

October 28, 2016

## Announcements

### YNHH Achieves Magnet Re-designation

We are very pleased to announce that YNHH has been re-designated as a Magnet hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. YNHH submitted a very comprehensive and detailed application, which was followed by an equally comprehensive site visit. All of our Smilow Care Centers were included in the application and the surveyors visited many of them.

Re-designation is a much higher bar to achieve than the initial application process. Thank you to Cathy Lyons and her team, and our entire nursing staff. You all should be extremely proud of this prestigious distinction!

### Research Summit a Success

On October 22, 60 guests attended our annual Research Summit on the West Campus to network and receive updates on clinical trial opportunities for our patients. The evening included a summary of this past year's efforts from Dr. Howard Hochster and Dr. Kert Sabbath, and a presentation from Dr. Steven Gore on exciting developments in myelodysplastic syndromes. Thank you to all of our physicians and staff who scheduled time to attend, especially from our 10 Care Centers.

This year's Care Center research awards were presented to Jeremy Kortmanky for "Top Accruer" and Jay Thumar for "Rookie of the Year." Marisa

*from the desk of*

**Peter G. Schulam, MD, PhD**

Director, Yale Cancer Center  
and Physician-in-Chief,  
Smilow Cancer Hospital (Interim)

Yale  
NewHaven  
**Health**  
Smilow Cancer  
Hospital

Yale **CANCER  
CENTER**

A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated  
by the National Cancer Institute

### Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from  
Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

**LATEST ARTICLES:**

Debboli was also recognized for her incredible efforts supporting the clinical trial program at the Saint Francis campus.



Jeremy Kortmansky accepts award for Top Accruer



Jay Thumar accepts award for "Rookie of the Year"



**Pembrolizumab in HNSCC Only Scratches the Surface of Immunotherapy Potential, Expert Says**

[Read More >>](#)



**Dr. Karen Kelly Presents John Murren Memorial Lecture**

[Read More >>](#)





Anne Chiang, Kathleen Uscinski, Marisa Debboli, and Kert Sabbath

### Nominations for Annual YCC Awards

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce our call for nominations for our annual awards in the areas of excellence in research and clinical care. Each award will be announced at the Yale Cancer Center Conclave in January. The nomination deadline for all awards is **Friday, November 18**.

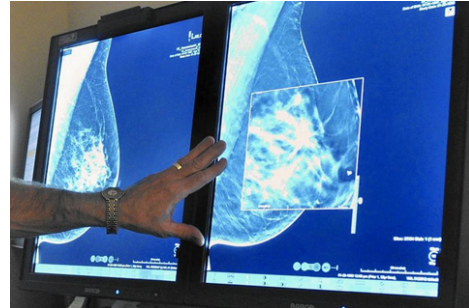
### Yale Cancer Center Research Prizes

Research Prizes will be awarded in support of excellence in the areas of basic science, clinical research, translational research, and cancer prevention and control. Awards will be chosen in each area to recognize a paper that is considered to have had the greatest impact on the field this year. The applicant must be a current member of the Cancer Center and science in the publication must be cancer-focused. Please submit a PDF of your best publication (publication date from October 2015 to October 2016). To be eligible you must be either the first or last author of the publication. Email your publication to [alaine.nellis@yale.edu](mailto:alaine.nellis@yale.edu)

### Yale Cancer Center Award for Clinical Excellence

**FDA approves Keytruda for first-line treatment of PD-L1-expressing metastatic NSCLC**

[Read More >>](#)



**New Imaging Technologies Improve Chances Of Early Breast Cancer Detection**

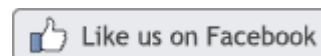
[Read More >>](#)



**Clinical Trial in CT could be a Breakthrough in Breast Cancer**

[Read More >>](#)

**Join Smilow Cancer Hospital on Facebook**



**LATEST POSTS:**



This award will be given to the physician who best exemplifies excellence in clinical care including super 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 [alaine.nellis@yale.edu](mailto:alaine.nellis@yale.edu)

### 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 [alaine.nellis@yale.edu](mailto:alaine.nellis@yale.edu)

### Support Yale's United Way Campaign

Every fall, Yale University launches a campaign to invite our faculty and staff to support the United Way of Greater New Haven. Yale Cancer Center faculty and staff have heard the call, and support United Way in great numbers! We have an ambitious goal again this year, and by all accounts there is tremendous need among our friends, colleagues, and neighbors across greater New Haven. Please visit [www.yale.edu/unitedway](http://www.yale.edu/unitedway) to initiate your gift or to consider increasing your gift this year.

## Notables

Under the leadership of **Dr. Hari Deshpande**, Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital have been accepted as a member institution of **SARC**, a collaboration of researchers and clinical teams around the country working together to cure sarcoma. Through this new affiliation, Dr. Deshpande will have access to the SARC portfolio of clinical trials and the ability to increase access to trials for our patients with sarcoma.

**Tara Sanft, MD** has been selected as Vice Chair of the **NCCN Survivorship Panel**. The Panel oversees the NCCN's guidelines for survivorship planning and care, including anxiety and depression, cognitive function, exercise, fatigue, immunizations and infections, pain, sexual function, and sleep disorders.

**Mario Sznol, MD** is the newly elected President Elect of the **Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer**. Dr.

Read this amazing story of how a dancer fought through an aggressive breast cancer diagnosis, a double mastectomy, many chemotherapy treatments, and is still dancing.

"Cancer changes your perspective pretty quickly," she says. "I am grateful for every day that I am healthy and strong enough to dance."



[Read More >>](#)

Congratulations to Nadya Dimitrova, PhD, on receiving this year's Scientific Merit Award from the Lung Cancer Research Foundation. Dr. Dimitrova is an Assistant Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at Yale, and her research focuses on specific sequences of RNA and how they are involved in tumor development. With support from the Lung Cancer Research Foundation, Dr. Dimitrova will continue to study these long, non-coding RNA's with a special emphasis on how they are involved in lung cancer development.



Congratulations, Dr. Dimitrova!

[Read More >>](#)

Sznol will join the Board in November at the Society's annual meeting, and will preside as Vice President for the coming year.

## Research in the News

### Roots of resistance to cancer drugs run deeper than a single gene

Searching for more individual genes to predict responses to breast cancer therapy may not work, a new study suggests. Instead, scientists and clinicians need to pay attention to abnormalities in networks of genes, Yale researchers report in a paper published Oct. 20 in the journal *Annals of Oncology*.

The Yale team studied all the genes of 200 patients who had HER2-positive breast cancer (about 15% of breast cancers have too many copies of the HER2 gene). About half of the patients responded very well to HER2-targeted therapy, but half did not, researchers reported. However, they were not able to find a single gene abnormality that could serve as a biomarker to predict treatment outcomes for all patients.

[Read More >>](#)

## Employee Profile: Alexis Miller

Alexis Miller, Patient Care Associate (PCA) II at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Trumbull, is responsible for guiding patients through their visit, whether for a follow-up appointment or infusion. She has been a PCA for four years. Alexis takes vitals when patients arrive and goes over any concerns they



Our Head and Neck Cancers Program screened over 130 employees on Monday at ESPN to check for early signs of cancer. Thank you to the Smilow doctors and staff who spent their afternoon raising awareness and educating the team at ESPN on the symptoms of head and neck cancers. #earlydetection



[Read More >>](#)

Preventative mastectomies are a big decision that may be right for some women and not for others. Check out this video of Dr. Erin Hofstatter, Director of our Genetics and Prevention Program and Associate Professor of Medicine, discussing the decision-making process and procedure.



[Read More >>](#)

In a major breakthrough for ovarian and uterine cancers, Yale Cancer Center researchers have defined the genetic landscape of rare, highly aggressive tumors called carcinosarcomas (CSs). The collaborative research team performed a comprehensive genetic analysis of ovarian and endometrial CSs. Although CSs comprise only a small number of uterine and ovarian tumors, they are responsible for a disproportionate number of deaths due to their high biologic aggressiveness and resistance to standard treatments, such as radiation and chemotherapy. Researchers are

have before they see the nurse or doctor. She is also the safety coach for the unit.

Alexis always wanted to work in the medical field and is currently in school for her associate degree in science with a concentration in radiation therapy, and will receive American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification. She enjoys the opportunity to build relationships with patients and to be there for them throughout their care. "I see myself as a tour guide for patients," said Alexis. "They expect to see nurses and doctors when they come in, but they don't often expect to have someone that will be there for them every step of the way if they have any concerns, or need anything. I'm an extra resource for them."

When a patient at the Care Center at Trumbull finishes their last treatment, everyone gathers around as they ring a bell in celebration. For Alexis, this is one of the highlights of her job. She commented, "You see these patients from the moment they come in and they are scared and don't know what to expect, and to be able to see them ringing the bell with such joy for what the future holds, it really is amazing."

Lisa Shomsky, Clinical Program Manager for the Smilow Care Centers, commented, "Alexis works with patients in our infusion area that are receiving chemotherapy and are often very ill. She is extremely compassionate when talking with patients who are receiving treatment, and goes above and beyond to ensure each patient's comfort."

## Funding and Award Opportunities

All current funding opportunities are archived on the Yale Cancer Center website, and searchable by topic, funding agency, and due date. Please check the site often for new opportunities.

[Learn More >>](#)

**Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16)**

optimistic this finding will lead the way to possible new treatments.




[Read More >>](#)


### Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter


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#### LATEST TWEETS:


 Amidst the excitement: A cautionary tale of [#immunotherapy](#) for head & neck cancer-Commentary by Dr. Barbara Burtness

 We're pleased to welcome Dr. Karen Kelly @UCD\_Cancer to discuss [#Immunotherapy](#) for lung cancer in memory of Dr. John Murren. [#lscsm](#)

 Our Head and Neck Cancer team at [#Smilow Cancer Hospital](#) screened 130 employees yesterday at [#ESPN](#) for early signs of cancer @YNHH@YaleMed

 Analysis of the nearly 300k HER2+ breast cancers in 2010-11 finds distinct characteristics [#bcsms@AneesChagpar](#)

 Meet Megan, one of our amazing infusion nurses. [#nursesrock#nurse](#)

 Congratulations to Nadya Dimitrova on her Scientific Merit Award from @Lung\_Fund to support research on RNA biology & cancer [#lscsm@YaleMed](#)

The Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Defense Appropriations Act provides \$120 million (M) to the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) to support innovative, high-impact breast cancer research to accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer.

### Breakthrough Award

Funding Levels 1 and 2:

- Investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)
- Postdoctoral fellows are eligible and encouraged to apply

**Application Deadline:** November 3, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### 2016 Lion Heart Fund for Cancer Research

Yale investigators are encouraged to submit proposals of innovative, high-potential projects requiring pilot funding. Projects may be in any area of breast cancer research - basic, translational, clinical, outcomes and population science are all welcomed.

**Application Deadline:** November 15, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### PanCAN Pathway to Leadership Grant

The Pathway to Leadership Grant is a grant of up to five years totaling up to \$600,000 that is designed to build future leadership in the pancreatic cancer research community by supporting a highly promising postdoctoral or clinical research fellow during his or her mentored research and career development, continuing through his or her early phase of independence.

**Application Deadline:** November 15, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)


### Office of Disease Prevention Call for Nominations for Early-Stage Investigator Award


The Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) at the National Institutes of Health invites submissions for the ODP Early-Stage Investigator Award. This inaugural award will recognize early-career prevention scientists who have already made substantial, outstanding research contributions to their respective fields and are poised to become future leaders in prevention research.


**Deadline for Nominations:**


November 15, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

 New research finds that networks of genes, not one #gene, will predict response to therapy in #breastcancer#bcm

 A new review of the spectrum of treatment of metastatic #prostatecancer by @DanielPetrylak in The Cancer Journal

 Read the story of one our first patients to benefit from #Tecentriq for advanced NSCLC, Bob Carlson

 Download our latest @YaleCancer Answers #podcast to learn about #healthy eating after #breastcancer

## Closer to Free

**closer to free**

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

## Upcoming Events

**October 28; 7:30AM**

**Surgery Grand Rounds / 4th Annual  
Stephan Ariyan, MD, MBA Lectureship**

Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094

TBA

Charles Balch, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**October 31; 11AM**

**YCC Radiobiology Seminar**

LMP-1094

*Enhancing CAR T Cell Therapy with Radiation and Microenvironment Modulation*

Carl DeSelm, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**October 31; 12PM**

**Environmental Health Services Seminar**

LEPH 101



### **Emerging Questions in Cancer Systems Biology (U01)**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites cooperative agreement applications for Research Projects that utilize systems biology approaches to address emerging questions in cancer initiation, progression, and treatment.

#### **Application Receipt/Submission**

**Date(s):** November 18, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Cancer Tissue Engineering Collaborative: Enabling Biomimetic Tissue-Engineered Technologies for Cancer Research (U01)**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will support the development and characterization of state-of-the-art biomimetic tissue-engineered technologies for cancer research.

#### **Application Receipt/Submission**

**Date(s):** November 30, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### **ALSF Research Grants 2017 Funding Opportunities**

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) has evolved from the front yard lemonade stand of cancer patient Alexandra "Alex" Scott (1996-2004) into a national fundraising movement for childhood cancer research.

Open for Applications (funding to start in 2017):

- Innovation Grant - Letter of Intent, Deadline: Nov. 1, 2016 - Submit Now!
- Epidemiology Grants - Deadline: Dec. 15, 2016 - Apply Now!
- Young Investigator Grants - Deadline: Dec. 15, 2016 - Apply Now!

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Translational Research Grant**

This grant supports an independent investigator leading a cross-disciplinary team conducting translational research that has as its endpoint the development of a pancreatic cancer assessment, prevention or treatment modality

**Deadline for Application:** December 1, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

### **NCCN Foundation 2017 Young Investigator Award**

*Occupation and Cancer*

Elisabete W. Vainio, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 1; 9:30AM**

#### **Pathology Research in Progress Talk**

TAC N-107

*Clinical and Pathological Predictors of Renal Survival in Lupus Nephritis*

Parker Wilson MD, PhD

*Simultaneous Measurement and Clinical Significance of PD-1, LAG-3 and TIM-3 Expression in NSCLC*

Ila Jayant Datar, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 1; 12PM**

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

Park Street Auditorium

*NTRK Fusion Oncogene in Pediatric Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma*

Manju Prasad, MD

*The NCI-MATCH Trial for Personalized Cancer Medicine: Overview and Update*

Jeffrey Sklar, MD, PhD

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**November 2; 4PM**

#### **Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Seminar**

Osborn Memorial Lab

*Maintaining our Genome: Whenever, Wherever*

Agneel Sfeir, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 3; 12:30PM**

#### **Pathology Grand Rounds**

LMP 1094

*Strategies to Delay and Reverse Aging in Mammals*

David Sinclair, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 3; 2:30PM**

#### **Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar**



Through its Young Investigator Award (YIA) Program the NCCN Foundation invites proposals from young investigators with innovative ideas and an interest in improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of care provided to cancer patients.

**Deadline for Application:** January 16, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

#### **Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Early Detection Targeted Grant**

Supports studies utilizing NCI/NIDDK cohort of new onset diabetics with high risk of sporadic pancreatic cancer; projects will focus on blood biomarkers.

**Application Deadline:** February 1, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

#### **Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Precision Medicine Targeted Grant**

Supports translational and clinically relevant projects that are identified as next steps for our Precision Promise initiative

**Application Deadline:** February 1, 2017

[Learn More >>](#)

## Recent Publications

#### **Changes in Antiemetic Overuse in Response to Choosing Wisely Recommendations**

Encinosa W, Davidoff AJ.

JAMA Oncol. 2016 Sep 15.

[Read More >>](#)

#### **Treatment de-intensification strategies for head and neck cancer.**

Kelly JR, Husain ZA, Burtness B.

Eur J Cancer. 2016 Oct 15;68:125-133.

[Read More >>](#)

#### **Comparison of quantitative Y-90 SPECT and non-time-of-flight PET imaging in post-therapy radioembolization of liver cancer.**

Yue J, Mauxion T, Reyes DK, Lodge MA, Hobbs RF, Rong X, Dong Y, Herman JM, Wahl RL, Geschwind JH, Frey EC.

Med Phys. 2016 Oct;43(10):5779.

[Read More >>](#)

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program, Suites 107-109

[Read More >>](#)

**November 8; 9:30AM**

#### **Pathology Research in Progress Talk**

TAC N-107

TBA

Peter Gareiss, PhD and Noemi Rotllan Vila, PhD

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**November 8; 12PM**

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

Park Street Auditorium

*Sexuality and Reproduction in the Male Oncology Patient*

Stanton Honig, MD

TBA

Jesse Rinehart, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 9; 12PM**

#### **YCC Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program**

LEPH, room 216

*Breast Cancer in Women of African Ancestry: Genetics, Risk factors and Prevention*

Dezheng Huo, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**November 9; 5:30PM**

#### **SCH Screening & Prevention Program Cancer Screening Summit**

West Campus

Rogério Lilenbaum, MD and Beth Jones, PhD, MPH

[Read More >>](#)

**November 10; 12:30PM**

#### **Pathology Grand Rounds**

LMP 1094

*Evolution of Quality Assurance for Clinical Immunohistochemistry in the Era of Precision Medicine*

Emina E. Torlakovic, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#)

**Folic acid-decorated polyamidoamine dendrimer mediates selective uptake and high expression of genes in head and neck cancer cells.**

Xu L, Kittrell S, Yeudall WA, Yang H.  
Nanomedicine (Lond). 2016 Oct 26.

[Read More >>](#)

**The 8th Edition Lung Cancer Stage Classification.**

Detterbeck FC, Boffa DJ, Kim AW, Tanoue LT.  
Chest. 2016 Oct 22.

[Read More >>](#)

**Microenvironment-dependent growth of preneoplastic and malignant plasma cells in humanized mice.**

Das R, Strowig T, Verma R, Koduru S, Hafemann A, Hopf S, Kocoglu MH, Borsotti C, Zhang L, Branagan A, Eynon E, Manz MG, Flavell RA, Dhodapkar MV.  
Nat Med. 2016 Oct 10.

[Read More >>](#)

**Amidst the excitement: A cautionary tale of immunotherapy, pseudoprogression and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.**

Baxi SS, Dunn LA, Burtness BA.  
Oral Oncol. 2016 Oct 21.

[Read More >>](#)

**Association Between Utilization of Quitline Services and Probability of Tobacco Abstinence in Low-Income Smokers.**

Bernstein SL, Weiss JM, Toll B, Zbikowski SM.  
J Subst Abuse Treat. 2016 Dec;71:58-62.

[Read More >>](#)

**Diagnosis of cancer as an emergency: a critical review of current evidence.**

Zhou Y, Abel GA, Hamilton W, Pritchard-Jones K, Gross CP, Walter FM, Renzi C, Johnson S, McPhail S, Elliss-Brookes L, Lyratzopoulos G.  
Nat Rev Clin Oncol. 2016 Oct 11.

[Read More >>](#)

**November 10; 2:30PM**

**Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar**

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program,  
Suites 107-109

TBA

[Read More >>](#)

**November 10; 3:30PM**

**Yale Stem Cell Center 10th Anniversary Celebration Public Discussion**

Harkness Auditorium

*Stem Cell Research: Progress and Prospect*

Colin McEnroe

[Read More >>](#)

**November 11; 7:30AM**

**2016 YCC External Scientific Advisory Board Meeting**

West Campus

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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

**Screen-identified selective inhibitor of lysine demethylase 5A blocks cancer cell growth and drug resistance.**

Gale M, Sayegh J, Cao J, Norcia M, Gareiss P, Hoyer D, Merkel JS, Yan Q.

Oncotarget. 2016 Jun 28;7(26):39931-39944.

[Read More >>](#)

**Metformin alters DNA methylation genome-wide via the H19/SAHH axis.**

Zhong T, Men Y, Lu L, Geng T, Zhou J, Mitsuhashi A, Shozu M, Maihle NJ, Carmichael GG, Taylor HS, Huang Y.

Oncogene. 2016 Oct 24.

[Read More >>](#)

**Oligosaccharyltransferase inhibition induces senescence in RTK-driven tumor cells.**

Lopez-Sambrooks C, Shrimal S, Khodier C, Flaherty DP, Rinis N, Charest JC, Gao N, Zhao P, Wells L, Lewis TA, Lehrman MA, Gilmore R, Golden JE, Contessa JN.

Nat Chem Biol. 2016 Oct 3.

[Read More >>](#)

**Characteristics and treatment of human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 positive breast cancer: 43,485 cases from the National Cancer Database treated in 2010 and 2011.**

Killelea BK, Chagpar AB, Horowitz NR, Lannin DR.

Am J Surg. 2016 Jul 21.

[Read More >>](#)

**Selective antitumor activity of roscovitine in head and neck cancer.**

Gary C, Hajek M, Biktasova A, Bellinger G, Yarbrough WG, Issaeva N.

Oncotarget. 2016 Jun 21;7(25):38598-38611.

[Read More >>](#)