Chaplaincy Staff

Certified Staff
The Reverend Jill Bowden, Director
The Reverend Laurie Andersen
Sr. Elaine Goodell
Imam Yusuf Hasan
Rabbi Harry Rothstein
Rabbi Sholom Freundlich
Chaplain Clio Pavlantos
Chaplain Carlos Cuartas
Chaplain Robyn Tsesarsky
Chaplain Brian Kelly

Administrative Assistant
Ruth Fayette

Local Clergy visit patients from many area congregations. If you want them to visit you, please call the Chaplaincy Services office at ext. 5982.

The Chaplaincy Office
Room C170 (West hallway off main lobby)
(212) 639-5982
Regular office hours are
Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM

Emergency Calls
Chaplains are on-call, by phone, for emergencies.

Roman Catholic priests are available for dying patients who have not yet received Anointing of the Sick. For emergencies or during evenings and weekends call the hospital page operator (212) 639-7900.

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my help. Whom shall I fear? The Almighty is the strength of my life. Whom shall I dread?

When evil draws near to consume my flesh, when foes threaten, they stumble and fall. Though armies are arrayed against me, I will have no fear. Though wars threaten, I remain steadfast in my faith.

One thing I ask of the Lord, for this I yearn: To live in the house of the Holy One all the days of my life, to be behold the beauty of the Creator, to pray in the sacred sanctuary.

The Merciful One will hide me, safe from peril. The Lord will shelter me beyond the reach of disaster.

The Almighty will raise my head high above my enemies. I will bring the Lord offerings with shouts of joy, singing, chanting praise to the Holy One. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; be gracious to me, and answer.

It is You that I seek, says my heart. It is Your Presence that I seek, O Lord. Hide not from me, reject not your servant. You have always been my help, do not abandon me. Forsake me not, my God of deliverance.

Though my father and my mother leave me, the Merciful One will care for me.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; guide me on the right path, to confound my oppressors. Mine is the faith that I surely again shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.

Hope in the Lord and be strong. Take courage, hope in the Lord.
**Being at a cancer center can be stressful...**

Pain and illness may evoke feelings of profound doubt about your fundamental beliefs and cause questions about the meaning of life. While we encourage patients to draw on their own spiritual resources — such as family support and clergy of their faith communities. Our chaplains are also available to discuss these feelings should they arise during your stay here at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

As your normal routines and daily habits are disrupted during hospitalization, it is not unusual to experience some of the following:

- anxiety about the unknown
- a sense of injustice
- loss of control, trust or function
- anger or frustration
- fear of pain or suffering
- a sense of isolation from family, friends and /or work
- fear about dying or death

Spiritual and emotional stressors accompany the physical journey through treatment. Just as the medical staff provides excellent physical care, chaplains and other support services are available to give emotional and spiritual support during your healing and treatment process.

**Assessing Your Spiritual Needs**

Spiritual care addresses questions of identity, meaning, value and worth and may or may not be expressed in religious terms. Chaplains are available to listen, pray, help support family members, arrange to contact your clergy or faith group, or simply be a quiet comforting presence. Formal religious affiliation is not necessary in order to request spiritual support.

The following might be considered signs of spiritual distress:

- a diminished sense of hope
- a feeling of being overwhelmed
- helplessness or loss of control
- sadness or grief over a recent loss
- changes in your own self-image as a result of surgery or treatment
- doubts about a course of treatment that might conflict with your personal, cultural or religious values
- discouragement about your recovery or healing
- fear about procedures, surgery or a diagnosis
- a feeling of being abandoned by God

**Request for a Visit**

If you wish to see a chaplain or want help contacting someone of your own faith, please call ext 5982 or ask your nurse to request a visit for you.

Chaplaincy service includes:

- someone to listen without judgement
- emotional support for self or family
- someone with whom to share concerns about your illness or this hospitalization
- help with End-of Life decisions
- other needs you identify

**Specific Religious Needs:**

- Communion and/or other Sacraments
- electric candles for Shabbat
- kosher refrigerator — installed in the pantry on each nursing unit
- prayer/mishubayrach
- call to clergy of your choice
- inspirational or religious writings or literature
- Tefillin

**All Faith Chapel**

There is an Interfaith Chapel just off the main lobby. Please feel free to visit the chapel for prayer and meditation.

A schedule for religious services is posted near the chapel door and is also available on Chapel Channel 109.1 on the hospital TV system.

Patients who cannot attend chapel services in person can tune in to Chapel Channel 109.1.