

## COVID-19 Update: May 20, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### Clinical Trials

Today, we gathered with our nearly 180 staff members of the Clinical Trials Office (CTO) to celebrate International Clinical Trials Day virtually. The opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the wonderful work of our entire team was timely as we plan for clinical research in our Smilow Recovery period. We thank each and every member of the CTO for their resilience and tenacity over the past couple of months in ensuring that all of our patients on clinical trials continue to get the care they need, while creatively partnering with our clinical teams and incorporating new technology to deploy care. Beginning next week, our CTO will open a subset of trials and resume limited recruitment with remote support. Thank you in advance for your continued support during the next stage of transition in the CTO, and for your tireless work on behalf of our patients.

### Smilow Town Hall

Please plan to join tomorrow, Thursday, May 21 for our next [Smilow Town Hall](#) at 5pm, and our first community discussion on Recovery planning.

- We look forward to presentations from the Ambulatory and Inpatient Recovery Planning Teams, as well as an update from Peter Schulam, MD, PhD, on the Approach to Testing and PPE in the Recovery Phase.
- We are requesting that you share your ideas for innovation or planning for our next steps in recovery with the Smilow leadership team by emailing any ideas to [canceranswers@yale.edu](mailto:canceranswers@yale.edu)

### NCI Research in the Era of COVID-19

The NCI, working with NIH, has implemented new flexibilities for the cancer research community during the COVID-19 pandemic to help to sustain progress in cancer research and to allow normal activities to resume promptly, when possible. In addition, they are increasing their focus on serology and cancer.

- [Flexibilities](#) include extending deadlines for applications, allowing institutions to use NCI grant funds for salaries and stipends, flexibly to extend project timelines and reporting requirements, and lengthening eligibility periods for early-stage investigators and trainees.

- NCI has just released a time sensitive [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) seeking community input on research approaches and priorities related to SARS-CoV-2 serology and cancer. Responses to the notice are due by May 26, 2020.
- In addition, NCI posted a [Notice of Intent](#) to publish a FOA for components of the new Serological Sciences Network. The RFA is expected to be announced in June with expected application due dates in July.

## Smilow Torrington Stars



The physicians, nurses, and staff from the **Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Torrington** rallied together to give back to their local community over Mother's Day weekend with a collection of food for the local food pantry, Friendly Hands Food Bank. Thank you for your thoughtful support and contributions to the community!

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  
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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

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