

COVID-19 Update: March 24, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to everyone who tuned in to our virtual Schwartz Rounds today at Noon. We hope you found the discussion helpful, and look forward to providing additional opportunities for dialogue, both in large and small forums, in the coming days and weeks.

### Extended Care Clinic

Our Extended Care Clinic (ECC) is a vital component of care for our patients. Last year, the ECC effectively reduced the need to utilize emergency department services for acute symptoms by 12%, and decreased admittance to the hospital for symptoms by 70%. Currently located on NP12, which has transitioned to COVID-19 care, our ECC will move to the first floor of the East Pavilion in the former Pre-Admissions Testing area tomorrow. We will have modified operating hours (Noon - 11pm) tomorrow, March 25, to aid in the transition to our new space.

- **Location:** The new location of our ECC on EP 1 will provide continuity of care for our patients. The facility will offer the same patient capacity of our current ECC with six patient beds and will be staffed by our APPs and physicians. Hours of operation will be 7am – 11pm, beginning Thursday, March 26.
- **Referrals:** The referral process to the ECC will remain the same. Patients need to be referred by their provider or by the on-call physician for care, through EPIC or by phone at (203) 200-ECC1 (3221).

### Grant Funding

We understand the disruption to our laboratory research has left many of you in uncertain circumstances over the last week. Thank you for your incredible efforts to deescalate the research operations in your laboratories, while protecting the integrity of your samples and ongoing science. We know many of the decisions made were not easy, and we hope to welcome you back in your labs very soon. In the interim, the NCI, in partnership with the NIH, is taking several steps to ensure grant funding and support of our cancer research continues.

- All previously scheduled peer review meetings will proceed virtually or by telephone.

- The NCI Office of Grants Administration continues to issue grant awards, revisions, and post-award actions.
- Guidance on administrative flexibilities during COVID-19 have been issued.
- If you have any questions regarding your funding, project period, or revisions, please contact [Robert Garofalo, PhD](#), Associate Cancer Center Director, Research Affairs.

### **Town Hall**

We look forward to providing you with real-time updated information during our [Smilow Town Hall](#) on Thursday at 5pm. Dr. Richard Martinello, Medical Director, Infection Prevention for Yale New Haven Health, will join us to answer your questions. Please [email](#) them in advance, or post them to the chat room of the [Zoom](#) meeting.

Best regards,

**Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH**

Director, Yale Cancer Center  
Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Hospital

**Lori C. Pickens, MHA**

Senior Vice President and Executive Director  
Smilow Cancer Hospital

**Kevin G. Billingsley, MD**

Chief Medical Officer  
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**Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC**

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