

## Smilow Update: September 11, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### Ned Sharpless to Join Smilow Town Hall

On **Wednesday, September 16 at 5pm**, Ned Sharpless, MD, Director of the National Cancer Institute, will join us for our first Smilow Town Hall of the fall semester to talk about the NCI's priorities for the coming year and collaborations with NCI Comprehensive Cancer Centers during the COVID pandemic. Please mark your calendars to join us via **Zoom**. As background, the NCI recently released their **annual budget plan** for consideration to the legislature, which focuses on accelerating cancer research and features four special scientific topics: cancer drug resistance, molecular diagnostics for cancer treatment, obesity and cancer, and cancer survivorship. Please join us for a unique opportunity to hear from Dr. Sharpless, and ask him questions during the **Zoom format**.

### Clinical Research

Clinical Trials continue to gain momentum since our pause this Spring. Thank you to our entire Clinical Trials Office staff for their dedication to our mission, and for the undivided support of our clinical teams who are working together with us to ensure research continues.

- Since May 28, we have had **252 new consents** and **121 accruals**. Last month, there were 45 new accruals, with 15 from the Care Centers.
- Special thanks to **Jaykumar Thumar, MD, MBBS**, and **Michael Cecchini, MD**, who each accrued three patients each during the month of August, leading our physician accruals.
- The Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Westery has opened enrollment to clinical trials with the first of 15 planned clinical trials available for their patients as of September 1. Our sincere thanks to **Jannat Gill, BDS, MPH, CCRP**, who worked under the guidance of retiring Regional Assistant Director **Kathleen Uscinski, MBA, CCRP**, and incoming Regional Assistant Director **Sara Raboin, PhD**, in facilitating this first out of state expansion of the YCC research program. **Drs.**

DART	August Accrual
Brain Tumor	2
Breast Cancer	5
Cellular Therapies	0
Gastrointestinal	2
Gynelologic Oncology	4
Head & Neck	2
Leukemia	1
Lymphoma/Myeloma	3
Melanoma	1
Pediatric Heme/Oncology	2
Phase I	9
Prostate and Urologic	4
Sarcoma	0
Therapeutic Radiology	5
Thoracic Oncology	5
NA	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Care Center</b>	<b>15</b>

**Robert Legare** and **Rebecca Vanasse-Passas** look forward to offering clinical research opportunities to their patients in Rhode Island.

### **Old Saybrook Care Center**

On Tuesday, September 15, the Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Center in Old Saybrook will reopen for patient care three days per week. **Dr. Wajih Zaheer** and **Dr. Su Lim** will once again share their clinical schedule between Guilford and Old Saybrook.

### **Video Visit Platform Upgrades on Monday**

Our Telehealth platform upgrades will be available on Monday, September 13, with new features, including:

- The ability for providers and patients to use smart devices, laptops, Macs, and PC desktops *that are equipped with headsets and cameras.*
- When conducting a visit with a computer, the ability for other participants, including family members, to join the visit. Improved integration for interpreter services and scribes. Screen share, whiteboard, and chat functionality.
- In order to conduct visits using phone or tablet – VidyoConnect software is required in addition to Haiku or Canto. This software has already be installed on Yale managed devices. For personal devices you must download the VidyoConnect app. When you click 'Connect to Video' from Epic a VidyoConnect screen will appear. SIGN IN with epic credentials (*Tip – select keep me signed in*) and then click JOIN.

Training sessions are available for providers on Tuesday and Wednesday at 12pm and Thursday at 5pm via **Zoom**. **eLearning options** are also available at your convenience. All Telehealth training materials and guidance can be found at **Yale New Haven Health Telehealth** or **Yale Medicine Telehealth**.

### **Visitor Policy**

Yale New Haven Health, including Smilow Cancer Hospital, remains in Phase 3 visitor restriction to protect our patients and staff during the outbreak of COVID-19.

- Smilow Cancer Hospital continues to allow 1 visitor for patients with a length of stay greater than 8 days.
- Inpatients undergoing a surgical procedure can have 1 visitor the day before their planned procedure.
- Visiting hours are between 2-6pm and only one visitor per day, no handing off/swapping of visitors during those hours.
- Exceptions can be arranged for patients to support discharge planning, imminent end of life, and patients with disabilities.
- Full details are available **online**.

### **Interdisciplinary Rounds on 12NP Medical Oncology**

Interdisciplinary clinical rounds involving nursing, care management, pharmacy along with clinical providers are essential to excellent patient care and will be implemented on NP12 immediately with the following formatted patient presentation. Rounds will begin

immediately after 7:30-8:30am new or sick/emergent patients are presented in the 12NP Conference Room. During walk rounds later in the day, nurses should be called to bedside for assigned patients.

- Situation: Patient name, problem
- Background: Pertinent 24-hour interval events and important results
- Assessment: One-liner
- Recommendation: Clinical needs for the day (e.g. laboratory, imaging, consults, medications *entered in real-time*), addressing nursing needs, address barriers to discharge.

### **Communication within Medical Oncology Inpatient Service**

To promote communication between the outpatient oncologist, the patient, and the inpatient medical oncology team, the following guidelines have been developed:

- The primary inpatient attending/fellow will notify the primary oncologist that his/her patient has been admitted the morning of admission by phone or Mobile Heartbeat, or secure email if not directly available. The admitting fellow and/or resident will likewise be encouraged to send a secure email after hours to notify the primary oncologist of admission.
- The primary inpatient attending/fellow will establish goals of inpatient care (management of treatment toxicity, cancer complication, supportive care, etc.) within the first 24-48 hours of admission and when otherwise needed, with primary oncologist (or representative) providing guidance.
- Outpatient oncologists should be notified promptly of any significant events or change in code status during hospitalization. Direct communication by phone is encouraged at least every other day between inpatient attending/fellow and outpatient oncologist for complicated patients.
- An iPad or other Telehealth support will be available on 12NP. Medical oncology inpatient providers or staff will help support remote visits, if in person is not possible. iPads are available from the BA with instructions as well.
- The primary inpatient attending/fellow will discuss the post-hospital care plan with the primary oncologist/representative directly prior to discharge.

### **Smilow Star!**

**Nancy Hassan**, Oncology Care Model Care Manager, always goes above and beyond her job expectations to ensure her patients have everything they need. She is an excellent communicator and has the utmost concern for our patients. A team member from the North Haven Care Center recently visited with one of her patients and shared the following after speaking with her patient, “[My patient] told me yesterday that [Nancy] is ‘one of the greatest gifts’ to him during all of his problems and issues from his prostate cancer. He went on to say that he has never met a person like Nancy before in all of his years receiving medical attention.” We are grateful to have Nancy’s support for our patients. She is a true expert in her field, and a valuable patient advocate for Smilow Cancer Hospital. Thank you, Nancy, for being a Smilow Star!



**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, MBA**

Chief Medical Officer  
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**Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC**

Vice President for Patient Services  
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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