

Smilow Update: September 25, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Head and Neck Cancer SPORE Funded

We are pleased to announce that Yale Cancer Center was awarded a five-year, \$11.7 million grant from the NIH to fund the Yale Head and Neck Cancer Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) under the leadership of Barbara Burtness, MD, Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and Co-Leader of the Developmental Therapeutics Research Program. The goal of the Yale Head and Neck Cancer SPORE (YHN-SPORE) is to address critical barriers to treatment of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma due to resistance to immunotherapy, DNA damaging, and targeted therapy. The new SPORE represents a highly translational, transdisciplinary team of researchers who will employ deep disease-based expertise to leverage the extraordinary scientific strength of many different departments at our cancer center and with the outstanding resources of cancer centers around the country. [Full Press Release](#)

Travel Policy

Yale New Haven Health Infection Prevention, Occupational Health, and leadership teams have worked to revise the Health System guidance regarding travel.

- Personal travel to regions on the [Connecticut list of affected areas](#) should be avoided as much as possible.
- If you must travel to a place on the State's list of affected areas, you must either quarantine for 14 days or obtain COVID-19 testing through the YNHHS Call Center within 72 hours of return to Connecticut. If the tests are negative you may return to work.
- A second test must be obtained 7 days after return from travel. Those with negative tests may continue working.

Visitor Policy

Effective Tuesday, September 22, Yale New Haven Health moved to phase 2 visitation, including Smilow Cancer Hospital, for COVID-negative patients.

- Visitation hours are between 10am-8pm.
- Only one visitor per day per patient, no handing off / swapping during those hours. For clarification, one visitor can come on Monday a different visitor can come on Tuesday.
- Visitors are encouraged to limit their visit to two hours.

- All visitors will be screened and must follow hospital policies.
- **Full Visitation Policy**

Neuro-oncology to NP 8

The Brain Tumor Center faculty will once again be practicing together as a multispecialty Center on NP 8 beginning on Monday, October 5 when the neuro-oncology team moves back to Smilow Cancer Hospital from their current clinical space at our North Haven Care Center.

COVID Testing

Open scheduling is now open at three testing facilities through Yale New Haven Health (Strong School, Milford Hospital, and Bridgeport Hospital). A Shoreline testing site will open on November 1. The public can self-schedule through an **online site**. In addition, over 30 draw stations are available for asymptomatic and pre-procedure COVID tests. Turnaround time remains <24 hours for over 90% of samples.

Smilow Star

Julie Earls, RN, is one of the outstanding nurses caring for our hematology inpatients on NP 11. She is a wonderful bedside nurse who is often recognized by patients and their families as a person who has made a significant difference in their care. A definite Smilow Star! Julie is currently in her last year at Fairfield University where she is working on her DNP and concentrating on neutropenic teaching at discharge for patients. Julie noticed that this is not performed in a systematic way and is determined to help improve the educational process for our patients, and patients nationally. Julie will be working with Catherine Sumpio, PhD, MSN, RN, AOCNS, Oncology Patient Education Specialist, as her advisor on this important project, and we look forward to implementing their recommendations and workflow with our patients moving forward.



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
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