

COVID-19 Update: May 6, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Support Available

There is an increased number of support services available to our physicians, nurses, scientists, caregivers, and staff. We hope you will take advantage of the assistance offered by the [Yale Employee Assistance Program](#) and the [Yale New Haven Health Employee and Family Resource Program](#). In addition, several specialized opportunities have been developed:

- **Stress and Resilience Town Halls**, organized by Dr. Jacob Tebes, Professor of Psychiatry, are being held regularly on a variety of topics, including Stress, Parenting, and Family Matters. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Decompression Huddles** are also being offered upon request to groups or units. These facilitated meetings are coordinated by [Dr. Kim Yonkers](#), Professor of Psychiatry, and [Dr. Jennifer Kapo](#), Chief of Palliative Medicine. To create your own team huddle, please email them directly.
- **Confidential Consultations** are offered under the direction of Dr. Sam Ball, Professor of Psychiatry, and Dr. Claudia Moreno, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry. These 1:1, time-limited, confidential consultations are available to any Yale Medicine or YNHH healthcare provider, administrator, or support staff, or their family member during the COVID-19 pandemic. While these are not considered treatment, and will not be documented in the medical record, these sessions are offered by trained clinicians. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Confidential, Free Counselors** are available by video or phone encounters through the Employee Assistance Programs 24/7. For YM, call [Magellan Health](#) at 800-327-9740. For YNHH, call [Beacon Health](#) at 877-275-6226.
- **Smilow Integrative Medicine** has created several virtual opportunities, including Guided Imagery, Meditation, Zumba, Yoga, T'ai Chi, and other special events, which are open to everyone. Please check their [online list of activities and calendar of events](#).

Upcoming Events

Please join us for our next [Smilow Town Hall](#) tomorrow, May 7 at 5pm. **Marna Borgstrom**, CEO of Yale New Haven Health and Yale New Haven Hospital, will join us for a discussion on the recent changes in our delivery of cancer care, and our COVID-19 response. In addition, **Kevin Billingsley, MD**, and **Kim Slusser, RN**, will provide updates from Smilow, and **Roy Decker, MD, PhD**, and **Joyce Tull, RN**, will brief us on transitions in clinical trials.

Frontline Experience from Wuhan

[The Lancet Oncology](#) has published *Managing patients with cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic: frontline experience from Wuhan*, providing inside perspective on the inpatient care of 1186 cancer patients over 40 days during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in China.

Smilow Stars



As we kick off Nurses Week 2020, there's no better way to start than to recognize the courageous efforts of our nurses and advanced practice providers in the **Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic**. Each of the 14 nurses and 7 APPs who rotate through the newly designed clinic volunteered to work in this high-risk area to take care of our patients. Beginning on April 3 under the direction of Tracy Carafeno, Nursing Director for Inpatient Care at Smilow and Lisa Barbarotta, Senior Manager of Practice and Education, they left the patients and staff they were comfortable seeing, and the locations they were used to working in, to create a dedicated Clinic for cancer patients. These staff quickly formed a team and developed expertise to safely test and triage patients with COVID-19 symptoms. Staffing a dedicated location to care for COVID-19 positive patients also minimizes staff and patient exposure to COVID-19 in our other Smilow locations. In just over a month, they have evaluated and triaged 136 patients. Their selfless dedication truly makes them Super Stars!



Thank you to **Kylie Kuck, Donna Angelo, Maisey Ayer, Liana Braga, Dana Butler, Angie Caleca, Maria Defonzo, Danielle Giglione, Brianna Lutz, Kelly Polhemus, Leigh Rooney, Jennifer Smith, Erica Stevens, Carolyn Thompson, Maggie Zampano, Amy Pugliese, Annie Jha, Katrina Bezak, Vanessa Nevins, Stephanie Kacik, Lisa Rivera, and Vanna Dest!**

Best regards,

Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH

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

Lori C. Pickens, MHA

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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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