

COVID-19 Update: April 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### **Oncology Surgery on SRC**

In order to protect our patients from the risk of hospital-acquired COVID-19 infection, our surgeons have worked together with our nursing teams and our colleagues in facilities to gain access to a segregated set of ORs at the Saint Raphael Campus to provide surgical care for cancer patients. Surgical procedures will begin on Wednesday.

- Patients will continue to be reviewed for surgery following our current surgical triage guidelines. Thoracic, Gastrointestinal, Breast, and Head & Neck Cancer surgeries will be scheduled.
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- All patients will be scheduled for a COVID test within 24 hours of their surgery, and will be carefully temperature screened and questioned for concerning symptoms prior to surgery.
- All pre-admission and surgical cases will be done in a COVID-negative unit. Following surgery, patients will receive care in specified recovery areas and be transferred for continued care by our inpatient oncology team on Verdi 4 North.

### **Overnight Coverage for Smilow APPs**

Overnight coverage is now provided by our APPs. Attending physicians may be called on for assistance in overnight decision-making. Backup for our APPs covering overnight phone calls from our ambulatory patients will be provided as follows:

- **Solid Tumor** backup will alternate weekly between the blue (1st, 3rd, 5th weeks of the month) and white team attending (2nd and 4th weeks of the month) as listed in Amion.
- **Non-BMT Hematologic Malignancy** backup will be provided by the Duffy attending listed in Amion.
- **BMT** backup will be provided by the BMT attending as listed in Amion.
- **Neuro-oncology** backup will be provided by the neuro-oncology attending listed in Amion.

- **Sickle Cell backup** will be provided by John Roberts, MD, with Susie Curtis, MD, as secondary backup.
- **Admissions & calls from within the Hospital will go to the APP On-Call and then routed to appropriate covering Attending for each Team.**

### **New Patient Follow-up**

To ensure our newly diagnosed patients are receiving adequate follow-up and support, **Tara Sanft, MD**, and **Bonnie Indeck, LCSW**, have enlisted the help of our social workers to consult with all new Smilow patients over the last four weeks. Their calls are designed to lend support, listen to concerns, and triage medically-related issues. 908 patients have initially been identified for consultation and the list will be refreshed periodically to account for ongoing new diagnoses.

### **Key Upcoming Events**

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds will feature **Craig Crews, PhD**, tomorrow at noon, with an update on **PROTAC-Mediated Protein Degradation**. On Wednesday, Smilow Cancer Hospital will host our second **Patient and Family Forum** at 7pm, with a presentation and discussion on Coping Mechanisms from **Laurie Santos, PhD**, Professor of Psychology. Please share the opportunity with your patients, and join us online.

- [April 14: Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds; Noon](#)
- [April 15: Smilow Patient and Family Forum; 7pm](#)

Best regards,

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

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Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Hospital

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