

DirectConnect

Inside Yale Cancer Center

December 20, 2019

Announcements

Chief Patient Experience Officer Named

Tara Sanft, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and Director of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Survivorship Clinic, has been appointed the inaugural Chief Patient Experience Officer for Smilow Cancer Hospital. In this new role, Dr. Sanft will work closely with the Chief Medical Experience Officer for YNHHS and Yale Medicine, Dr. Alan Friedman, and the Chief Experience Officer for YNHHS and Yale Medicine, Joan Kelly, to continue to build on our exceptional patient- and family-centered environment at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Moreover, Dr. Sanft will also focus on the provider experience to build an efficient practice environment and to foster a culture of wellness. Dr. Sanft's background as a provider of care through the Breast Center and as Medical Director of our Survivorship Clinic, where she consults with patients with a variety of diagnoses, gives her a unique perspective on the patient experience and will help to inform her new role.



from the desk of
Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH
Director, Yale Cancer Center
and Physician-in-Chief
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Smilow Cancer
Hospital

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

[News Center](#)

**Sarah Mougalian
Appointed Deputy
Chief Ambulatory
Officer**

Sarah Mougalian, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), has been appointed the inaugural Deputy Chief Ambulatory Officer of Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dr. Mougalian will provide leadership and contribute to the optimal management of clinic and infusion center operations within Smilow Cancer Hospital in her new role. Working with the Chief Ambulatory Officer, Dr. Benjamin Judson, and our nursing and administrative leadership, Dr. Mougalian will oversee outpatient operations with the aim of improving operational efficiency, space utilization, patient access and quality of patient care, while ensuring clinician and staff input and engagement. In addition, Dr. Mougalian will provide medical leadership for the Smilow Oncology Extended Care Clinic. Throughout her tenure at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, Dr. Mougalian has been an exemplary clinician, clinical investigator, and medical educator, who has been committed to optimizing cancer care delivery. We look forward to Dr. Mougalian's efforts to advance innovation in our ambulatory services across the hospital.



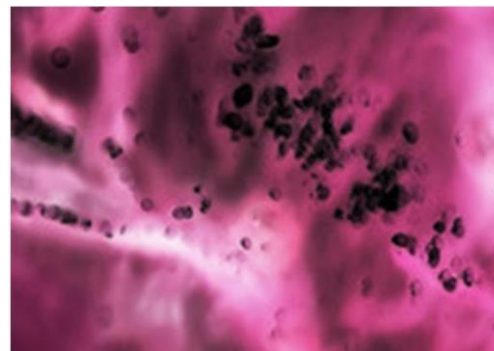
**Terri Parker Named
Assistant Medical
Director in North
Haven**

Terri Parker, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology), has been appointed the inaugural Assistant



Backed by Yale Cancer Center research, FDA approves new drug for advanced bladder cancer

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When cells cycle fast, cancer gets a jumpstart

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Yale Cancer Center Researchers Investigate Inducing "Synthetic Lethality" in Two Blood and Bone Cancers

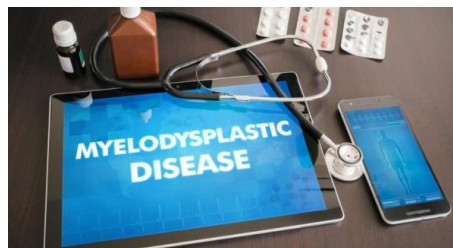
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Community Engagement and Health Equity (CEHE) within Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. The new Center will be grounded by 5 foundational pillars: Analytics; Community Engagement; Screening and Prevention; Clinical Trial Participation; and Expansion of Catchment-Focused Research.

Beth Jones, PhD, MPH, Research Scientist and Lecturer in Epidemiology, will serve as **Associate CEHE Director for Community Engagement** overseeing engagement and outreach across Connecticut to partner with local communities on community-focused interventions and solutions. **Xavier Llor, MD, PhD**, Professor of Medicine, Co-Director of the Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program, and Medical Director of the Smilow Screening & Prevention Program, has been appointed as **Associate CEHE Director for Cancer Screening**. In this new position, Dr. Llor will systemize risk stratification processes to ensure consistency throughout Smilow Cancer Hospital and our Care Center delivery Network, and he will direct screening services across the health system and in the community settings. **Andrea Silber, MD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine (Medical Oncology) has been named **Associate CEHE Director for Clinical Research**. Dr. Silber is a leader in clinical trial engagement among underserved and under-represented minorities, personal relationship building, and designing patient navigator programs. Through her continued leadership and expansion of the OWN IT (Oncologists Welcome NewHaven Into Trials) Program, Dr. Silber will continue to expand clinical trial participation across the region and build a dedicated team of community-based patient navigators.

Notables

Congratulations to Yale Cancer Center's **Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, and **Peter Glazer, MD, PhD**, Robert E. Hunter Professor and Chair of Therapeutic Radiology and Professor of Genetics, both winners at this year's Pitchfest for "Best Presentation" and "Highest Potential Impact," respectively. Their science was recognized during the annual competition sponsored

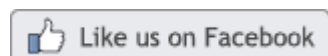


Yale Cancer Center researchers show promising new treatment for patients with myelodysplastic syndromes

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Latest Posts:

Nearly 1,000 employees and their family members joined us to celebrate the holiday season at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History last week and toast to 10 years of Smilow Cancer Hospital! Here are a few photos of the gorgeous celebration among the Peabody's dinosaurs and exhibits.

by Yale's Office for Cooperative Research.

Don Nguyen, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology, Assistant Cancer Center Director for Research Development, and a member of Yale Cancer Center's Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program, has been awarded a renewal to his R01 from the NIH to study mechanisms of lung cancer lineage heterogeneity and metastasis. The grant provides \$1,1187,500 direct; \$1,989,065 total funding.

Employee Profile: Camilla Schott

Camila Schott's role as Senior Administrative Assistant at Yale Cancer Center is different than most administrative positions, in that she supports faculty that are not in the same physical location as her. Working with half of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center physicians means that there are a lot of logistical matters to overcome. She supports our physicians in the Derby, Torrington, Waterbury, North Haven, Orange, and Greenwich Care Centers.



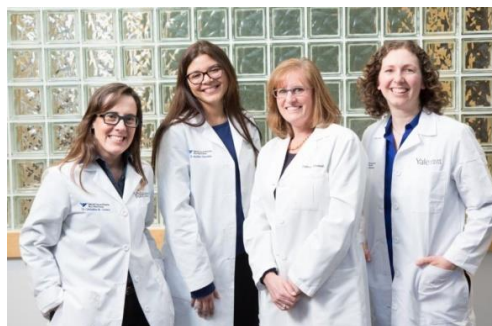
When a new faculty member is hired, Camila provides support for their onboarding. She handles tasks both large and small, from making sure the correct privileges are in place for a physician to see patients at a certain hospital, to ordering lab coats, and business cards. Camila also supports Kevin Vest, MBA, FACHE, Deputy Director, Finance and Administration, Yale Cancer Center.

Camila commented that she often sees



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Learn more about our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Torrington, and the four doctors who take great care of our patients in the Northwest part of Connecticut - Dr. Christina Gomez, Ashita Talsania, Debra Brandt, and Katherine Harvey!



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At the American Society of Hematology meeting earlier this week, Yale Cancer Center researchers shared promising new treatment outcomes for patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS).

correspondence from patients praising the Cancer Center. "Every day I think about the impact we can have on people's lives. Everyone plays their part, no matter how small, and I am so fortunate to be part of such an amazing team that enables me to play my role," said Camila.

In the two years since Camila joined Yale Cancer Center, she has overseen the onboarding of over 10 physicians and provided support to the Clinical Trials Office as well as the Director's Office. Anna Raso, Administrative Services Supervisor, commented, "Camila is the definition of a team player. She is always willing to help in every situation and is constantly looking for ways to improve efficiencies in the office. She is a rock star and we are so lucky to have someone with her energy and drive on our team."

Mr. Vest commented, "Camila is a shining example of customer service. Whether she is following through on a project with me, helping a lost visitor who wanders into our office suite, or navigating one of our faculty through a difficult administrative challenge, she does it with a smile and kindness."



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Dr. Tomer Avraham, a breast plastic surgeon and reconstruction specialist at Smilow Cancer Hospital, discussed the recent FDA recall of certain breast implants on Yale Cancer Answers. Please join us for this important discussion, and for insight on safe options available to women.



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YCC #OOTB Thanks



YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized the following employees from the Yale Cancer Center administrative team: Dina Ardito, Senior Administrative Assistant; Chloé Jones, Senior Administrative

A new Yale Cancer Center study shows that Artificial Intelligence (AI) can help radiologists find microscopic evidence of advancing head and neck cancer. "We feel this tool is just one example of how deep learning can help clinicians provide more personalized treatment for patients," explained Sanjay Aneja, MD.

Assistant; Amelea Lowery, Senior Administrative Assistant; Michele Messina, Senior Administrative Assistant; Marion Miller, Administrative Assistant; Camila Schott, Senior Administrative Assistant.

This team was praised by a colleague for being true team players when she needed help during the recent Fellowship and Physician Scientist Residency interview season. With multiple candidates on each interview day, this group offered their time and support to help guide applicants, secure meeting locations, set up catering, and triage any issues that came up throughout the process to ensure they had their best experience at Yale possible. Thank you, all-your willingness to support your colleagues is admirable and appreciated!



YCC #OUTOFTHEBLUETHANKS recently recognized Christal Esposito, a Program Coordinator for Research Affairs. After a recent renovation to update the break room in her work area, Christal's creativity helped bring the project to completion with some perfect finishing touches. From flowers on the tables to delightful wall décor, including a framed Close to Free jersey, Christal's additions created a fresh and welcoming environment for her colleagues. Thank you, Christal!

Yale Cancer Center's #OOTBTHANKS program is a staff recognition initiative to show appreciation to employees who have exemplified an above-and-beyond effort or an outstanding



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We are pleased to announce the appointment of Jeffrey Ishizuka, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology). Dr. Ishizuka will join Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center in January from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He received his BA in Chemistry from Williams College before receiving a Rhodes Scholarship for study and continuing his studies through an NIH-Oxford Biomedical Research Scholarship to complete his DPhil in Immunology. He then earned his MD from Harvard Medical School.

Jeffrey Ishizuka, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology)



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Learn how Dr. Preston Sprenkle and Dr. John Onofrey are using clinical data and artificial intelligence to improve prostate biopsy guidance for our patients.

contribution to the team. All nominations should be submitted to the Director's Office c/o [Anna Raso](#).

Recent Publications

Topologically Associated Domains Delineate Susceptibility to Somatic Hypermutation.

Senigl F, Maman Y, Dinesh RK, Alinikula J, Seth RB, Pecnova L, Omer AD, Rao SSP, Weisz D, Buerstedde JM, Aiden EL, Casellas R, Hejnar J, Schatz DG.

Cell Rep. 2019 Dec 17;29(12):3902-3915.e8.

[Read More >>](#)

Transhepatic portal stent placement and jejunal varix embolization for management of treatment-limiting gastrointestinal bleeding in a patient with unresectable recurrent intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma.

Cornman-Homonoff J, Bassik N, Madoff DC.

Clin Imaging. 2019 Nov 27;59(2):188-191.

[Read More >>](#)

m6A modification-mediated CBX8 induction regulates stemness and chemosensitivity of colon cancer via upregulation of LGR5.

Zhang Y, Kang M, Zhang B, Meng F, Song J, Kaneko H, Shimamoto F, Tang B.

Mol Cancer. 2019 Dec 18;18(1):185.

[Read More >>](#)

Emergency Department Visits for Opioid Overdoses Among Patients with Cancer.

Jairam V, Yang DX, Yu JB, Park HS.

J Natl Cancer Inst. 2019 Dec 17.

[Read More >>](#)

The clinical applications of a multigene liquid biopsy (NETest) in neuroendocrine tumors.

Malczewska A, Kos-Kudła B, Kidd M, Drozdov I, Bodei L, Matar S, Oberg K, Modlin IM.

Adv Med Sci. 2019 Dec 13;65(1):18-29.

[Read More >>](#)

Macrophage MerTK Promotes Liver Fibrosis in Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis.

Cai B, Dongiovanni P, Corey KE, Wang X, Shmarakov IO,



[Read More >>](#)


Congratulations to Yale Cancer Center's Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD, and Peter Glazer, MD, PhD, both winners at this year's Pitchfest for "Best Presentation" and "Highest Potential Impact!" Their science was recognized during the annual competition sponsored by Yale's Office for Cooperative Research.



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Follow Yale Cancer Center on Twitter

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 Using research led by @DanielPetrylak, the @US_FDA approved a new drug to treat advanced #bladdercancer today. Listen to how this new treatment can be life-saving for patients with this potentially deadly disease.

Zheng Z, Kasikara C, Davra V, Meroni M, Chung RT, Rothlin CV, Schwabe RF, Blaner WS, Birge RB, Valenti L, Tabas I.

Cell Metab. 2019 Dec 12.

[Read More >>](#)

In vitro and in vivo activity of sacituzumab govitecan, an antibody-drug conjugate targeting trophoblast cell-surface antigen 2 (Trop-2) in uterine serous carcinoma.

Han C, Perrone E, Zeybek B, Bellone S, Tymon-Rosario J, Altwerger G, Menderes G, Feinberg J, Haines K, Muller Karger ME, Bianchi A, Zammataro L, Manzano A, Bonazzoli E, Manara P, Buza N, Hui P, Ratner E, Silasi DA, Huang GS, Azodi M, Schwartz PE, Lopez S, Santin AD.

Gynecol Oncol. 2019 Nov 30.

[Read More >>](#)

PRRT neuroendocrine tumor response monitored using circulating transcript analysis: the NETest.

Bodei L, Kidd MS, Singh A, van der Zwan WA, Severi S, Drozdov IA, Malczewska A, Baum RP, Kwekkeboom DJ, Paganelli G, Krenning EP, Modlin IM.

Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging. 2019 Dec 14.

[Read More >>](#)

Assessing the Variability and Quality of Lung Stereotactic Radiotherapy Treatment Plans using a Web-Based Crowdsourcing Platform.

Moghanaki D, Slotman B, Swaminath A, Nelms B, Wang B.

Pract Radiat Oncol. 2019 Dec 11.

[Read More >>](#)

Targeting human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) in gynecologic malignancies.

Erickson BK, Zeybek B, Santin AD, Fader AN.

Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol. 2019 Dec 12.

[Read More >>](#)


Phytoestrogens and Thyroid Cancer Risk: A Population-Based Case-Control Study in Connecticut.


Wang Q, Huang H, Zhao N, Ni X, Udelsman R, Zhang Y.


Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2019 Dec 11.


[Read More >>](#)


Predictors of Lymph Node Involvement by Soft Tissue Sarcoma of the Trunk and Extremity: An Analysis of the National Cancer Database.


 New research .@NatureComms by Dr. Shangqin Guo shows cells with #cancer causing gene lesions can remain normal and healthy until cell division, or cycling, speeds up in #acutemyeloidleukemia.


 .@dcmadoff discusses the role of #interventionaloncology in #livercancer@YaleCancer Grand Rounds.


 .@markgerstein explains #cancer#genomics during a recent @YaleCancer Grand Rounds [http://](#)


 How does a cell become #cancer? Learn about the origin of a #leukemia cell with Dr. Shangqin Guo @YaleCancer


 At #SABCS19 .@SMougalian presented pilot data for an online tool developed to collect patient-reported outcomes called MyPROfile.

 At #ESMOimmuno19 .@DrRoyHerbstYale presents results of #Impower110 PD-L1 research to help treat #lungcancer patients.

 At this year's #SABCS, Dr. Mariya Rozenblit presented new research observing longer survival times for #breastcancer patients using everolimus exemestane as a third line treatment following prior CDK4/6 inhibitor therapy.

 New research .@ScienceTM led by Dr. Lieping Chen helps explain the origins of #lupus and potential new therapies to treat the disease.

 Thank you to .@dcmadoff for giving our Grand Rounds talk today, "Liver Regeneration Strategies in Interventional Oncology: Portal Vein Embolization and Beyond".

 Our #breastcancer experts are on their way to San Antonio for #SABCS19 to

Miccio JA, Jairam V, Gao S, Augustyn A, Oladeru OT, Onderdonk BE, Chowdhary M, Han D, Khan S, Friedlaender G, Lindskog DM, Desphande HA, Osborn H, Roberts KB, Patel KR.

Cureus. 2019 Oct 30;11(10):e6038.

[Read More >>](#)

Defective post-replication repair of UV photoproducts in melanoma: a mutator phenotype.

Brash DE, Seidman MM.

Mol Oncol. 2019 Dec 10.

[Read More >>](#)

Locoregional Therapy, Immunotherapy and the Combination in Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Future Directions.

Dendy MS, Ludwig JM, Stein SM, Kim HS.

Liver Cancer. 2019 Oct;8(5):326-340.

[Read More >>](#)

Funding Opportunities

Yale Cancer Center K12 Calabresi Immuno-Oncology Training Program Scholar Awards

We are pleased to solicit applications for the Yale Cancer Center (YCC) K12 Calabresi Immuno-Oncology Training Program (IOTP) Scholar Award for junior faculty to enhance research skills beyond the training provided during graduate and postgraduate training.

Application Deadline: January 3, 2020


[Application Instructions >>](#)


[Learn More >>](#)


2020 Mary Kay Foundation Cancer Research Grant


The Mary Kay Foundation, a funding source for cancer research, is currently accepting applications for innovative grants for translational research in ovarian, uterine, breast, or cervical cancer. Only one grant application will be accepted from each invited cancer research institute or medical school.


present and learn about the latest advances in research, treatment and care for the disease.


 Dr. Namrata Chandhoka investigates inducing "synthetic lethality" to treat #AML and #MDS at #ASH19.


 Groundbreaking treatment results using #checkpointinhibitors reported at #ASH19 today by @Dr_AmerZeidan for patients with #myeloidcancers.


 Artificial Intelligence #AI to help fight #headandneckcancer? .@SanjayAnejaMD reports how deep machine learning is detecting the disease with accuracy in a new study in @ASCO_pubs.

 Findings presented today at #ASH19 by .@sfhYALE show new approaches are needed to manage treatment side effects for patients with #CLL#leukemia.

 Dr. Alfred Lee and fellow Sayeef Mirza at a career development talk #ASH19 discussing medical education in #Hematology.

 More exciting research presented #ASH19! A new study by .@Dr_AmerZeidan shows a promising treatment for patients with relapsed/refractory #myelodysplastic syndromes.

 New research presented by @DrSusieC2#ASH19 shows identifying the type of chronic pain in adult #sicklecell patients may improve treatment options.

 New research presented by @Dr_AmerZeidan and Dr. Rong Wang #ASH19 shows a better understanding of treatment patterns for #AML patients, using 7+3, is needed to develop ways to improve outcomes.

Internal Application Deadline: January 5, 2020
Funding Organization's Deadline: February 7, 2020
[Learn More >>](#)

YCCI Scholar Awards

The YCCI Scholar Awards provide salary and/or research funds to a select number of junior faculty members who are strongly committed to careers in clinical research, community-based research or translational research.

Letter of Intent Due: January 13, 2020
[Learn More >>](#)

Communication and Decision Making for Individuals with Inherited Cancer Syndromes (U01)

Through this FOA, the NCI invites the submission of applications requesting support for projects that will be conducted to develop, test, and evaluate interventions and implementation approaches, or adapt existing approaches, to improve cancer risk communication between patients with an inherited susceptibility to cancer (and their families) and providers so that affected individuals can make informed clinical risk management decision.

Application Deadline: January 21, 2020
[Learn More >>](#)

2020 Yale Cancer Center Team Challenge Award

YCC is pleased to announce the 2020 Team Challenge Award, a new internal grant program focused on advancing the work of teams who seek to address a fundamental research priority that aligns and/or has the potential to successfully extend YCC strategic priorities.

Internal LOI Deadline: February 3, 2020
Internal Application Deadline: April 1, 2020
[Learn More >>](#)

Program to Assess the Rigor and Reproducibility of Extracellular Vesicle-Derived Analytes for Cancer Detection (R01)

This FOA encourages research projects that focus on innovative research in the isolation and

Calendar

Yale Cancer Answers

January 5; 7:30 PM

WNPR

Bacteria and Colon Cancer

Seth Herzon

[Learn More >>](#)

RNA Club

January 7; 9:00 AM

266 Whitney Ave., 305

Rachel Niederer and Lisa Ogawa

[Learn More >>](#)

Genetics Clinical Grand Rounds

January 7; 10:15 AM

Sterling Hall of Medicine, I-304

TBD

[Learn More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds

January 7; 12:00 PM

55 Park Street, Park Street Auditorium

TBD

Renelle Lim, MD and Iris Isufi, MD

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Geriatric Grand Rounds

January 7; 4:00 PM

Max Taffel, East Pavilion

End of Life Care and Symptom Management

Elizabeth Horn Prsic, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

HTI Seminar Series Presented by the Yale Center for Immuno-Oncology

January 7; 4:00 PM

The Anlyan Center Auditorium, N-203

Tissue-based immune profiling and pan-tumor pathologic response signatures

Janis Taube, MD, MSc

[Learn More >>](#)

characterization of extracellular vesicles (EVs) and their cargo for discovery of predictive biomarkers for risk assessment, detection, diagnosis and prognosis of early cancer.

Application Deadline: February 5, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

NCI Small Grants Program for Cancer Research for Years 2020, 2021, and 2022

This FOA supports small research projects on cancer that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources.

Application Deadline: February 24, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00)

The purpose of the NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early Stage Postdoctoral Fellows (K99/R00) program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented, NCI-supported, independent investigators.

Application Deadline: February 26, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

Co-infection and Cancer (R21 and R01)

The purpose of this FOA is to enhance mechanistic and epidemiologic investigations addressing the roles of co-infection.

Application Deadline (R21): March 17, 2020

Application Deadline (R01): March 6, 2020

[Learn More >>](#)

Leadership in Biomedicine

January 8; 4:30 PM

Hope Memorial Building, H-110

Lynn Tanoue, MD, MBA

[Learn More >>](#)

Pathology Grand Rounds

January 9; 12:30 PM

Fitkin Memorial Pavilion Auditorium, LMP 1094

From Lungs to Single Cells: Using RNA to Demystify Pulmonary Fibrosis

Naftali Kaminski, MD

[Learn More >>](#)

Pharmacology Seminar Series

January 9; 12:30 PM

Brady Memorial Laboratory, BML 131

An Activity-guided Map of Electrophile-cysteine Interactions in Primary Human Immune Cells

Ekaterina Vinogradova, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)

Cancer Genetics and Prevention Seminar

January 9; 2:30 PM

Orchard Medical Center, 107-109

[Learn More >>](#)

Hematology Research Seminar Series

January 10; 11:45 AM

Brady Auditorium

Infectious Purpura Fulminans: Bedside to Bench

Pevan Bendapudi

[Learn More >>](#)

Yale Cancer Answers

January 12; 7:30 PM

WNPR

HU Therapy and Heme Research

Nikolai Podoltsev, MD, PhD

[Learn More >>](#)



Submissions

Please submit your recent publication and grant announcements to:

Renee Gaudette

Director, Public Affairs and
Communications