

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

January 24, 2014

Announcements



New Smilow Cancer Hospital Commercials will Premier Sunday

We are excited to share with you the latest version of our Closer to Free commercials, which feature survivors from Smilow Cancer Hospital and their families and caregivers, and a mural painting on Water Street in downtown New Haven. The new commercials will debut on Sunday evening during the Grammy Awards on CBS, and will continue to air throughout February with a heavy rotation during the Winter Olympics beginning on NBC on February 7. We will also begin print ads of the new campaign in local magazines. Check the [Closer to Free site](#) for updates this weekend to see the new commercial online and share it with your friends. It's an exciting new celebration of Closer to Free!

from the desk of

Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center
Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer
Hospital at Yale-New Haven



Yale CANCER
CENTER
A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute

Join Yale Cancer Center on Facebook

Like us on Facebook 

Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

Follow us on 

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Links of Interest

CV Library

The CV library is a new resource available to our



Breakthroughs - The Year in Review

Our annual report published this week, and includes patient care highlights from Smilow Cancer Hospital and research advances from each of our 7 Research Programs. I encourage you to read it and share it with your colleagues who may be interested in the activities of the Cancer Center.

[Download PDF >>](#)

YCC Members Participation in 2014 GI Cancers Symposium

Several members of the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program participated and

presented work at the 2014 GI Cancers Symposium sponsored by ASCO, ASTRO, and SSO last week in San Francisco.

I am proud to announce that Edward James, MD, a third year fellow in our oncology fellowship program, was awarded a Merit Award from the Conquer Cancer



Foundation for his poster presentation with Dr. Jill Lacy on "Interim Analysis of a Phase II Study of Dose-modified FOLFIRINOX (mFOLFIRINOX) in Locally Advanced (LAPC) and Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer (MPC)."

Additional presentations included:

Second-line gemcitabine plus nab-paclitaxel (G+A) for advanced pancreatic cancer (APC) after first-line FOLFIRINOX: Single institution retrospective review of efficacy and toxicity.
Yue Zhang, H. Hochster, S. Stein, J. Lacy.

Measurement of circulating tumor DNA as a cancer biomarker in gastrointestinal malignancies using a novel next-generation sequencing method.

James, A. Narayan, S. Stein, J. Lacy, A. Patel, H. Hochster.

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 >>](#)

ASCO Connection Blog

Where do we go from here? Thoughts on Improving the Healthcare System

[Read More >>](#)

Events

January 24; 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP4-101A

Functional Screening for Effective Targeted Drug Combinations

David Stern, PhD

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

January 26; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR

Support for Cancer Patients

Bonnie Indeck, LCSW

[Learn More >>](#)

January 27; 12:00 PM

Notables

Congratulations to **Griserl Nieves** who was named a 2014 "**I am Yale-New Haven**" **Service Excellence Hero**. Griserl's nomination highlighted her very polite and respectful demeanor throughout her work with the Smoking Cessation Program. "Our success in getting patients started on the program often relies on the initial connection that Griserl makes with patients. She is very courteous and clear in her communication. Her bilingual skills also help make these population comfortable committing to the smoking cessation program," explained the Program's Director, Dr. Benjamin Toll.

Research in the News



CBS Evening News

Dr. Roy Herbst and Dr. Benjamin Toll were interviewed at Smilow last week for CBS Evening News to discuss smoking cessation, cancer risk for smokers, and the 50th anniversary of the Surgeon General's Warning on Smoking.

Interviewed in the video, one of our patients, Tim, was a life-long smoker until he sought the help of the Smilow Cessation Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital, under the director of Dr. Benjamin Toll. He successfully quit after 40 years of cigarette smoking!

[Watch Now >>](#)

ASCO Post

Renal Cell Carcinoma Onset at \leq 46 Years Could Serve as Marker for Genetic Testing

Approximately 5% to 8% of renal cell carcinoma cases are hereditary, and there are no guidelines for patient selection for germline mutation testing in this disease. In a study reported in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Brian Shuch, et al from the National Cancer Institute assessed whether age at onset could indicate the need for germline mutation testing for detection of

YCC Special Seminar

SHM B-201

Emerging Biomarkers in Head and Neck Cancer

Ranee Mehra, MD

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

January 28; 9:30 AM Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

E-cadherin: A Potential Novel Regulator of Platelet Function

Alexandra Teixeira and Ronald Albright, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 28; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium

Demonstrating Value:

The Challenge Facing Academic and Comprehensive Cancer Centers

Joseph Jacobson, MD, MSc

[Learn More >>](#)

January 30; 9:00 AM Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

Smilow, LL-412, Room E

MRI of Uterine Malignancy

Shirley McCarthy, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

January 31, 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP4-101A

Modeling Myelodysplasia

Stephanie Halene, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 2; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Research in Hematopathology

Samuel Katz, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 4; 9:30 AM Pathology Research in Progress Talks

TAC N-107

TBA

Tracy Reynolds and Huanjiao

inherited forms of kidney cancer. They found that age ≤ 46 years at onset could serve as a marker for genetic testing.

[Read More >>](#)

ASCO Post

Who Opts for Chemoprevention?

Dr. Erin Hofstatter reported that being "richer and wiser" was a factor in the acceptance of chemoprevention, based on information from the National Health Interview Survey, a population-based survey conducted annually by the Centers for Disease Control.

In 2010, the survey was conducted on 10,959 women ≥ 35 years old, of whom 0.21% reported taking chemoprevention. Bivariate analysis revealed several factors associated with uptake: age, race/ethnicity, education, insurance status, income, and geographic region.

"Interestingly, the use of breast MRI [magnetic resonance imaging], family history, and personal risk perception were not associated," Dr. Hofstatter indicated. "On the multivariate analysis, education and income remained independent predictors of chemoprevention use. Risk perception and family history did not appear to correlate."

[Read More >>](#)

Closer to Free



We hope that on that night you'll join us at the fabulous 2014 **Closer to Free Ride Kick Off Event** at Bar in New Haven on March 5, 2014.

It's your chance to re-connect with our community, enjoy some delicious pizza and mouthwatering beverages and be among the first to register for this year's ride, which takes place on Saturday, September 6. Once you're registered you'll have access to a wide range of benefits including our Rider Advantage Discount Card and exclusive tours of Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Here are the details:

Date: March 5, 2014

Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: [Bar Night Club](#)

Address: 254 Crown Street, New Haven

Pizza will be served with a cash bar

Register on site as a Rider or Volunteer and get a great

Zhou, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 4; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium
Testy Novel Therapeutics in Mice

Norman E. Sharpless, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

February 7, 12:00 PM YCC Research in Progress Meeting

NP4-101A

TBA

Juliane Juergensmeier, 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

CTF gift!
[RSVP Here >>](#)

Marketing

renee.gaudette@yale.edu

Camp Kesem at Yale



 Forward to a Friend

We are excited to announce that Yale's Camp Kesem is now accepting campers! Camp Kesem is a free, student-run, week-long summer camp for kids of parents who have/had cancer. The purpose of this camp is to recognize the often-overlooked population of children affected by a parent's cancer and give these children a week where they can have fun and be kids again. Camp Kesem Yale will take place August 17-22 at Camp Washington in Lakeside, CT. The camp is for children ages 6 to 16.

Camp activities will include sports, arts and crafts, and drama to give campers a fun-filled week. A Teen Camp will also be offered for campers between 14 and 16 years old. Campers also participate in "cabin chats" with fellow campers and counselors, giving children the chance to share their experiences coping with a parent's cancer with one another. There are plenty of laughs and lots of emotional support, although no formal therapy is offered/permitted. The tremendous fun and peer-support campers experience is what makes Camp Kesem a transformative, magical week for campers and counselors alike.

Please share this information with your patients for their children. For more information on Camp Kesem Yale and how to apply, visit their [website](#).

Funding and Award Opportunities

Avon Foundation Research Grant Program

Supports research projects aimed at understanding the causes of breast cancer, prevention or developing new tests to assess risk. Funds can also be requested to develop new treatments for unmet needs in breast cancer. Up to \$150,000 per year for 2 years. (\$300,000 maximum) An optional 3rd year can be sought during Year 2.

Letter of Intent Deadline: January 31, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

Yale Liver Center Pilot Funding

The NIH P30 Liver Center grant provides for the annual submission of pilot projects (up to \$25,000 direct costs each) from both Yale and non-Yale Liver Center investigators as approved by the Executive Committee.

The purposes of the pilots are to fund new initiatives, not ongoing research, and to support new investigators to pursue liver related research that should lead to a R01-type funding or other support at a later date. Projects utilizing Core Facilities and supporting young investigators are given priority if the science is equally meritorious.

Application Deadline: January 31, 2014

[Learn More >>](#)

Employee Profile: Holly Gaydos

The Employee Profile recognizes the diverse contributions made by Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital staff 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.

The Smilow Cancer Hospital Patient & Family Resource Center provides a quiet environment where patients and their families can receive cancer information, browse the Internet, attend workshops, and ask about community resources.

Holly Gaydos, Special Projects Coordinator for the Patient Experience at Smilow, started the center in 2011 and runs the day-to-day operations and interacts with patients or family members that come in.



"The Resource Center is a place where patients can come to learn more information about their particular diagnosis, hear about complementary therapies such as art therapy, Reiki, and massage, or about special events being offered," said Holly. "We have amazing volunteers that are survivors themselves and offer a friendly face for patients. Many patients come in on a regular basis and we get to share in their success and milestones."

Holly makes sure that all of the information offered is current and keeps track of events being held and resources in the community. A lending library offers hundreds of titles containing current information on cancer-related topics, as well as a selection of relaxation/meditation CDs. Holly is also on the committee for the Smilow Wellness Workshops, free workshops that deal with topics such as nutrition, sexuality and cancer, and many more.

Holly's supervisor Jeannette Hodge, Executive Director, Patient Experience, commented, "Holly is a calming presence in the Smilow Resource Center, and patients are most appreciative of her assistance. Holly is committed to making each patient's experience the best that it can be, and patients who come to the Resource Center look forward to seeing her when they return."

[Learn more](#) about the Smilow Cancer Hospital Patient & Family Resource Center.

Recent Publications

Treatment of hodgkin lymphoma: a 50-year perspective.

[Canellos GP](#), [Rosenberg SA](#), [Friedberg JW](#), [Lister TA](#), [Devita VT](#).
[J Clin Oncol](#). 2014 Jan 20;32(3):163-8. doi:
10.1200/JCO.2013.53.1194.

The Tumor Radiobiology of SRS and SBRT: Are More Than the 5 Rs Involved?

Brown JM, Carlson DJ, Brenner DJ.
[Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys](#). 2014 Feb 1;88(2):254-62.
[Read More >>](#)

Ranking and combining multiple predictors without labeled data

Parisia, F, Strinoa, F, Nadlerb, B, Kluger, Y.
[PNAS](#). 2013 Dec 17.
[Read More >>](#)

Defining Early-Onset Kidney Cancer: Implications for Germline and Somatic Mutation Testing and Clinical Management.

Shuch B, Vourganti S, Ricketts CJ, Middleton L, Peterson J, Merino MJ, Metwalli AR, Srinivasan R, Linehan WM.
[J Clin Oncol](#). 2013 Dec 30.
[Read More >>](#)

Structure, domain organization, and different conformational states of stem cell factor-induced intact KIT dimers.

Opatowsky Y, Lax I, Tomé F, Bleichert F, Unger VM, Schlessinger J.
[Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A](#). 2014 Jan 21.
[Read More >>](#)

Expanded use trials-are there better approaches to minimize adverse consequences to the clinical trials program?

Sznol M.
[Cancer J](#). 2014 Jan-Feb;20(1):25-6.
[Read More >>](#)

Gastrohepatic Fistula as a Complication of Laparoscopic Radiofrequency Liver Ablation in a Patient With Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma.

Brown C, Chen C, Cha C.
J Clin Gastroenterol. 2014 Jan 16.
[Read More >>](#)

Patterns of birth cohort-specific smoking histories, 1965-2009.

Holford TR, Levy DT, McKay LA, Clarke L, Racine B, Meza R,
Land S, Jeon J, Feuer EJ.
Am J Prev Med. 2014 Feb;46(2):e31-7.
[Read More >>](#)

"Quitting smoking will benefit your health": the evolution of clinician messaging to encourage tobacco cessation.

Toll BA, Rojewski AM, Duncan LR, Latimer-Cheung AE, Fucito LM,
Boyer JL, O'Malley SS, Salovey P, Herbst RS.
Clin Cancer Res. 2014 Jan 15;20(2):301-9.
[Read More >>](#)

Microsatellite instability testing in colorectal carcinoma: a practical guide.

Gibson J, Lacy J, Matloff E, Robert M.
Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2014 Feb;12(2):171-176.e1.
[Read More >>](#)

Macrophage expression of tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase as a prognostic indicator in coloncancer.

How J, Brown JR, Saylor S, Rimm DL.
Histochem Cell Biol. 2014 Jan 16.
[Read More >>](#)

PIWI proteins and PIWI-interacting RNAs in the soma.

Ross RJ, Weiner MM, Lin H.
Nature. 2014 Jan 16;505(7483):353-9.
[Read More >>](#)

Microvessel area as a predictor of sorafenib response in metastatic renal cell carcinoma.

Aziz SA, Sznol JA, Albiges L, Zito C, Jilaveanu LB, Camp RL,
Escudier B, Kluger HM.
Cancer Cell Int. 2014 Jan 14;14(1):4.
[Read More >>](#)