

September 14, 2012

Announcements

YNHH and Hospital of Saint Raphael Become One

On Wednesday, Yale-New Haven Hospital acquired the assets of the Hospital of Saint Raphael (HSR) and became a single 1,519-bed hospital with two main campuses. This transition will allow for 511 more inpatient beds for Yale-New Haven Hospital, and will integrate 400 medical staff members and 3,400 employees into YNHH. The medical oncology, hematology, and radiation oncology practices at HSR have already been integrated into Smilow Cancer Hospital, and we will make plans to welcome other cancer providers into the Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital clinical programs. Drs. Bruce Lundberg, Andrea Silber, and Hal Tara will continue to care for patients at the Smilow Cancer Care Center on the campus.

Closer to Free

It was an honor to participate in last Saturday's Closer to Free Ride with so many of you. Thank you to all of the riders, volunteers, and staff who made the day a wonderful success! We had 500 riders and 350 volunteers; 46 of the riders were cancer survivors and 41 of the volunteers were! Together, we have raised over \$600,000 to support cancer care and research at Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital, and the fundraising continues until September 30. We doubled our efforts from 2011 and I look forward to doing the same in 2013.

[Support a Rider >>](#)

Emily Christison-Lagay Joins Pediatric Surgery

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Emily Christison-Lagay to the



from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven



Countdown to the CCSG Submission

11 days

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

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department of surgery. Dr. Christison-Lagay is a pediatric surgeon specializing in patients with cancer and has a special interest in neuroblastoma and childhood sarcomas. She will serve as the pediatric surgical representative for the Pediatric Thyroid Center at Yale, working with both benign and malignant diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid alongside of Dr. Udelsman.

Dr. Christison-Lagay is a graduate of the University of Virginia and received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School. She completed her general surgical residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital, with research completed in tumor angiogenesis at Boston Children's Hospital. From there, she did a pediatric surgical fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids) in Toronto, followed by a "super"-fellowship in Pediatric Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Yale Cancer Center Oncology CME Series: Gastrointestinal Cancers

Please join us for our fourth session in the Yale Cancer Center Oncology CME Series, focused on Gastrointestinal Malignancies, on Thursday, September 20 at 5:00 PM in Smilow Cancer Hospital.

[Review Agenda >>](#)

[Register to Attend >>](#)

Notables

David Fischer, MD will receive the **Richard Blumenthal Patient Advocate for Life Award** from the **Connecticut Hospice** during their Legacy Ceremony on Sunday, September 23. Dr. Fischer helped to found CT Hospice back in 1974; it is the first Hospice in the country. He continues to be a member of their Professional Advisory Committee.

John Roberts, MD received the Harry Hines Award from the NCI Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP) at their annual meeting. The award is the equivalent to the CCOP Principal Investigator of the Year, selected by NCI staff.

Yale Cancer Center has been accepted into the **Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium (LCMC)** as a result of an application and efforts by **Katerina Politi, PhD** and **Roy Herbst, MD, PhD**. The LCMC is composed of a group of 14 Cancer Centers across the country that came together in 2009 to test advanced lung adenocarcinomas for genetic alterations in genes known to drive the formation of lung tumors. Based on the genetic characteristics of individual tumors, patients are then matched to clinical trials of targeted agents. The LCMC recently solicited applications from institutions to participate and Yale was ranked amongst the top 5 new institutions out of 32 applicants

Links of Interest

CV Library

The CV library is a new resource available to our members, with 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 >>](#)

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 >>](#)

Events

**September 14; 11:00 AM
Department of Genetics
Lecture**

and was invited to join the Consortium.

Joan Steitz, PhD, a member of the YCC Molecular Virology Program, has received two awards for her contributions to science. She recently received the **Pearl Meister Greengard Prize of Rockefeller University**, which recognizes outstanding achievements of women scientists. Also, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine will present Dr. Steitz with the **2012 Vanderbilt Prize in Biomedical Science** for her work with RNA and her commitment to advancing the careers of women scientists.

Charlene Voyce has joined the YCC Research Administration office as a project coordinator for our CCSG application and site visit preparation. Charlene has worked at Yale since 1990.

Development Update

An anonymous donor recently pledged \$125,000 to Smilow Cancer Hospital to start a Fund supporting a visiting lecture series and Grand Rounds lectures focusing on hematology oncology. The donor's mother succumbed to myelogenous leukemia in 1938, when no therapeutic agents were available. The donor, working with Alison Marcinek, YNHH Sr. Development Officer, wished to honor his mother and make an impact on hematology fellows and physicians by supporting continued education of current trends in the field of hematology oncology. Dr. Madhav Dhodapkar and Abe Lopman will be the nominators for the new Fund.

Employee Profile: Hong Vu

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](#).

SHM I-304

Personalized Medicine in Action: Invention of Xalkori (Crizotinib)
Jean Cui, PhD

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

September 14; 1:30 PM
YCCI Presents: Good Clinical Practice Training

Cohen Auditorium
Good Clinical Practice Training - Refresher Course

Brian Bennett

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

September 14; 5:30 PM
Yale Stress Center Lecture

2 Church Street S, Suite 209
Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (9 Week Series)

[Learn More >>](#)

September 16; 9:30 AM
6th Annual Free to Breathe® Glastonbury Lung Cancer 5K Run/Walk

Glastonbury High School

[Learn More >>](#)

September 16; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Sickle Cell Disease

John Roberts, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

September 18; 12:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

55 Park Street

Pioneering Translational Medicine: The Sunitinib Story
Jerry McMahon, MD

Anthracycline Cardiotoxicity: The Role of Cardio-Oncology in Management

Raymond Russell, MD

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

September 18; 12:00 PM
Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program Seminar

60 College Street, Room 115

As Data Manager for the lung oncology team in the Clinical Trials Office at Yale Cancer Center, Hong Vu works closely with Principal Investigators such as Dr. Scott Gettinger and Dr. Roy Herbst and research nurses on clinical trials. Her role is to perform patient data gathering, extraction, and data entry in various electronic data capture (EDC) systems such as Oracle, RAVE, and Inform. She also keeps track of things like adverse events and eligibility requirements.



Adverse events are reported to Hong by the PI or research nurses working on the study. Adverse events can include skin toxicity, diarrhea, vomiting, and fatigue and are assessed using Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE). This helps grade the severity of the event and attribute the causality to the study drug. Hong then captures these within the patient's EDC.

Hong is also responsible for gathering information on prospective patients. She makes a report of the patient's relevant eligibility criteria and based on her information, the PI decides whether or not the patient is a good fit for a particular clinical trial. "Even though I do not have direct patient contact, it is rewarding to know that I am a part of getting them on a trial in the hopes for a better quality of life. Often times they come to Yale because they have exhausted all other options of standard treatment," said Hong.

For Hong, capturing patient data is not as easy as entering A, B, and C. There is a lot of research involved and she has to go through all of the PI's notes from meeting with patients, and sometimes years of medical history to find what she needs. Kathleen Uscinski, Associate Director for Clinical Trials Operations, commented, "Hong does an exceptional job representing the best face of Yale research. She consistently works to the highest standards and contributes to the overall mission of Yale Cancer Center by bringing excellence to the research enterprise."

Discussion of the Yale Cancer Center Competitive Renewal and CPC Program
Melinda Irwin, PhD, MPH
[Learn More >>](#)

September 19; 1:00 PM
Cancer Immunology Research Program Seminar
SHM B201
Cancer Immune Privilege
Lieping Chen, MD, PhD
[Learn More >>](#)

September 20; 9:00 AM
Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds
Smilow, Lower Level, Room E
Optimizing Sphincter Preservation & Minimizing Treatment-related Toxicity in Anal Cancer
Lisa Kachnic, MD
[Learn More >>](#)

September 20; 12:30 PM
Pathology Grand Rounds
Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094
Promotion of Metabolic Health and Lifespan by Transiently Increasing Oxidative Stress
Michael Ristow, MD
[Learn More >>](#)

September 20; 4:30 PM
Yale CME / Yale Cancer Center / Smilow Cancer Hospital Present: Yale Cancer Center Evening Oncology Series
North Pavilion Room 4-101 A&B
Gastrointestinal Cancers
Thomas J. Lynch, MD
[Learn More >> \(PDF\)](#)

September 20; 5:00 PM
Program for Humanities in Medicine Howard Spiro Lecture Series / The James Kenney Lecture
The Anlyan Center Auditorium, TAC N-107
Adverb Done It: How Forensic Linguists and Neuroscience are Catching the Bad Guys
'Jack' John Hitt

Funding Opportunities

Women's Health Research at Yale Pilot Grants

Women's Health Research at Yale is pleased to offer pilot project funds for research that represents a new direction in women's health, or explores gender differences in health and disease. We are particularly soliciting clinical or prevention research projects, and basic science projects that have a clear translational goal.

Letter of Intent Due: October 22, 2012

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

Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)-Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) Team Science Partnership Award

Applications are solicited by the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) and the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) for one jointly sponsored Team Science Award that will simultaneously advance clinical science in both diseases. A total award amount of up to \$1.5 million over 2-3 years is offered to support innovative, meritorious and translational work with the potential for high clinical impact in prostate cancer and melanoma. The following are examples of investigative areas relevant to both kinds of cancer, for which applications will be considered: 1) nuclear imaging technologies and/or applications as early predictors of treatment outcomes, including novel tracers to distinguish immune from tumor cells in the context of immunotherapy; 2) therapeutic interventions targeting tumor cell metabolism and protein translation; and 3) development of effective combinatorial therapies in the adjuvant or advanced disease setting, based on immune-modulating drugs paired with other agents.

Application Deadline: October 15, 2012

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

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Grants

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR research grants program is designed to help incubate innovative research projects, grow the number of researchers dedicated to studying pancreatic cancer, nurture collaborations across disciplines and institutions, and expedite scientific progress for patient benefit.

Research Acceleration Network Grant: Supports a project currently underway within the pancreatic cancer research community that is ready to be accelerated, includes a clinical component, and will help double the survival rate for pancreatic cancer by the year 2020.

Term: 1,000,000

Grant Term Begins: July 1, 2013

Letter of Intent Deadline: October 8, 2012, noon ET

Innovative Grant: Supports creative and cutting edge

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

September 21; 1:00 PM Developmental Therapeutics and Molecular Virology Seminar

SHM I-116

Development

of Nucleotide Inhibitors of HCV:

Triumph and Disaster

Adrian S. Ray, PhD

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

September 23; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR

*Breast Cancer Screening and
Community Outreach*

Ted Tsangaris, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

September 25; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

55 Park Street

*Comparative Oncology: What
'Man's Best Friend' Can Teach
Us*

Gerald Post, DVM, MEM,
DACVIM and John Farrelly,
DVM

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

September 27; 12:30 PM Pathology Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094

*Insights into the Molecular Basis
of Oxygen Sensing Emerging
From Studies of the VHL Tumor
Suppressor Protein*

William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD

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

September 28; 9:00 AM Tucker Mechanical and Yale Cancer Center Present: The Annual Pink Hard Hat Event

Amistad Park

Anees Chagpar, MD, MSc

[Learn More >>](#)

September 28; 1:00 PM Genetics and Genomics Research Program Seminar

SHM I-116

A Novel piRNA-Mediated

Epigenetic Mechanism Related

ideas and approaches, including those successful in other areas of cancer that have justifiable promise for pancreatic cancer.

Terms: Two-year grant totaling \$200,000

Grant Term Begins: July 1, 2013

Letter of Intent Deadline: October 8, 2012, noon ET

Career Development Award: Supports newly independent investigators develop or strengthen their research program in pancreatic cancer.

Terms: Two-year grant totaling \$200,000

Grant Term Begins: July 1, 2013

Application Deadline: October 31, 2012, noon ET

Pathway to Leadership Grant: Supports highly promising early career scientists in their postdoctoral positions and through the transition to independence to build future leadership in pancreatic cancer research.

Terms: Up to five years of support, totaling \$600,000

Grant Term Begins: July 1, 2013

Application Deadline: October 31, 2012, noon ET

Fellowship Award: Supports early career scientists during their mentored research phase.

Terms: One-year grant totaling \$45,000

Grant Term Begins: July 1, 2013

Application Deadline: October 31, 2012, noon ET

[Learn More >>](#)

Recent Publications

miRNA-34 prevents cancer initiation and progression in a therapeutically-resistant K-ras and p53-induced mouse model of lung adenocarcinoma.

Kasinski AL, Slack FJ.

Cancer Res. 2012 Sep 10.

[Read More >>](#)

HER2 amplification: a potential mechanism of acquired resistance to EGFR inhibition in EGFR mutant lung cancers that lack the second-site EGFR T790M mutation.

Takezawa K, Pirazzoli V, Arcila ME, Nebhan CA, Song X, de Stanchina E, Ohashi K, Janjigian YY, Spitzler PJ, Melnick MA, Riely GJ, Kris MG, Miller VA, Ladanyi M, Politi K, Pao W.

Cancer Discov. 2012 Sep 5.

[Read More >>](#)

Striving for Work-Life Balance: Effect of Marriage and Children on the Experience of 4402 US General Surgery Residents.

To Stem Cells

Haifan Lin, PhD

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

Employment Opportunities

Yale Cancer Center has several positions open.

Please share these opportunities with colleagues who may be interested in joining our team.

Clinical Secretary

Req# 17600

Data Manager

Req# 16340

CRN 2: Clinical Research Nurse

Req# 17202

Assistant Administrator

Req# 17846

Financial Analyst

Req# 17140

[Learn more >>](#)

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

Sullivan MC, Yeo H, Roman SA, Bell RH Jr, Sosa JA.
Ann Surg. 2012 Sep 7.

[Read More >>](#)

Testin is a tumor suppressor and prognostic marker in breast cancer.

Zhu J, Li X, Kong X, Moran MS, Su P, Haffty BG, Yang Q.
Cancer Sci. 2012 Sep 7.

[Read More >>](#)

Gene network-based cancer prognosis analysis with sparse boosting.

Ma S, Huang Y, Huang J, Fang K.
Genet Res (Camb). 2012 Aug;94(4):205-21.

[Read More >>](#)

Hospital-Level Outcomes Associated with Laparoscopic Colectomy for Cancer in the Minimally Invasive Era.

Fox JP, Desai MM, Krumholz HM, Gross CP.
J Gastrointest Surg. 2012 Sep 5.

[Read More >>](#)

Decidual Stromal Cells as Regulators of T-Cell Access to the Maternal-Fetal Interface.

Silasi M, Mor G.
Am J Reprod Immunol. 2012 Aug 31.

[Read More >>](#)

Design of a hypoxia-activated prodrug inhibitor of O(6)-alkylguanine-DNA alkyltransferase.

Zhu R, Seow HA, Baumann RP, Ishiguro K, Penketh PG, Shyam K, Sartorelli AC.
Bioorg Med Chem Lett. 2012 Aug 10.

[Read More >>](#)

Oophorectomy: The debate between ovarian conservation and elective oophorectomy.

Erekson EA, Martin DK, Ratner ES.
Menopause. 2012 Aug 27.

[Read more >>](#)

BRAF(V600E) mutation in papillary thyroid microcarcinoma: a genotype-phenotype correlation.

Virk RK, Van Dyke AL, Finkelstein A, Prasad A, Gibson J, Hui P, Theoharis CG, Carling T, Roman SA, Sosa JA, Udelsman R, Prasad ML.
Mod Pathol. 2012 Aug 24.

[Read more >>](#)

DNA Polymerase β Variant Ile260Met Generates Global Gene Expression Changes Related to Cellular Transformation.

Donigan KA, Tuck D, Schulz V, Sweasy JB.
Mutagenesis. 2012 Aug 21.

[Read More >>](#)