Sharing Knowledge Through Multiple Channels

Part of our everyday work at Memorial Sloan Kettering is to help people better understand cancer, in the event that they or a loved one are diagnosed with the disease. Every interaction we have with a patient or a caregiver is guided by our desire to give knowledge and support to those in our care.

To be sure, there is a lot to communicate as we are on the brink of a revolutionary era in cancer treatment. These successes are due in part to advances in molecular oncology and immunity science, two areas where MSK continues to play a leading role in taking findings from the laboratory and translating them into promising treatments. Several MSK initiatives with great potential to improve patients’ lives have been recognized recently, including:

- Development of a cell-based therapy to prime the immune system to attack leukemia
- Identification of a genetic mutation that appears to cause ovarian cancer
- Approval of a new immune-based drug treatment (nivolumab or Opdivo™) by the FDA for people with advanced melanoma and people with squamous cell lung cancer

We are excited by these and other advances in cancer care and are eager to share new findings with patients and caregivers. Want to learn more? This issue offers some suggestions.

Medical oncologist Michael Postow will discuss pioneering new immune-based treatments for cancer in Bridgewater, NJ on April 16. MSK’s groundbreaking work to advance immunity science will also be featured in an upcoming PBS documentary, Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies.

Watch New PBS Documentary on the Past, Present, and Future of Cancer Treatment

March 30 and 31 and April 1 at 9:00 PM

PBS will air Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies, a six-hour television event from filmmaker Ken Burns based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Siddhartha Mukherjee. Visit www.mskcc.org/morescience for more information about the MSK clinicians and scientists featured in the film and for opportunities to ask them your questions.

Attend a Free Community Lecture

Thursday, April 16
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Frankly Speaking about Cancer: Your Immune System and Cancer Treatment

Michael A. Postow, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Bridgewater Manor
1251 U.S. 202/206
Bridgewater, NJ

Ellen Levine, LCSW, OSW-C
Cancer Support Community of Central New Jersey

Dinner will be served. Registration is required. For more details and to register, call Cancer Support Community of Central New Jersey at 908-658-5400 or visit www.cancersupportcnj.org.
As the warm outdoor season starts, bringing with it longer sun-filled days, it is important to follow a few basic safeguards to minimize the harmful effects of the sun. To help prevent skin cancer – the most common cancer in the United States – we recommend that adults and children use a sunscreen product labeled “broad spectrum” that offers a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher and protects from ultraviolet A rays (UVA) and ultraviolet B rays (UVB). Dr. Steven Q. Wang, Director of Dermatologic Surgery and Dermatology at MSK Basking Ridge, says “Sun care products that contain ecamsule, 3% avobenzone, and 10% octocrylene work best to protect the skin.”

In addition to sunscreen, wear a wide-brimmed hat and light-colored clothing to cover as much of the body as possible, and avoid the use of tanning beds, which emit rays that are known to cause skin cancer. Dr. Elizabeth Quigley, dermatologist, will offer free skin cancer screening in May at the Basking Ridge site.