



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

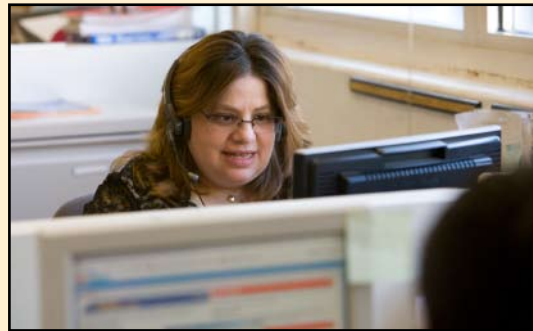
### Physician Referral Service

800-525-2225

### Construction Information Line

212-639-4444

## Helping Newly Diagnosed Patients Find the Best Care Possible



*English- and Spanish-speaking referral specialists are available to respond to callers seeking a physician referral. Other languages may be accommodated through MSKCC's interpretation provider.*

Receiving a cancer diagnosis can be an extremely emotional event for patients and their families, one that is further complicated by the urgent need to find the right doctors and treatment, or even to know where to begin the process. Most adults diagnosed with cancer will be offered an array of possible treatment options to control or cure their disease. Patients can benefit greatly from the professional support they receive at this time because care outcomes and the chances of a cure have been shown to improve significantly when patients receive the most accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment from the very beginning.

MSKCC's Physician Referral Service provides patients with an opportunity to speak with specially trained staff about their need for cancer care. "At a time when they may need information, guidance, and support, we are here to help patients choose the best specialist for their particular needs," said Suzanne Carmody, Director of the Physician Referral Service.

The Physician Referral Service offers the public a single point of contact to the wide array of clinical services available at MSKCC's locations in New York City, Westchester County, Long Island, and New Jersey. The Physician Referral Service staff field approximately 900 calls of inquiry and Internet requests daily. Referral specialists, overseen by oncology nurses, are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

The customer service goals of the Physician Referral Service are to facilitate access to MSKCC, help identify appropriate physicians, address insurance coverage, and provide referrals to other institutions and resources as needed. The staff also helps to prepare patients for their first appointment, making

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## MSKCC's School of Radiation Therapy Seeks Applicants

In keeping with its commitment to education and patient care, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center offers a two-year, full-time program of study in radiation oncology technology. The School of Radiation Therapy has produced hundreds of radiation therapists over the past three decades who are employed at healthcare facilities throughout the New York City area and in states across the country, including California, Florida, North Carolina, Nevada, and Texas.

Radiation therapists are trained to deliver high doses of radiation to specific areas of a patient's body for the treatment

of cancer. Treatment with radiation may last from five to nine weeks during which time patients are attended to primarily by their radiation therapist under a physician's supervision. Wilson Apollo, Director of the School of Radiation Therapy, notes, "Students enter this field because they want to make a difference in caring for people with cancer." Students learn to demonstrate the highest quality of technical expertise, provide competent, compassionate clinical care in serving their patients, and collaborate effectively with their colleagues.

In 2008 seven exceptional students

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## Helping Newly Diagnosed Patients

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sure they know what to expect, bring the necessary reports and materials for the consultation, and have any questions about insurance addressed by Patient Financial Services.

Patients, physicians, medical support staff, and family members may contact the Physician Referral Service online at [www.mskcc.org](http://www.mskcc.org) or by phone at 800-525-2225. ☼

## 2008 Community Service Plan Available

Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Community Service Plan provides information about Memorial Hospital's outreach programs, services, and activities. To see this year's Executive Summary and Financial Statement Addendum, visit [www.mskcc.org/communityserviceplans](http://www.mskcc.org/communityserviceplans), or call 212-639-3199 to request a copy by mail or to comment on the report. ☼

## Construction Update

Construction of the Breast and Imaging Center on Second Avenue between 65th and 66th Streets has entered its final year of activity. Exterior beautification projects including installation of sidewalks and planters and completion of the main entrance and drive-through are underway. Interior finish work is in progress to paint, wallpaper, and install carpet at the facility. Radiology equipment to provide MRI and mammography services will be delivered and installed within the next six months. Furniture, fixtures, and other equipment have been received or will arrive shortly. The building is on track to open in the fall of 2009.

The second facility of the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Research Center on East 68th Street between York and First Avenues is steadily advancing. Through the end of 2008 concrete floor slabs will continue to be poured. Installation of the exterior building walls began in November and will continue into late spring. The building's projected completion date is the first quarter of 2010. ☼

## MSKCC's School of Radiation Therapy Seeks Applicants

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graduated from the program. At the graduation ceremony, student speakers Joel Delgado and Anthony Trifilio thanked the school staff and physician faculty for their diligence and commitment to producing top-notch, experienced graduates. Mr. Delgado expressed the view, shared by his fellow classmates, that "we are extremely appreciative to our patients for allowing us to treat them during our training and for teaching us that compassion is the key quality needed by a radiation therapist."

Accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, MSKCC's School of Radiation



*School of Radiation Therapy 2008 graduates Nikoleta Levendis and Jean Lee celebrate completion of the rigorous full-time program, which includes forty hours a week of training plus homework.*

Therapy awards graduates a certificate of completion and offers a low annual tuition cost. In addition, students benefit from free, limited medical insurance coverage during the time they are enrolled in the program and may qualify for federal and state financial aid. Information on applying to the School of Radiation Therapy is available on MSKCC's Web site at [www.mskcc.org/schoolofradiationtherapy](http://www.mskcc.org/schoolofradiationtherapy). ☼

*MSKCC would like to wish our friends and neighbors a healthy, joyous, and peaceful holiday season.*

MSKCC  
Community

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