

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

Community Matters

212-639-3199

Physician Referral Service

800-525-2225

Chemotherapy Care Expands to Brooklyn Site

Expected to open in the fall of 2010, the MSKCC Brooklyn Infusion Center will provide leading-edge chemotherapy services to current MSKCC patients. The 7,745-square-foot street-level facility at 557 Atlantic Avenue will be easily accessible by train, bus, and car and features an innovative and efficient model of outpatient chemotherapy delivery in a uniquely designed facility.

MSKCC chose Downtown Brooklyn as the location of its infusion center in an effort to make treatment more convenient for the 15 percent of the hospital's patients who reside in Brooklyn or its surrounding areas. At full capacity the facility will allow for approximately 30 patients to receive chemotherapy treatment daily. In addition, the Brooklyn Infusion Center will serve as a community resource and neighborhood partner, providing cancer education and wellness promotion. ☀

Keeping Safe Under the Summer Sun

The summer season will soon start, bringing with it the joys of school vacation, blooming flowers, and longer days filled with fun and sun. While there is much to look forward to in the season, it is important to follow a few basic safeguards to minimize the harmful effects of the sun. Overexposure to the sun can cause skin cancer — the most common cancer in the United States.

To help prevent skin cancer, MSKCC recommends that adults and children use a sunscreen product labeled "broad spectrum" that offers a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher and protects from ultraviolet B rays (UVB) and ultraviolet A rays (UVA). Dr. Steven Q. Wang, Director of Dermatologic Surgery and Dermatology at MSKCC Basking Ridge, states that "unfortunately, there is a lack of understanding of what sunscreens and their UVA/UVB coverage and SPF value mean with regard to the level of protection the product provides. Without the proper knowledge — without understanding a product's labeling and level of protection — effective use of these products cannot take place."

Dr. Wang and colleagues recently reviewed the ingredients listing of 13 popular sunscreen products, and found that only 5 received high marks when it came to an acceptable level of protection against the sun's damaging UVA rays. UVA light penetrates the skin's connective tissue, causing irreversible damage to



Dr. Steven Q. Wang's research on skin cancer highlighted the importance of sunscreen protection against UVA and UVB rays.

collagen and elastin, which can result in premature aging and uneven skin tone. Sun care products that contain ecamsule, 3% avobenzone, and 10% octocrylene work best to protect the skin.

Requirements for testing and labeling standards for UVA protection vary worldwide. In the European

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The ABCDEs

Skin cancer is highly curable when treated at an early stage. Warning signs of skin cancer are often called the ABCDEs. Look for the following signs on any moles or spots on your skin:

- A** Asymmetry or unevenness
- B** Borders that are irregular
- C** Color that is not uniform
- D** Diameter greater than 6 millimeters (about the size of a pencil eraser)
- E** Evolution or change in the color, shape, or size of a single mole in comparison to the other moles on your body

MSKCC Nurses Offer Experience and Knowledge to Community

More than 1,700 registered nurses are employed at MSKCC and fulfill a key role on the patient care team. An active group of these nursing professionals frequently volunteer their time and expertise to speak to community groups about cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Nurses also staff community education tables at health fairs and corporate wellness events. Activities in the past year included presenting information at an Eagle Scout Cancer Awareness Day fair in upstate New York by nurses from MSK's Sleepy Hollow site, educating the men's health group of the American Indian Community House about prostate cancer, and presenting nursing as a career option to NYC high school students at an event aboard the Intrepid Museum. Contact communityaffairs@mskcc.org to request additional information about nursing outreach opportunities. ☀



MSKCC nurses Roseann Tucci and Megan Dunne (center) pose with teachers Camille Adoma and Catie Simek during a visit to the Robert Wagner Middle School on East 76th Street. The nurses addressed three classes of 7th and 8th graders about cancer prevention, with special emphasis on the dangers of tobacco use.

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Union and the United Kingdom, for example, UVA protection standards are regulated. Currently, however, there are no standards for testing and labeling for UVA protection in the United States. Until a new proposed rule on UVA guidelines is decided on by the Food and Drug Administration, consumers should opt for broad spectrum products.

Although there is no way to completely safeguard against skin cancer, taking precautions during sun exposure can aid in the prevention of skin cancer. According to ex-

perts, sunscreen should be applied 30 minutes before going outside and reapplied every two hours when outdoors. Approximately one ounce of sunscreen is needed for the whole body. In addition to sunscreen, wear a wide-brimmed hat and light-colored clothing to cover as much of the body as possible. Experts also recommend avoiding the use of tanning beds, which emit rays that are known to cause skin cancer.

As the days lengthen and you spend more time outdoors, remember to protect your skin! ☀

Haiti Relief Effort Supported by MSKCC

Following the devastating earthquake of January 12, MSKCC staff responded to the worldwide effort to aid the people of Haiti. Employees donated approximately \$54,000 to the MSKCC Haiti Relief Fund. These contributions were directed to the American Red Cross and Partners in Health. Staff members were also provided with a comprehensive

reference guide listing reputable charities that individuals may wish to support directly. Dennis Dowdell, Jr., MSKCC Vice President of Human Resources, expressed, "The response of employees to this initiative has been very impressive — which is in keeping with the level of compassion and commitment that our employees are known for. ☀

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