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## ABOUT US

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Thyroid Cancer Surgery

Oral Cavity Cancer

Salivary Tumors

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Languages: English

## Request an Appointment

Our Care Advisors can answer many of your questions. They will connect you with the best healthcare provider for your needs.

Call 646-497-9161

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# About Me

## What I Do at MSK

- Chief, Head and Neck Service
- Jatin P. Shah Chair in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology

## Get To Know Me

I am a surgeon who has worked at Memorial Sloan Kettering for over 20 years to care for people with [thyroid](#) and [head and neck cancers](#). I have a particular expertise and interest in the surgical removal of thyroid cancer, nodal metastases from thyroid cancer, and recurrent thyroid cancer.

I also have a strong interest in treating [oral cancer](#), [salivary gland tumors](#), [melanoma](#), parathyroid adenomas, and other cancers involving the head and neck region.

[Read more](#)

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## My Role at MSK

A head and neck surgeon is a doctor with special training in surgery on the head and neck. This includes the larynx, lips, mouth, nose, salivary glands, and throat.

## Areas of Expertise

### My Specialties

Thyroid Cancer Surgery  
Oral Cavity Cancer  
Salivary Tumors  
Neck Tumors  
Melanoma  
Parathyroid Tumors  
Laryngeal and Pharyngeal Cancers  
Sinus and Skull Base Tumors  
Vocal Cord Medialization

## Education & Honors

### Education

MD, Harvard Medical School

## Residencies

Otolaryngology - Harvard Medical School

## Awards and Honors

Castle Connolly: America's Top Doctor (2024)

Top Doctors New York Metro Area, Castle Connolly (2023)

Castle Connolly America's Top Doctors (digital guide, 2016-2023)

America's Top Doctors (book series): 12th Edition, 13th Edition, 14th Edition

Top Doctors: New York Metro Area (book series): 16th Edition, 17th Edition, 18th Edition

New York Magazine: Top Doctors (2012-2022)

America's Top Doctors for Cancer (book series): 8th Edition, 9th Edition, 10th Edition

Top Doctors New York Metro Area (digital guide, 2016-2022)

Castle Connolly America's Top Doctors for Cancer (digital guide, 2016-2021)

## Fellowships

Head and Neck Surgical Oncology - Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

## Board Certifications

Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

## Insurance Information

Understanding your insurance options is an important part of managing your cancer care. We have relationships with many common healthcare providers and plans.

Don't see your carrier or plan? [We can help you understand your coverage.](#)

If you don't have health insurance or are worried that your care may not be fully covered, our [financial assistance](#) programs may be able to help.

If you have questions about insurance, call us at [646-497-9176](tel:646-497-9176).

## Make an Appointment



### New Patients

Scheduling an appointment is easy. Click or call [646-497-9161](tel:646-497-9161)— we're available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time)

[Make an Appointment](#)

## Current Patients

Request an appointment by logging on to MyMSK or calling your doctor's office. If you aren't registered for MyMSK, call [646-227-2593](tel:646-227-2593) for your Enrollment ID.

## Contact and Location

Dr. Wong sees patients at one location.


Office Phone

 [212-639-7638](tel:212-639-7638)

Location

 New York, NY

[David H. Koch Center for Cancer Care at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)

 530 East 74th Street  
New York, NY 10021

[Get Directions](#)

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Looking to see a doctor at a different location? [See all MSK locations.](#)

## Colleagues

Doctors at Memorial Sloan Kettering work as teams, with specialists from all different areas. This allows us to consider all your needs together, and to give you the best

possible care.

[See all Head and Neck Service doctors](#) →

[See all Surgery doctors](#) →

## Clinical Trials

Clinical Trials Investigated by Dr. Wong

[A Phase 2 Study of Lenvatinib Before Surgery in People with Thyroid Cancer](#)



### Find a Clinical Trial for You

Memorial Sloan Kettering's doctors and scientists are constantly developing new treatments for cancer. MSK is typically running hundreds of clinical trials at a given time.

You may be able to participate in a clinical trial even if you are new to MSK. Search our online directory to find trial information and see more about who can participate.

[Search clinical trials](#) →

## Research and Publications

[View Dr. Wong's Lab](#)

Deborde S, Gusain L, Powers A, Marcadis A, Yu Y, Chen CH, Frants A, Kao E, Tang LH, Vakiani E, Amisaki M, Balachandran V, Calo A, Omelchenko T, Jessen KR, Reva B, Wong RJ. Reprogrammed Schwann cells organize into dynamic tracks that promote pancreatic cancer invasion. *Cancer Discov.* 2022; Jul 26; CD-21-1690. PMID : 35881881.

Chernichenko N, Omelchenko T, Deborde S, Bakst RL, He S, Chen C-H, Gusain L, Vakiani E, Katabi N, Hall A, Wong RJ. Cdc42 mediates cancer cell chemotaxis in perineural invasion. *Mol Cancer Res.* 2020;18(6):913–925. PMCID: PMC7272295

Deborde S, Yu Y, Marcadis A, Chen CH, Fan N, Bakst RL, Wong RJ. An in vivo murine sciatic nerve model of perineural invasion. *J Vis Exp.* 2018;134:56857. PMCID: PMC5965264

Bakst RL, Xiong H, Chen CH, Deborde S, Lyubchik A, Zhou Y, He S, McNamara W, Lee SY, Olson OC, Leiner IM, Marcadis AR, Keith JW, Al-Ahmadie HA, Katabi N, Gil Z, Vakiani E, Joyce JA, Pamer E, Wong RJ. Inflammatory monocytes promote perineural invasion via CCL2-mediated recruitment and cathepsin B expression. *Cancer Res.* 2017;77(2):6400–6414. PMCID: PMC5831809

Deborde S, Omelchenko T, Lyubchik A, Zhou Y, He S, McNamara WF, Chernichenko N, Lee SY, Barajas F, Chen

CH, Bakst RL, Vakiani E, He S, Hall A, Wong RJ. Schwann cells induce cancer cell dispersion and invasion. *J Clin Invest*. 2016;126(4):1538–1554. PMCID: PMC4811155

He S, He S, Chen CH, Deborde S, Bakst RL, Chernichenko N, McNamara WF, Lee SY, Barajas F, Yu Z, Al-Ahmadie HA, Wong RJ. The chemokine (CCL2-CCR2) signaling axis mediates perineural invasion. *Mol Cancer Res*. 2015;13(2):380-390. PMCID: PMC4336839

He S, Chen CH, Chernichenko N, He S, Bakst RL, Barajas F, Deborde S, Allen PJ, Vakiani E, Yu Z, Wong RJ. GFR $\alpha$ 1 released by nerves enhances cancer cell perineural invasion through GDNF-RET signaling. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2014;111(19):E2008–17. PMCID: PMC4024863

Bakst RL, Lee N, He S, Chernichenko N, Chen CH, Linkov G, Le HC, Koutcher J, Vakiani E, Wong RJ. Radiation impairs perineural invasion by modulating the nerve microenvironment. *PLoS One*. 2012;7(6):e39925. PMID: 22768171

Gil Z, Cavel O, Kelly K, Brader P, Rein A, Gao SP, Carlson DL, Shah JP, Fong Y, Wong RJ. Paracrine regulation of pancreatic cancer cell invasion by peripheral nerves. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2010;102(2):107–118. PMCID: PMC2911041

Gil Z, Rein A, Brader P, Li S, Shah JP, Fong Y, Wong RJ. Nerve-sparing therapy with oncolytic herpes virus for cancers with neural invasion. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2007; 13(21):6479-85. PMID: 17975160

#### *Selected Book Chapters*

“Cancer of the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses.” Wong RJ, Kraus DK. In: *American Cancer Society Atlas of Clinical Oncology: Cancer of the Head and Neck*. Shah JP, ed. London: BC Decker; 2001: 204-224.

“Incidence, etiology, diagnosis and staging of head and neck cancer.” Wong RJ, Shah JP . In: *The Practice of General Surgery*. Bland KI, ed. Philadelphia: WB Saunders; 2002: 249-256.

“Morphophysiology of the salivary glands.” Wong RJ, Randolph G. In: *Otolaryngology: Basic Science and Clinical Review*. Van de Water TR, ed. New York: Thieme; 2005: 634-642.

“How to evaluate surgical margins in mandibular resections.” Wong RJ. In: *Pearls and Pitfalls in Head and Neck Surgery*. Cernea CR, ed. New York: Karger; 2008: 64-66.

“How to evaluate surgical margins in mandibular resections.” Wong RJ. In: *Pearls and Pitfalls in Head and Neck Surgery: Practical Tips to Minimize Complications*. 2nd ed. Cernea CR, ed. New York: Karger, 2012.

#### Publications on PubMed

Visit PubMed for a full listing of Dr. Wong’s journal articles. Pubmed is an online index of research papers and other articles from the US National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health.

[See all on PubMed](#) →

# Disclosures

Doctors and faculty members often work with pharmaceutical, device, biotechnology, and life sciences companies, and other organizations outside of MSK, to find safe and effective cancer treatments, to improve patient care, and to educate the health care community.

MSK requires doctors and faculty members to report (“disclose”) the relationships and financial interests they have with external entities. As a commitment to transparency with our community, we make that information available to the public.

Richard J. Wong discloses the following relationships and financial interests:

*No disclosures meeting criteria for time period*

If you’re a patient at MSK and would like more information about your doctor’s external relationships, please talk with your doctor.

The information published here is for a specific annual disclosure period. There may be differences between information on this and other public sites as a result of different reporting periods and/or the various ways relationships and financial interests are categorized by organizations that publish such data.

This page and data include information for a specific MSK annual disclosure period (January 1, 2022 through disclosure submission in spring 2023). This data reflects interests that may or may not still exist. This data is updated annually.

Learn more about MSK’s COI policies [here](#). For questions regarding MSK’s COI-related policies and procedures, email MSK’s Compliance Office at [ecoi@mskcc.org](mailto:ecoi@mskcc.org).

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