



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

Cancer Information Service

800-4-CANCER

Community Matters

212-639-3199

Construction Information Line

212-639-4444

CCNY and MSKCC Partner to Address Cancer Disparities

The National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded The City College of New York (CCNY) and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) a \$15.9 million grant to implement a unique partnership in cancer research, education, and outreach. The five-year, renewable award is funded by

“CCNY and MSKCC’s joint efforts will help identify successful approaches to address cancer disparities that can serve as new models for other minority-serving institutions and healthcare centers.”

Tim A. Ahles, Director of MSKCC’s Neurocognitive Research Laboratory and Co-Principal Investigator

Reducing Smoking Rates in the Community

In recognition of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week in April, the CCNY/MSKCC Partnership for Cancer Research, Training, and Community Outreach and MSKCC’s Office of Diversity Programs in Clinical Care, Research, and Training hosted a symposium on *The “Good News” about Cancer in Minority Communities*. Dr. Jamie Ostroff, Director of MSKCC’s Smoking Cessation Program shared information on the positive gains being made in the effort to reduce smoking rates among New Yorkers and on ways in which community organizations can integrate smoking cessation interventions in their programs.

Memorial’s Smoking Cessation Program encompasses both inpatient and outpatient cancer patients and family members who smoke, as well as individuals from the community who wish to reduce their cancer risks. The program also strives to increase the capacity of community providers and organizations to address tobacco use. Individuals seeking help to quit smoking or organizations that would like to implement smoking cessation programming can contact the Smoking Cessation Program at 212-610-0507. ☼



Jamie Ostroff, PhD, speaks to an audience of community providers in Harlem on how to help reduce smoking among their client groups.

an NCI initiative that seeks to develop partnerships between minority-serving institutions and NCI-designated cancer centers.

The CCNY/MSKCC Partnership for Cancer Research, Training, and Community Outreach will build upon a previous collaboration between the two institutions. The grant will help support key research activities that provide a multidisciplinary, but unified approach to several objectives set forth by MSKCC and CCNY to address cancer disparities in underserved populations.

Cancer disparities exist in many forms. The disease affects various populations differently in terms of how commonly it occurs, survival rates, and the type of treatments that people receive. According to the American Cancer Society, for all major cancers – breast, lung, colon, and prostate – people of lower socioeconomic status have worse outcomes. Research has found that in part these outcomes are due to a lack of access to care and health insurance, but that the disparities go beyond that. Another major factor is tumor biology, molecular differences that vary with race and ethnicity. Scientists have found that different racial and ethnic groups may have gene variants that affect how they respond to treatment.

“By combining our talents and some of our resources, CCNY and Memorial Sloan-Kettering will be well equipped to build and nurture programs in areas

continued

Addressing Cancer Disparities continued from page 1

such as cancer research and community outreach that will help address cancer disparities in underserved minority and economically disadvantaged communities,” said Dr. Karen Hubbard, Professor of Biology at CCNY and Co-Principal Investigator.

The Partnership for Cancer Research, Training, and Community Outreach will address four primary objectives:

- Investigators will work to develop translational research programs in cell biology, immunology, and biomedical research. Translational research is a concept in which basic science discoveries are applied in clinical practice and clinical observations are studied in the laboratory.
- MSKCC and CCNY will collaborate with diverse communities to help define and address cancer disparities. The proposed com-

munity outreach program will provide an infrastructure through which members of the community can work to identify and prioritize specific areas for action. Other elements of this effort include outreach activities and educational events on topics such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, and cancer screening.

- A collaborative effort will be made to recruit and retain students from high school to the post-graduate level, in particular those of minority backgrounds who are interested in pursuing careers in cancer research.
- The partnership will recruit additional faculty members at both institutions. At MSKCC, new faculty will concentrate on conducting community-based intervention research and on developing effective community collaborations. ✪

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction plans for the second phase of the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Research Center, on East 68th Street between York and First Avenues, include completing the installation of the facility’s exterior walls and roofing by the end of summer 2009. Through the end of the year work will continue to progress on the building’s mechanical, electrical, and

plumbing systems.

The Breast and Imaging Center, on Second Avenue between 65th and 66th Streets, will open academic offices in the summer and patients will begin to be seen in the fall. Information on the facility’s services and operations will be covered in more detail in the next issue of *Community Matters*. ✪

FREE LECTURES FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

Cancer Survivorship in the World of Work

Wednesday, July 15

5:30 – 8:00 PM

Investment bank Goldman Sachs has partnered with Memorial Sloan-Kettering’s Post-Treatment Resource Program to present an evening workshop for community members on how to navigate your way through the world of work after cancer treatment. **Registration is required.** Please call 212-717-3527 to register.

Sexual Health for Women After Cancer Treatment

Wednesday, July 22

5:30 – 7:00 PM

We will discuss the latest information and address concerns about changes in sexual function or feelings experienced by women undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. **Registration is required.** Please call 212-717-3527 to register.

Free Lectures for Cancer Survivors

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