

## COVID-19 Update: May 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### Smilow Data

As we look toward recovery, we are closely watching our current patient data to be sure we are meeting the needs of our patients, and safely continuing with their treatment.

- Telehealth has increased substantially, with a **333% increase** between March 15th and April 26th. Over 2,000 video and phone visits were completed by our Smilow clinicians in the week ending April 26.
- New patients are being triaged into the system via Telehealth visits, including over **780 New Patient appointments** by video since March 15.

### COVID-related Research

Yale Cancer Center member **Alessandro D. Santin, MD**, Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences (Gynecologic Oncology) and **Mahalia Desruisseaux, MD**, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine (Infectious Diseases) are leading a team of Yale clinicians/scientists, including **Gloria Huang, MD, Christina Price, MD, Jeanne Hendrickson, MD, Christopher Tormey MD, Alfred Lee, MD, PhD, Lirim Ameti, MD, Aaron Ring, MD, PhD, and Akiko Iwasaki, PhD**, to study the activity of convalescent plasma enriched in neutralizing antibodies to limit coronavirus associated complications in COVID-19 hospitalized patients (total 300 patients). They will be conducting a randomized, blinded Phase II trial to complete their study.

- **Primary Objective:** Evaluate the efficacy of convalescent plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 containing antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 versus control (normal saline) to prevent worsening respiratory status or death in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 who are within 3 days of presentation to the hospital or 3-7 days of symptom onset.
- **Primary Outcome:** Status at 14 days (using 1 through 8) Effect size will be measured as the cumulative odds ratio comparing treatment to control, estimated using a cumulative proportional odds model that adjusts for initial status.

- **Exploratory Objectives:**

1. Serum or plasma anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgM, IgG, IgA on Days 0, 1, 7, 14, 28, 90
2. Serum or plasma SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing activity and antibody dependent cytotoxicity (ADCC) on Days Day 0, 1, 7, 14, 28, 90
3. Rates, levels and duration of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in NP swabs using RT-PCR on days 0, 7, 14, 28. Other specimen types may be tested as available (e.g.,BAL fluid, tracheal secretions, sputum, etc.).
4. Lymphocyte and neutrophil counts on days 0, 1, 3, 7, 14 or as obtained in care.
5. Hematological measurements (D-dimer, fibrinogen) on days 0, 1, 3, 7, 14 or as obtained in care.
6. T and B cell subsets on days 0, 7, 28

## Smilow Stars

Today we recognize the great work of the **Smilow Operations Team**. Led by **Todd Wilcox, MPA**, the entire team plays a crucial role in supporting Smilow Cancer Hospital as well as our Smilow Hospital Cancer Care Centers in Derby, Fairfield, Guilford, North Haven, Old Saybrook, Orange, Torrington, Trumbull, and Waterbury.

**Carolyn Truini** and **Tahesha Bryan** are the dedicated Smilow Operations Coordinators for our main hospital and **Andrea**

**Polanco** and **James Kranich** are the Operations Support Coordinators for the nine Care Centers listed. While their primary focus is to support our clinical teams with financial analysis, facility project planning and renovations, procurement and purchasing, equipment monitoring and repairs, regulatory compliance, quality improvement initiatives, logistical support, and to act as a liaison with outside vendors and other departments, they also serve as the key on site coordinator for major events. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been integral to the planning and relocation for many of our clinical



services and teams. Their willingness to help in any situation, responsiveness, and continued dedication makes them all Smilow Stars!

Clockwise from top left: Carolyn Truini, Tahesha Bryan, Todd Wilcox, Andrea Polanco, and James Kranich.

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

Yale Cancer Center | [www.yalecancercenter.org](http://www.yalecancercenter.org)

STAY CONNECTED

