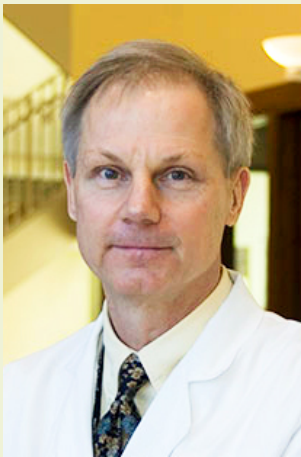


March 16, 2012

Announcements



John Roberts Named Director of Sickle Cell Program at Smilow

I am happy to announce that Dr. John Roberts has accepted a position to lead the Adult Sickle Cell Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital; he will be a member of the medical oncology faculty. Dr. Roberts will also care for patients in the Prostate and Urologic Cancers Program. Dr. Roberts is a highly experienced clinical/translational investigator who will be wonderful addition to the section of medical oncology as we expand our offering of personalized clinical studies.

Dr. Roberts joins us from Virginia Commonwealth University, where he is past interim chair of the division of hematology, oncology, and palliative care and past co-director of the VCU Adult Sickle Cell Program. At VCU's Massey Cancer Center, Dr. Roberts was Associate Director for Clinical Research and Director of the Clinical Protocol and Data Management Shared Resource. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and his Medical Degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Patient Satisfaction in Smilow

Catherine Lyons, Clinical Program Director and Director of Oncology Nursing at Smilow Cancer Hospital, gave an update on the Press Ganey patient satisfaction survey scores at our semi-annual Town Hall Meeting in February. Cathy reported that our outpatient oncology patient satisfaction scores remain at greater than 90%, with nearly 7,000 patient visits to Smilow Cancer Hospital per month.

Our HCAHPS scores are at 79% overall for the inpatient units

from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL
AT YALE-NEW HAVEN

Yale CANCER
CENTER

A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute

Countdown to the CCSG Submission

193 days

until our CCSG
grant is due on
September 25, 2012.

**Join Yale Cancer
Center on Facebook**

Like us on Facebook 

at Smilow and we will continue to work on improving on the measures, including maintaining a quiet environment for our patients, responsiveness of staff, and communication with nurses and doctors. For the first quarter, NP 11 and 15 our overall Press Ganey scores were in the 99th percentile, when compared to our peers, and NP 14 followed closely behind at 96th percentile. NP 12 was in the 83rd percentile.

It is important to note, the Press Ganey Outpatient Priority Index for the last quarter of 2011 highlighted the following concerns from patients as most important:

1. Emotional needs addressed
2. Information we shared with you to manage
3. Sensitivity to difficulty/inconvenience
4. Explanations regarding managing radiation therapy side effects
5. Inclusion in treatment decisions
6. Kept family informed as to what to expect
7. Homecare instructions
8. Explanations what to expect during radiation therapy
9. Community resources information
10. Staff explained roles in care

James Watson to Give Lecture on Tuesday

Please join Yale Cancer Center and the Molecular Virology Program for a special lecture by James Watson, PhD on Tuesday, March 20 at 5:30 PM in Harkness Auditorium. Dr. Watson will present ***Curing Incurable Cancer***.

[Learn More >>](#)

AACR Meeting Presentations

I hope that many of you are planning to attend the annual American Association for Cancer Research meeting from March 31 - April 4 in Chicago. If you have an abstract or poster accepted for presentation and will be attending the meeting, please contact [Renee Gaudette](#) with the title and type of presentation you will be making.

The Yale-Gilead Proposal for Research Support

On behalf of Yossi Schlessinger, Rick Lifton, and myself, members of the Steering Committee that manages the Yale-Gilead collaboration, I am pleased to invite you to propose research ideas for consideration for funding under the Yale-Gilead collaboration. We would like to invite transformative ideas in the following areas of cancer biology:

- Identification of new targets in cancer therapy based on sequencing of tumor DNA
- Novel siRNA screening for cancer 'driver' genes
- Synthetic lethal analysis
- Other transformative ideas

Inside yalecancercenter.org

**Survivorship Program at
Smilow Cancer Hospital**
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

**Cardio Oncology Program at
Smilow Cancer Hospital**
[Learn More >>](#)

Smoking Cessation Program
[Learn More >>](#)

Research in Progress
Video presentations from Yale Cancer Center faculty on current research projects are now available online.
[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 >>](#)

Applicants must provide a one-paragraph description of the proposed study. Ideas that align with the mission of the collaboration will be invited to submit a more detailed proposal with a budget. The final date for submission is March 31, 2012. [Learn More >>](#)



Closer to Free Ride Registration Now Open

I hope you will join my family and me at this year's Closer to Free Bike Ride on September 8, 2012. Riders will have the option of a 25, 65, or 100 mile route - all starting and ending at the Yale Bowl. Last year's event

was a lot of fun, and we hope to make this year's even bigger and better. The fundraising commitment is \$500. [Learn More >>](#)

In the News

Anti-smoking campaigns have saved over 800,000 lives

More than 800,000 lives were saved in the United States between 1975 and 2000 thanks to anti-smoking measures, according to a new study that used a Yale mathematical model to quantify for the first time the impact of anti-smoking measures on lung cancer. The authors also note that 2.5 million people who died from smoking-related lung cancer in this same period might have survived if stricter tobacco control measures had been in effect. The study appears online in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Led by Yale Cancer Center member, Theodore Holford, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics at Yale School of Public Health, researchers from more than a dozen universities and institutes formed the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) consortium and used various mathematical models, including one developed at Yale, to analyze trends in cigarette smoking and quantify the impact of various tobacco control measures. Detailed cigarette smoking histories were recreated for generations dating back to 1890, and significant events, such as the U.S. surgeon general's landmark report on the dangers of tobacco use in the mid 1960s, were factored in.

Using Yale's mathematical model to calculate smoking rates,

Events

March 16; 1:00 PM Developmental Therapeutics Research Program Seminar

SHM I-116
*Minimal Peptide-Based Catalysts
as a Means of Accessing
Modified Biologically Active
Molecules*
Scott Miller, PhD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

March 16; 3:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Special Seminar

WWW 208
*Phase I/II Developmental Trials
with Novel Pharmacodynamic
Markers*
Leonard F. Liebes, PhD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

March 18; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR
*Head and Neck Cancer
Treatment*
Hari Deshpande, MD
[Learn More >>](#)

March 19; 12:00 PM Hematology Special Seminar

WWW 208
*Cross-Talk Between the Chk1
DNA Damage and MAPK
Pathways: Creation of Synthetic
Lethality and Therapeutic
Implications for Multiple
Myeloma and Other
Hematologic Malignancies*
Steven Grant, MD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

March 20; 7:30 AM Hematology Special Seminar

SCH 4-101B
*Toward Personalized Therapy in
Leukemias: Fact or Fiction?*
Jorges Cortes, MD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

March 20; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

55 Park Street
*Targeting DNA Repair in Cancer
Therapy*

the researchers found that this gradual reduction in smoking over a 25-year period beginning in 1975 resulted in approximately 824,000 fewer lung cancer deaths, 603,000 of which were among men. Models used by other teams produced similar results, showing tobacco control averted about one-third of potentially avoidable lung cancer deaths.

[Learn More >>](#)

Notables

Don Nguyen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology and a member of the Yale Cancer Center Signal Transduction Research Program, has been awarded a 2012-2014 **Young Investigator Award** from the **International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)** to support his research on metastatic lung adenocarcinoma. Dr. Nguyen will receive \$80,000 over two years.

Seth Herzon, PhD, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and a member of the Yale Cancer Center Developmental Therapeutics Research Program, has been awarded a **2012 Sloan Research Fellowship**, given to early career scientists whose achievements identify them as rising stars. Dr. Herzon will receive a \$50,000 grant to further his research.

Debra Reynolds has been hired as a new **Clinical Operations Supervisor** for the 4th floor multispecialty care centers in Smilow Cancer Hospital. Debra will report to Michelle Wilson.

The nursing team at Smilow Cancer Hospital will have two abstracts highlighted at the annual **Oncology Nursing Society Congress** in New Orleans in May. **Marianne Davies** and **Monica Fradkin** will present a poster presentation titled, "Smilow Society - An Oncology Nursing Journal Club to Promote Research Dissemination" and **Eileen Dehm** will present "From Clinical Trials to Commercial Use: New Oncology Drugs and the Oncology Nurse Coordinator Role in an Outpatient Clinic Setting."

Nicholas Theodosakis, a third year MD/PhD student in the lab of Marcus Bosenberg, has received a \$10,000 scholarship award from the **Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation**.

TOP Retreat a Success

Alan D'Andrea, MD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

March 20; 5:30 PM Yale Cancer Center Special Lecture

Harkness Auditorium
Curing Incurable Cancer
James D. Watson, PhD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

March 21; 7:00 AM Research in Progress Meeting

SCH 4-101A
The Molecular Origin of B Cell Malignancy
Matthew Strout, MD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

March 21; 8:00 AM Clinical Trials Office Monthly Education Series

SCH Tumor Board Room
Clinical Trials and the CCSG
Chad Ellis, PhD and Bob Powell
[Learn More >>](#)

March 21; 1:00 PM Cancer Immunology Research Program Seminar

SHM C-428
Immunology of Chronic Graft Versus Host Disease: Development of New Treatments for an Old Disease
Jerome Ritz, MD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

March 23; 12:00 PM Yale PET Center: PET Talks

Hope 103
Using PET Imaging to Address Clinically Relevant Oncology Questions, Validate Radiotracers and Improve our Understanding of Cancer Biology: The University of Washington Experience with Lung Cancer
Herbert Vesselle, PhD, MD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

March 25; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR
West Haven VA Cancer Center
Michal Rose, MD
[Learn More >>](#)



**March 27; 12:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Grand
Rounds**

55 Park Street
*Carfilzomib: The Tale of Yale's
Home-grown Proteasome
Inhibitor from Bench to Bedside*
Craig Crews, PhD

*Pushing the Envelope in
Thoracic Surgery before Getting
Enveloped*

Anthony Kim, MD
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)

**March 30; 8:00 AM
CME Symposium: Eradicating
Brain Cancer**

The Omni
A Panel of Presentations from
Brain Tumor Program
[Learn More >>](#) (PDF)



On Saturday, March 3, members of the Thoracic Oncology Program gathered at the Maurice R. Greenberg Conference Center for a retreat organized by Drs. Detterbeck, Tanoue, Herbst, and Boyer. The morning session featured presentations summarizing clinical, basic, and translational research programs, including the lung cancer screening program, the lung cancer biorepository, and the recently-awarded T-TARE program. The afternoon session was dedicated to strategic planning with a focus on three-year goals. More than 50 members, including representatives from the YNHH administration, attended this productive meeting, which provided momentum for new initiatives in the coming months.

Melanoma CME Symposium

**New Faculty Recruits
(May 2009 - Present)**

Alexander Au
Plastic Surgery

Anees Chagpar
Surgical Oncology

Sandy Chang
Lab Medicine

Anne Chiang
Medical Oncology

Lieping Chen
Immunobiology

Deborah Chirnomas
Pediatric Oncology

Joseph Contessa
Therapeutic Radiology

Shari Damast
Therapeutic Radiology

Suzanne Evans
Therapeutic Radiology

Leonard Farber
Medical Oncology



Members of the Melanoma Program presented a CME dinner symposium last night in the 4th floor conference rooms of Smilow Cancer Hospital. Yale faculty welcomed over 75 physicians and healthcare providers from around the region and reviewed the latest information on surgical options, immunotherapies, genetics, and new clinical trials for the treatment of melanoma. This was the second in a four-part Oncology CME Series in 2012 hosted by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. The next symposium will be on May 10th and will highlight advances from the Thoracic Oncology Program.

Bonnie Gould Rothberg
Medical Oncology

Valentina Greco
Genetics

Stephanie Halene
Hematology

Roy Herbst
Medical Oncology

Howard Hochster
Medical Oncology

Erin Hofstatter
Medical Oncology

Nina Horowitz
Surgical Oncology

Michael Hurwitz
Medical Oncology

Iris Isufi
Hematology

Benjamin Judson
Otolaryngology

Jennifer Kapo
Geriatrics

Peter Koo
Medical Oncology

Alfred Lee
Hematology

Arthur Levy
Medical Oncology

Miguel Materin
Ophthalmology

Daniel Morgensztern
Medical Oncology

Don Nguyen
Pathology

Abhijit Patel
Therapeutic Radiology

Nikolai Podoltsev
Hematology

Katie Politi
Pathology

John Roberts
Medical Oncology

Employee Profile: Mary Crooks

The Employee Profile recognizes the diverse contributions made by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital staff have 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](#).



Clinical Social Worker, Mary Crooks, MSW, LCSW, is assigned to the Stem Cell Transplant Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital and works with patients, and their families, undergoing autologous or allogeneic transplants. Her role is to assess psychosocial needs, and based on that assessment, provide the appropriate interventions.

"I follow a continuity of care model," commented Mary. "I see patients from the moment their physician decides that a stem cell transplant is the best treatment option for them, until they

Tara Sanft
Medical Oncology

Peter Schulam
Urology

Fatma Shebl
Epidemiology

Stacey Stein
Medical Oncology

Matthew Strout
Hematology

Narendra Wajapeyee
Pathology

Qin Yan
Pathology

Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette
Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

 Forward to a Friend

no longer need my support. Sometimes a patient's condition can become chronic, for example if they develop Graft-Versus-Host Disease, and in that case I am there to work with them for an extended period of time."

Mary has been an oncology social worker at Yale for 9 years, but has been in the field of medical/oncology social work since 1984. Personal family experience guided her towards wanting to help patients with a serious illness. She explained that she is very fortunate to be working with such a dedicated and compassionate team. Although her work can be challenging at times, Mary is amazed every day at the strength and resilience of her patients.

Bonnie Indeck, LCSW, Manager of Oncology Social Work at Smilow Cancer Hospital commented, "People undergoing transplant and their families feel safe in Mary's hands, knowing that she is taking care of them throughout the continuum of their treatment. Mary assists with varying needs, whether it is counseling for the patient and family, facilitating open communication, advocacy and / or connecting them to appropriate community resources. They feel able to go to her at any point and are grateful for her caring, knowledge and skill, as I am."

Funding Opportunities

Avon Foundation 2012 Grants

Scientific Research

The current research priority areas for the Avon Foundation are:

- Understanding causes of breast cancer and research to develop new preventative strategies
- Understanding the role of endogenous and exogenous environmental factors in the development of breast cancer
- Understanding whether viruses or infectious agents play a role in breast cancer
- Validation of biomarkers of breast cancer risk
- Development or validation of clinically applicable assays or diagnostic tests that are predictive of breast cancer risk or that can be used to monitor changes in breast health over time

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

*Please note that LOIs are due no later than **April 2**.*

Safety Net Program/Access to Diagnostics and Care

The Avon Foundation Safety Net Program supports

community hospitals to enable medically underserved women to access post-screening diagnostics and care.

In 2012 there will be a two-stage process requiring all applicants to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). Following LOI review, a small subset of applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Receipt dates are determined by the institution's geographic location and are the dates by which the electronic copies must be received in the online grant submission system.

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

Breast Cancer Alliance Young Investigator Grant Program

The Breast Cancer Alliance invites clinical doctors and research scientists who have been appointed to a position equivalent to Assistant Professor within three years of the appointment, and whose primary focus is breast cancer research, to apply for funding for the Young Investigator Grant. Grant applications will be available on the BCA website on May 4, 2012.

Application Deadline: July 31, 2012

[Learn More >>](#)

Breast Cancer Alliance Education/Outreach Grant Program

The Breast Cancer Alliance offers grants to support programs directly related to outreach and case managerial breast cancer services, including education, counseling and mammograms for the uninsured/underserved. The programs must be located in mid to southern Connecticut and/or Westchester County, New York.

Grant applications will be available on the BCA website on May 4, 2012.

Application Deadline: July 31, 2012

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

Stimulation of natural killer cells with a CD137-specific antibody enhances trastuzumab efficacy in xenotransplant models of breast cancer.

Kohrt HE, Houot R, Weiskopf K, Goldstein MJ, Scheeren F, Czerwinski D, Colevas AD, Weng WK, Clarke MF, Carlson RW, Stockdale FE, Mollick JA, Chen L, Levy R.

J Clin Invest. 2012 Mar 1;122(3):1066-75.

[Read More >>](#)

Psychosocial Care for Family Caregivers of Patients With Cancer. Northouse L, Williams AL, Given B, McCorkle R.
J Clin Oncol. 2012 Mar 12.

[Read More >>](#)

Reversible Leukoencephalopathy With Stroke-Like Presentation in a Patient With 5-Dihydropyrimidine Dehydrogenase Deficiency Treated With Continuous 5-Fluorouracil Infusion. Li J, Lee JJ, Chu E, Baehring JM.
Clin Colorectal Cancer. 2012 Mar 10.

[Read More >>](#)

CD70 expression patterns in renal cell carcinoma.

Jilaveanu LB, Sznol J, Aziz SA, Duchon D, Kluger HM, Camp RL.

Hum Pathol. 2012 Mar 6.

[Read More >>](#)

Counterpoint: Are Limited Resections Appropriate in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer? No: Don't Overdo It, and Don't Get Confused.

Detterbeck FC.

Chest. 2012 Mar;141(3):590-2.

[Read More >>](#)

The Lung Cancer Stage Page: There When You Need It--StagingLungCancer.org.

Kim AW, Johnson KM, Detterbeck FC.

Chest. 2012 Mar;141(3):581-6.

[Read More >>](#)

Assessing the Impact of a Cooperative Group Trial on Breast Cancer Care in the Medicare Population.

Soulos PR, Yu JB, Roberts KB, Raldow AC, Herrin J, Long JB, Gross CP.

J Clin Oncol. 2012 Mar 5.

[Read More >>](#)

Role of RhoA-Specific Guanine Exchange Factors in Regulation of Endomitosis in Megakaryocytes.

Gao Y, Smith E, Ker E, Campbell P, Cheng EC, Zou S, Lin S, Wang L, Halene S, Krause DS.

Dev Cell. 2012 Feb 29.

[Read More >>](#)

Self-perceived video-assisted thoracic surgery lobectomy

proficiency by recent graduates of North American thoracic residencies.

Boffa DJ, Gangadharan S, Kent M, Kerendi F, Onaitis M, Verrier E, Roselli E.

Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg. 2012 Mar 1.

[Read More >>](#)

The B7 Homologues and their Receptors in Hematologic Malignancies.

Wilcox RA, Ansell SM, Lim MS, Zou W, Chen L.

Eur J Haematol. 2012 Feb 28.

[Read More >>](#)

The relationship between clinical benefit and receipt of curative therapy for prostate cancer.

Raldow AC, Presley CJ, Yu JB, Sharma R, Cramer LD, Soulos PR, Long JB, Makarov DV, Gross CP.

Arch Intern Med. 2012 Feb 27;172(4):362-3.

[Read More >>](#)

Targeting the von Hippel-Lindau E3 Ubiquitin Ligase Using Small Molecules To Disrupt the VHL/HIF-1 α Interaction.

Buckley DL, Van Molle I, Gareiss PC, Tae HS, Michel J, Noblin DJ, Jorgensen WL, Ciulli A, Crews CM.

J Am Chem Soc. 2012 Feb 27.

[Read More >>](#)

BRAF mutation testing in clinical practice.

Ziai J, Hui P.

Expert Rev Mol Diagn. 2012 Mar;12(2):127-38.

[Read More >>](#)

Use of intravenous immunoglobulin to treat chronic bilateral otomastoiditis in the setting of rituximab induced hypogammaglobulinemia.

Otremba MD, Adam SI, Price CC, Hohuan D, Kveton JF.

Am J Otolaryngol. 2012 Feb 21.

[Read More >>](#)

Functional Status in Older Women Following Gynecological Cancer Surgery: Can Choice of Measure Influence Evidence for Clinical Practice?

Van Cleave JH, Egleston BL, Bourbonniere M, Cardone L, McCorkle R.

Geriatr Nurs. 2012 Mar 2.

[Read More >>](#)

