

Smilow Update: March 22, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Certified Nurses Day

Sunday, March 19 was Certified Nurses Day. Obtaining a professional certification is a voluntary designation earned by our nurses who demonstrate a level of competency, skill, and knowledge in their specialty. Certification affirms advanced knowledge, skill, and practice in nursing. Smilow is honored to recognize our certified nurses and thank them for their commitment to nursing excellence!



Smilow Town Hall

Please join us for the next Smilow Town Hall today at 5pm to review timely updates and address questions and concerns from our providers and staff. Questions are always welcome during the webinar through chat or Q&A or via email at any time to canceranswers@yale.edu. **Please join the webinar online TODAY, Wednesday, March 22 at 5pm.**

Patient Safety Awareness Week

Last week, Yale New Haven Health celebrated Patient Safety Awareness Week. At Smilow we are proud of our excellent record of patient safety and thank each team member for doing their part to put the needs of our patients and families first. We are proud of the growing number of Smilow staff members who have been recognized with Great Catch Awards. Throughout the week we shared a focus topic on Patient Safety each day at morning huddle.

We recognize that ensuring the care and safety of our patients means prioritizing the health and safety of our caregivers and workforce--this is of utmost importance for our entire leadership team.

Center for Classical Hematology - Orange

We are pleased to announce that our Smilow location in Orange will transition to the Smilow Center for Classical Hematology in June, serving our patients with benign hematological needs. As part of this transition, Dr. Johanna LaSala will begin caring for her patients in Guilford on Monday, June 12. In addition to her practice in Orange, Dr. Kelsey Martin will begin seeing patients in North Haven in June. Our Classical Hematology team, led by Dr. Robert Bona, will transition their practices to Orange.

Rukiye Maras has been a familiar face for our patients and staff for 15 years. She joined Yale New Haven Health as a medical assistant in 2008 and is one of our dedicated Ambulatory Care Associates (ACAs) at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Rukiye takes care of our patients with a welcoming, kind demeanor in the Phase I Clinic in 55 Park Street and on weekends can be found on the hematology unit on NP7. She takes great care to align with the YNHH standards of conduct and uses her inner conscience to guide her daily work to be the best for our patients with utmost efficiency.



Recently, Rukiye spearheaded a winter clothing drive in response to the massive earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria in early February. The kindness and generosity of our Smilow/YNHH family helped her to supersede her goals. "The YNHH family is a strong, cohesive group who thinks as one. When one group is hurt, even oceans away from us, the entire YNHH family is hurt and responds," Rukiye shared. She continued by thanking her manager, Camille Servodidio, and Sandy Marshall-Wray and Karen Underwood, RN for their support of her efforts, along with her family who helped to sort and deliver the donations to NYC for transport to Turkey and Syria.



Thank you, Rukiye for your caring nature! You are a **Smilow Star!**

Best regards,

Kevin G. Billingsley, MD, MBA
Chief Medical Officer
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC
Vice President for Patient Services
Smilow Cancer Hospital

