Timeline: A closer look at 2020

JANUARY 5 — World Health Organization announced the emergence of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China.

JANUARY 31 — United States declared public health emergency.

MID-FEBRUARY — Department planning began.

MARCH 8 — VACHS started active screening at main hospital entrance.

MARCH 9 — Daily department leadership calls began. First palliative care guideline issued.

MARCH 11 — Department in-person meetings and Medical Grand Rounds cancelled. Daily department survey started. Department-wide meeting held to discuss coronavirus science, and epidemiology; trajectory of outbreaks in China, Europe, Seattle, and New York; and Department preparations for inevitable outbreak in CT.

MARCH 13 — Human subject research paused where possible. Virology Lab started in-house testing.

MARCH 14 — First positive COVID-19 case reported at Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH).

MARCH 16 — Staff began to work from home. Conversion of patient appointments to telehealth began. YNHH leaders declared a Code D (disaster) and activated the Hospital Incident Command Structure (HICS).

MARCH 18 — NP-15 emptied with its patients moved to EP 6-5. All noncritical research suspended.

MARCH 19 — NP-12 and NP-14 moved to SRC.

MARCH 20 — Residency Match Day

MARCH 21 — First COVID-19 positive patient was admitted onto NP-15. One-year term extension announced for assistant and associate professors in specific tracks.

MARCH 23 — New rounding practices announced. Firm restructuring began. YSM released first list of COVID-19 research projects.

MARCH 24 — First patient died from COVID-related causes.

MARCH 25 — Blood drives started in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

MARCH 26 — Global Health webinar held: "COVID-19 Update: Caring While Keeping Safe."

MARCH 30 — National Doctors' Day. Task force created to address burnout.

APRIL 3 — More YNHH units became COVID-19 restricted units. Bereavement program launched for COVID-19-positive deaths. Decompression huddles began for ICU staff.

APRIL 7 — Palliative Care and Geriatrics began consult triggers to address goals of care. Meals4Healers project started.

APRIL 8 — PASSOVER

APRIL 9 — Communications scripts and training released to clinicians.

APRIL 10 — Yale New Haven Health (YNHHS) dashboard went live.

APRIL 12 — EASTER

APRIL 13 — Critical care triage policy for COVID-19-positive patients and resuscitation policy distributed.

APRIL 15 — More than 34,000 outpatient telehealth visits conducted between YNHHS physicians and patients.

APRIL 21 — YNHH COVID-19 positive inpatients peaked at 450. YNHHS COVID-19 positive inpatients peaked at 638.

APRIL 23 — Virtual Medical Grand Rounds held: "COVID-19 Clinical Management at Yale: What We've Learned So Far." 1375 participants attended the call.

APRIL 27 — Supportive Care Unit (SCU) set up on NP-4.

APRIL 29 — YNHHS discharged 1,500th COVID-19 patient from Yale New Haven Hospital.

APRIL 30 — Medical Grand Rounds held virtually: "Critical Care in COVID-19 Patients."

MAY 18 — YNHHS discharges 2,500th COVID-19 patient from Greenwich Hospital. YNHHS announces its laboratories performed almost 15,000 COVID tests with 95% being resulted within 24 hours.

MAY 22 — SCU moved to NP-12.

JUNE 4 — Activation of daytime Tele-ICU in Westerly and Greenwich Hospitals.

JUNE 11 — Virtual Medical Grand Rounds held: fourth annual "Stories of Yale Internal Medicine."

AUGUST 9 — YNHH reached lowest number of COVID-19 positive patients since pandemic began, at 6 patients.

AUGUST 17 — Yale School of Medicine (YSM) and YNHH announced the start of Phase 3 of the Pfizer vaccine trial. YSM announced the COVID Gap Funding initiative in support of junior investigators.

SEPTEMBER 21 — YNHH officially terminated Code D.

OCTOBER 24 — Second wave of pandemic began.

NOVEMBER 6 — YNHHS moved into mitigation phase. Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS, was named as co-chair of President-elect Joe Biden's COVID-19 Transition Advisory Board. YNHH returned to Code D status.

NOVEMBER 9 — YSM clinicians, researchers, and educators sent an open letter to Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont explaining the impact that the current COVID surge had on health care systems in the state, and urging the governor to enact more restrictive measures.

NOVEMBER 24 — Department physicians met with Governor Lamont and Department of Public Health Commissioner Deidre Gifford, MD, MPH.

NOVEMBER 30