



Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center

Community M A T T E R S

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NEWS FROM MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER

Resources

Blood/Platelet Donor Program

212-639-3666

Physician Referral Service

800-525-2225

Construction Information Line

212-639-4444

Helping the Uninsured and Underinsured Get Care



Jeralyn Cortez, Health Educator at BECH, regularly staffs health fairs and outreach events to offer cancer education.

Prominent on the national agenda are the twin crises of soaring health care costs and inadequate health coverage. As our presidential candidates debate how to improve care and access for the estimated 47 million Americans who are uninsured, health care systems face daily challenges to provide care as needed for a vast cross-section of uninsured and underinsured individuals. Even as millions of Americans lack adequate insurance, healthcare costs in the United States exceed \$2 trillion annually. Without question, our nation's health-care system presents significant financial challenges to both patients and providers.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) recognizes health coverage and access-to-care as critical issues nationally and for our patients. "We understand that costs of cancer care and insurance coverage are major concerns for cancer patients and their families," said John McBride, Director of Patient Accounts.

MSKCC employs financial counselors who work with patients and insurance companies — including Medicare and Medicaid — to help patients access services. For those who don't qualify for publicly available health insurance or who are unable to pay their portion of fees above insurance reimbursement, MSKCC can provide financial help to those who are eligible through its Financial Assistance Program. "There are multiple factors considered in determining eligibility for assistance, including patient income, type of cancer, and citizenship status," said Sylvia Corbin, Administrator of MSKCC'S Financial Assistance Program. The premise of this program is that all patients are expected to contribute to their care based on their ability to pay.

In 2007, the number of completed applications for patient financial assistance increased nearly 20 percent, with more than 40 percent of all cases resulting in no charges incurred by the patient.

New York State guidelines suggest that nonprofit hospitals consider patients who earn at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level as eligible. Given the financial impact of cancer care, Memorial increased its income eligibility guideline from 400 percent to 500 percent of the federal poverty level.

MSKCC also supports several targeted community outreach

continued

Community Events

CANCER SMART LECTURES

Survivorship: Living Beyond Cancer

Tuesday, September 16, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Rockefeller Research Laboratories, 430 East 67th Street

FREE. Please RSVP to 212-639-3074 or www.cancersmart.org.

Unlocking the Mysteries of Cancer: A Conversation about Overall Wellness, Cancer Screening, Treatment, and Survivorship

Tuesday, September 23, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Collaborative lecture with the Breast Examination Center of Harlem
and the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., State Office Building, Art Gallery,
163 West 125th Street, 2nd Floor

FREE. Please RSVP to 212-537-5515 or www.cancersmart.org.

Photo ID is required for security purposes.

An Update on Brain and Spinal Cord Cancers

Tuesday, October 21, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Rockefeller Research Laboratories, 430 East 67th Street

FREE. Please RSVP to 212-639-3074 or www.cancersmart.org.

Helping the Uninsured and Underinsured Get Care

continued from page 1

initiatives to help uninsured and underinsured patients access care. One such program is Memorial's cancer screening facility, the Breast Examination Center of Harlem (BECH) that provides breast and cervical cancer screening, patient follow-up utilizing patient navigators, as well as education programs, at no out-of-pocket expense to women in the Harlem community. Established in 1979, BECH has provided more than 205,482 visits, including 9,585 in 2007. Jeralyn Cortez, Health Educator at BECH, is responsible for ongoing efforts to reach patients in need of cancer screening. A recent effort to reach the uninsured involved distributing informational materials at the Filipino-American Independence Day Parade in June where three dozen Filipino domestic workers were registered for a no-cost mammogram exam. Ms. Cortez is also in discussion with Independence Care Systems to promote and increase cancer screening among disabled individuals. ✪

Construction Update



MSKCC's Breast and Imaging Center facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009.

Construction of the Breast and Imaging Center on Second Avenue between 65th and 66th Streets continues on schedule. Interior design of clinical spaces, reception areas and academic offices is in progress. The building will accommodate a range of important MSKCC initiatives, including a diagnostic imaging center.

Structural steel erection for the second facility of The Mortimer B. Zuckerman Research Center on East 68th Street between York and First Avenues will be completed this fall. Concrete floor slabs will be poured from September through December. The building's projected completion date is the first quarter of 2010. ✪

Community Events

Free Prostate Cancer Screenings

Monday, September 15, 3:30 – 5:15 PM

Tuesday, September 16, 3:30 – 5:15 PM

Thursday, September 18, 3:30 – 5:15 PM

Guttman Diagnostic Center, 55 Fifth Avenue

By appointment only. To make an appointment, call 1-888-MSK-WELL (888-675-9355).

65+ HEALTH FAIR

Focus on Men and Aging: Cancer Prevention and Health Maintenance

Tuesday, September 23, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

1275 York Avenue, Room M-107

STUDENT-TEACHER LECTURE

Major Trends in Modern Cancer Research

Thursday, November 6, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Rockefeller Research Laboratories, 430 East 67th Street

MSKCC will host its third annual seminar for students and the public. Students and teachers (high school and college) as well as community members are invited to attend this exciting and informative event. Three MSKCC investigators will present talks, and MSKCC President Harold Varmus will moderate. For more information, please go to our lecture information page at www.mskcc.org/schooloutreach.

Information on Free Lectures and Screenings Inside!

MSKCC
Community

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Cancer Center
Memorial Sloan-Kettering

