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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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Memorial Sloan Kettering President Craig Thompson (left) with Emeritus President Paul Marks (right) at a reception celebrating the publication of his book

Summary

Former leader of Memorial Sloan Kettering Paul Marks gives a compelling view of cancer research and treatment over the past 40 years in *On the Cancer Frontier: One Man, One Disease, and a Medical Revolution*.

Paul Marks — who served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center from 1980 to 1999 — presents a

Memorial Sloan Kettering President Emeritus Paul Marks Publishes Memoir about
His Life in Cancer Research

riveting firsthand account of cancer research and treatment in *On the Cancer Frontier: One Man, One Disease, and a Medical Revolution* (written with *Wall Street Journal* senior business writer James Sterngold and published by Public Affairs Books).

"The truth," he writes, "uncomfortable and inconvenient as it may be, is that medical science has never faced a more inscrutable, more mutable, or more ruthless adversary." From his twin perspectives as an internationally recognized cancer scientist and — for nearly two decades — the leader of one of the world's premier cancer centers, Dr. Marks elucidates how best to pursue a course of action to control cancer's tenacity and provides an accessible and eloquent account of the extraordinary progress that has been made.

Praised by Kirkus Reviews as "on a level with [award-winning essayist and former MSK President] Lewis Thomas for its clarity and verve in presenting the science of the cell" and by *The Economist* as "a fascinating journey through the world of cancer research," Dr. Marks's book illuminates how the insights of physicians and scientists around the globe are leading to therapies that allow people with cancer to live longer, fuller lives — and, in increasing numbers, are even resulting in cures.

"A Legend" with a "Pioneering Passion"

"Paul Marks is a legend. And now he's shown himself to be as gifted a writer as he was a scientific leader," writes current MSK President and CEO [Crai Thompson](#). "Reading about his unique path from the coal mining towns of Pennsylvania and the rough streets of Brooklyn to the dean's chair at Columbia and the president's chair at Memorial Sloan Kettering was tremendously inspiring and compelling."

At the forefront of cancer research since the 1950s, Dr. Marks, through his work in cell biology and cancer genetics, has made major contributions toward more effective approaches to cancer treatment and prevention through the development of new and more potent chemotherapy and chemoprevention agents.

As President of MSK, he was a visionary and powerful leader, overseeing the complete reorganization of [Memorial Hospital](#) and the [Sloan Kettering Institute](#). His extraordinary leadership shaped the institution into the MSK that exists today, as he integrated what had been separately operating units into a cohesive, fully integrated cancer center. Under Dr. Marks' guidance, MSK established the highest standards for research and patient care and has provided leadership in the national and international medical science community.

"Paul Marks has been an imposing figure in medical research for over half a century, as a scientist, institutional leader, and national advisor," writes Nobel Laureate [Harold Varmus](#), who followed Dr. Marks as President and CEO of MSK. "In this highly readable memoir, he shows us how his pioneering passion for incorporating molecular biology into medical practice has helped change the way we understand and control cancer."

Among his many awards and honors, Dr. Marks has received the National Medal of Science, is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2001, MSK established the [Paul Marks Prize for Cancer Research](#) to recognize a new generation of leaders in the field, who are making significant contributions to the understanding of cancer or are improving the treatment of the disease through basic or clinical research.

[On the Cancer Frontier](#) is available at Amazon.com and other book retailers.

Read [The Economist's](#) review.

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