The Smilow Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program is composed of an interdisciplinary team that includes geneticists, genetic counselors, physicians, and nurses who work together with the goal of providing cancer risk assessment and taking steps to prevent the development of cancer. Patients that are considered at risk for a familial or hereditary cancer receive genetic counseling and testing so informed medical decisions can be based on their own personal risk assessment. Individuals not suspicious for having a genetic predisposition also receive personalized information on how to lower their cancer risk. These interventions can have a huge impact on a person’s life by allowing them to better manage their health and reduce their risk of ever developing cancer.

Clinical Care and Research
Our team is committed to providing a comprehensive plan to help assist patients and their families with all aspects of the risk assessment and testing process, surveillance, surgical decision-making, and follow-up care. We also offer enrollment in research clinical trials aimed at helping to determine additional causes of hereditary cancers. If your personal and/or family history meets any of the listed risk factors, you can benefit from our Program’s personalized risk assessment and a discussion of the risks and benefits of testing options.

Our Program is a component of Yale Cancer Center, a comprehensive cancer center designated by the National Cancer Institute.

“I chose this path to give myself the best chance at life and I wanted to do it in the most effective and safe manner possible. So far we have managed to stay one step ahead, thanks to the team at Smilow, and I plan to be here for my girls for a long time.”

- Kirsty
yalecancercenter.org/kirsty
Who may be at risk for a hereditary or familial cancer?

People with:

- A personal or family history of early-onset cancer (younger than 45-50 years)
- Several family members on the same side of the family with cancer
- A personal or family history of breast cancer and Jewish ancestry
- A personal or family history of ovarian, pancreatic, or metastatic prostate cancer at any age
- A personal or family history of multiple colon polyps
- A personal or family history of multiple cancer diagnoses within the same individual
- A personal or family history of a rare type of cancer/tumor (breast cancer in a male; medullary thyroid cancer; sebaceous carcinoma or adenoma)