My name is Cyril Mara I'm the section chief of head and neck surgery and associate professor of surgery in otolaryngology. I treat cancers of the head and neck. The most common cancers I treat are cancers in the mouth, the throat, the salivary glands, and the thyroid. When I started medical school, I wasn’t sure I wanted to be a surgeon, but during my clinical rotations in 3rd year, that’s when I saw head and neck.
surgery and I thought it was the most fascinating part of the human body.
And I really enjoyed the people I was working with, even as a medical student.
And that just got me hooked.
The people, the anatomy, the types of surgeries that were going on in that part of the body.
I think what patients need to know about the treatment of head and neck cancer at Smilow Cancer Hospital is that it’s a team sport. Surgical oncologists as a surgeon. You know one part of that team but we need radiation, oncologists, medical oncologists, pathologists,
neuroradiologists, social workers, nurses, nurse practitioners and really a whole team to take care of patients with head and neck cancer. Head neck cancer affects so many parts of patients quality of life including speech swallowing their appearance and we really need to do a good job of balancing function and quality of life. With curing the cancer as an E NT head neck cancer surgeon, I’m often tasked with diagnosing patients with their cancer.
I think it’s important that patients bring with them some family members when they think there’s a chance that they might. Be having that cancer discussion to help them absorb all the information I’m giving them.