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X



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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What can we help you find today?

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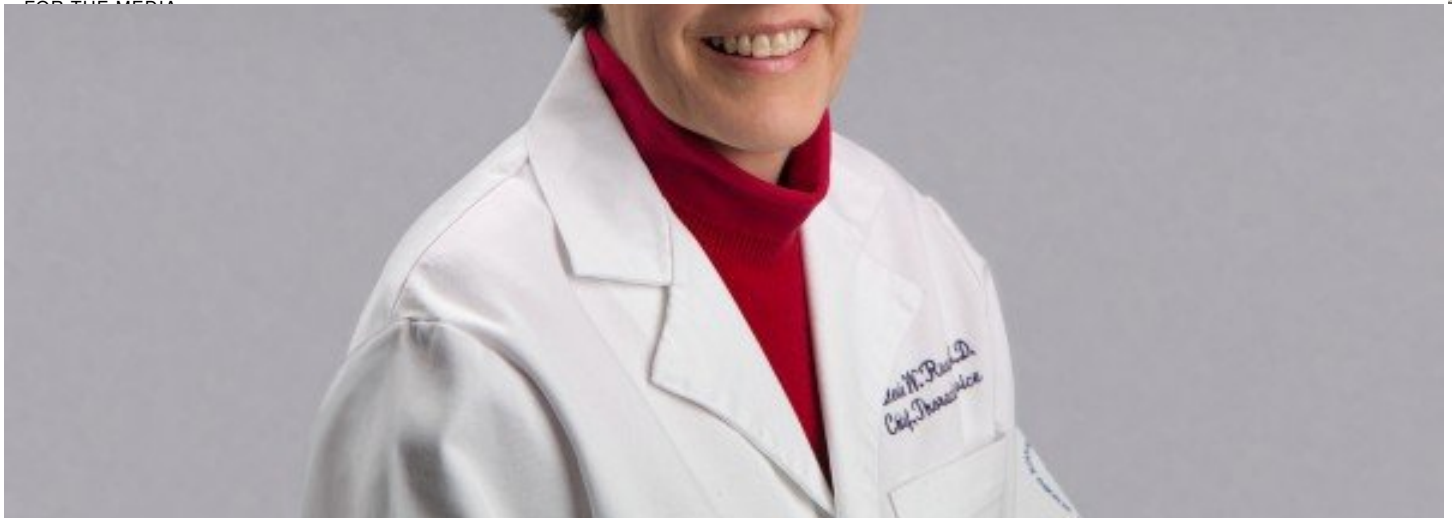
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FOR THE MEDIA



Valerie W. Rusch, MD, FACS

[Thoracic Surgeon](#) ([#about-me](#))



Areas of Expertise

Conditions I Treat

- Lung cancer
- Mesothelioma
- Esophageal cancers and conditions

My Specialties

- Minimally invasive surgery
- Robotic surgery
- Video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS)

[View more expertise](#) ([#about_specialties](#))



[Dr. Rusch's Office Information](#) ([#contact-and-location](#))



Languages: English & French

Get to Know Me

I am a thoracic surgeon who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of people with cancers of the lung, airways (trachea and bronchi), esophagus, mediastinum, chest wall, and pleura (malignant pleural mesothelioma). I have 25 years of experience as a thoracic surgeon, and was among the first women in the country to be board certified in this specialty.

Read more +

[What I Do at MSK](#)

I'm a thoracic (thor-A-sik) surgeon. This is a doctor with special training in surgery for the chest, lungs, airway, esophagus (swallowing tube), and thymus. They're also known as a chest surgeon.

- Vice Chair for Clinical Research, Department of Surgery
- Miner Family Chair in Intrathoracic Cancers

Areas of Expertise

Conditions I Treat

- Lung cancer
- Mesothelioma
- Esophageal cancers and conditions
- Mediastinal tumors
- Chest wall tumors
- Benign tracheal and bronchial conditions

My Specialties

- Minimally invasive surgery
- Robotic surgery
- Video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS)
- Endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS)

Education & Honors

Education

- MD, Columbia University

Residencies

- General Surgery - University of Washington
- Cardiothoracic Surgery - University of Washington

Fellowships

- The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Board Certifications

- Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery

Awards and Honors

- Top Doctors New York Metro Area, Castle Connolly (2023)
- Exceptional Women in Medicine Award, Castle Connolly (2023)
- Castle Connolly: America's Top Doctors (2023)

- Castle Connolly: New York Magazine Top Doctors (2002-2004, 2013-2020)

Insurance Information

Understanding your insurance options is an important part of managing your cancer care. We have relationships with many common healthcare providers and plans.

Don't see your carrier or plan? [We can help you understand your coverage](#) .

If you don't have health insurance or are worried that your care may not be fully covered, our [financial assistance](#) programs may be able to help.

If you have questions about insurance, call us at [646-497-9176](#) .

Contact and Location

Office Phone

 [212-639-5873](tel:212-639-5873)

Colleagues

Doctors at Memorial Sloan Kettering work as teams, with specialists from all different areas. This allows us to consider all your needs together, and to give you the best possible care.

[See all Surgery doctors. \(https://www.mskcc.org/doctor?field_vocab_departments%5B868%5D=868\)](https://www.mskcc.org/doctor?field_vocab_departments%5B868%5D=868)

[See all Thoracic Service doctors. \(https://www.mskcc.org/doctor?field_vocab_departments%5B880%5D=880\)](https://www.mskcc.org/doctor?field_vocab_departments%5B880%5D=880)

Clinical Trials



Find a Clinical Trial for You

Memorial Sloan Kettering's doctors and scientists are constantly developing new treatments for cancer. MSK is typically running hundreds of clinical trials at a given time.

You may be able to participate in a clinical trial even if you are new to MSK. Search our online directory to find trial information and see more about who can participate.

[Search clinical trials \(https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/clinical-trials\)](https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/clinical-trials)

Research and Publications

Books

Esophageal Tumors: Principles and Practice. Jobe B, Hunter J, Thomas C, Rusch VW, eds. New York: Demos Medical Publishing; 2011.

Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma. O'Byrne K, Rusch V, eds. Oxford, UK: Oxford UP; 2006.

Selected Book Chapters

"Lung" and "Mesothelioma." Rusch VW, AJCC Lung, Esophageal and Mesothelioma Task Force. In: *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual.* 7th ed. Edge SB, Byrd DR, Compton CC, Fritz AG, Greene FL, Trotti A, eds. New York: Springer; 2009: Chapters 25-26.

"Diffuse malignant mesothelioma." Rusch VW. In: *General Thoracic Surgery.* 7th ed. Shields TW, LoCicero J, Reed CE, Feins RH. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins; 2009: 847-859.

Read more +

Publications on PubMed

Visit PubMed for a full listing of Dr. Rusch's journal articles. Pubmed is an online index of research papers and other articles from the US National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health.

[See all on PubMed \(http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=search&db=pubmed&term=%28%28%22thoracic%20neoplasms%22%5BMH%5D%20OR%20%22lung%20neoplasms%22%5BMH%5D%20OR%20%22esokettering%20AND%20Rusch%20V%5BAU%5D%29\)](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=search&db=pubmed&term=%28%28%22thoracic%20neoplasms%22%5BMH%5D%20OR%20%22lung%20neoplasms%22%5BMH%5D%20OR%20%22esokettering%20AND%20Rusch%20V%5BAU%5D%29)

Disclosures

Members of the MSK Community often work with pharmaceutical, device, biotechnology, and life sciences companies, and other organizations outside of MSK, to find safe and effective cancer treatments, to improve patient care, and to educate the health care community. These activities outside of MSK further our mission, provide productive collaborations, and promote the practical application of scientific discoveries.

MSK requires doctors, faculty members, and leaders to report ("disclose") the relationships and financial interests they have with external entities. As a commitment to transparency with our community, we make that information available to the public. Not all disclosed interests and relationships present conflicts of interest. MSK reviews all disclosed interests and relationships to assess whether a conflict of interest exists and whether formal COI management is needed.

Valerie W. Rusch discloses the following relationships and financial interests:

No disclosures meeting criteria for time period

If you're a patient at MSK and would like more information about your doctor's external relationships, please talk with your doctor.

The information published here is a complement to other publicly reported data and is for a specific annual disclosure period. There may be differences between information on this and other public sites as a result of different reporting periods and/or the various ways relationships and financial interests are categorized by organizations that publish such data.

This page and data include information for a specific MSK annual disclosure period (January 1, 2024 through disclosure submission in spring 2025). This data reflects interests that may or may not still exist. This data is updated annually.

Learn more about MSK's COI policies [here](#) . For questions regarding MSK's COI-related policies and procedures, email MSK's Compliance Office at ecoi@mskcc.org .

[View all disclosures \(https://www.mskcc.org/disclosures\)](https://www.mskcc.org/disclosures)

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