all members of their interdisciplinary team, support the ultimate goal of providing access to personalized cancer medicine and help get us 'closer to free!'"

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## Recent Publications

### **Where does radioimmunotherapy fit in the management of breast cancer?**

Doddamane I, Butler R, Jhaveri A, Chung GG, Cheng D. Immunotherapy. 2013 Aug;5(8):895-904.

[Read more >>](#)

**Antagonist Antibodies to PD-1 and B7-H1 (PD-L1) in the**

**Treatment of Advanced Human Cancer--Response.**

Sznol M, Chen L.

Clin Cancer Res. 2013 Sep 18.

[Read more >>](#)

**Time trends in glioblastoma multiforme survival: the role of temozolomide.**

Dubrow R, Darefsky AS, Jacobs DI, Park LS, Rose MG, Laurans MS, King JT Jr.

Neuro Oncol. 2013 Sep 17.

[Read more >>](#)

**Racial differences in nasopharyngeal carcinoma in the United States.**

Wang Y, Zhang Y, Ma S.

Cancer Epidemiol. 2013 Sep 12.

[Read more >>](#)

**Adverse Health Outcomes Associated with Surgical Management of the Small Renal Mass.**

Shuch B, Hanley JM, Lai JC, Vourganti S, Setodji CM, Dick AW, Chow WH, Saigal CS; The Urologic Diseases in America Project. J Urol. 2013 Sep 5.

[Read more >>](#)

**HER2/neu gene amplification determines the sensitivity of uterine serous carcinoma cell lines to AZD8055, a novel dual mTORC1/2 inhibitor.**

English DP, Roque DM, Carrara L, Lopez S, Bellone S, Cocco E, Bortolomai I, Schwartz PE, Rutherford T, Santin AD.

Gynecol Oncol. 2013 Sep 4.

[Read more >>](#)

**Factors associated with decision to pursue mastectomy and breast reconstruction for treatment of ductal carcinoma in situ of the breast.**

Sue GR, Lannin DR, Au AF, Narayan D, Chagpar AB.

Am J Surg. 2013 Sep 4.

[Read more >>](#)

**Variability of Preoperative Breast MRI Utilization among Older Women with Newly Diagnosed Early-stage Breast Cancer.**

Wang SY, Virnig BA, Tuttle TM, Jacobs DR Jr, Kuntz KM, Kane RL.

Breast J. 2013 Sep 9.

[Read more >>](#)