

February 20, 2015

## Announcements

### Clinical Trial Accruals on Track

I am pleased to announce that we continue to be on trend for above goal clinical trial accruals for fiscal year '15, with 773 accruals projected for the year based on the first 7 months of data. We accrued 57 patients in January, a commendable effort given the schedule disruption due to the holiday and snow. Great work everyone! Please continue to share the options for clinical trials with your patients, and familiarize yourselves with the trials open for accrual.

[Learn More >>](#)

### Dr. Thomas Prebet Joins Hematology

I am happy to announce that Dr. Thomas Prebet has joined Yale Hematology as an Instructor. Dr. Prebet joins us from the Institut Paoli-Calmettes in Marseille France where he was an Associate Professor of Clinical Hematology and a member of the molecular pharmacology group, as well as the early phase trial group and coordinator of the leukemia ward. Dr. Prebet will be Assistant Director of Myeloid Malignancy Research, where he will be working with Dr. Steven Gore to expand the clinical and translational research program in myeloid malignancies.

### Yale Cancer Center Annual Retreat

Please save the date for the 2015 Yale Cancer Center Annual Retreat scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th at Yale West Campus in Orange, CT. More details to follow as the date approaches. Please contact [Christina Dreyfus](#) for additional information.

### Palliative Care Research Retreat

Please research Wednesday, April 29th on your calendars for a Palliative Care Research Retreat at the West Campus. The goals of which are to bring palliative care researchers from

from the desk of

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

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



### Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center

[News Center >>](#)

### LATEST ARTICLES:



Mastering the Clinical Development of Personalized Cancer Medicines

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across Yale's campus and from multi-disciplines to share their work and to identify potential collaborators. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact [Lisa Arnel](#).

## Research in the News

### Sunlight continues to damage skin in the dark

Much of the damage that ultraviolet radiation (UV) does to skin occurs hours after sun exposure, a team of Yale-led researchers concluded in a study that was published by the journal *Science*.

Exposure to UV light from the sun or from tanning beds can damage the DNA in melanocytes, the cells that make the melanin that gives skin its color. This damage is a major cause of skin cancer, the most common form of cancer in the United States. In the past, experts believed that melanin protected the skin by blocking harmful UV light. But there was also evidence from studies suggesting that melanin was associated with skin cell damage.

In the current study, Douglas E. Brash, clinical professor of therapeutic radiology and dermatology at Yale School of Medical, and his co-authors first exposed mouse and human melanocyte cells to radiation from a UV lamp. The radiation caused a type of DNA damage known as a cyclobutane dimer (CPD), in which two DNA "letters" attach and bend the DNA, preventing the information it contains from being read correctly. To the researchers' surprise, the melanocytes not only generated CPDs immediately but continued to do so hours after UV exposure ended. Cells without melanin generated CPDs only during the UV exposure.

[Read More >>](#)

## Employee Profile: Kara Reynolds

For the past two years, Kara Reynolds has served as Manager of Outpatient Registration at Smilow Cancer Hospital in Patient Financial Admitting Services (PFAS). She manages the Clinical Referral Specialist staff supporting the Smilow clinics and Boutique. These individuals work directly with patients to schedule follow-up appointments, lab work, imaging, and specialty referrals,



Studies point out benefits of exercise

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A promising personalized medicine initiative, but little funding

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## Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook

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### LATEST POSTS:

Dr. Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin and other researchers at the Yale Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science, established through a \$20 million federal grant, are working to understand the health impact of electronic cigarettes. Although they were only first sold in 2007, electronic cigarettes, which deliver a dose of nicotine via vapor instead of smoke, have become tremendously popular. In 2014 alone, sales reached \$2.5 billion. Although little evidence exists regarding the negative effects of these e-cigarettes, a staggering 25 percent of the high school students in Connecticut have tried them.

and ensure valid insurance authorizations are on file for all diagnostic radiology appointments. Kara also manages Smilow's main campus and satellite Patient Account Representatives, who are responsible for obtaining insurance authorization for radiation and chemotherapy treatments, prescription drug authorizations, and assisting with financial counseling for uninsured patients.

Kara commented that communication is a critical skillset working in this field. She and her team are in constant communication with clinical teams, pharmacy, third party payors, patients, and University staff to minimize any financial risk to patients and YNHH. They make sure that all identified issues are resolved before the patient presents for their first visit.

"We strive to make the patient experience as seamless as possible. The more we can do to troubleshoot coverage, authorization, and benefit concerns ahead of time, the smoother the patient visit will be," said Kara. "Our patient's focus should be improving their health, and we are here to minimize as much as we can behind the scenes by coordinating the financial aspect of their visits. The staff in Smilow's PFAS department provide a great service to patients by advocating on their behalf to ensure their services are covered and payable by insurance carriers."

If an insurance claim comes back as denied, Kara and her team work to investigate the cause for denial and appeal for payment to ensure appropriate revenue is returning to the hospital as expected.

Sandy Elkin-Randi, Director of Outpatient Access at Smilow Cancer Hospital, commented, "Kara has been an exceptional addition to the Outpatient PFAS team. Her desire to learn, dedication to our staff and patients and her understanding of the EPIC system make her exemplary."

## Funding and Award Opportunities

### Grants to Improve Patient Care

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven are pleased to announce a new program to fund small projects to improve patient care at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Monies for this program have come through our "Closer to Free" fund. Any employee at Smilow Cancer Hospital who develops a small project may apply by submitting an application for review. Projects can range from a patient education program to stress management for staff. In order to be eligible, a current Cancer Center Member must sponsor



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Last month at the Smilow Cancer Hospital 5-year Anniversary Celebration, the Smilow Outstanding Team Award was presented by Art Lemay to the 85-person Oncology Pharmacy Team. The award was given in recognition of the dedication of the pharmacy staff for implementation of remote supervision and telepharmacy services at our 11 Care Centers to improve medication safety for our patients. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists also honored the entire team with the 2014 Award for Excellence in Medication Use Safety.

Congratulations to the entire Oncology Pharmacy Team, some of whom are pictured here!



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Although pancreatic cancer, according to the National Cancer Institute, is the twelfth most common cancer in the United States, it is the fourth most deadly. The large discrepancy underlines the need for significant advances in the treatment of pancreatic cancer. One of the largest problems in treating pancreatic cancer is diagnosis: by the time it is diagnosed, treatment is rarely effective.

the employee. A listing of active cancer center members is available [here](#).

**Application Deadline:** February 27, 2015

[Learn More and Download Application >>](#)

### Breast Cancer Alliance Exceptional Project Grant 2016

- For clinical doctors and research scientists whose primary focus is breast cancer.
- **Candidates are eligible at any stage of their careers.**
- The proposed research must be directly related to the field of breast cancer.
- Areas of relevant research may include, but are not limited to: diagnosis, etiology, immunology, genetics, therapies, prevention, and clinical studies.

**Internal Deadline:** March 3, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

### Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) Young Investigator Awards

The \$100,000 grants will cover costs associated with a two-year bladder cancer-specific research proposal. The purpose of this grant is to support the development of outstanding research scientists and clinical cancer research investigators who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the understanding and treatment of bladder cancer. Investigators may be working in basic, translational, clinical, epidemiologic, bioengineering or any other field, but must be working in a research environment capable of supporting transformational bladder cancer research.

**Application Deadline:** March 4, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

### 2015 Taub Foundation Grants Program for MDS Research

Funding up to \$600,000 over 3 years.

The Taub Foundation Grants Program for Myelodysplastic Syndromes Research was created to support high-impact, innovative translational research to understand the underlying causes of MDS and to advance its treatment and prevention. The Program specifically focuses on MDS research, exclusive of AML and MPN. Studies focusing on molecular genetics, epigenetics, splicing factors, stem cells, the microenvironment and novel therapeutic targets relevant to MDS are encouraged. The Taub Program supports independent investigators at all stages of their careers. Awards are not restricted to investigators currently working in MDS.

A study published by Dr. Harvey Risch, Professor of Epidemiology, and several colleagues, signals a promising, inexpensive possibility for changing those numbers: aspirin.



[Read More >>](#)

Erikka Loftfield, a doctoral candidate studying in the Yale School of Public Health-National Cancer Institute's joint PhD program, found an association between coffee consumption and the risk of cutaneous melanoma as part of her dissertation research. She found that drinking at least four cups a day of caffeinated coffee reduces the risk of this deadly form of skin cancer.




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### Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

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#### LATEST TWEETS:

 Study finds sunlight continues to damage skin after direct exposure-even in the dark  
<http://bit.ly/1w1RJPF>

Applications from investigators in other fields and collaborative efforts are encouraged.

**Application Deadline:** March 17, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

### **2015 New York Stem Cell Foundation - Innovator Awards for Early Career Investigators in Translational Stem Cell Research**

Funding up to \$1.5 M over 5 years.

NYSCF is soliciting applications from early career investigators for Innovator awards to be used for exploring the basic biology and translational potential of stem cells. The goal of this initiative is to foster bold and innovative scientists with the potential to transform the field of stem cell research, and advance understanding and use of stem cells in the development of treatments for human disease. In addition to providing funding, NYSCF partners with investigators to advance and translate their research. To be eligible, candidates must be within 5 years of starting a faculty or comparable position on June 1, 2015.

**Application Deadline:** March 18, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

### **2015 Sontag Foundation - Early Career Distinguished Scientist Award for Brain Cancer Research**

Career development award supporting early career scientists with inspiring, potential-laden brain cancer proposals. The foundation is highly interested in researchers that may bring new perspectives to bear on the complex questions related to brain cancer.

Applicant's initial faculty appointment must have been no earlier than March 2012.


Up to \$600,000 over 4 years.


**Application Deadline:** March 19, 2015


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### **Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research**

The Yale-CORE Career Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (Y-CORE PCOR) is an AHRQ-funded K12 program within the Yale-New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation that is designed to train junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows in patient-centered outcomes research. Y-CORE PCOR will provide training and career development support for 2 scholars who have a clinical or research doctoral degree and are committed to a career in patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and comparative effectiveness research (CER).

 The growing use of #ecigarettes by young people bears close study. Too many unknowns about these products <http://bit.ly/1G8jF4D>

 Cancer Documentary Project Draws Widespread Support <http://www.medpagetoday.com>

 @DrRoyHerbstYale leads a national effort @LungMAP on innovative trials for #LungCancer <http://bit.ly/1zMgyts> @AACR @YNHH @YaleMed

 Exercise included in drug trials? Dr.Melinda Irwin of @YaleSPH says it could work <http://bit.ly/19sfC8t>

**Closer to Free**

**closer to free**

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

**Events**

**February 20; 12:00 PM  
YCC Research in Progress  
Meeting**

NP4-101A

*New Approaches and Correlative Studies for Metastatic Melanoma*  
Harriet Kluger, MD

[Read More >>](#) (PDF)

**February 20; 1:00 PM  
YCC Developmental  
Therapeutics Research  
Program**

SHM I-116

**Application Deadline:** April 1, 2015

[Learn More >>](#)

### **Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Infrastructure Grants**

We understand the expense of labor intensive pediatric clinical trials. The **Infrastructure Grant** is designed to help an institution build capacity for and maintain a pediatric oncology Phase I and II clinical trials program by providing funding for adequate staffing, patient care, data management, etc.

**Application Deadline:** April 10, 2015

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## **Recent Publications**

### **Lung Master Protocol (Lung-MAP)-A Biomarker-Driven Protocol for Accelerating Development of Therapies for Squamous Cell Lung Cancer: SWOG S1400.**

Herbst RS, Gandara DR, Hirsch FR, Redman MW, LeBlanc M, Mack PC, Schwartz LH, Vokes E, Ramalingam S, Bradley JD, Sparks D, Zhou Y, Miwa C, Miller VA, Yelensky R, Li Y, Allen JD, Sigal EV, Wholley D, Sigman CC, Blumenthal GM, Malik S, Kelloff GJ, Abrams JS, Blanke CD, Papadimitrakopoulou VA.

Clin Cancer Res. 2015 Feb 13.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Direct Binding of Retromer to Human Papillomavirus Type 16 Minor Capsid Protein L2 Mediates Endosome Exit during Viral Infection.**

Popa A, Zhang W, Harrison MS, Goodner K, Kazakov T, Goodwin EC, Lipovsky A, Burd CG, DiMaio D. PLoS Pathog. 2015 Feb 18;11(2):e1004699.

[Read More >>](#)

### **High-throughput screening to identify inhibitors of lysine demethylases.**

Gale M, Yan Q.

Epigenomics. 2015 Feb;7(1):57-65.

[Read More >>](#)

### **Sirolimus and trastuzumab combination therapy for HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer after progression on prior trastuzumab therapy.**

Acevedo-Gadea C, Hatzis C, Chung G, Fishbach N, Lezon-Geyda K, Zelterman D, DiGiovanna MP, Harris L, Abu-Khalaf MM.

Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2015 Feb 17.

*Using Small Molecules to Engineer and Explore Human Immunity*

David A. Spiegel, PhD, MD

[Read More >>](#) (PDF)

### **February 22; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers**

WNPR

*Sarcomas*

Dieter Lindskog, MD

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### **February 23; 11:00 AM YCC Radiobiology and**

### **Radiotherapy Research Program**

SHM I-304

*Insights into Novel N-Glycosylation Inhibitor on NSCLC Cell Lines*

Cecilia Lopez Sambrooks, PhD

[Read More >>](#) (PDF)

### **February 23; 12:00 PM Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar Series**

BCMM 206/208

*Understanding the Genomic Landscape for Targeting and Mis-Targeting of Somatic Hypermutation*

David Schatz, PhD

*The Role of AID/APOBEC Proteins in Genome Instability in Multiple Myeloma*

Rashu Seth, PhD

[Read More >>](#) (PDF)

### **February 24; 9:30 AM Pathology Research in Progress Talks**

TAC N-107

*"Enzyme Replacement as a Possible Treatment for Generalized Arterial Calcification of Infancy" and "TBA"*

Ronald Albright, PhD and Laura Stevens

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### **February 24; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

*Integrating the Psychological Domain into Oncology*

Daniel McFarland, DO

[Read More >>](#) (PDF)

[Read More >>](#)

**In reply to rusthoven and kavanagh.**

Jagsi R, Bekelman JE, Chen A, Chen RC, Hoffman K, Tina Shih YC, Smith BD, Yu JB.

Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2015 Mar 1;91(3):680-1.

[Read More >>](#)

**Is it the time for personalized imaging protocols in cancer radiation therapy?**

Zhang Y, Feng Y, Zhang Y, Ming X, Yu J, Carlson DJ, Kim J, Deng J.

Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2015 Mar 1;91(3):659-60.

[Read More >>](#)

**Urinary prostaglandin e2 metabolite and pancreatic cancer risk: case-control study in urban shanghai.**

Zhao J, Wang J, Du J, Xu H, Zhang W, Ni QX, Yu H, Risch HA, Gao YT, Gao Y.

PLoS One. 2015 Feb 13;10(2):e0118004.

[Read More >>](#)

**A fatal case of primary cutaneous gamma-delta T-cell lymphoma complicated by HLH and cardiac amyloidosis.**

Gibson JF, Kapur L, Sokhn J, Xu M, Foss FM.

Clin Case Rep. 2015 Jan;3(1):34-8.

[Read More >>](#)

**Determinants of mammalian nucleolar architecture.**

Farley KI, Surovtseva Y, Merkel J, Baserga SJ.

Chromosoma. 2015 Feb 12.

[Read More >>](#)

**Glutamate Dehydrogenase 1 Signals through Antioxidant Glutathione Peroxidase 1 to Regulate Redox Homeostasis and Tumor Growth.**

Jin L, Li D, Alesi GN, Fan J, Kang HB, Lu Z, Boggon TJ, Jin P, Yi H, Wright ER, Duong D, Seyfried NT, Egnatchik R, DeBerardinis RJ, Magliocca KR, He C, Arellano ML, Khoury HJ, Shin DM, Khuri FR, Kang S.

Cancer Cell. 2015 Feb 9;27(2):257-70.

[Read More >>](#)

**Dacomitinib (PF-00299804), a second-generation irreversible pan-erbB receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor,**

**February 26; 9:00 AM  
Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds**

Smilow, LL-412

*Reducing Radiation Dose in HPV-Positive Cancer*

Barbara Burtness, MD

[Read More >>](#)

**February 26; 12:00 PM  
Schwartz Center Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

*A Physician's Obligation to Give Curative Therapy to Children, Even When They Refuse*

Thomas Lynch, Jr., MD

[Read More >>](#) (PDF)

**February 26; 12:30 PM  
Pathology Grand Rounds**

Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094

*Precision Medicine for Metastatic Breast Cancer Patients*

Fabrice Andre, MD, PhD

[Read More >>](#) (PDF)

**February 27; 12:00 PM  
YCC Research in Progress Meeting**

NP4-101A

TBA

Bonnie Gould Rothberg, MD, PhD, MPH

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**March 1; 6:00 PM  
Yale Cancer Center Answers  
WNPR**

*Pediatric Hematology*

Alyssa Le, MD

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**March 2; 12:00 PM  
Epigenetics Interest Group Meeting**

BCMM 206/208

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**March 2; 2:00 PM  
Yale Stem Cell Center Seminar Series**

TAC N-107

*Lineage Specification During Embryogenesis: You GATA Stop WNT*

WNT

Todd Evans, PhD

**demonstrates remarkable activity against HER2-amplified uterine serous endometrial cancer in vitro.**

Zhu L, Lopez S, Bellone S, Black J, Cocco E, Zigras T, Predolini F, Bonazzoli E, Bussi B, Stuhmer Z, Schwab CL, English DP, Ratner E, Silasi DA, Azodi M, Schwartz PE, Rutherford TJ, Santin AD.  
Tumour Biol. 2015 Feb 11.

[Read More >>](#)

**Sweets for a bitter end: lung cancer cell-surface protein glycosylation mediates metastatic colonization.**

Arnal-Estapé A, Nguyen DX.  
Cancer Discov. 2015 Feb;5(2):109-11.

[Read More >>](#)

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

**March 3; 9:30 AM  
Pathology Research in  
Progress Talks**

TAC N-107

TBA

Vasiliki Pelekanou MD, PhD and  
Casey Langdon

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**March 3; 12:00 PM  
Yale Cancer Center Grand  
Rounds**

Park Street Auditorium

James Hansen, MD

Xavier Llor, MD

**March 3; 5:00 PM  
YCC Breast Clinical Lecture  
Series**

Smilow First Floor Conference  
Room, 1-330

TBA

Tara Sanft, MD

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**March 5; 9:00 AM  
Therapeutic Radiology Grand  
Rounds**

Smilow, LL-412

TBA

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**March 5; 5:00 PM  
Yale Cancer Center Evening  
Oncology Series**

NP 4-101 A & B

*New Agents for Cancer  
Treatment*

Rogerio Lilenbaum, MD

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**March 6; 9:00 AM  
Hematology Symposium**

Park Street Auditorium

*Honoring Dr. Thomas Duffy*

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**March 6; 12:00 PM  
YCC Research in Progress  
Meeting**

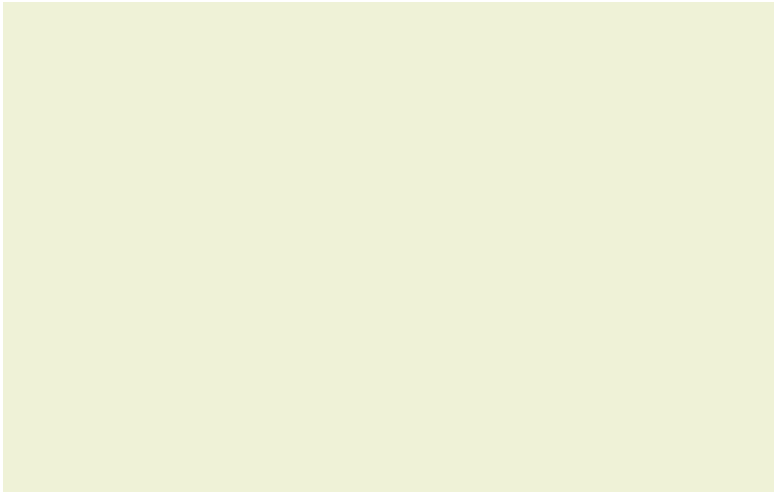
NP4-101A

TBA

Manoj Pillai

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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)

