

Smilow Update: February 28, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

#### **Smilow Town Hall**

Please join us for the next Smilow Town Hall on Thursday, March 2 at 5pm to review timely updates and address questions and concerns from our providers and staff. Please send questions in advance to [canceranswers@yale.edu](mailto:canceranswers@yale.edu) and join the [webinar online Thursday at 5pm](#).

#### **TJC Site Visit**

Thank you to all our teams for welcoming the site visitors last week and demonstrating the exceptional care we provide each day to our patients. The Joint Commission surveyors were extremely complimentary and impressed with our culture and the commitment to multidisciplinary care, and minimal concerns were reported throughout the week. One surveyor noted at the end of her inpatient visits, that the units “blew me out of the water.” Smilow leadership will share the full TJC report when received.

#### **Celebration of Life for Dr. Roy Decker**

Please plan to join us on Saturday, April 29 for a celebration of life event honoring Roy H. Decker, MD, PhD. Dr. Decker, Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, passed away on February 12, 2023. A member of the Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital community for twenty years, Dr. Decker was widely recognized as a leader in the field of radiation oncology, a dedicated and compassionate clinician and clinical researcher, and an outstanding educator and mentor. The event will take place from 3:00-5:00pm in the Yale Harkness Lounge located at 367 Cedar Street, New Haven.

#### **ASCO Medical Home**

The ASCO Medical Home Implementation Team (Victoria Taiwo, Donna LaPolt, Chloe Shevlin, and Carol Esquivel) have been hard at work with our two pilot sites at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Guilford and Center for Breast Cancer at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The team launched several new workflows and technology updates on January 30, including:

- screening patient for social determinants of health using IPADs in the waiting rooms
- documenting goals of care conversations using a new chemotherapy electronic consent form
- care coordination of patients within our health system and outside

- [advanced care planning \(ACP\) education sessions](#)

### **Pluvicto for Advanced Prostate Cancer**

There are current supply chain issues for Pluvicto, which is manufactured by Novartis, that are causing patient enrollment delays. Novartis is working to increase production capacity and supply over the next 12 months with two new manufacturing sites in the U.S. While this will make a difference over time, Smilow Cancer Hospital will need to adjust our approach to supply in the short term.

- The priority is to supply those patients who have received their first doses and are currently in the treatment process. This is important to allow patients who have already begun the treatment cycle to appropriately complete their course of therapy.
- Patients who are currently in the scheduling system and awaiting their first doses will need to be rescheduled. Smilow leadership is working with the Physician and Therapeutic Steering Committee to serve as many patients as possible as quickly as possible as we work through the current situation.

### **Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee**

We are pleased to announce new leadership of the Smilow Cancer Hospital Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. **Scott Huntington, MD, MPH, MSc**, Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology), has been appointed Chair of the committee, and **Anne Chiang, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) will serve as Vice Chair. Together, they will collaborate closely with pharmacy leadership Sam Abdelghany, PharmD, MHA, BCOP, and Man-Yee Merl, PharmD, BCOP.

### **APP Promotions**

Congratulations to the following Smilow APPs who have achieved their APP Clinical Ladder II:

- Kelly Cronin, APRN (Palliative Care)
- Christina Ferrucci, APRN (GYN Oncology)
- Kerri Ann Rall, PA (Stem Cell Transplantation)
- AnnMarie Shabazian, PA (Thoracic Surgery)

### **Pharmacy Promotion**

Congratulations to **Annette Hood, PharmD, BCACP**, on her promotion to Manager, Oncology Pharmacy Services, reporting to Sam Abdelghany, Executive Director, Oncology Pharmacy Services. Annette will oversee clinical and regulatory pharmacy processes and will maintain supervision and human resource responsibilities for the Medical Oncology and Smilow Women's Services pharmacy teams on the Smilow campus in New Haven. In this role, she will work closely with Man-Yee Merl on advancing clinical priorities and on expanding pharmacy's role in quality improvement initiatives.

### **NCCN Global Program**

The NCCN Global program seeks to further advance the organization's mission to improve and facilitate quality, effective, equitable, and accessible cancer care so all patients can live better lives.

NCCN's global resources are free for non-commercial use and can be found on [NCCN.org](https://www.nccn.org):

- [Translations of NCCN Guidelines](#)
- [Translations of NCCN Guidelines for Patients®](#)
- [Translations of NCCN Distress Thermometer and Problem List](#)

### **12-week Weight Loss Program for Patients**

The Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Greenwich and Greenwich Hospital's Center for Behavioral and Nutritional Health has launched a 12-week comprehensive weight loss program for patients with cancer. Open to patients throughout the Smilow Network, participants will work with a registered dietitian and psychologist in individual and group sessions to change habits, lose weight, and tackle the challenges of successful long-term weight loss. For more information, please contact [Heather Studwell, MS, OTR/L, MBA, CLT-LANA](#), Oncology Survivorship Coordinator.

### **Great Catch!**

**Amanda Iuliano** and **Maisey Ayr**, two nurses on the Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers Medical Oncology team, recently received a YNHHS Great Catch Award at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in North Haven.



Amanda and Maisey formed a close relationship with a patient receiving cancer treatment. The patient unfortunately had some social barriers in his life, which alerted them to be proactive in follow-up with him. On one of the calls, the patient stated he was in distress, but because of the caring kindness and expertise of these two nurses he knew someone cared. Amanda and Maisey remained on the line with the patient until help arrived at his home. He is once again on track for his cancer treatment.

Thank you Amanda and Maisey for your insight, thoughtfulness, and care of our patients!

**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



