

November 25, 2015

Announcements

Yale Cancer Center Awards Prizes at Conclave

It was an honor to welcome Yale Cancer Center members and our physicians, nurses, and clinical staff from Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Care Centers to Monday evening's Conclave. I was especially honored to have the opportunity to recognize so many of the wonderful accomplishments YCC and Smilow achieved in 2015 during our 40th and 5th anniversary celebrations, including the funding of the SPORE in Lung Cancer, QOPI certification, continually high patient satisfaction scores, increasing clinical trial accruals, and record breaking fundraising at our Closer to Free Ride. I look forward to continuing our momentum into 2016 and pushing our strategic plan priorities forward as we work to build the Phase I Unit at 55 Park Street, recruit scientists to the Cancer Biology Institute on West Campus, integrate new physicians and Care Centers into our Network, and build on our clinical trial accrual success to reach new milestones.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement, Clinical, and Research prizes. The senior leadership team reviewed the nominations and selected the recipients of these 8 awards in recognition of their outstanding contribution to cancer care and research.

from the desk of

Peter G. Schulam, MD, PhD

Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief,
Smilow Cancer Hospital (Interim)



Recent News

Read recent articles featuring experts from Yale Cancer Center

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LATEST ARTICLES:



**Yale Cancer Center Scientist
Schatz elected to world's largest
scientific society**

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Sherman M. Weissman, MD, Sterling Professor of Genetics, was honored with the **Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award**. Dr. Daniel DiMaio presented the award to Dr. Weissman. Dr. Weissman's career has focused on DNA and RNA sequencing and in 1977 he sequenced the first complete animal virus, paving the way for future sequencing work and mentoring many throughout his career, including the current Director of the NIH, Francis Collins, MD, PhD. He is the former program director for Yale Cancer Center's Functional Genomics Research Program, and later the Gene Regulation Research Program.



Elena Ratner, MD was honored with the **Yale Cancer Center Award for Clinical Excellence**. Dr. Alessandro Santin and Michael Loftus presented the award. Dr. Santin commented, "Elena has a deep level of dedication to her patients, she goes above and beyond what is expected of a doctor. She also cares passionately about teaching the next generation of physicians." Michael shared his personal family's experience with the care Dr. Ratner provides her patients, saying she has "boundless compassion."



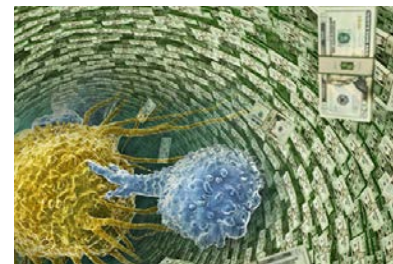
Yale Cancer Center hosts National Comprehensive Cancer Network Conference

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Meet the Physician: Suzanne B. Evans, MD, MPH

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A new paradigm for cancer research

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Dr. Ratner is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and cares for patients in the Gynecologic Oncology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. She accepted the award thanking her peers and stating, "I come to work each and every day hoping to make it just a little bit better for our patients, for our staff, and for each other."



Vanna Dest accepting the Ruth McCorkle Oncology Advanced Practice Award on behalf of Leslie Long, with Peter Schulam, Ruth McCorkle, and Cathy Lyons.



Renee Moyne accepting the Ruth McCorkle Oncology Advanced Practice Award, with Peter Schulam, Cathy Lyons, and Ruth McCorkle.

Leslie Long, PA and Renee Moye, MSN, APRN-BC, OCN both received the fourth annual **Ruth McCorkle Oncology Advanced Practice Provider Awards** presented

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LATEST POSTS:

Neva Caldwell of Hamden, Connecticut is a 15-year (and counting) lymphoma survivor. She credits her children for helping her get through her illness and treatment because she knew they needed her.



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Yale is embarking on a journey to become a tobacco-free campus. Announced by Yale University President Peter Salovey earlier this month, the university's goal is to create a healthier community, foster a campus culture in which tobacco users are supported in their efforts to quit, and become a model for other universities to follow. The adverse health implications of smoking and links to cancer are well known. Yale Cancer Center fully supports the University's goal, and is here to help.



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When Tasha Edens noticed deep purple bruising on her legs and stomach, her husband, Marcus,

by Ruth McCorkle.

Leslie works on the inpatient radiation oncology consultation service at Smilow Cancer Hospital and was nominated by her team for her enormous energy and drive, despite the busy, chaotic, and unpredictable environment she works in. "We've seen patients push her boundaries of patience and compassion, and have never seen her waiver." "She forms closer relationships with patients while they are hospitalized, and is usually the first person from our department that patients will recall when they return." Unfortunately Leslie was unable to attend the Conclave; Vanna Dest accepted the award on her behalf.

Renee is a nurse practitioner in the Smilow Cancer Care Center in Trumbull and was nominated by two of her colleagues as "the glue that holds the office together." She is a natural leader and "treats every single patient and family member with the utmost respect and passion. Renee is an exceptional role model for what oncology care should be."



Douglas E. Brash, PhD received the **Yale Cancer Center Basic Science Research Prize** for his paper ***Chemixcitation of melanin derivatives induces DNA photoproducts long after UV exposure*** published in *Science*. Dr. Brash is a Clinical Professor of Therapeutic Radiology and a member of the Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Research Program. Dr. Joann Sweasy presented the award.

insisted that she go to a clinic. After the clinic drew blood, they directed Tasha to the Emergency Department at Yale-New Haven Hospital, where she was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia by Yale Cancer Center's Dr. Nikolai Podoltsev. This cancer is a rare, quick moving subtype of Acute Myeloid Leukemia where immature white blood cells accumulate in the bone marrow.



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Find a wealth of health information published in NIH News in Healthnow in Spanish. This and more free, reliable information is available on NIH's new Spanish-language portal.



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Cancer survivor and Yale Cancer Center patient Mark Tardie spoke this weekend with WNPR about how he fought back against pancreatic cancer. Mark, a biochemist diagnosed at the age of 33, found that the most important way to conquer cancer was to show up for regular treatments, no matter how poorly he felt or however slim were the odds.



Craig M. Crews, PhD received the **Yale Cancer Center Translational Research Prize** for his paper *Catalytic in vivo protein knockdown by small-molecule PROTACs* published in *Nature Chemical Biology*. Dr. Crews is the Lewis B. Cullman Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, and a member of the Developmental Therapeutics Research Program. Dr. Daniel DiMaio presented the award to him.



Anees B. Chagpar, MD, MSc, MBA, MA, MPH, FACS, FRCS(C) received the **Yale Cancer Center Clinical Research Prize** for her paper *A Randomized, Controlled Trial of Cavity Shave Margins in Breast Cancer* published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Chagpar is Director of the Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, Associate Professor of Surgery, and a member of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program. Dr. Howard Hochster presented the award to her.



WNPR
Survivor Story:
Mark Tardie

The Importance of
Showing Up for
Treatment

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LATEST TWEETS:

FDA approves Opdivo for advanced renal cell carcinoma
<http://goo.gl/9qFUSG>

Congratulations to David Schatz on being named a fellow to @aaas for distinguished work in #ImmunoOncology#science

Our strengths: translational research, patient care:
<http://bit.ly/1T04yQx>
@YNHH @YaleMed #cancer #patientdriven

Research shows that many of the veggies on your #Thanksgiving table can help fight #cancer
<http://1.usa.gov/1fr2eVD>

The most complex gynecologic #cancer surgeries performed by a robot named Leonardo
<http://bit.ly/1MRCnE1> @YNHH



Melinda L. Irwin, PhD received the **Yale Cancer Center Population Science Research Prize** for her paper ***Randomized Exercise Trial of Aromatase Inhibitor-Induced Arthralgia in Breast Cancer Survivors*** published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. Dr. Irwin is Associate Director for Population Sciences and Professor of Chronic Diseases, and a co-director of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program. Dr. Cary Gross presented the award to her.



Bhatia Aarti has joined Yale Medical Oncology

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Aarti as an Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) to Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Aarti specializes in the care and treatment of patients with head and neck cancers, as well as thyroid cancer. She is a graduate of TN Medical College in Mumbai India and she completed her residency at Johns Hopkins University, and fellowship at Fox Chase Cancer Center. She also received a MPH degree from the

University of Texas School of Public Health.

Network Research Summit a Success

Thank you to all of our faculty and staff who attended the Network Research Summit on November 10. The evening was a great success, and we were proud to welcome our largest turnout yet. A total 67 people attended, with 27

Closer to Free

closer to free

The fund to advance cancer research and enhance patient care

Events

November 29; 6PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR
Clinical Research
Debra Brandt, DO

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December 1; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Series

TAC N-107
TBA
Anasuya Chattopadhyay, PhD and
Paul Stabach

[Read More >>](#)

December 1; 12PM

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

Park Street Auditorium
Value in Oncology: Providers, Patients, and Politics
S. Yousuf Zafar, MD, MHS

[Read More >>](#)

December 3; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

Fitkin Amphitheater
Molecular Genetics of Ectopic Mineralization - The Paradigm of PXE and GACI
Jouni Uitto, MD, PhD

physicians from our Care Centers, 19 physicians from our main campus, and 21 CTO staff from across the state.

Mario Sznol gave a fantastic talk highlighting the history and development of immunotherapeutics at Yale and use of these drugs, which led to a great discussion and suggestion for immunotherapy treatment guidelines to be developed as well as discussion on getting tissue for immune-profiling. Breakout sessions by disease also led to new ideas, more collaboration, and gaps in treatment areas for trials. Please contact **Anne Chiang**, MD, PhD, if you have additional ideas or feedback on the Summit.



Ambulatory Care Committee and Floor Chiefs Named

The leadership of Smilow Cancer Hospital, under the direction of Rogerio Lilenbaum, Chief Medical Officer, and Benjamin Judson, Medical Director of the Ambulatory Clinics, has appointed new physician members to the Ambulatory Care Committee (ACC), as well as Floor Chiefs for the Ambulatory Units in Smilow Cancer Hospital. The Floor Chiefs will partner with the nursing and administrative managers on each unit, represent a physician member to this operational team, and work to coordinate operations on that unit. The Floor Chiefs will also serve as members of the ACC.

Below is the list of new ACC members including the Floor Chiefs for each of the ambulatory units:

Daniel Boffa

Anne Chiang

Paul Eder (NP8 Unit Chief)

Patrick Kenney (NP4 Unit Chief)

Harriet Kluger

Terri Parker (NP7 Unit Chief)

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December 6; 6PM

Yale Cancer Center Answers

WNPR

Gynecological Cancers and Fertility

Elena Ratner, MD

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December 7; 12PM

YCC Epigenetics Interest Group Seminar Series

BCMM 206/208

TBA

[Read More >>](#)

December 8; 9:30AM

Pathology Research in Progress Series

TAC N-107

TBA

Cecelia Lopez Sambrooks PhD;

Huanjiao "Jenny" Zhou PhD

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December 8; 12PM

Smilow Case Notes

Park Street Auditorium

Shattered Hopes: Trials and Despair at the End of Life

Justine Cohen, MD

Mortality Review

Tara Sanft, MD and Alfred Lee, MD, PhD

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December 8; 5PM

YCC Breast Clinical Lecture Series

Smilow First Floor Conference Room, 1-330

TBA

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December 10; 12:30PM

Pathology Grand Rounds

Nikolai Podoltsev
Elena Ratner
Sarah Mougalian (NP1 Unit Chief)

Fitkin Amphitheater
*A Surfeit of Novel Nuclei Acids:
microDNAs, tRFs, lncRNAs*
Anindya Dutta, MD, PhD
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Notables

Congratulations to the 2015 Leslie H. Warner Postdoctoral Fellowship Award Winners:

Katherine Amato, Ph.D.

Faculty mentors: Katie Politi and Susan Kaech
Mechanisms of response and resistance to immune
checkpoint inhibitors in lung adenocarcinoma

Soo Seok (Steve) Hwang, Ph.D.

Faculty mentor: Richard Flavell
A molecular study of transcription factor Hhex mediated Treg
development

Alice Gaudin, Ph.D.

Faculty mentor: Mark Saltzman
PEGylated Squalenoyl-Gemcitabine nanoparticles for the
treatment of glioblastoma

Lizhen Wu, Ph.D.

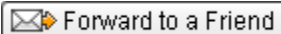
Faculty mentor: Qin Yan
The regulation of alternative polyadenylation by JARID1 in
breast cancer

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

Funding and Award Opportunities

NCCN Young Investigator Award

The NCCN Foundation invites proposals from young
investigators with innovative ideas and an interest in
improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of care
provided to cancer patients. Research projects may pertain to:
1) The application of the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in
Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®); or 2) Address new

prevention, detection or treatment approaches for cancer and its translation into clinical care.

The award is open to physicians, scientists, nurses and others working in an oncology laboratory, clinical research or clinical setting, or cancer control program in one of NCCN's 26 Member Institutions, who: 1) Have a first full-time appointment as an Assistant Professor, Instructor, or an equivalent level, and 2) Are MD's, PhD's or, for nurses and others, have an advanced degree.

Each NCCN Member Institution can nominate up to two applicants who may submit research applications relating to one or both of the categories of investigation summarized below: 1) Research pertaining to the NCCN Guidelines® 2) New prevention, detection or treatment approaches for cancer and their translation into clinical care.

For nomination consideration, please send a short research summary proposal and your CV to [Susan Higgins](#) and [Robert Garofalo](#) by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 25, 2015. Two nominations for the NCCN Young Investigator Award will be sent from Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital. Full applications will need to be submitted to NCCN by January 29, 2016.

Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award

In an effort to confront the crisis arising from a growing dearth of physician-scientists, Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation is establishing a pilot program designed to recruit outstanding U.S. Specialty Board-eligible physicians into cancer research careers. The goals are to a) transform these individuals into the highest quality physician-scientists, capable of conducting research that has the potential to transform the diagnosis, treatment and/or prevention of cancer and b) to eliminate the financial disincentive to entering this career path.

This award will provide a funding source that will enable these individuals to pursue research intensively, while, if they wish to maintain their clinical skills, continuing to be clinically active. This award is structured to provide recipients with significant salary support and necessary research expenses

(up to \$460,000 over four years). In addition, the Foundation will retire up to \$100,000 of any medical school debt still owed by an award recipient.

Application Deadline: December 1, 2015

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TCORS Pilot Project Grants

The Yale Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) is offering funding for pilot projects to initiate research relating to understanding tobacco additives and modified risk tobacco products through behavioral, molecular, laboratory, pharmacological, epidemiological, and economic sciences that involves humans (both clinical & epidemiological research) and animals (basic research). We are particularly interested in studies of menthol, flavors, sweeteners, and e-cigarettes and studies using novel techniques.

Up to 3-5 pilot projects will be funded at the level of \$25,000 to \$75,000 (direct costs only). The project must be completed in 1 budget year. Collaborative studies between Yale TCORS and one or more other TCORS are encouraged. Prior permission for a cross-TCORS collaborative proposal is required.

Letter of Intent Deadline: December 7, 2015

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Lymphatic Education & Research Network Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards Program

The Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) is committed to supporting basic and translational research that fosters an interdisciplinary field of investigators conducting lymphatic research. The supported research will improve our understanding and advance the prevention, diagnosis, and novel treatments of lymphedema and other lymphatic disorders. In each grant cycle, at least one fellowship will specifically focus on lymphedema.

Application Deadline: January 15, 2016

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L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship Program Award

The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science program recognizes and rewards the contributions women make in STEM fields and identifies exceptional women researchers committed to serving as role models for younger generations. More than 2,250 women scientists in over 110 countries have been recognized since the program began in 1998.

In the US, the For Women In Science fellowship program awards five post-doctoral women scientists annually with grants of \$60,000 each. Applicants are selected from a variety of fields, including the life and physical/material sciences, technology (including computer science), engineering, and mathematics.

I invite you to collaborate with us and spread the word to your community about this special fellowship program for exceptional female post-doctoral researchers who are also committed to serving as role models for the next generation of girls in STEM.

Application Deadline: February 5, 2016

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Recent Publications

Investigation of the presence of HPV related oropharyngeal and oral tongue squamous cell carcinoma in Mozambique.

Blumberg J, Monjane L, Prasad M, Carrilho C, Judson BL. Cancer Epidemiol. 2015 Nov 15;39(6):1000-1005.

[Read More >>](#)

A functional genomic model for predicting prognosis in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Huang Y, Ma SF, Vij R, Oldham JM, Herazo-Maya J, Broderick SM, Strek ME, White SR, Hogarth DK, Sandbo NK, Lussier YA, Gibson KF, Kaminski N, Garcia JG, Noth I. BMC Pulm Med. 2015 Nov 21;15(1):147.

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Practical guidelines for B-cell receptor repertoire sequencing analysis.

Yaari G, Kleinstein SH. Genome Med. 2015 Nov 20;7(1):121.

[Read More >>](#)

Taking "the Game" Out of The Match: A Simple Proposal.

Wu AJ, Vapiwala N, Chmura SJ, Das P, Decker RH, Terezakis SA, Zietman AL. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2015 Dec 1;93(5):945-8.

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Prospective assessment of the decision-making impact of the Breast Cancer Index in recommending extended adjuvant endocrine therapy for patients with early-stage ER-positive breast cancer.

Sanft T, Aktas B, Schroeder B, Bossuyt V, DiGiovanna M, Abu-Khalaf M, Chung G, Silber A, Hofstatter E, Mougalian S, Epstein L, Hatzis C, Schnabel C, Puztai L. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2015 Nov 14.

[Read More >>](#)

A report of metachronous orbital involvement by IgG4 disease treated successfully with low-dose radiation therapy.

Rutter CE, Mancini BR, Roberts KB. Pract Radiat Oncol. 2015 Sep 25.

[Read More >>](#)

Global copy number profiling of cancer genomes.

Wang X, Chen M, Yu X, Pornputtapong N, Chen H, Zhang N, Powers RS, Krauthammer M. Bioinformatics. 2015 Nov 16.

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Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons: determinants of residential carpet dust levels and risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

DellaValle CT, Deziel NC, Jones RR, Colt JS, De Roos AJ, Cerhan JR, Cozen W, Severson RK, Flory AR, Morton LM, Ward MH. Cancer Causes Control. 2015 Nov 16.

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Overexpression of HE4 (human epididymis protein 4) enhances proliferation, invasion and metastasis of ovarian cancer.

Zhu L, Zhuang H, Wang H, Tan M, Schwab CL, Deng L, Gao J, Hao Y, Li X, Gao S, Liu J, Lin B. *Oncotarget*. 2015 Nov 9.

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