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August 2009

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News@MSKCC provides journalists with news and information from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and is released six

**times a year.**For more information about these and other potential story ideas, contact Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Department of Public Affairs at: 212-639-3573 or at mediastaff@mskcc.org

#### What's New

#### New Geriatrics Service Will Address Surge in Older Cancer Patients



To address the special challenges and improve the care of elderly cancer patients, Memorial Sloan-Kettering has established a Geriatrics Service. more »

### Academic Convocation Recognizes Graduates and Award Winners

Memorial Sloan-Kettering's 30th annual Academic Convocation honored 31 students receiving PhD degrees for work conducted in Center laboratories; younger Memorial Sloan-Kettering physicians, scientists, and postdoctoral research fellows; and established clinicians and investigators from the Center and beyond.

more »

#### Research Highlights

## Revisiting Old Drugs as Novel Agents for Retinoblastoma

Findings from a new, collaborative study led by investigators at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, show that by administering an already-approved class of drugs in a novel way may be effective in the treatment of retinoblastoma -- the most common type of eye tumor in children.

# Researchers Find Genetic Key to Breast Cancer's Ability to Survive and Spread

New research led by investigators at Memorial Sloan-Kettering sheds light on a genetic function that gives breast cancer cells the ability to survive and spread to the bone years after treatment has been administered.

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#### Research Reveals What Drives Lung Cancer's Spread

A new study by researchers at Memorial Sloan-Kettering reveals the genetic underpinnings of what causes lung cancer to quickly metastasize, or spread, to the brain and the bone -- the two most prominent sites of lung cancer relapse.

more »

# Targeted Therapy Prevents Tumors from Reappearing After Surgery

In a study led by Memorial Sloan-Kettering physician-scientists, patients operated on for gastrointestinal stromal tumors lived longer without their disease coming back if they received the drug imatinib as an adjuvant therapy after surgery. more »

# **Staff Highlights**

# Dinshaw Patel Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Dinshaw J. Patel, a Member in Sloan-Kettering Institute's Structural Biology Program, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences at its 146th annual meeting. more »

# Jennifer Zallen Selected as Early Career Scientist by Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Jennifer A. Zallen, a member of the Developmental Biology Program in the Sloan-Kettering Institute, has been selected by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute as an Early Career Scientist.

# MSKCC Neurosurgeon Selected as 2009 Honorary ASTRO Member

The American Society for Therapeutic Radiology Oncology has selected Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center neurosurgeon Philip Gutin, MD, as its Honorary Member for 2009. more »