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Major Advances at ASCO 2011

In an extraordinary demonstration of excellence, five Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center physician-scientists were selected to participate in the press program at the 2011 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting, held June 3-7 in Chicago. The press event showcases clinical cancer research that a panel of ASCO experts considers the most significant of the year. This issue of *Lately@MSKCC* focuses on these exciting developments in the fight against cancer.

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Research News**Melanoma: Two Groundbreaking Advances**

At the ASCO meeting, Paul Chapman and Jedd Wolchok, members of Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Melanoma and Sarcoma Service, presented positive results from two separate studies of new therapies for the treatment of advanced melanoma. "This is the beginning of personalized medicine in melanoma," Dr. Chapman says. "We have seen tumors shrink rapidly, and in some patients, quality of life improved dramatically. It has been a very exciting year."

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Lung Cancer: Genetic Mutations Can Be Treated with Targeted Therapies

A new multicenter study led by Mark Kris, Chief of Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Thoracic Oncology Service, showed that doctors could more effectively customize advanced lung cancer treatment by screening tumor samples for cancer-causing genetic mutations and tailoring treatment to these mutations. "The key to treating men and women with lung cancer lies in understanding the genetic makeup of each person's tumor," Dr. Kris says.

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Ovarian Cancer: New Drug Combination Slows Tumor Growth for Recurrent Disease

Women with ovarian cancer that returns after initial treatment may benefit from bevacizumab (Avastin®) in combination with chemotherapy. In a recent study, women had a 52 percent lower risk of cancer progression with this therapy than with standard treatment. "This is good news for women with ovarian cancer as we are increasingly able to treat ovarian cancer as a chronic disease," lead investigator Carol Aghajanian says.

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Prostate Cancer: A Potential Biomarker to Measure Treatment Response

Memorial Sloan-Kettering researchers have identified a new way to determine the effectiveness of prostate cancer treatment. This involves measuring the level of circulating tumor cells (CTCs) that have detached from the primary tumor and entered the bloodstream. Lead investigator Howard Scher says CTCs could provide a rapid way of evaluating treatment success and could help speed FDA approval of new prostate cancer treatments.

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Cancer Care News**Benign Blood Disorders**

Cancer and cancer treatments can cause blood disorders such as blood clots, bleeding problems, and problems with low blood counts. At Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, a team of specialists is always available to address these problems and to ensure that your cancer care can proceed safely and effectively. Learn more about our treatment approach in this new overview.

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Families Celebrate 10th Anniversary of Fertility-Preserving Procedure

Radical trachelectomy is an innovative surgery that provides an alternative for certain women with cervical cancer who want to treat their cancer but preserve their fertility. Since 2001, Memorial Sloan-Kettering surgeons have performed more than 100 procedures, making it the largest program in the United States. As a result, 18 children have been born and two patients are currently pregnant and expecting babies later this year. Visit our Facebook page to see photos from a recent event celebrating their lives. (And "like" our Facebook page while you're there!)

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New Survivorship Videos**Female Sexual and Vaginal Health After Cancer Treatment**

Jeanne Carter, Head of the Female Sexual Medicine and Women's Health Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, discusses physical and emotional changes related to menopause in a cancer setting and offers strategies to improve sexual and vaginal health.

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Fertility Options for Men Before and After Cancer Treatment

Urologist John Mulhull, Director of the Male Sexual and Reproductive Medicine Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, discusses fertility options for men who have cancer.

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Survivorship Newsletter

New Issue of *Bridges*

The summer issue of *Bridges*, Memorial Sloan-Kettering's newsletter for survivors written by survivors, is now available online. *Bridges* offers a forum where patients and their families can share stories of inspiration and hope, as well as the challenges that accompany the cancer survivor's journey.

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Events

Men and Cancer – Online Discussion Group

If you are a man who has completed active treatment for cancer, please join us on Thursday, June 23, from 3:00-4:00 PM, for this online discussion group. Our clinical social workers will lead a discussion about managing fears of recurrence, coping with long-term side effects, negotiating personal and professional relationships after cancer, and adjusting to life after treatment.

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Fred's Team

Registration Now Open for the ING New York City Marathon

Calling all runners! Join Fred's Team for the ING New York City Marathon to help raise money for cancer research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. You can support the area of research that means the most to you, while running with teammates united by a common goal: moving closer to a world without cancer, one mile at a time. Register today!

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