

Smilow Update: September 20, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Smilow Town Hall

Please join us for the next Smilow Town Hall on **Wednesday, September 27 at 5pm** with Eric Winer, MD, Lori Pickens, MHA, Kevin Billingsley, MD, MBA, and Kim Slusser, RN, MSN. Announcements and updates will be shared, and presentations on the Cancer Center Support Grant renewal and an initiative to improve communication on patient wait times and expectations are planned. Questions are encouraged and welcome during the webinar through chat or Q&A or via email at any time to canceranswers@yale.edu.

Admitting patients from YNHH Emergency Departments to Medical Oncology Inpatient Services

Solid tumor inpatients no longer require an on-call oncology fellow approval for Smilow admission from Yale New Haven Hospital Emergency Departments to the inpatient solid tumor oncology services at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

The ED will assess for Smilow eligibility as follows:

- Chief complaint at admission appears to be due to treatment and/or complications of their underlying solid tumor malignancy
- Undergoing cancer-directed therapy or palliative care for their underlying malignancy
- Readmission to the medical oncology service within 30 days.

If patient meets criteria for inpatient oncology admission, ED will place admission order as follows:

- Admit to Oncology
- Attending YNH Hospitalist

YNHH Employee Engagement Survey

As a part of YNHH's commitment to hearing the employee's voice, YNHH is requesting all employees participate in the annual Employee Engagement Survey before September 24. Themed the "The Power of Partnership," the survey gives everyone the opportunity to share their opinion on matters that define our workplace culture. The 42-question survey will seek your input on communication, safety, employee wellbeing, accountability, and action planning

The survey can be accessed through the unique-to-you link emailed from Glint on September 10. For assistance, please email glint_support@linkedin.com.

Fosaprepitant (Emend® IV)

Fosaprepitant (Emend® IV) is now the preferred formulary IV NK1 antagonist for chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) prophylaxis in adults and pediatrics throughout the YNHHS. All treatment plans that contain aprepitant (Cinvanti®) should be replaced with fosaprepitant (Emend® IV).

Bendamustine Formulation Change

Bendamustine (Belrapzo®, Eagle Pharmaceuticals) will be converted to bendamustine (Baxter, NDC 10019-079-01) as the preferred formulation across the YNHHS formulary. Bendamustine medication records (Erx 40820430) in Epic have been updated with bendamustine (Baxter, NDC 10019-079-01) as the defaulted dispensable product and current active treatment plans and bendamustine orders (including signed orders) will be automatically updated.

Apheresis Awareness Day

On Tuesday, September 19, our apheresis team celebrated Apheresis Awareness Day! Our Apheresis service is an essential group; one of their major roles is harvesting progenitor and mononuclear cells, which are used in stem cell transplants or CAR T treatment for hematologic malignancies. Apheresis also plays an important part in Classical Hematology, performing automated red blood cell exchange procedures for individuals with Sickle Cell Disease.

Another responsibility of Apheresis is the cellular immunotherapy treatment photopheresis, which is used to treat cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL), graft versus host disease, heart and lung transplant rejection, and other autoimmune conditions such as scleroderma. Smilow is one of the few centers within New England and the only group in Connecticut to perform these procedures. Yale is also internationally known as the institution where photopheresis was developed.



Top photo (left-right):

The Apheresis Team: Judy Snipes, RN; Kayla Musante, Apheresis Administrative Assistant; Hailey Davis, Apheresis Quality Specialist; Lindsey Roome, RN; Anna-Maria Milani, RN; Sara White, RN; Alexandra Dormal, Program Manager, Stem Cell Transplant/Cellular Therapy; and Christopher Tormey, Medical Director, Apheresis.

Bottom photo 2 (left-right):

The Photopheresis Nursing Team: Lorene Lagerfeldt, RN; Kimberly Krisak, RN; Laurie Crouch, RN; and Joanne Oram, RN.

Not pictured: Maricel Mendoza, apheresis RN, Winsome Smith, per diem apheresis RN, Farah Elacion, per diem apheresis RN, Peggy Persaud, ACA

2023 Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellows

The 2023 Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellows completed 8-week rotations this summer at Smilow Cancer Hospital featuring a comprehensive clinical experience in oncology nursing, plus exposure to “best practices” and expert training in compassionate care, including palliative care. Direct observational and learning experiences included exposure to ambulatory oncology nursing, acute care medical and surgical oncology nursing, infusion services, and more.

The Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program was created by Fred Flynn in loving memory of his wife Susan, who died of ovarian cancer in 2013. Out of respect for the wonderful quality of nursing care she received during her illness, Mr. Flynn created the program to help stimulate the career interest and foster the professional development of potential oncology nurses.



Sickle Cell Walk

In support of the new inpatient Smilow unit, Smilow East, faculty and staff from Smilow are participating in Michelle's House/Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, CT, walk/run/bike on Saturday, September 23 in East Rock Park, New Haven at 9 am. The proceeds will help the our local CT Chapter in New Haven sustain critical sickle cell disease programs/resources for patients and their families.

[Learn more and join one of the Smilow teams to support their efforts.](#)

Smilow Snapshots

We're looking for your photographic inspiration: a "Smilow Snapshot." Whether it's a stunning sunrise or sunset, a rainbow in the Healing Garden, a favorite view when walking through one of our facilities, or a selfie with your team between patient visits, snap a photo and send to **Renee Gaudette** for inclusion in an upcoming issue of DirectConnect or Smilow Update and through our social media accounts.

Smilow Star!

Denise Paci, RN, is an exceptional nurse and a true role model. Every day she continues to excel in her role as a practice nurse and provides excellent care to her patients and their families. Denise goes above and beyond to ensure that each of her patients receives the highest-quality care and she does so with unconditional compassion. One recent example of her extreme dedication involved what started off as a simple prior authorization but then turned into a much more complex situation. Denise persevered for an entire week to ensure the patient received the necessary medication. Her compassionate heart is easily shown through every interaction with both her patients and her peers. We could not be more grateful to have such a valuable nurse on our team at Smilow Trumbull and Fairfield.



Best regards,

Kevin G. Billingsley, MD, MBA
Chief Medical Officer
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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

