

January 18, 2013

Announcements



I am pleased to announce the recent installation of new **Closer to Free Fund** poster art throughout Smilow Cancer Hospital. The posters are intended to raise further awareness of the fundraising component of the overall **Closer to Free** branding campaign. The selection of positive images and messaging is beautifully framed and hung in many hallways and waiting areas (see list below). New **Closer to Free Fund** brochures have also been placed in the clinical waiting areas. Permanent tabletop brochure holders will be substituted for the current plexi holders in the next few weeks. This marks an important step forward in helping our patients and their families become familiar with the **Closer to Free Fund** and its mission to support both Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. The patients that we have the honor to care for often wish to give back and support our cancer research and patient care initiatives.

We are interested in hearing all comments and reactions - positive and negative - from all of you, as well as any feedback you are aware of from patients, family, and others working in

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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A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute

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Closer to Free

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closer to free
Help advance cancer research and enhance patient care.

Links of Interest

Breakthroughs: The Year in Review

The new issue of Breakthroughs, our annual Year in Review from Yale

the cancer program. Please contact [Sue Frankenschuh](#) at (203) 436-8544.

Closer to Free Fund - Poster and Display Unit Locations in Smilow Cancer Hospital

- Lower Level: Radiation Oncology Waiting Area
- First Floor: Hallway entrance to Breast Center
- Second Floor: Interior hall of Diagnostic Radiation
- Third Floor: Surgical Family Waiting Area - Café
- Fourth Floor: Entrance to Multispecialty Center and Multispecialty Waiting Area
- Seventh Floor: Entrance to Pediatric Oncology
- Seventh Floor: Multispecialty Waiting Area
- Eighth Floor: Hallway to Multispecialty Center
- Eleventh Floor: Hematology Interior Family Waiting Room
- Twelfth Floor: Med Onc Inpatient Visitor Lounge
- Fourteenth Floor: GYN Interior Conference Room
- Fifteenth Floor: Surgical Onc Interior Conference Room

Tabletop display units with the new **Closer to Free Fund** takeaway brochure will be installed in all clinical waiting areas before the end of January, including locations with posters, as well as:

- Family Resource Center
- Complementary Medicine
- GYN Multispecialty Center

Rogério Lilenbaum Welcomed to Smilow Cancer Hospital

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Rogério Lilenbaum to his new role as Chief Medical Officer of Smilow Cancer Hospital. Rogério started in his new position at the beginning of the month and has already met with many of you through regular staff and leadership meetings. In addition to his administrative role at Smilow, Rogério is a practicing oncologist and will be caring for patients with lung cancer through the Thoracic Oncology Program.

Rogério's life has been about caring for patients with lung cancer. He has done pioneering work in defining the best way to treat lung cancer-particularly in older patients. He is a proven leader who is committed to enhancing Smilow Cancer Hospital's ability to provide the very best care to our patients. I look forward to working with him to ensure we provide the highest quality care to our patients.

Dr. Lilenbaum's office may be reached by calling (203) 200-2094.

Howard Hochster Named Committee Chair of SWOG

I am pleased to announce that the leadership of the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) has appointed Howard Hochster as chairman of the Gastrointestinal Cancers Committee. SWOG

Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven is now available online.

[Read More >>](#)

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 >>](#)

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

January 18; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

WWW 208

*Chaos in the Genome:
(mis)targeting of V(D)J
recombination and somatic
hypermutation*

David Schatz, PhD

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

January 18; 1:00 PM YCC Developmental Therapeutics Research Program

SHM I-116

*Clinical Trial Design and
Development*

Group Chair Laurence Baker, DO, made the announcement last week; Howard will officially take over as Chair on May 1, 2013. Howard is a recognized national leader in GI Oncology and has been actively involved in the NCI sponsored cooperative group system for more than 20 years. Previously he was heavily involved with ECOG and a member of the ECOG GI Steering Committee for more than 15 years. He has also served as the principal investigator for the SWOG affiliation for Yale Cancer Center since our membership was approved in May of last year.

Yale Cancer Center Oncology CME Series: An Update from ASH

Please join us for our first session in the 2013 Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital Oncology CME Series, focused on Hematological Malignancies, on Tuesday, January 22 at 5:00 PM in Smilow Cancer Hospital.

[Review Agenda >>](#)

[Register to Attend >>](#)

Research in the News

Costly Breast Cancer Screenings Don't Add Up to Better Outcomes

Even though Medicare spends over \$1 billion per year on breast cancer screenings such as a mammography, there is no evidence that higher spending benefits older women, researchers at Yale School of Medicine found in a study published online first by *JAMA Internal Medicine*, a JAMA Network publication.

Led by Dr. Cary Gross, associate professor of internal medicine at Yale School of Medicine and director of the Cancer Outcomes, Public Policy, and Effectiveness Research (COPPER) Center at Yale, the study sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of breast cancer expenditures that incorporate the cost of screening and associated work-up, as well as treatment. They assessed overall national costs, as well as variation in costs across geographic regions.

Recent guidelines from the United States Preventive Services Task Force have concluded that there is insufficient evidence regarding the effectiveness of breast cancer screening for women age 75 years and older. The COPPER team found that over \$400 million is being spent annually on screening Medicare beneficiaries in this age group.

[Read More >>](#)

Ovarian Cancer Stem Cell Study Puts Targeted Therapies Within Reach

Joseph Paul Eder, MD

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

January 20; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Targeting Biopsies for Prostate Cancer

Preston Sprenkle, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 22; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

55 Park Street

Without Borders: The Global Face of Cancer

Carolyn Taylor

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

January 22; 4:30 PM Yale Cancer Center Evening Oncology Series

Smilow Conference Room 4-101 A & B

An Update from ASH:

Hematology

Thomas J. Lynch Jr., MD

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

January 24; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412

The Role of Surgery for Brain Metastases in the Era of

Radical Surgery

Veronica Chiang, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 24; 4:00 PM C&M Physiology Special Seminar

SHM B145

An mTOR-Regulated

Translational Program for Growth

Carson C. Thoreen, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 25; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

WWW 208

Alfred Stopcock Presents: The Very Strange Case of the

Mysterious Activity of the Failed Antileukemia Azanucleosides

Steven D. Gore, MD

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

January 25; 1:00 PM YCC Genetics and Genomics Research Program

Researchers at Yale School of Medicine have identified a key link between stem cell factors that fuel ovarian cancer's growth and patient prognosis. The study, which paves the way for developing novel targeted ovarian cancer therapies, is published online in the current issue of *Cell Cycle*.

Lead author Dr. Yingqun Huang and her colleagues have demonstrated a connection between two concepts that are revolutionizing the way cancer is treated. First, the "cancer stem cell" idea suggests that at the heart of every tumor there is a small subset of difficult-to-identify tumor cells that fuel the growth of the bulk of the tumor. This concept predicts that ordinary therapies typically kill the bulk of tumor cells while leaving a rich environment for continued growth of the stem cell tumor population. The second concept, dubbed "seed and soil," defines a critical role for the tumor cells' "microenvironment," which is the special environment required for cancer cell growth and spread.

"Both concepts have particular relevance for the treatment of adult solid tumors such as ovarian cancer, which has been notoriously difficult to diagnose and treat," said co-author Nita J. Maihle. "Ovarian cancer patients are plagued by recurrences of tumor cells that are resistant to chemotherapy, ultimately leading to uncontrolled cancer growth and death."
[Read More >>](#)

Healthy BMI levels, physical activity linked to endometrial cancer survival

Higher body mass index (BMI) and physical inactivity are associated with more than a two-fold increase in risk for mortality among women with endometrial cancer, new research by the Yale School of Public Health has found. The study appears in the current issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

While BMI and physical inactivity have previously been linked with the development of endometrial cancer, the relationships with cancer survival have not been fully researched.

The researchers investigated BMI and physical activity in relation to 5- and 10-year survival among 1,400 women diagnosed with endometrial cancer, which affects the lining of the uterus.

[Read More >>](#)

Notables

The **Yale Cancer Center Billing Office** has added two new staff members to their group. **Heather Petrone**, CPC joined the office in November as a Coder/Biller. Before joining the team at Yale she was a coder at Milford Hospital. **Kristine**

SHM I-116

Mitochondria and Cancer: It's Not Only About Metabolism

Gerald Shadel, PhD

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

January 25; 2:00 PM

Dean's Workshop

The Anlyan Center Auditorium

Facilitating Molecular

Innovation: The Yale Center for

Molecular Discovery

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

January 27; 6:00 PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Advances in Myeloma

Michael Dickinson, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 28, 3:30 PM

YCC Signal Transduction

Research Program

SHM I-116

Identifying Melanoma Driver

Mutations Through Exome

Sequencing

Michael Krauthammer, MD, PhD

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

January 29; 12:00 PM

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Tumor Targeting and Drug

Delivery Using the PHLIP

Peptide

Donald M. Engelman, PhD

Prostate Cancer and the

Bending of the Cost Curve

James B. Yu, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 30; 11:00 AM

YCC Radiobiology and

Radiotherapy Research

Program

SHM I-304

Hypoxia & Cancer Cell Stemness

Zhong Yun, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 31; 9:00 AM

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412

An Update on Progress in the

Management of Pancreatic

Cancer

Bryan Chang, MD

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

Tyc, CPC will join the group on Monday as a Clinical Practice Specialist II. Most recently Kristine worked in the department of orthopedics.

Please join us in welcoming **Tracy Chidsey** as a Senior Administrative Assistant 2 to Yale Cancer Center. Tracy joins us from the Yale School of Nursing where she worked as a senior administrative assistant in the Office of Academic Affairs. Tracy will be supporting Dr. Lajos Pusztai and will act as our Team Leader for the Breast Oncology Administrative Team located at 300 George Street.

Employee Profile: Rebecca Lilian

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](#).



In the Yale Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office, Rebecca Lilian serves as Project Manager for the Breast Cancer Disease Group. Her role requires her to oversee the many different aspects of clinical research from working with sponsors and meeting with investigators to help develop the Clinical Trial portfolio, to managing her staff to ensure things are being done

January 31; 12:30 PM
Pathology Grand Rounds
Fitkin Amphitheatre, LMP 1094
The Landscape of the Bladder Cancer Genome
Bogdan Czerniak, MD, PhD
[Learn More >>](#)

February 1; 12:00 PM
YCC Research in Progress Meeting
WWW 208
Title TBD
John Pagel, MD, PhD
[Learn More >>](#)

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 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](#) for further information.

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](#)

effectively and efficiently.

Rebecca is involved with each clinical trial from the start, even before its submission to the IRB, and she follows it through the many phases, writing consent forms, creating resource plans to ensure ample staffing, processing amendments, etc. "I help to make sure the trial is on track. There is a lot of coordination of all the moving parts of a trial and communication between team members is crucial. Ultimately, my goal is to make sure things run smoothly and that the needs of the patients on the trials are being met."

Having started out as a Data Manager in the Clinical Trials Office, Rebecca quickly worked her way up to Project Manager and now manages a large team. Things are constantly changing, and she has to stay up to date with the most accurate procedures and policies. With the addition of new faculty and the Smilow Cancer Hospital Cancer Care Centers, the Breast Cancer Disease Group is growing, which keeps Rebecca busy with new tasks on a daily basis.

Rebecca commented that there is a lot of 'behind the scenes' work, but if even one trial she assists with, helps one person, all the hard work is worth it. Her supervisor Kathy Uscinski, Associate Director for Clinical Trials Operations said, "Rebecca has quickly become a key player within the CTO. Her workload has nearly doubled with the research enterprise expanding to the Smilow Cancer Care Centers. Her attention to detail and ability to manage this growing portfolio with efficiency and grace is remarkable!"

Funding Opportunities

Yale Cancer Center Announces Grant Opportunities

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce the 2013 Internal Grants competitions. These grants will support innovative basic, clinical, computational, prevention/control, and translational cancer research. The primary review criteria will be scientific excellence, innovation, cancer relevance, and the likelihood of the project evolving into federally funded cancer research. Members of the Cancer Center or faculty who have applied for membership are eligible to apply.

Two types of grants will be awarded for one year, commencing on March 15, 2013:

YCC Pilot Grants of up to \$50,000 for a specific project headed by a member of the Cancer Center. Up to eight Pilot Grants will support individual research projects.

YCC Collaborative Pilot (Co-Pilot) Grants of up to \$100,000 for groups of two or more members of the Cancer Center. We

anticipate funding up to two Co-Pilot Awards.

Application Deadline: February 14, 2013

[Pilot Grant Application](#)

[Co-Pilot Grant Application](#)

Oncology Times: Call for Submissions

Oncology Times is looking for your oncology nursing perspective!

We are looking for opinion articles for publication in our quarterly [Nursing HemOnc Spotlight](#). Articles should be written by oncology nurses, and any topic of potential interest to oncology nurses, as well as other members of the cancer care team, is welcome. We are especially looking for lively, provocative pieces. Word length is flexible, but in general should be about 500 to 1500 words.

All submissions from Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital should be submitted to [Cathy Lyons](#) or [Monika Fradkin](#) for initial review before submission to *Oncology Times*.

Recent Publications

Pralatrexate: treatment of T-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Parker T, Barbarotta L, Foss F.
Future Oncol. 2013 Jan;9(1):21-9.

[Read More >>](#)

RAC1P29S is a spontaneously activating cancer-associated GTPase.

Davis MJ, Ha BH, Holman EC, Halaban R, Schlessinger J, Boggon TJ.
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2013 Jan 2.

[Read More >>](#)

Genotype-selective combination therapies for melanoma identified by high-throughput drug screening.

Held MA, Langdon CG, Platt JT, Graham-Steed T, Liu Z, Chakraborty A, Bacchiocchi A, Koo A, Haskins JW, Bosenberg MW, Stern DF.
Cancer Discov. 2013 Jan;3(1):52-67.

[Read More >>](#)

Clinical regressions and broad immune activation following combination therapy targeting human NKT cells in myeloma.

Richter J, Neparidze N, Zhang L, Nair S, Monesmith T,

Sundaram R, Miesowicz F, Dhodapkar KM, Dhodapkar MV.
Blood. 2012 Oct 24

[Read More >>](#)

Flavonoid intake and risk of pancreatic cancer in the National Institutes of Health-AARP Diet and Health Study Cohort.

Arem H, Bobe G, Sampson J, Subar AF, Park Y, Risch H, Hollenbeck A, Mayne ST, Stolzenberg-Solomon RZ.
Br J Cancer. 2013 Jan 8.

[Read More >>](#)

Melatonin enhances DNA repair capacity possibly by affecting genes involved in DNA damage responsive pathways.

Liu R, Fu A, Hoffman AE, Zheng T, Zhu Y.
BMC Cell Biol. 2013 Jan 7;14:1.

[Read More >>](#)

Prediagnosis Body Mass Index, Physical Activity, and Mortality in Endometrial Cancer Patients.

Arem H, Park Y, Pelsler C, Ballard-Barbash R, Irwin ML, Hollenbeck A, Gierach GL, Brinton LA, Pfeiffer RM, Matthews CE.

J Natl Cancer Inst. 2013 Jan 7.

[Read More >>](#)

Massive splenic infarction in an adolescent with hemoglobin S-HPFH.

Whyte D, Forget B, Chui DH, Luo HY, Pashankar F.
Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2012 Dec 31.

[Read More >>](#)

Historical Trends in the Use of Radiation Therapy for Pediatric Cancers: 1973-2008.

Jairam V, Roberts KB, Yu JB.
Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2012 Dec 27.

[Read More >>](#)

SLI-1 Cbl Inhibits the Engulfment of Apoptotic Cells in C. elegans through a Ligase-Independent Function.

Anderson C, Zhou S, Sawin E, Horvitz HR, Hurwitz ME.
PLoS Genet. 2012 Dec;8(12):e1003115.

[Read More >>](#)