

September 23, 2022

From Eric's Desk

On Sunday evening, President Biden spoke on “60 Minutes,” declaring that the pandemic was over. Ironically, having just returned from Europe, I tested positive for COVID an hour before the President’s statement. I have spent the week at home, though I cannot complain. I had come to believe that I might never get COVID, but it is the way of the times. I am so very grateful it is no longer 2020. We have vaccines, we have treatment, and we have so much more knowledge. While President Biden may have been premature in his pronouncement, the pandemic as we knew it two years ago is not the same. Thankfully, we can, and are, moving forward with our lives, with our personal and professional plans, and with our vision of YCC/Smilow in the 5-10 years ahead.

On Monday, many of us gathered virtually (the in person had to be altered at the 11th hour because of my need for quarantine) for a second strategic planning retreat. The format and the retreat itself were a huge success, in no small part due to the heroic efforts of Anna Raso, my chief of staff, in making the 180-degree conversion to virtual. In this second day, we focused on: 1) education and training; 2) diversity, equity, and inclusion; and 3) community, outreach, and engagement. Finally, we talked about taking these three pillars of our cancer center and harnessing them—in conjunction with many other resources—to reduce the significant inequities that result from cancer care disparities in our catchment area, the State of Connecticut. I realize you have all heard me speak about this before, and sometimes I do feel like a broken record. You will be hearing more from me on this topic, as well as others. As part of both our Core Grant renewal and, more importantly, as a key component of our overall mission, we are 100% committed to reducing cancer care disparities in Connecticut in the years ahead. I, for one, believe that with energy, creativity, and resources, we can truly make a difference.

In spite our enthusiasm for the future, we must acknowledge that there were position eliminations this week in the Yale New Haven Health System to address the financial challenges facing the institution. YCC and Smilow are entirely intertwined. Everything that affects Smilow impacts YCC, and the health of YCC has a substantial effect on Smilow. Healthcare finances are more complex than ever before, and hospitals across the country are confronting unprecedented shortfalls. We will all get through this period—it will take all of us rowing in the same direction with impeccable coordination. As we look to the future, we will focus on coordination, growth, and our incredible mission. This week, my thoughts are with the people whose positions had to be eliminated; we wish them the best.

Eric P. Winer, MD

Director, Yale Cancer Center

Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Network

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A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
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News Center



**Incarceration Associated with Higher
Cancer Mortality, Yale study shows**



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Biden Hopes Ending Cancer can be a

Announcements

Peter Dottino, MD, FACOG, joins Gynecologic Oncology Program

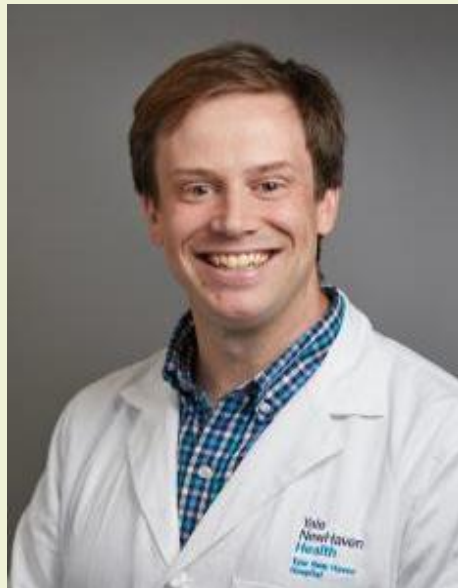
Peter Dottino, MD, FACOG, has been appointed Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and will care for patients as part of the Gynecologic Oncology Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital beginning on October 1. A nationally and internationally recognized expert in operative laparoscopy, Dr. Dottino joins Yale from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai where he was co-Director of the Gynecologic Cancer Translational Research Program.



Dr. Dottino received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and a fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital. He has published numerous articles and chapters in medical journals and textbooks and is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in OB/GYN and Gynecologic Oncology and is an active member in numerous professional societies and organizations. He is co-Founder of MDDx- Diagnostic Biomarker Research Company and conducts research in developing diagnostic and screening tools for gynecologic cancers.

Smilow Care Centers in Westery and Waterford Welcome Matthew Austin, MD

Matthew Austin, MD, has been named an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), and will begin caring for patients with melanoma and genitourinary cancers at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Westery, and one day a week at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Waterford on October 1.



Dr. Austin received his medical degree from University at Buffalo School of Medicine and completed his residency at Brown University where he was Chief Resident. He completed medical oncology-hematology fellowship training at Yale Cancer Center in 2021 before joining Brown University as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. During his training, Dr.

Austin collaborated with Dr. Harriet Kluger on studies looking at utilizing a large-scale autoantibody assay to profile the humoral response to immunotherapy in patients with cancer and RNA sequencing and mutational

'National Purpose' for US



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ADAURA Trial Results Provide New Hope for Patients with Early-Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer



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How Moving More and Sitting Less May Help Lower Breast Cancer Risk



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Sickle Cell Awareness Q&A with Cece Calhoun, MD, MPH, MBA



analysis of tumors in patients with chronic type I diabetes.

Upcoming CME Programs

Join Yale Cancer Center faculty for several upcoming CME programs this fall highlighting the latest advances in cancer research and care from Yale:

- **Yale's Review of Advances in Oncology: Highlights from the ASCO Annual Meeting 2022**, Friday, September 30 at 8am at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven.
- **Smilow Shares with Primary Care on Breast Cancer**, Tuesday, October 4 at 5pm, Virtual
- **Redefining Resectability in Head & Neck Cancers**, Wednesday, October 12 at 6:30pm, Virtual
- **Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Care at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Guilford**, Thursday, October 13 at 6:30pm, Virtual
- **Emerging Strategies in Breast Cancer Treatment and Care**, Wednesday, October 19 at 6:30pm, Virtual
- **Smilow Shares with Primary Care on Lung Cancer**, Tuesday, November 1 at 5pm, Virtual
- **Immunotherapy and Novel Treatment for Head & Neck Cancers**, Wednesday, November 9 at 6:30pm, Virtual
- **Ella Grasso Gynecologic Oncology Conference**, Wednesday, November 16 at 8am, Virtual
- **Scientific Network on Female Sexual Health and Cancer 2022 Conference: Extending Our Reach: Broadening the Boundaries of Oncosexual Health**, Thursday and Friday, November 17-18, Greenberg Center

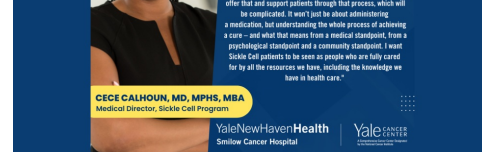
Yale Cancer Center Annual Award Nominations

Yale Cancer Center is pleased to announce our call for nominations for our annual awards. Each award will be announced at the Yale Cancer Center Conclave in January. The nomination deadline for awards, unless otherwise noted, is November 1, 2022.

Yale Cancer Center Research Prizes: Research Prizes will be awarded in support of excellence in the areas of basic science, clinical science, translational science, and population science. Awards will be chosen in each area to recognize a paper that is considered to have had the greatest impact on the field this year. The nominee must be a current member of Yale Cancer Center and science in the publication must be cancer-focused. To be eligible, the nominee must also be either the first or last author of the publication. Please submit a PDF of the publication (publication date must be between October 2021 to October 2022) along with the category it should be considered for via email to **Anna Raso**.

Yale Cancer Center Award for Clinical Excellence: This award will be given to the physician who best exemplifies excellence in clinical care including super 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 outstanding candidates and send a brief nomination letter (one-page maximum) via email to **Anna Raso**.

Yale Cancer Center Award for Mentorship Excellence: This award will be given to the faculty member who best exemplifies excellence in mentorship by providing ongoing feedback and support, serving as a role model to their mentee(s), inspiring them in their passion for cancer care or for their specific field of study, providing opportunities and resources for mentee(s) to advance



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Yale Physicians Share the Symptoms of Ovarian Cancer



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12th Annual Closer to Free Ride a Success Saturday



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Yale Doctor Encourages Exposure to Nature for Mental Wellbeing and Healing



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their careers, and encouraging their mentee(s) to grow, strive for excellence, and achieve their full potential. Nominee must be a **current member** of Yale Cancer Center. Please nominate outstanding candidates and send a brief nomination letter (one-page maximum) via email to **Anna Raso**.

Yale Cancer Center Award for Teaching Excellence: This award will be given to the faculty member who best exemplifies excellence in teaching by ensuring their trainee(s) acquire the skills they need to develop as outstanding health practitioners, scientists, and/or researchers, providing ongoing feedback, inspiring passion for cancer care or for their specific field of study, explaining difficult concepts in innovative and creative ways, and stimulating excitement, debate, and critical and independent thinking. Nominee must be a **current member** of Yale Cancer Center. Please nominate outstanding candidates and send a brief nomination letter (one-page maximum) via email to **Anna Raso**.

Yale Cancer Center Award for Leadership in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: This award will be given to the cancer center member who best exemplifies leadership in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion through support of diverse faculty and trainees, active programs to foster culture change, and serving as a role model of fairness and inclusivity. Nominee must be a **current member** of Yale Cancer Center. Please nominate outstanding candidates and send a brief nomination letter (one-page maximum) via email to **Anna Raso**.

Yale Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award: Yale Cancer Center recognizes the achievements of one of our senior members through our annual Lifetime Achievement award. Nominee must be a **current member** of Yale Cancer Center. Please send nomination suggestions for the award via email to **Anna Raso**.

Ruth McCorkle Oncology Advanced Practice Provider Award: This annual award from Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital recognizes the contributions of our Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant colleagues who contribute so much to oncology patient care. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for this award. **Nominations** are due for the Ruth McCorkle Award to **Kim Slusser** by November 30, 2022.

Class of '61 Cancer Research Award: This annual Award recognizes significant accomplishments in cancer research at Yale University by a young member of the faculty, coupled with the expectation for future outstanding contributions to our understanding of the causes of cancer and to the development of novel cancer treatments. Established through the generosity of the Yale College Class of 1961, the Award provides unrestricted funds to support the winner's cancer research at Yale. Nominees must be an independent Yale faculty member aged 45 or less (on Dec 31, 2022), with accomplishments documented by published papers and awarded grants in any area of cancer research. Self-nominations are welcomed. **Nominations** must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, November 11, 2022. Inquiries and nomination materials should please be sent to **Mark Lemmon**.

Notables

Elena Ratner, MD, Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive

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YALE CANCER ANSWERS

Meet Wajih Zaheer Kidwai, MD, medical oncologist at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Guilford. Dr. Kidwai cares for patients with cancers of the blood, breast, gastrointestinal tract, as well as benign blood disorders. Recently, a patient of Dr. Kidwai shared, "Dr. Zaheer Kidwai, Elizabeth, and the care team are outstanding. I am in excellent hands. Dr. Zaheer Kidwai is such a kind doctor. He made me feel very relaxed. I am so glad I was referred to him."



Wajih Kidwai, MD

Sciences and Co-Chief, Section of Gynecologic Oncology, has been appointed as the inaugural **Director of Women's Health System Development** for the **Yale New Haven Health System** and **Vice Chair for Gynecology** in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences. In her new role she will expand women's subspecialty care across the system and region, partnering with our Delivery networks and NEMG as well as with other women's programs including genetics, cardiology, mental health, urology, endocrinology, and breast health.

Pamela Kunz, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), Director of the Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, and Chief of GI Medical Oncology, has been named **President of The North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (NANETS)**. NANETS is a multidisciplinary medical society committed to the support of the medical community in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with neuroendocrine cancer, and furthering NET science and education in North America. NANETS will welcome their new board members following NANETS Annual Meeting during Symposium, on Friday, October 28.

David Braun, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), a member of the Center of Molecular and Cellular Oncology, and Louis Goodman and Alfred Gilman Yale Scholar, and **Nazli Dizman, MD**, a resident in internal medicine, have both received **Trailblazer Awards** from the **Kidney Cancer Association**. Dr. Braun's project is titled, "Dissecting the immunobiology of chromophobe renal cell carcinoma using single-cell transcriptomics" and Dr. Dizman will research the "Impact of CBM588 on metabolomic profile in patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma (mRCC)."

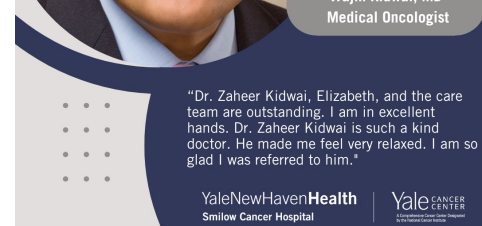
Smita Krishnaswamy, PhD, Associate Professor of Genetics and of Computer Science and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Research Program, has received the **Excellence in Science Early-Career Investigator Award** from the **Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)**. The award recognizes the impact Dr. Krishnaswamy's research, teaching, and community efforts have made in the scientific community.

Melissa Hollar, Manager of the Breast Center at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Greenwich Hospital, and **Angela Castaldo**, Tech Specialist, are the recipients of this year's **Greenwich Hospital Breast Cancer Award**. The award is presented annually in recognition of substantial contributions to the Breast Program at Greenwich Hospital and Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center at Greenwich.

Cathy Garcia, a graduate student in the laboratory of **Mandar Muzumdar, MD**, is the recipient of a **F-31 Diversity Fellowship Award** from the National Cancer Institute. Cathy will use the funding to continue her research into,

"Elucidating mechanisms of endocrine-exocrine signaling in obesity-driven pancreatic cancer."

The **Muzumdar and Escobar-Hoyos Labs** represented Yale Cancer Center at the **AACR Special Conference on Pancreatic Cancer** last week with several presentations and some special recognition. **Cathy Garcia** and **Christian Ruiz** won **AACR Minority Scholar Awards in Cancer Research** at the conference for their presentations on *Elucidating mechanisms of*



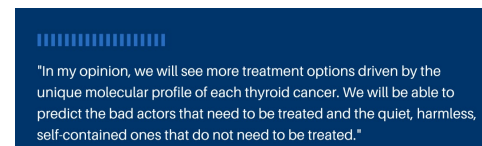
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Please join us in welcoming **Haripriya Ayyala, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery (Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery), to the Center for Breast Cancer at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. Dr. Ayyala graduated Alpha Omega Alpha from George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences and completed her residency in plastic surgery at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. She completed a fellowship in reconstructive microsurgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Ayyala's clinical interests include post-oncologic reconstruction focusing on microsurgical techniques. Her research interests include the evaluation of outcomes after complex reconstruction, innovation in microsurgery, and operative efficiency.



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Personalized treatment for thyroid cancer looks to be the future direction of treatment, says Pathologist Dr. Manju Prasad. "In my opinion, we will see more treatment options driven by the unique molecular profile of each thyroid cancer. We will be able to predict the bad actors that need to be treated and the quiet, harmless, self-contained ones that do not need to be treated."



endocrine-exocrine signaling in obesity-driven pancreatic cancer and Excess dietary oleic acid primes the pancreas for cancer, respectively.

Additional poster presentations were showcased by:

- **Yanixa Quinones-Aviles**: *Differential pathway engagement and the biological consequences of KRAS variants in cancer*
- **Xiangyu (Gigi) Ge**: *Wild-type RAS/MAPK signaling complexes mediate adaptive resistance to KRAS inhibition in PDAC*
- **Carlos Mauricio Mejia Arbelaez**: *Prognostic effects of different TP53 mutations in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma*
- **Natasha Pinto Medici**: *Altered RNA splicing causes pancreatic cancer and exposes a therapeutic vulnerability*
- **Md Afjalus Siraj**: *Evaluating the role of altered RNA metabolism in pancreatic cancer therapy resistance and Activation of the MAPK pathways by altered RNA splicing in cancer*

Congratulations to the **2022 Head and Neck SPORE Developmental Research Awardees**:

- **Megan King, PhD**, Associate Professor of Cell Biology and of Molecular, Cellular and Development Biology and **Patrick Lusk, PhD**, Associate Professor of Cell Biology: *Nuclear integrity as a novel modulator of the radiation response in head and neck cancer*
- **Jong Woo Lee, PhD**, Research Scientist, Internal Medicine (Medical Oncology): *Autophagy inhibition to potentiate AURKA inhibitor therapy in head and neck cancer*

And to the **2022 Head and Neck Career Enhancement Awardees**:

- **Michael Chiorazzi, MD, PhD**, Instructor of Medicine (Medical Oncology): *Investigation of the HNSCC Tumor Microenvironment and Response to Therapy with Autologous Humanized Mice* (Mentor: Richard Flavell, PhD, FRS)
- **He (Peter) Wang, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Pathology: *Electronic cigarette exposure on oral mucosa carcinogenesis* (Mentors: Barbara Burtness, MD, Qin Yan, PhD)

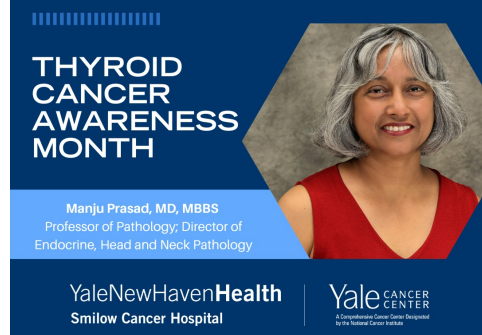
Evan Morris, PhD, Professor of Radiology & Biomedical Imaging and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Radiobiology and Genome Integrity Research Program, is one of four university leaders from across the country who have received an **Academy Engagement Network antisemitism education grant**. This grant will help educate the next generation of leaders about contemporary antisemitism while fostering a positive campus climate for the community.

David Schatz, PhD, Chair and Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology, Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Immunology Research Program, is a co-winner of the **2023 Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize**, along with Frederick Alt, PhD, of Harvard Medical School. The award honors Dr. Schatz for his discovery of the enzyme RAG1/2.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month

We come together to celebrate Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month: this is an occasion to highlight the many accomplishments of Latinx cancer researchers and health professionals, and the diversity of our Latinx community. There are many events online and in person around campus for you to explore, and the Peabody Museum is holding its annual **Fiesta Latina**, bringing together artists, scholars, musicians, scientists, and community



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In honor of Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, please join us in offering messages of hope, support, and awareness for our patients. Teal butterflies are on display through the end of the month in the Healing Garden on the 7th floor of Smilow Cancer Hospital, and each carries a message for our patients and caregivers.



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Tune to Yale Cancer Answers to hear medical oncologist Dr. Joseph Kim discuss the innovative treatment options available to men with prostate cancer and recent research advances in the field. Listen on Connecticut Public Radio or download our podcast from iTunes.



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leaders from across Yale and New Haven to learn from and honor the perspectives and accomplishments of the Latin American diaspora.

Yale Cancer Center researchers studying cervical cancer prevention with the vaccine against the Human Papillomavirus found that by offering inpatient vaccination after childbirth, high vaccination rates were achieved for Hispanic patients. Likewise, our liver and head and neck cancer research programs delve into the causes and treatments of cancers, which afflict the Latinx community in our state. Yale Cancer Center remains committed to conducting research and providing care to reduce the burden of cancer in the Latinx community.

NCI Summit on Increasing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Early Phase Clinical Trials

Please save the date on your calendar to join the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Equity and Inclusion Program on November 16, 2022, from 11:00am - 4:30pm for a virtual summit meeting with pharmaceutical company collaborators and other interested partners focused on identifying and discussing the implementation of best practices for increasing diversity, inclusion, and equity in NCI cancer clinical trials. More information on registration will be available soon.

Antisemitism in the U.S. Academy

Dr. Miriam F. Elman, Executive Director of the educational nonprofit Academic Engagement Network, will present her work "Antisemitism in the US. Academy: Challenges, Solutions, and Best Practices for Improving the Campus Climate" on Friday, September 30 from 12pm-1:30pm in the Cohen Auditorium. As you are aware, antisemitism is on the rise specifically on U.S. college campuses and more broadly across the nation. Dr. Elman will discuss how antisemitism shows up in our country today and facilitate a conversation on how we as Diversity Champions can support an inclusive environment for our Jewish colleagues and trainees.

RSVP to attend

Women's Health Research at Yale Pilot Projects

Women's Health Research at Yale announced their annual **Pilot Project Program** request for Letters of Intent, with a deadline of October 20. Pilot Project Awards include:

- **General Annual Pilot Project Award** for research designed to meet a clear need in advancing the health of women.
- **The Wendy U. & Thomas C. Naratil Pioneer Award** for highly inventive, new research on the health of women designed to achieve a breakthrough, or ongoing research in which funding is needed to achieve a discovery.
- **Awards** for data-driven community place-based research designed to advance the health of women as a pathway to economic and social mobility.

Employee Profile: Audrey DeCrescenzo

A New Patient Onboarding Associate at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Greenwich, Audrey DeCrescenzo is often the first point of contact for patients after



In honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Pediatric Oncologist Dr. Niketa Shah expresses hope for her patients and their families when coping with a new cancer diagnosis, "I wish that all our patients and families remember that in this new DNA age we should not be frightened by the diagnosis of cancer as we have had many advances in the field of cancer care in the last decade, with an increase in success rates."

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Niketa Shah, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
(Hematology/Oncology)

"I must say, being in this field for almost two decades now, we are facing less challenges in taking care of cancer cases in children as there are so many newer treatment approaches than before. And they have offered improved success rates which were not there before. We have many support groups which help children with cancer and their families go through this journey smoothly. Still, we have to continue improving in this field so that no child dies from this disease. I am sure we will reach that goal at some point in the near future."

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At the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Greenwich, women diagnosed with gynecologic cancers receive expert care from a team that includes Gloria Huang, MD, a gynecologic oncology surgeon; Allison Campbell, MD, a radiation oncologist; and Beverly Drucker, MD, a medical oncologist. Dr. Huang says, "For early-stage or low-risk gynecological cancers, surgery alone provides excellent outcomes," but some advanced cases require a multidisciplinary approach.



they receive a diagnosis of cancer. For Audrey this is the start of a relationship, and she informs them of the services available, and schedules a consult with the appropriate physician, as needed. She is also responsible for obtaining medical records and making sure the physician has all the information needed before the consult.



As part of the Next Day Access Program many patients can be seen for a consultation within 24 hours, a program that was started to decrease patient anxiety, reduce wait times for treatment, and increase patient satisfaction. Audrey commented that she has seen first-hand how beneficial the program can be. "People are ecstatic to hear that they don't have to wait to be seen by a physician. They really appreciate the fact that they can be seen and get treatment started right away, if needed. We have seen an influx of patients recently since many people are finally getting those routine blood tests and screenings done after putting it off during the pandemic."

When Audrey sees a new patient come into the office, she makes it a point to introduce herself, and many ask to meet the person they spoke to that was able to get them in so quickly. Kristina Capretti, Clinical Program Director at Smilow Greenwich, commented, "This is often a time of worry for patients, but Audrey's kind demeanor and expertise has been instrumental in making our patients feel reassured and well cared for. Audrey has also been an integral part in the success of our Next Day Access Program. Audrey's dedication to our patients is admirable. We are grateful to have her on our care team!"

Recent Publications

Lustberg, MB.

Supporting Women's Health Choices—Challenges Facing Breast Cancer Survivors Today

JAMA Netw Open. 2022;5(9):e2233147.

[Read More](#)

Gubin MM, Vesely MD.

Cancer Immunoediting in the Era of Immuno-oncology

Clinical Cancer Research, 28(18):3917-3928.

[Read More](#)

Oladeru OT, Aminawung JA, Lin HJ, Gonsalves L, Puglisi L, Mun S, Gallagher C, Soulos P, Gross CP, Wang EA.

Incarceration Status and Cancer Mortality: A Population-Based Study

PLoS One, 17(9):e0274703.

[Read More](#)

Quarmyne MO, Ross D, Sinha C, Bakshi N, Boudreaux J, Krishnamurti L.

Decision-Making About Gene Therapy In Transfusion Dependent Thalassemia

BMC Pediatrics, 22(1):536.

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In recognition of Blood Cancer Awareness Month, Dr. Noffar Bar shares how there have been exciting advancements in treatments for blood cancers over the last five years. She explains, "Cellular therapies have made the biggest advancement. This therapy is affecting some leukemias/lymphomas and multiple myeloma. There is unprecedented responses in CAR T-Cell therapy in relapsed refractory myeloma and this therapy will revolutionize the treatment landscape for myeloma."

Blood Cancer Awareness Month

Noffar Bar, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology)

"Cellular therapies have made the biggest advancement, affecting some leukemias/lymphomas and multiple myeloma. There is unprecedented responses in CAR T-Cell therapy in relapsed refractory myeloma and this therapy will revolutionize the treatment landscape for myeloma."

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Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale CANCER CENTER
A Division of Yale School of Medicine
The Yale Cancer Institute

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In honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Asher Marks, MD, pediatric oncologist, draws inspiration from "the resilience and bravery of our patients and their families." He shares, "We have the privilege of meeting our patients and their families on their darkest days, and yet so many are able to find hope and joy in our clinic, with our nurses, and on the inpatient floor."

Dr. Marks talks more about his collaboration with colleagues at Smilow Cancer Hospital, as well as how he approaches the topic of clinical trials for his young patient population in this Q&A

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Asher Marks, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Hematology/Oncology)

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Danciu I, Agasthya G, Tate JP, Chandra-Shekar M, Goethert I, Ovchinnikova OS, McMahon BH, Justice AC.

In With The Old, In With The New: Machine Learning For Time To Event Biomedical Research

Journal of Informatics in Health and Medicine, 29(10):1737-1743.

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Hwang Y, Conley S, Jeon S, Redeker NS, Sanft T, Knobf MT.

Factors Associated with Sleep Health In Young Women After Breast Cancer Treatment

Wiley Online Library, Online ahead of print.

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Meraviglia-Crivelli D, Villanueva H, Menon AP, Zheleva A, Moreno B, Villalba-Esparza M, Pastor F.

A Pan-Tumor-siRNA Aptamer Chimera to Block Nonsense-Mediated mRNA Decay Inflames and Suppresses Tumor Progression

ScienceDirect, 29:413-425

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Jacobs JW, Guarente J, Chooljian DM, Booth GS, Adkins BD.

Liquid Biopsies in Blood Donors: Issues in Implementing Cell-Free DNA Cancer Screening Tests in The Blood Donor Population

Wiley Online Library, Online Ahead of Print.

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Hamidi R, Sowa A, Halperin-Goldstein S, Puthenpura V, Prozora S.

Intentional Overdose of Rivaroxaban and Alcohol: A Case Report

Wiley Online Library, Online Ahead of Print.

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Jimenez-Sainz J, Mathew J, Moore G, Lahiri S, Garbarino J, Eder JP, Rothenberg E, Jensen RB.

BRCA2 BRC Missense Variants Disrupt RAD51-Dependent DNA Repair

ELife, Online ahead of print.

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Schoettler M, Stenger EO, Spencer K, Lutterman D, Rumbika S, Jones JA, Haight AE, Parikh SH, Qayed M, Watkins B, Lakshmanan K, Williams KM, Chonat S.

Sickle Cell Disease Is a Risk Factor for Transplant-Associated Thrombotic Microangiopathy In Children

Blood Advances, Online ahead of print.

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Singh V, Mezzacappa C, Gershkovich P, Di Giovanna J, Ganzak A, Gibson J, Sinard J, Xicola RM, Llor X.

Systems Approach to Enhance Lynch Syndrome Diagnosis Through Tumour Testing

BMJ Journals, Online ahead of print.

Read More

Kayali S, Pasta A, Torres MCP, Jaffe A, Strazzabosco M, Marenco S, Giannini EG

"Having a child with cancer is one of the scariest and isolating things in the world. Nobody can know what you're feeling, but please know that our team is here to support not only your child, but the entire family in this traumatic experience."

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Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale
CANCER
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A Comprehensive Cancer Care Program
at the National Cancer Institute

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Meet Lynn Tanoue, MD, pulmonologist and director of the lung cancer screening program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Tanoue cares for patients with pulmonary diseases, including lung cancer. A patient of Dr. Tanoue recently shared, "Dr Tanoue is a professional with extensive knowledge. She treats me with respect and kindness. She is very thorough and explains everything to me in as understandable manner. My visits with Dr. Tanoue have been treasure troves of information, not only about the specific purpose for the visits, but also about related peripheral concerns. She is unhurried and focused on my health during our time together. I come away feeling well tended and reassured."



Lynn Tanoue, MD, MBA
Pulmonologist

"Dr. Tanoue is a professional with extensive knowledge. She treats me with respect and kindness. She is very thorough and explains everything to me in as understandable manner. My visits with Dr. Tanoue have been treasure troves of information, not only about the specific purpose for the visits, but also about related peripheral concerns. She is unhurried and focused on my health during our time together. I come away feeling well-tended and reassured."

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A Comprehensive Cancer Care Program
at the National Cancer Institute

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Glenn Miller, MD.

Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Malignancies After Liver Transplantation: A Systematic Review and Pooled Analysis

Wiley Online Library, Online Ahead of Print.

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Zhuo H, Liu Z, Resio BJ, Liu J, Wang X, Pei KY, Zhang Y.

Impact Of Bowel Preparation on Elective Colectomies for Diverticulitis: Analysis Of The NSQIP Database

BMC, 22(1):415

Read More

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Pathogenic Variants of Sphingomyelin Synthase SMS2 Disrupt Lipid Landscapes In The Secretory Pathway

ELife, Online ahead of print.

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Widespread Association of The Argonaute Protein AGO2 With Meiotic Chromatin Suggests a Distinct Nuclear Function in Mammalian Male Reproduction

Genome Research, Online Ahead of Print.

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Adams EJ, Tallman D, Haynam ML, Nekhlyudov L, Lustberg MB.

Psychosocial Needs of Gynecological Cancer Survivors: Mixed Methods Study

Journal of Medical Internet Research, 24(9):e37757.

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Survival Prediction of Stomach Cancer Using Expression Data and Deep Learning Models with Histopathological Image

Wiley Online Library, Online ahead of print.

Read More

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Control of Cell State Transitions

Nature, Online ahead of print.

Read More

Ba Q, Hei Y, Dighe A, Li W, Maziarz J, Pak I, Wang S, Wagner GP, Liu Y.

Proteotype Coevolution and Quantitative Diversity Across 11 Mammalian Species

Science, 8(36):eabn0756.

Read More

Amodio M, Youlten SE, Venkat A, San Juan BP, Chaffer CL, Krishnaswamy S.

Single-Cell Multi-Modal GAN Reveals Spatial Patterns in Single-Cell

As a patient with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) at Smilow Cancer Hospital, Nicole Donzello would talk with fellow patients during treatment, and she frequently heard of the struggles they faced financially. Four years later in 2019, Nicole decided to form a foundation dedicated to helping patients with leukemia like herself with their household expenses. The foundation's board works directly with social workers at Smilow to provide need-based, monetary grants to applicants.

The Nicole Donzello Foundation hosted its first major fundraiser shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic, a tasting event, which was a resounding success allowing the foundation to support \$23k in grants.

On October 15, the Nicole Donzello Foundation will host their third annual tasting fundraiser at The Woodbridge Club, and tickets are now on sale at nicoledonzellofoundation.org.

Nicole Donzello Gives Back to Support Patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital



YaleNewHavenHealth
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale
CANCER
CENTER
A Comprehensive Cancer Center, Organized
by the National Cancer Institute

Read More



Farzana Pashankar, MD shares pathologic and clinical perspectives in the diagnosis, grading, and treatment of #Ovarian #ImmatureTeratoma (IT)



Dr. Rachel Greenup @GreenupRachel has been awarded a #R01 #grant from @theNCI with Dr. Shoshana Rosenberg to support "Effectiveness and implementation of a decision support tool to improve surgical decision making in young women with breast cancer."

[Read More](#)

Funding and Award Opportunities

Conquer Cancer Grants & Awards

These grants and awards support clinical and translational cancer research done by gifted physician-scientists at every stage of their careers, from the best and brightest among young investigators to senior researchers providing mentorship opportunities for the next generation of cancer researchers.

- **Global Oncology Young Investigator Award (GO YIA)** - Application Deadline: September 22, 2022
- **Leadership Development Program - Application Deadline:** September 25, 2022
- **Career Development Award (CDA)- Application Deadline:** October 20, 2022
- **International Innovation Grant (IIG) - Application Deadline:** December 2, 2022

[Read More](#)

DoD Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP)

These awards support research of exceptional scientific merit in the area of kidney cancer.

- **Academy of Kidney Cancer Investigators Early-Career Scholar Award-** LOI Due: September 29, 2022
- **Nurse-Initiated Research Award-** LOI Due: September 29, 2022
- **Clinical Trial Award-** LOI Due: September 29, 2022

[Read More](#)

DoD Kidney Cancer Research Program Grants

The mission of the FY22 KCRP is to promote rigorous, innovative, high-impact research in kidney cancer for the benefit of Service Members, Veterans, and the American public. Within this context, the KCRP is interested in supporting research and clinical care that addresses the KCRP Overarching Strategic Goals to: (1) increase understanding of the biology of kidney cancer; (2) develop novel therapeutic strategies for the treatment of kidney cancer; (3) improve patient care for kidney cancer; and (4) grow the

field and increase collaboration in the area of kidney cancer.

- **Academy of Kidney Cancer Investigators Early-Career Scholar Award - Letter of Intent Due:** September 29, 2022
- **Nurse-Initiated Research Award - Letter of Intent Due:** September 29, 2022
- **Clinical Trial Award - Letter of Intent Due:** September 29, 2022

[Read More](#)

MMRF Myeloma Accelerator Challenge Program Grants

As the leading funder of multiple myeloma research, the MMRF has supported more than 380 research grants at over 135 institutions worldwide. They are pleased to announce two \$10 million grants supporting new myeloma research initiatives. The topics of focus are:

- Optimizing first-line therapy for high-risk newly diagnosed Multiple Myeloma (HR-NDMM)
- High-risk Smoldering Multiple Myeloma (HR-SMM)

Each \$10 million grant will support multicenter translational research projects for 3 years. The output of these preclinical research programs will be cogent clinical hypotheses ready for rapid clinical deployment. This funding supports

cancer.



.@PJAnanthMD shares a commentary in @JournalCancer on the urgency to develop quality measures for #EOL care for children with cancer.



PARP inhibitors have emerged as standard treatment for #mCRPC patients with germline or somatic mutations. In this study, @Joseph_W_Kim reviews the future of #PARP and PARP inhibitor combination regimens.



Yale Cancer Center @YaleCancer- Sep 20 Staffing an inpatient oncology service with an inpatient #oncologyhospitalist showed a significantly decreased rate of 30-day readmissions



Welcome Haripriya Ayyala, MD @DrHariAyyala, who cares for patients as part of the Center for Breast Cancer at @SmilowCancer and Yale Cancer Center.



Today at 7:30pm on @YaleCancer Answers, @Joseph_W_Kim discusses innovative treatment options for #prostatecancer and recent research advances in the field. Listen live @wnpr or download our podcast from @iTunes.



Congratulations to Kathleen Suozzi, MD, @suozziskindoc who received a Rising Star Award from the Association of Academic #CosmeticDermatologists.



Published today in @PLOSONE : higher risk of #cancer mortality found in incarcerated adults, as well as those diagnosed in the first year after release from prison.



We're proud to announce Layla Van Doren, MD, MBA, @LaylaDoren1 has been appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology) and will care for patients with #SickleCell disease and patients with bleeding and clotting disorders at @SmilowCancer.



"This study adds further weight to the evidence that physical activity can impact breast cancer risk,"

preclinical and translational research, not clinical trials. Proposals should include elements to address known racial subsets in multiple myeloma.

Letter of Intent Due: September 30, 2022

[Read More](#)

Bioengineering Research Grants (R01)

The purpose of this FOA is to encourage collaborations- between life science and physical science- that: 1) apply a multidisciplinary bioengineering approach to solve biomedical problems; and 2) develop, integrate, optimize, validate, translate or accelerate adoption of promising tools, methods and techniques: a) that fulfill an unmet need and address specific research or clinical problem in basic, translational, and/or clinical science and practice, b) capable of enhancing our understanding of health and disease, and/or c) improve practice of medicine. Applications may propose design-directed, developmental, discovery-driven, or hypothesis-driven research, and this FOA is appropriate for small teams applying an integrative approach to increase our understanding of and solve problems in biological, clinical or translational science.

Open Date: October 1, 2022

[Read More](#)

Charles H. Hood Foundation Child Health Research Awards Program

The Charles H. Hood Foundation was incorporated in 1942 to improve the health and quality of life for children through grant support of New England-based pediatric researchers. The intent of the Child Health Research Awards Program is to support newly independent faculty, provide the opportunity to demonstrate creativity, and assist in the transition to other sources of research funding.

Application Deadline: October 5, 2022

[Read More](#)

NCI Outstanding Investigator Award (R35)

This FOA invites grant applications for the Outstanding Investigator Award (R35) in any area of cancer research.

The objective of the OIA is to provide long-term support to accomplished investigators with outstanding records of cancer research accomplishments

who propose to conduct exceptional research.

Open Date: October 8, 2022

[Read More](#)

Cancer Adoptive Cellular Therapy Network (Can-ACT) for Adult Cancers (UG3/UH3)

Through this FOA, the NCI intends to accelerate development, innovation and establishment of adoptive cellular therapy clinical trials for treatment of adult patients (18 years or older) with solid tumors. Specifically, UG3 phase of the awards will support preclinical, translational and IND-enabling studies that lay groundwork for UH3 early-stage clinical trials testing adoptive immune cell therapies in adult patients with solid tumors.

Application Deadline: October 28, 2022

[Read More](#)

Cancer Adoptive Cellular Therapy Network (Can-ACT) Coordinating Center (U24)

Through this FOA, the NCI intends to support a coordinating center to manage the Cancer Adoptive Cell Therapy (Can-ACT) Network a network of UG3/UH3 awardees that will conduct adoptive cell therapy research and

@DrEricWiner, told @health_com_.



Yale Cancer Center @YaleCancer

Sep 15 We're proud to announce

the @AmCollSurgeons Foundation has awarded a #healthpolicy scholarship to Dr. Elizabeth Berger @eberger32, and a resident #research scholarship to Dr. Holly Blackburn.



Gel spacers are commonly used prior to radiation therapy for

#prostatecancer. This study from Gary Israel, MD and @YaleRadiology reviews normal gel placement and complications that can occur.



A new Yale study has identified two #BRCA2 variants #VUS as

disruptive to RAD51-dependent DNA repair, highlighting the need to correctly classify BRCA2 VUS as pathogenic variants.

Calendar

Endocrinology Clinical Dilemma

September 23; 12:00 PM

BCMM 206/208

Robert Weingold

[Learn More](#)

New England Hematologic Malignancies Symposium

September 24; 7:30 AM

Connecticut Convention Center

Amer Zeidan, MBBS | Adam Boruchov, MD |

Hagop Kantarjian, MD | Francine Foss, MD |

Natalia Neparidze, MD | Naval Daver, MD |

Saad Z. Usmani, MD, MBA, FACP | Michael

E. Williams, MD, ScM, FACP

[Learn More](#)

Yale Cancer Answers

September 25; 7:30 PM

NPR

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Mary Jane Hogan, MD, MPH, FAA

[Learn More](#)

Yale Cell Biology Seminar Series:

September 27; 1:00 PM

TAC N107

Mast Cells in Infection and Immunity

[Learn More](#)

Schwartz Center Rounds

September 28, 12:00 PM

OC3/OC15 awardees that will conduct adoptive cell therapy research and clinical trials for patients with solid tumors.

Application Deadline: October 28, 2022

Read More

YSM Science Fellows

The Yale School of Medicine (YSM) seeks applications for the first class of YSM Science Fellows, through which we will recruit exceptional trainees from diverse backgrounds in the basic, translational, and/or clinical fields each year for the next five years. We specifically seek outstanding recent PhD graduates who — through their research, outreach, mentoring, teaching, and leadership — have a record of excellence in their field and high future potential.

Application Deadline: November 1, 2022

Read More

Michael F. Price Memorial Grant Award for Gastroesophageal Cancer

The DeGregorio Family for Gastric and Esophageal Cancer (Gastroesophageal Cancer) is pleased to announce its 13th annual funding opportunity for gastroesophageal malignancies in honor of Michael F. Price. The Foundation seeks to promote and facilitate collaborative research on the pathogenesis, early diagnosis and treatment of upper gastrointestinal malignancies.

Application Deadline: November 1, 2022

Read More

DoD Toxic Exposures Research Program Awards

The mission of the TERP is to support innovative and impactful research aimed at identifying and understanding the pathological mechanisms, outcomes and comorbidities associated with toxic exposures in order to facilitate the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the invisible and visible diseases and symptoms that are associated with toxic effects impacting Service Members, Veterans and the American public.

Letters of Intent Due: November 3, 2022

Read More

Current NCI SBIR Contract Solicitation

Are you working on innovative technologies that aim to prevent, diagnose, or treat cancer? The NCI SBIR Development Center can provide funding through the FY2023 NCI SBIR Contract Solicitation to assist your efforts to commercialize cancer technology projects. Please direct questions to Cherie Wells, the Contract Analyst for the Office of Acquisitions,

at ncioasbir@mail.nih.gov. **Application Deadline:** November 4, 2022

Read More

The Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer Research

The Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer Research provides early career, New York area scientists the freedom to take risks and pursue their boldest research at a stage when traditional funding is lacking. Prize winners each receive \$200,000 a year for up to three years. At least six grants are awarded annually.

LOI Due: November 7, 2022

Read More

Program for the Promotion of Interdisciplinary Team Science (POINTS)

September 28, 12:00 PM

Inspiration Comes in All Sizes

Learn More

Genetics Research in Progress (RIP)

September 28; 12:00 PM

SHM I-304

Kelly Carufe & Nancy Sanchez

Learn More

General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds

September 29; 7:30 AM

Anti-Obesity Pharmacotherapy: The Future Is Now!

Ania Jastreboff, MD, PhD

Learn More

Therapeutic Radiology Grand Rounds

September 29; 9:00 AM

Evolution of HIV and Cancer Risk and Mortality in the Combination Antiretroviral Era: Impact of Persistent Immune Dysfunction

NPLL 505

Wade Schulz, MD, PhD and Chen Liu, MD, PhD

Learn More

Yale GIM Research in Progress

September 29; 12:00 PM

Cary Gross, MD, Jenerius Aminawung, MD, MPH, and Oladeru Damilola, MD, MA, MBA

Learn More

Grand Rounds -Pathology

September 29; 12:00 PM

Fitkin Memorial Pavilion Auditorium
Metabolic Impact on Tumor Immunity and Immunotherapy

Wweiping Zou, MD, PhD

Learn More

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar

September 29; 2:30 PM

Learn More

2022-2023 Microbiology Seminar Series

September 29; 2:30 PM

Hope 216

Dr. Theresa Alenghat

Learn More

Center for GI Cancers Seminar

September 29; 4:15 PM

Learn More

The YSM Office of Team Science will support teams of investigators to address major questions in basic, clinical, and translational science and partner with them on grant submissions to obtain federal funding for sustainable support for these projects. To nucleate new projects, we will provide \$50,000 to \$200,000 to groups of two to five investigators, led by a YSM faculty member, in support of research projects having the potential to achieve program project or center funding (i.e., U01, U54, P01, P30, P50, comparable large grants from other federal and non-federal agencies).

Application Deadline: November 7, 2022

[Read More](#)

NCI Cancer Moonshot Scholars Diversity Program (CMSDP) (R01)

The overarching goal of the CMSDP is to increase the number of R01 Early-Stage Investigators and enhance the diversity of the cancer research workforce, while promoting scientific advancements in cancer. Investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from underrepresented groups are encouraged to work with their institutions to apply.

Application Deadline: November 8, 2022

[Read More](#)

Lion Heart Fund For Cancer Research

Yale investigators are encouraged to submit proposals of innovative, high-potential projects requiring pilot funding. Projects may be in any area of breast cancer research – basic, translational, clinical, outcomes and population science are all welcomed from any discipline or group of disciplines.

Application Deadline: November 8, 2022

[Read More](#)

Technology Impact Award

The Cancer Research Institute Technology Impact Award provides seed funding of up to \$200,000 to be used over 12-24 months to address the gap between technology development and clinical application of cancer

immunotherapies. These grants aim to encourage collaboration between technology developers and clinical cancer immunologists and to generate the proof-of-principle of a novel platform technology in bioinformatics, ex vivo or in silico modeling systems, immunological or tumor profiling instrumentation, methods, reagents and assays, or other relevant technologies that can enable clinician scientists to generate deeper insights into the mechanisms of action of effective or ineffective cancer immunotherapies.

LOI Due: November 15, 2022

[Read More](#)

Multi-Omics for Health and Disease Awards

The goal of these FOAs is to establish Disease Study Sites that will be part of a collaborative initiative to advance the application of multi-omic technologies to study health and disease in ancestrally diverse populations.

- **Multi-Omics for Health and Disease - Disease Study Sites (U01)**
- **Multi-Omics for Health and Disease - Omics Production Centers (U01)**
- **Multi-Omics for Health and Disease - Data Analysis and Coordination Center (U01)**

Application Deadlines: November 18, 2022

NCI Cancer Moonshot Scholars Diversity Program (CMSDP) (R01)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) supports the Cancer Moonshot Scholars Diversity Program (CMSDP) and solicits R01 grant

Yale's Review of Advances in Oncology

September 30; 8:00 AM

Anthony's Ocean View, 450 Lighthouse Road, New Haven

Highlights from the ASCO Annual Meeting 2022

[Learn More](#)

Endocrinology Clinical Dilemma

September 30; 12:00 PM

BCMM 206/208

Oyunbileg Magvanjav

[Learn More](#)

Yale Cancer Answers

October 2; 7:30 PM

NPR

Early Detection of Gynecologic Cancers

Elena Ratner, MD

[Learn More](#)

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds 2022-2023

October 4; 12:00 PM

Addressing Social Determinants and Health-Risk Behaviors to Reduce Cancer Burden and Eliminate Cancer-Related Disparities

Hermine Poghosyan, PhD, MPH, BSN

[Learn More](#)

Smilow Shares with Primary Care on Breast Cancer

October 4; 5:00 PM

Rachel Greenup, MD, MPH | Wajih Kidwai, MD, FACP | Sarah Schellhorn Mougalian, MD | Jill Banatoski, MD

[Learn More](#)

Kavli Workshop

October 5; 1:00 PM

Spatial Transcriptomics

Rong Fan, PhD | Guilin Wang, PhD |

Danielle Miyagishima | Siyuan (Steven)

Wang, PhD

[Learn More](#)

State of the Art in Menopause Management for Primary Care

October 6; 7:30 AM

Mary Jane Minkin, MD

[Learn More](#)

Grand Rounds -Pathology

October 6; 12:00 PM

Fitkin Memorial Pavilion Auditorium

Minority Senior Diversity Program (MSDP) and solicits R01 grant applications that propose independent research projects within the scientific mission of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The overarching goal of the CMSDP is to increase the number of R01 Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) and enhance the diversity of the cancer research workforce, while promoting scientific advancements in cancer. Investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from underrepresented groups are encouraged to work with their institutions to apply.

Application Deadline: February 6, 2024

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Oligonucleotide Aptamer: A Chemical Antibody for Disease Diagnosis and Targeted Cancer Therapy

Youli Zu, MD, PhD

Learn More

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program Seminar

October 6; 2:30 PM

Learn More

2022-2023 Microbiology Graduate Seminar Series

October 6; 3:30 PM

Hope 216

Dr. Carolina Lopez

Learn More

Center for GI Cancers Seminar Series 2022-2023

October 6; 4:15 PM

Learn More



Share your news!

Please submit your recent publications, awards, and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs and Communications

Yale Cancer Center | 333 Cedar Street, New Haven, CT 06520

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