DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

July 25, 2014

Announcements

Cancer Genetics Program Broadened; New Leadership Announced

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Erin Hofstatter, MD and Xavier Llor, MD as Co-Directors of the Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program. Dr. Hofstatter is an Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology with expertise in evaluation and surveillance of high-risk breast cancer patients and cancer genetics. Dr. Llor is an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine (Digestive Diseases) and director of the section's Colon Cancer Genetics Program. Together, Drs. Hofstatter and Llor will continue to work with Dr. Allen Bale, Scientific Director of the Program and Professor of Genetics, to expand our services for genetic counseling for patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital and in our 8 Cancer Care Centers. I look forward to sharing more information in the coming months.

New Pulmonary Function Lab to Open

It is with great enthusiasm that we will be opening a Smilow-based Pulmonary Function Lab on Monday, July 28 in collaboration with the YNHH Adult Pulmonary Function Lab team. The lab will be located at North Pavilion 12, Suite 3001.

Offering this testing within Smilow will be a valuable service for our patients. Procedures may continue to be ordered through the current process. At the Smilow location, the following procedures will be available:

- Spirometry with bronchodilator
- Lung volumes by nitrogen washout
- Diffusion Capacity
- Mouth pressures (MVV, MIP/MEP)

from the desk of
Thomas J. Lynch, Jr., MD
Director, Yale Cancer Center
Physician-in-Chief Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven

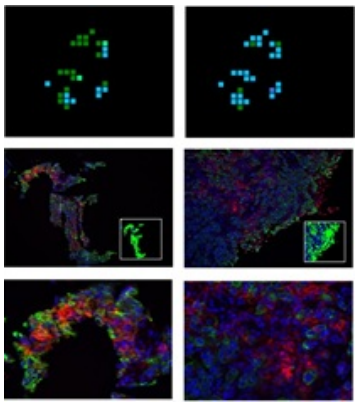
Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven

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

Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center
News Center>>

LATEST ARTICLES:



Yale Cancer Center Researchers Identify Possible Target for Immunotherapy in Early-Stage Breast Cancer
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Cancer Services Ranking Falls in *U.S. News & World Report*
I am disappointed to report that our ranking for cancer services fell to 39 in the nation in the 2014 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*'s Best Hospitals Magazine. While I am confident this is not a true reflection of the growth and national reputation our oncology team has built over the last 5 years, it is a national benchmark that we consider carefully. The hospital-wide safety and survival data that we are rated on decreased for this year and there will be a continued effort for improving these initiatives throughout the hospital, including High Reliability Organization (HRO) training currently underway. In addition, *U.S. News* made new changes to the methodology for their reputation scoring and added online voting through the website doximity.com. If you have not considered joining the site, please take the time to create an account so you will be prompted to vote next year.

I continue to be proud of the progress we are making at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven and Yale Cancer Center and know when I travel to national meetings, like ASCO, that there is a lot of knowledge of the great research and patient care happening here by our colleagues around the country. I look forward to working with hospital leadership to help us rise in the rankings in the coming years.

Notables

Roy Decker, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Radiotherapy and Radiobiology Research Program, has been selected to represent SWOG on the **Brain Malignancies Steering Committee** (BMSC). The goal of the BMSC is to promote the best clinical and translational research for patients with brain cancer by critically reviewing phase II and phase III clinical trial concepts.

Anees Chagpar, MD, MBA, Associate Professor of Surgery, Director of the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and Assistant Director for Diversity and Health Equity at Yale Cancer Center, recently published her latest blog on the **ASCO Connection** on "Motivation" and what motivates people.
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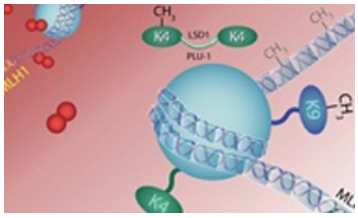
S. David Hudnall, MD, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Molecular Virology Program, recently published a textbook through Springer entitled, "**Viruses and Human Cancer**." The book provides a comprehensive review of the seven currently known human tumor viruses and their



Yale Cancer Center Study Finds Low Oxygen Environment Helps Tumors Silence Critical Genes
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Charles Stiefel is Inaugural Donor to Yale Cancer Center Discovery Fund
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Yale-New Haven Named Among 'America's Best Hospitals'
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LATEST TWEETS:

Proud to be part of @QVC's #SuperSaturday show. Equally proud to receive funds from @OCRF for patient support and research. More to come!

Researchers find low-oxygen environment (hypoxia) helps cancer cells silence critical genes.

Immune therapy for early breast cancers? YCC researchers are looking at PDL-1 levels to predict response

associated cancers.

Research in the News

Yale study finds some aggressive tumors silence genes that fight cancer
A study led by Yale Cancer Center may provide clues to how some aggressive cancers turn off, or silence, genes critical to suppressing tumors. The findings, published in the journal *Cell Reports*, suggest that this gene silencing process could be interrupted to increase the chances that aggressive tumors will respond to treatment.

As cancer develops, it often outstrips its blood supply and receives less oxygen than normal tissue. This low-oxygen environment, called hypoxia, is associated with aggressive tumors of all types that are more likely to progress despite chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

The study, which used colon cancer tissue, found that hypoxia also triggers the silencing of a critical tumor-suppressing gene called MLH1.
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Researchers uncover new cancer cell vulnerability
Yale Cancer Center researchers have uncovered a genetic vulnerability of cancer cells that express telomerase - an enzyme that drives their unchecked growth - and showed that telomerase-expressing cells depend upon a gene named p21 for their survival.

The authors found that simultaneous inhibition of both telomerase and p21 inhibited tumor growth in mice. The telomerase enzyme is overexpressed in over 90% of human cancers, but not in normal cells, and expression of telomerase is necessary to initiate and promote cancer growth.

In this study, the Yale team, led by first author Romi Gupta and corresponding author Narendra Wajapeyee of the Department of Pathology, showed how new pharmacological drug combinations can be applied to simultaneously target both telomerase and p21 to induce cell death in telomerase-expressing cancer cells.
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Closer to Free

http://bit.ly/1p19hEi @YaleMed

Proud to be in @YNHH family. Yale-New Haven Hospital only nationally ranked hospital in Connecticut. @USNewsHealth http://ow.ly/zb24n

Great job, @ASCO with http://www.cancer.net @CancerDotNet The site looks fantastic! #asco

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LATEST POSTS:

When Scott DeFilio was 38 he was happily married with two young sons and another on the way, and on a well-earned path for partnership in the CPA firm where he was employed. But that fall, he began to feel tingling and numbing sensations on his right side and had frequent headaches. After an MRI scan, his doctor discovered an 8 centimeter tumor in his brain.

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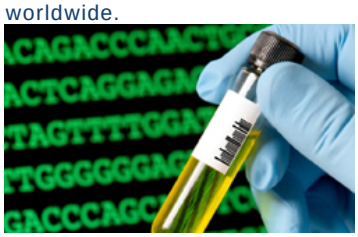
For many researchers, understanding the genomics of a specific cancer can help lead to improved therapies and treatments. To this end, scientists from the Broad Institute and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute recently reported 18 gene mutations that could result in lung adenocarcinoma, the leading cause of cancer death worldwide.



We are 7 weeks away from our 4th annual Closer to Free Bike Ride on Saturday, September 6th at the Yale Bowl. If you have not already registered to ride or volunteer, please consider joining a team or participating. It's a great day, with encouragement and inspiration from our patients, friends, families, and colleagues. We have 719 riders and 289 volunteers registered to join us so far, and hope to see many more of you join us!
Learn More >>

Employee Profile: Jill Williams, RN

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.

Jill Williams, RN, is the Patient Service Manager (PSM) for NP11, the 28-bed inpatient hematology and BMT unit at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Jill has been a nurse for 25 years, starting on a medical unit but quickly transferring to oncology, which has been her home for 24 years. Jill is well respected by her staff, NP 11's physician team, and her unit's patients. When making unit decisions she ensures that the patients and their families are at the center of that process.

Jill is also Co-Chair of the YNHH Quiet Initiative, which strives to improve the patient experience. Jill has spent countless hours brainstorming ideas that will ensure that patients receive the quiet that they need to heal. Some of her unit's initiatives that have hospital-wide acceptance are eliminating overhead pages and changing barcode scanners from beeping to vibrating. "These may not seem like large changes but they have made a big difference in our patient experience," Jill commented. "Patients comment that they

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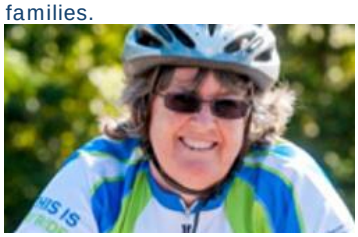
Lisa Anderson knows all too well how life can change in an instant. Over the past five years, Lisa has witnessed her husband, her law partner, and two close friends endure battles with cancer. Each diagnosis was, in Lisa's words, "out of the blue," and forever changed the lives of previously healthy, active adults and their families.



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At 7pm on Saturday night, Salt-n-Pepa, a Grammy Award-winning group, will conclude this year's Music on the Green Festival. Located in Downtown New Haven on the historic Green, this free annual summer music festival is a local favorite.

Learn more about the Festival sponsored by Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven.

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Yale researchers have recently discovered examples of a third strand of RNA that wraps itself around the double helix of DNA (a literal scientific twist, you could say). Postdoctoral Fellow Jessica Brown and her colleagues within the labs of of Joan Steitz and Thomas Steitz say that this

appreciate our efforts to ensure a quiet environment." Jill acknowledges her staff's efforts and commitment in supporting all the initiatives in improving patient's quality of time spent on NP 11, which can be up to 30 days.

Jill has done a large amount of education house-wide on the detrimental effects of noise on the hospitalized patient. Kirsten Pedersen, RN, OCN, Service Line Educator for Hematology-Oncology, commented, "We have dedicated quiet hours on our floor and this has really made the floor much more patient-friendly. Jill's unit scores in which a patient states that the unit is always quiet has risen from 20-30% to 70.6%, which passes the CMS threshold score. Jill is an amazing leader and an excellent role model who puts patients first."

Funding and Award Opportunities

YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer Career Development Award

The YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer is pleased to announce the availability of a Career Development Award beginning September 15 to provide funds of up to $60,000 for one year.

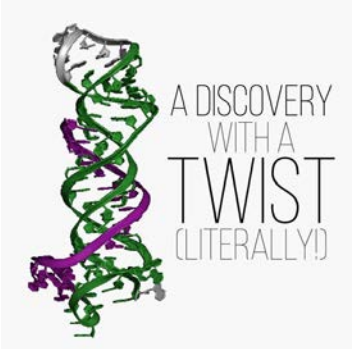
The purpose of the Yale SPORE in Skin Cancer Career Development Program is to more clearly focus the career development of the selected individual towards clinically relevant skin cancer biology and to specifically give them the tools to enable their contributing seminal advances in this area, as well as continuity of their individual cancer research programs. It is intended that the beneficiaries of this funding will be well grounded in both the biology of the relevant skin cells and mainstream cancer research, will have distinctive skill and knowledge sets that make them unique and individually fundable and give them a recognized identity in both the traction on the cancer biology "conveyor belt." Accordingly, it will be necessary to tailor each individual's developmental program to his or her particular interests and needs.

Candidates eligible to apply for CDP funding include:

1. Junior faculty holding appointments within the Yale School of Medicine, Nursing, or Epidemiology/Public Health.
2. Candidates for such junior faculty appointments, either currently within the Yale system (e.g., advanced postdoctoral fellows) or being recruited from outside institutions;
3. Established investigators, either within or outside the Yale system, who are committed to re-focusing a substantial component of her/his research on

triple helix was discovered at the end of MALAT1.

As this extra stand of RNA prevents the degradation of MALAT1, it is now understood how MALAT1 accumulates to very high levels in cancer cells, allowing MALAT1 to promote metastasis of lung cancer and likely other cancers.



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Closer to Free

closer to free
The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Events

July 27; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
Pancreatic Cancer Trials
Jill Lacy, MD
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August 3; 6:00 PM
Yale Cancer Center Answers
WNPR
Clinical Trials for Colon Cancer
Howard Hochster, MD
Read More >>

Employment Opportunities

Success in any clinical research endeavor, but especially in cancer research, requires the most qualified,

cutaneous study of risk prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment of human cutaneous malignancies.

Application Deadline: August 25, 2014
Learn More >>

The YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer Developmental Research Awards
The YALE SPORE in Skin Cancer is pleased to announce the availability of Developmental Research Awards beginning September 15 to fund projects in amounts up to $50,000 for one year.

Developmental Research Program Awards are intended to support a broad spectrum of innovative pilot projects applicable to human skin cancer risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment. To be funded, DRP projects must have promising translational research potential, i.e., direct application to human skin cancer, and there must be the expectation that they can evolve into, or be incorporated into, full projects with an unequivocal translational component funded either within this SPORE or as independent R01 (or equivalent) grants.

Categories of eligible investigators:

1. Established investigators (with previous and/or current R01 or equivalent funding) whose research to date has not been specifically directed at skin cancer, or even at cancer more generally, but who are interested in exploring the applicability of their expertise to skin cancer;
2. Established investigators in skin cancer who wish to test an innovative, translationally relevant idea clearly distinct from current or pending grants;
3. Junior investigators (holding a faculty appointment higher than that of Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate) without current or past R01 (or equivalent) research support who are proposing innovative research in the arena of translational cutaneous oncology.
4. Previous recipients (as Principal Investigators) of SPORE DRP funds are ineligible to be P.I.s of new DRP projects within 3 years of completion of their previous DRP funding.

Application Deadline: August 25, 2014
Learn More >>

Center for Cancer Research Clinical Investigator Development Program
The Center for Cancer Research (CCR), a Division of the

dedicated staff, committed to excellence and the mission of Yale Cancer Center. The combination of education, oncology research experience, and exceptional nursing skills is enormously difficult to find. Your participation, as knowledgeable colleagues, is invaluable at this time.

Should you know individuals with outstanding clinical research nursing experience, and who are ready to join our team, please direct resumes to Sandra Greer, Sr. Staffing and Career Development Representative or call (203) 432-5822. All referrals will be held in strictest confidence.

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

National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is pleased to announce its annual call for applications for Clinical Investigator Development Program (CIDP). This is an exciting training opportunity intended for physicians interested in dedicating their careers to clinical research. Candidates may be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or possess (or be eligible for) the appropriate work visa and must have successfully completed subspecialty training at a U.S.-accredited institution in appropriate fields.

Application Deadline: October 30, 2014

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Damon Runyon Fellowship Award

The Damon Runyon Fellowship Award is designed to provide early career scientists with resources to hone their cancer research skills and explore their own ideas while working with mentors in top universities and cancer research centers. Awards are intended to support the fellow under direct supervision of the sponsor.

The award provides a stipend of $50,000 per year for three years for Level I funding, and $60,000 per year for three years for Level II funding. (Physician-scientists who have completed their residencies, clinical training, and are board eligible will receive Level II funding.) The award may not be used for institutional overhead or indirect costs. Fellows also receive an annual $2,000 expense allowance for educational and scientific expenses.

Application Deadline: August 15, 2014

Learn More >>

2014 Rausch Pilot Research Grant from The Edith P. Rausch Fund of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

To provide seed money to members of Yale Cancer Center (YCC) to enable investigators to engage in innovative cancer research, with the goal of facilitating new research on the fundamental causes of, or an effective cure for, cancer. We anticipate funding two to three pilot grants. Priorities for the pilot grants include studying and/or ameliorating sociodemographic disparities in cancer incidence or outcomes; the prevention and/or treatment of women's cancers, as well as neighborhood/urban or other community factors that contribute to cancer etiology. Preference will be given to research that has a high likelihood of having a demonstrable community impact in the Greater New Haven area.

Application Deadline: August 14, 2014

Learn More >> (PDF)

AGA Foundation - 2014 Funderburg Research Award in Gastric Cancer
The American Gastroenterological Association is inviting applications for the 2014 Funderburg Research Award. The award is designed to support an established investigator working on novel approaches in gastric cancer research, including the fields of gastric mucosal cell biology, regeneration and regulation of cell growth (not as they relate to peptic ulcer disease or repair), inflammation (including Helicobacter pylori) as precancerous lesions, genetics of gastric carcinoma, oncogenes in gastric epithelial malignancies, epidemiology of gastric cancer, etiology of gastric epithelial malignancies, or clinical research in the diagnosis or treatment of gastric carcinoma. Please note, AGA membership is required at the time of application submission. Funding up to $100,000 over 2 years.

Application Deadline: August 29, 2014
Learn More >>

NCCN Enzalutamide Research Grant Opportunity
National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is pleased to announce that it has received a research grant from Astellas Pharma, Inc. and Medivation, Inc. to support NCCN investigator initiated clinical and pre-clinical studies of enzalutamide in the treatment of selected solid tumors. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is available by clicking the link below. The document clearly outlines the scope and process that will be followed for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Proposals. In brief, investigators are asked to submit an LOI detailing proposed studies. Following the peer review of LOIs, selected investigators will be invited to submit full proposals. The overall aim of this RFP is to develop innovative studies of enzalutamide in prostate, breast, hepatocellular, bladder, and gynecologic cancers. It is hoped that the LOIs submitted in response to this RFP will prove useful in guiding the further development of enzalutamide. Collaborative studies between NCCN Member Institutions are encouraged.

Application Deadline: Monday, July 28, 2014
Learn More>>

Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program
Era of Hope Scholar Award
Independent, non-mentored investigators within 6 years of their last training position (e.g., postdoctoral fellowship, medical residency, clinical fellowship) as of the application submission deadline

- Supports exceptionally talented, creative early-career scientists who have demonstrated that they are the "best and brightest" in their fields.
- PIs should articulate a vision that challenges current

dogma and demonstrates an ability to look beyond tradition and convention.
- PIs should exhibit strong potential for leadership in the breast cancer community
- PIs must include breast cancer advocates on their research team.
- Maximum funding of $2.5M for direct costs (plus indirect costs)
- Period of performance not to exceed 5 years

Letter of Intent Deadline: August 1, 2014
Application Deadline: August 15, 2014
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Recent Publications

A Notch for noncoding RNA in melanoma.
Garraway LA.
N Engl J Med. 2014 May 15;370(20):1950-1. doi: 10.1056/NEJMcibr1402173.
Read More >>

Excess of proximal microsatellite-stable colorectal cancer in African Americans from a multi-ethnic study.
Xicola R, Gagnon M, Clark JR, Carroll T, Gao W, Fernandez C, Mijic D, Rawson JB, Janoski A, Pusatcioglu CK, Rajaram P, Gluskin A, Regan M, Chaudhry V, Abcarian H, Blumetti J, Cintron J, Melson JE, Xie H, Guzman G, Emmadi R, Angelova V, Kupfer SS, Braunchweig C, Ellis NA, Llor X.
Clin Cancer Res. 2014 Jul 10.
Read More >>

Motion management in gastrointestinal cancers.
Abbas H, Chang B, Chen ZJ.
J Gastrointest Oncol. 2014 Jun;5(3):223-35.
Read More >>

Molecular and genetic pathways in gliomas: the future of personalized therapeutics.
Grant R, Kolb L, Moliterno J.
CNS Oncol. 2014 Mar;3(2):123-136.
Read More >>

Analysis of Diazofluorene DNA Binding and Damaging Activity: DNA Cleavage by a Synthetic Monomeric Diazofluorene.
Woo CM, Ranjan N, Arya DP, Herzon SB.
Angew Chem Int Ed Engl. 2014 Jul 9.
Read More >>

Silencing of the DNA Mismatch Repair Gene MLH1 Induced by Hypoxic Stress in a Pathway Dependent on the Histone Demethylase LSD1.

Lu Y, Wajapeyee N, Turker MS, Glazer PM.
Cell Rep. 2014 Jul 15.
Read More >>

Functional polarization of tumour-associated macrophages by tumour-derived lactic acid.
Colegio OR, Chu NQ, Szabo AL, Chu T, Rhebergen AM, Jairam V, Cyrus N, Brokowski CE, Eisenbarth SC, Phillips GM, Cline GW, Phillips AJ, Medzhitov R.
Nature. 2014 Jul 13.
Read More >>

Surgery for primary hyperparathyroidism.
Callender GG, Udelsman R.
Cancer. 2014 Jul 9.
Read More >>

Novel gene identified in an exome-wide association study of tanning dependence.
Cartmel B, Dewan A, Ferrucci LM, Gelernter J, Stapleton J, Leffell DJ, Mayne ST, Bale AE.
Exp Dermatol. 2014 Jul 16.
Read More >>

Dermatologic adverse events to chemotherapeutic agents, Part 2: BRAF inhibitors, MEK inhibitors, and ipilimumab.
Choi JN.
Semin Cutan Med Surg. 2014 Mar;33(1):40-8.
Read More >>

Evolution of breast cancer screening in the medicare population: clinical and economic implications.
Killelea BK, Long JB, Chagpar AB, Ma X, Wang R, Ross JS, Gross CP.
J Natl Cancer Inst. 2014 Jul 16;106(8).
Read More >>

Computational analysis in cancer exome sequencing.
Evans P, Kong Y, Krauthammer M.
Methods Mol Biol. 2014;1176:219-27.
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Clonal Screens to Find Modifiers of Partially Penetrant Phenotypes in C. elegans.
Hurwitz ME.
Methods Mol Biol. 2014;1176:157-67.
Read More >>

Reduced representation bisulfite sequencing to identify global alteration of DNA methylation.
Nagarajan A, Roden C, Wajapeyee N.
Methods Mol Biol. 2014;1176:23-31.
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