DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

September 22, 2014

Announcements

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital Welcome OAB Physicians and Staff

I am pleased to announce that after careful planning and collaboration, the physicians and staff of Oncology Associates of Bridgeport, PC (OAB) have joined Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven and Yale Cancer Center to provide cancer care in their Fairfield and Trumbull locations. The two office locations have been undergoing renovations and are expanding to provide on-site pharmacy services, upgraded facilities for infusion services, and improved safety standards. Beginning today, this addition allows us to provide Smilow care in Fairfield County and enlarges our network of Smilow Cancer Care Centers to ten locations.



(I-r): Drs. Witt, Persico, Folman, Fischbach, and Malefatto.

The new collaboration also brings 5 experienced oncologists to the Yale Cancer Center faculty:

Dr. Robert S. Folman received his medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and completed his

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

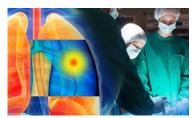




Recent News

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

LATEST ARTICLES:



For some cancer patients, surgery may yield better long-term results Read More >>



fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. He served as Partner and President of the former Oncology Associates of Bridgeport, P.C. for nearly 40 years.

Dr. Neal Fischbach cares for patients with breast, lung, gastrointestinal, prostate, and lymphoid cancers. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University Medical School and completed his fellowship at the University of California San Francisco.

Dr. Jerry Malefatto received his medical degree at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and received his fellowship in Internal Medicine and Hematology/Oncology at the University of California. He has been in practice for over 20 years.

Dr. David H. Witt attended the New York University School of Medicine and completed his fellowship in Hematology/ Oncology at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. He has published several publications in the American Journal of Medicine regarding both leukemia and solid tumors.

Dr. Justin Persico attended Tufts University School of Medicine where he also completed his fellowship in Hematology/Oncology. He has been involved with several studies including one looking at cutaneous metastases of solid tumors.

Location Addresses: 111 Beach Road Fairfield, CT 06824 Phone: (203) 255-2766

5520 Park Avenue Trumbull, CT 06611 Phone: (203) 502-8400

Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers >>

New Research Program Leaders Announced

Yale Cancer Center's Executive Committee recently appointed new leadership for our Radiobiology and Radiotherapy and our Cancer Genetics and Genomics Research Programs.

Dr. Joann Sweasy has been appointed to join **Dr. Peter Glazer** as Co-Leader of the **Radiobiology** and **Radiotherapy (RR) Research Program**. Dr. Sweasy is a Professor of
Therapeutic Radiology and Genetics. Her research focuses on genomic instability and how it leads to mutations that can cause

Laser Focus on Treatment Costs vs. Value: Less Radiation for Elderly Women with Early Breast Cancer Read More >>



Photos: Smilow Cancer Center's Closer to Free Bike Ride fundraiser Read More >>

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LATEST TWEETS:

Yale's Dr. Lynn Wilson @xrtldw for a great #ASTRO14. It's not over yet. More great research delivered until afternoon.

Dr. Meena Moran moderates panel on breast biology/nodal mgmt. #astro14 @YaleMed



Dr. Charles @cerutter #astro14 says possible to balance effective treatment and value in RT for elderly women with early breast cancer.

y Dr. Charles Rutter @cerutter on cost-effectiveness of RT for elderly

cancer. Together, Dr. Sweasy and Dr. Glazer will provide leadership for the RR program, which includes 41 members of YCC.

Dr. Marcus Bosenberg has been appointed Co-Leader of the **Cancer Genetics and Genomics (CGG) Program**, joining **Dr. Lajos Pusztai** in the leadership role. Dr. Bosenberg is an Associate Professor of Dermatology and Pathology and an active member of the SPORE in Skin Cancer Research. His research efforts concentrate on the cellular biology of melanoma and the genetics of metastases, as well as the development of new therapeutic agents to treat the disease. Dr. Pusztai and Dr. Bosenberg will lead the CGG Program, which includes 54 members of YCC.

YCC Annual Awards: Call for Nominations

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce our call for nominations for our annual awards in the areas of excellence in research and clinical care. Each award will be announced at the Yale Cancer Center Conclave on Monday, November 24, 2014. The nomination deadline for all awards is Friday, October 24, 2014.

Yale Cancer Center Research Prizes

Three Research Prizes will be awarded in support of excellence in the areas of basic science, clinical research, and cancer prevention and control. One award will be chosen in each area for a paper that is considered to have had the greatest impact on the field this year. The applicant must be a current member of the Cancer Center. The science in the publication must be cancer-focused. Please submit a PDF of your best publication (publication date from October 2013 to Sept 2014). To be eligible you must be either the first or last author of the publication. Email your publication to Christen Ruff.

Yale Cancer Center Award for Clinical Excellence

This award will be given to the physician who best exemplifies excellence in clinical care including superb clinical skills, use of a patient- and family-centered approach to care, and inclusion of a multi-disciplinary care model. Nominee must be a current member of Yale Cancer Center. Please nominate yourself or a peer and send a brief nomination letter (one page maximum) to Christen Ruff.

Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award

Yale Cancer Center recognizes the achievements of one of our senior members through our annual Lifetime Achievement award. Please send nomination suggestions for the award toChristen Ruff.

women w/ bc. #ASTRO14

TRT @AACR For more about research advances, read AACR Cancer Progress Report 2014 http://ow.ly/BrTlt #abcDrBchat #CancerProgress14

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LATEST POSTS:

Join us next Sunday, September 28, for Discovery to Cure, a walk to end women's cancers. With tour guides to lead the way and share stories about Yale's history and landmarks, the stroll will take participants through Yale's Historic Campus.

The Discovery to Cure Walk was founded last year by Beverly Levy in support of research to cure women's reproductive cancers and programs that enhance the quality of life of women who are coping with these diseases. Beverly accomplished all of this while fighting her own battle with ovarian cancer. This year we walk in her memory, which continues to inspire us to support the work that will find cures for these deadly diseases.



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Ruth McCorkle Oncology Advanced Practice Provider Award

This annual recognition from Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital is a unique opportunity to recognize the contributions of our APP colleagues who contribute so much to oncology patient care. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for this award by completing the nomination form and submitting it to Cathy Lyons.

Download application here.

Notables

Qin Yan, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology, and a member of the Yale Cancer Center Cancer Genetics and Genomics Program, was awarded a Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Breakthrough Award to support his research project, "Targeting an Epigenetic Regulator to Suppress Breast Cancer Metastasis." This 3-year project (\$700,000 direct cost and \$1,165,498 in total cost) will be conducted in collaboration with Drs. Don Nguyen, David Stern, and Carmen Booth.

Narendra Wajapeyee, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology, and a member of the Yale Cancer Center Signal Transduction Program, received a Biomedical Research Grant from the American Lung Association for his studies on "Personalized therapy of p53-mutant lung cancers."

David Carlson, MD participated in last week's **ASTRO Annual Meeting** as moderator of two sessions: *Radiobiology of High-Dose Stereotactic Radiotherapy* and Tumor and Normal Tissue Response Modeling. Dr. Carlson also had three abstracts presented at the meeting: *Biophysical modeling of high-dose hypofractionated radiotherapy; Serial Imaging of Tumor Hypoxia in Early Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients Undergoing Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy; and Predicting the Relative Biological Effectiveness of Carbon Ion Radiotherapy Beams using the Mechanistic Repair-Misrepair-Fixation (RMF) Model and Nuclear Fragment Spectra.*

Research in the News

The Interventional Endoscopy Team at Smilow Cancer Hospital focuses on patients with diseases of the pancreas, biliary tree, and the gastrointestinal tract. Led by Dr. James Farrell, Dr. Priya Jamidar, Director of Endoscopy, and Dr. Harry Aslanian, this program looks to identify the origins of symptoms, including those with pancreatitis, biliary strictures and stones, postcholecystectomy complications, unexplained abdominal pain, and suspected gastrointestinal malignancies.



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For parents with cancer, it can be tremendously difficult to tell their children of their diagnosis. Whether your child is 5-years old or 15-years old, you will never know how your children will react, what they will think, or how it will impact their lives.

In a recent Washington Post article, Dr. Claudia Califano, an assistant clinical professor who works with the Parenting at a Challenging Time program at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, suggest that children might perceive worlds like "cancer" differently from you - allowing parents the opportunity to tailor conversations to their children's level of development.



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Laser focus on treatment costs vs. value: less radiation for elderly women with early breast cancer

In a healthcare climate where the costs of treatment are increasingly weighed against potential benefit, a Yale study has found that radiation oncologists are using fewer or less-aggressive radiation procedures on elderly women with early-stage breast cancer.

The study, using a national database of more than 100,000 women treated during the last decade, found that today nationally radiation oncologists are less likely to use radiotherapy in women older than 70 with early-stage estrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer and that when they do, treatment is appropriately less-intensive.

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For some lung cancer patients, surgery may yield better long-term results

Patients with early stage non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) who are otherwise healthy fare better over time if they undergo conventional surgery versus less-invasive radiosurgery to remove their cancer, according to a Yale study.

The study used Medicare billing records of 1,078 lung cancer patients age 67 and older from across the United States to assess shorter- and longer-term complications and outcomes related to surgery versus radiosurgery (also known as stereotactic body radiotherapy, or SBRT).

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CT Cancer Partnership Annual Meeting

Cancer Survivorship: Models of Care across the Lifespan



Wednesday, November 5, 2014 Connecticut Convention Center Hartford, Connecticut Nicole Graham is amazing; but what truly makes her extraordinary are the obstacles she overcame to get where she is today. Nicole's taxing journey began when she was diagnosed with leukemia in high school. As if this disease is not difficult enough, the treatment that was supposed to save her put her in septic shock - Nicole's immune system could no longer fight off infection - which caused strokes on both sides of her brain.

This varsity field hockey player was immobilized. But 2 1/2 months later, defying all expectations, Nicole returned home, playing field hockey again. In the months that followed, with the help of her team at Smilow Cancer Hospital she fought her cancer into remission, was elected captain of her high school field hockey team, and was admitted to her dream school, Dartmouth College!



Read More >>

Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven is home to an Intraoperative MRI Suite, one of only a few such units in the world. This surgical suite allows neurosurgeons to take MRI images in real time during surgery, giving them more precise ability to target tumors. Procedures are quicker and more effective with access to the Intraoperative MRI Suite.

Previously, patients needing brain surgery would undergo a presurgical MRI, then surgery, and hours (or days) afterwards the patient would have a follow-up MRI to determine the effectiveness of the surgery. Only then would the surgeon be able to fully appreciate the extent of tumor removal and decide whether repeat surgery or

Registration Now Open

Call for Posters

Don't miss your chance to be a poster presenter at this year's Annual Meeting! The Connecticut Cancer Partnership is seeking poster presentations on survivorship topics for its 11th Annual Meeting.

Applications must include:

A poster description or abstract (maximum 500 words)
Contact information including first and last name, email address and phone number (if there is more than one presenter, please include names of all, but list one as the primary contact)

Application Process

Submit applications by Wed. Oct. 1, 2014 at 4 PM to: amanda@ctcancerpartnership.org and include the subject line: Call for Posters.

Notification of receipt of application will be sent electronically You will be notified by email on Friday, Oct. 12, 2014 if your poster is selected

No honorarium or travel expense reimbursement will be provided for any presenter submitting through the "Call for Posters" process

Selected presenters will need to arrive at the meeting location at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 5th, and be present during the poster sessions of the meeting to answer questions about your poster. Please do not plan to take down your poster until 1:30 or later.

Employee Profile: Eileen Dehm

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.

other therapies are needed. Now, our neurosurgeons can push boundaries and safely remove the tumor from the brain.



Read More >>

Closer to Free



Events

September 22; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center/Cancer Genetics and Genomics Faculty Lunch

Breast Medical Oncology
Conference Room
Aldehyde Dehydrogenases as
Markers and Key Players in Cancer
Stem Cells
Vasilis Vasiliou, PhD
Learn More >> (PDF)

September 23; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium
To Cut or Not to Cut: The Path to
Using Molecular Profiles to Manage
Metastatic Cancer
Sajid Khan, MD
Updates on Fertility Preservation
Options for the Cancer Patient
Cindy M.P. Duke, MD, PhD
Learn More >> (PDF)

When Eileen Dehm, RN, BSN, joined the team on NP 8 as Smilow Cancer Hospital first opened, she brought with her over 30 years of nursing experience, 20 of which were spent caring for patients with cancer. She entered into a newly created position, Oncology Nurse Coordinator for the Melanoma and Renal Cell Carcinoma Disease Team. In this role,



Eileen serves as a navigator, educator, and advocate for patients and their families.

"When a patient is first diagnosed, they are faced with a complex journey ahead. They meet with surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, and other specialists, sometimes all in one day," said Eileen. "It is a lot to take in and can be overwhelming and stressful. The Oncology Nurse Coordinator focuses on synchronizing patient/family care across the varied care settings, ensuring that the patient/family have appropriate information, understand and have the capacity to adhere to the medical plan."

Eileen commented that the majority of patients she works with are enrolled in a clinical trial. She coordinates with the Clinical Trials Office to make sure the scheduling is appropriate for the patients and that the patient/family knows when, what and who to call to report side effects. Early intervention in managing side effects is essential for all treatment patients. Eileen also communicates closely with other major cancer centers throughout the country so that if there is a trial that is not available at Smilow, patients can be referred to a center where it is, and vice versa.

"I have personally gained a lot working with cancer patients. Their outlook on life when faced with this difficult diagnosis is inspiring. It has made me wiser and more connected in my own life," said Eileen. "I want patients to know we are here for them. Anything they need, our team is willing to provide if able, or we will seek to find the resources to help them."

Working closely with the treating oncologist is another important aspect of Eileen's job. Dr. Harriet Kluger, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), sees patients with melanoma and commented, "When it comes to patient care, no task is too hard, too easy, or too unpleasant for Eileen. She is an outstanding patient advocate and a wonderful team player. We are so blessed to have Eileen in our unit."

September 24; 12:00 PM YSPH/EHS Seminar

LEPH, Winslow Auditorium
Strategies for Evaluating the
Oxidative Stress Potential of
Ambient Particulate Matter
Christos Hatzis, PhD
Learn More >> (PDF)

September 28; 10:00 AM
Yale Discovery to Cure
Program: Beverly Levy Walk to
End Women's Cancers
Yale Woolsey Hall
Learn More >> (PDF)

September 28; 6:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Answers WNPR

Options for Patients with Gastrointestinal Cancers Stacey Stein, MD Learn More >>

September 30; 12:00 PM Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium
Transfusion Medicine Update
Jeanne Hendrickson, MD
Onco-Nephrology: Managing
Cancer-Related Kidney Disease
Anushree Shirali, MD
Learn More >> (PDF)

October 2; 5:00 PM
YCC Program for Humanities in
Medicine
Beaumont Room
A Touch of the Farm River
Learn More >> (PDF)

Employment Opportunities

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

Funding and Award Opportunities

Women's Health Research at Yale Pilot Project Research Funding

Now in its 17th year, Women's Health Research at Yale has provided \$4.6 million in Pilot Project Program funding, and the results of these seed grants to Yale researchers have generated more than \$56 million in new external funding for Yale laboratories and clinical research settings.

Women's Health Research at Yale 2014-2015 Pilot Project Program offers the following research funds:

- **Pilot Project Awards:** Up to \$35,000 over one or two years for research designed to meet a clear need in advancing women's health.
- Wendy U. & Thomas C. Naratil Pioneer Award: Up to \$50,000 in funding over one or two years to initiate new, highly inventive research or to achieve a major breakthrough in ongoing research where funding is needed to achieve its aims.

All studies selected for funding must demonstrate innovative approaches to major women's health challenges, and describe a clear path to implementation for clinical or public health benefit.

Letter of Intent Deadline: October 29, 2014 **Learn More >>**

Center for Cancer Research Clinical Investigator Development Program

The Center for Cancer Research (CCR), a Division of the 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 Learn More >>

Conquer Cancer Foundation - Career Development Award

The Career Development Award (CDA) is a research grant that provides funding to clinical investigators who have received their initial faculty appointment to establish an independent clinical cancer research program. The cancer research must

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



have a patient-oriented focus, including a clinical research study and/or translational research involving human subjects.

Application Deadline: September 25, 2014 <u>Learn More >></u>

Connecticut DPH Biomedical Research Request for Proposals

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is seeking proposals for biomedical research projects in the fields of heart disease, cancer and other tobacco-related diseases, Alzheimer's disease, stroke and diabetes.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2014 Learn More >>

Free to Breathe Issues Request for Proposals for Lung Cancer Research

Free to Breathe, a partnership of lung cancer survivors, advocates, researchers, healthcare professionals, and industry leaders united in the belief that every person with lung cancer deserves a cure, has issued a Request for Proposals for research projects focused on preventing or stopping lung cancer metastasis.

Grants of up to \$600,000 over three years will be awarded in support of innovative, high-impact lung cancer research that leads to clinical translation (e.g. clinical trial) by the end of the award period. The partnership is particularly interested in proposals that include interdisciplinary teams and two or more principal investigators; collaborations with industry partners (Pls must be employed at a nonprofit entity such as an academic or research institution); access to existing patient samples or data, especially tissue from metastatic sites; studies that include mechanistic investigations into the underlying causes of metastasis; studies that are distinct research components of new or existing clinical trials; and/or novel approaches for preventing brain metastasis.

Application Deadline: November 7, 2014 Learn More >> (PDF)

Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award

In an effort to confront the crisis arising from a growing dearth of physician-scientists, Damon Runyon wishes to encourage more physicians to pursue research careers. To do so, the Foundation is establishing a pilot program designed to recruit outstanding U.S. Specialty Board-eligible physicians (MDs only) into cancer research careers by providing them with the opportunity for a protected research training experience under the mentorship of a highly qualified and gifted mentor after they have completed all of their clinical training.

The award will provide up to \$460,000 over four years in financial support for the award recipient. In addition, the Foundation will retire up to \$100,000 of any outstanding medical school debt owed.

Application Deadline: December 1, 2014

Learn More >>

Recent Publications

Red Meat and Fruit Intake is Prognostic Among Patients with Localized Cutaneous Melanomas More than 1mm Thick.

Gould Rothberg BE, Bulloch KJ, Fine JA, Barnhill RL, Berwick M.

Cancer Epidemiol. 2014 Sep 3.

Learn More >>

Academic Radiation Oncology Faculty Recruitment: A Chair's Perspective.

Wilson LD, Hahn SM, Haffty BG, Dorsoretz AP. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 90 (2014) pp. 463-465. Learn More >>

Mechanisms of Chemical Cooperative Carcinogenesis by Epidermal Langerhans Cells.

Lewis JM, Bürgler CD, Fraser JA, Liao H, Golubets K, Kucher CL, Zhao PY, Filler RB, Tigelaar RE, Girardi M. J Invest Dermatol. 2014 Sep 18.

Learn More >>

Frequent Silencing of RASSF1A via Promoter Methylation in Follicular Thyroid Hyperplasia: A Potential Early Epigenetic Susceptibility Event in Thyroid Carcinogenesis. Brown TC, Juhlin CC, Healy JM, Prasad ML, Korah R, Carling T.

JAMA Surg. 2014 Sep 17.

Learn More >>

Understanding Regional Variation in Medicare Expenditures for Initial Episodes of Prostate Cancer Care.

Wang SY, Wang R, Yu JB, Ma X, Xu X, Kim SP, Soulos PR, Saraf A. Gross CP.

Med Care. 2014 Aug;52(8):680-7.

<u>Learn More >></u>

Cardiovascular Events, Early Discontinuation of Trastuzumab, and their Impact on Survival.

Wang SY, Long JB, Hurria A, Owusu C, Steingart RM, Gross CP, Chen J.

Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2014 Jul;146(2):411-9.

Learn More >>

Perfect ALKemy: Optimizing the Use of ALK-Directed Therapies in Lung Cancer.

Politi K, Gettinger S.

Clin Cancer Res. 2014 Sep 16.

Learn More >>

Vesicular Trafficking of Incoming Human Papillomavirus 16 to the Golgi Apparatus and Endoplasmic Reticulum Requires y-Secretase Activity.

Zhang W, Kazakov T, Popa A, DiMaio D.

MBio. 2014 Sep 16;5(5).

Learn More >>

Considerations for Observational Research Using Large Data Sets in Radiation Oncology.

Jagsi R, Bekelman JE, Chen A, Chen RC, Hoffman K, Tina Shih YC, Smith BD, Yu JB.

Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2014 Sep 1;90(1):11-24.

Learn More >>

Regulation of DNA Pairing in Homologous Recombination.

Daley JM, Gaines WA, Kwon Y, Sung P.

Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol. 2014 Sep 4.

Learn More >>

Early Clinical Experience with Digital Breast Tomosynthesis for Screening Mammography.

Durand MA, Haas BM, Yao X, Geisel JL, Raghu M, Hooley RJ, Horvath LJ, Philpotts LE.

Radiology. 2014 Sep 1:131319.

<u>Learn More >></u>

New strategies in personalized medicine for solid tumors: molecular markers and clinical trial designs.

Jürgensmeier JM, Eder JP, Herbst RS.

Clin Cancer Res. 2014 Sep 1;20(17):4425-35

Learn More >>

Polymorphisms in DNA repair genes, hair dye use, and the risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Guo H, Bassig BA, Lan Q, Zhu Y, Zhang Y, Holford TR, Leaderer B, Boyle P, Qin Q, Zhu C, Li N, Rothman N, Zheng T. Cancer Causes Control. 2014 Sep 2.

Learn More >>