



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center™

# Community M A T T E R S

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NEWS FROM MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER

## Pioneering Surgery Center Taking Shape

When MSK's Josie Robertson Surgery Center opens in early 2016, patients will have access to:

- ▶ a highly advanced facility for outpatient cancer surgery — including minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic operations — offering services that typically would require several days of hospitalization at other hospitals
- ▶ more than 400 specially trained, highly experienced surgery, anesthesia, and nursing professionals dedicated to the highest-quality cancer care
- ▶ a customized environment, uniquely designed to meet the short stay needs of patients and caregivers, including private rooms and places to eat, relax, and work



*Dr. Brett Simon, an accomplished leader in anesthesiology and critical care, joins MSK as Director of the Josie Robertson Surgery Center. The Center, currently under construction, is located on York Avenue and East 61st Street.*

For more information, visit [www.mskcc.org/locations](http://www.mskcc.org/locations).

## Sharing Knowledge to Improve Community Cancer Care

Memorial Sloan Kettering launched the MSK Cancer Alliance, an initiative to improve the quality of cancer care in locations beyond the areas we currently serve. Hartford HealthCare (HHC), a multihospital healthcare system in Connecticut, was chosen in 2013 to be its charter member.

The MSK Cancer Alliance was created to extend MSK's cancer care standards, expertise, and research to community settings through collaborations with regional cancer programs. HHC is an ideal first partner, since it treats more than 6,000 new cases of cancer each year — approximately 18 percent of all cancer patients in Connecticut. "We are extremely pleased to partner with Hartford HealthCare and expect that both our institutions will learn a great deal through our joint

efforts," says José Baselga, Physician-in-Chief of Memorial Hospital.

### Increasing Access

An integral part of these collaborations is the expansion of clinical trials to patients who are being treated at hospitals in the MSK Cancer Alliance network. At the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute (HHCCI), several MSK clinical trials will be available, dramatically improving access to the latest cancer advances and breakthroughs for patients in Connecticut. As the partnership progresses, HHCCI doctors will be integrated into MSK's disease management teams, composed of clinicians from a variety of specialties; attend Tumor Board meetings to discuss complex

cases; and have the opportunity to come to MSK to view surgical procedures and other advanced approaches that they can implement in their own practices. Through these ongoing efforts, HHCCI will be empowered to make changes to its treatment services, drawing from MSK's standards of care, that will improve the quality of treatment offered to its patients.

"Currently, the vast majority of cancer care in the United States is delivered by community oncologists, but cancer advances can take years to be adopted in a community setting," Dr. Baselga explains. "Ultimately, we want to accelerate the pace of translating the latest advances in cancer care into a community setting in order

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to help save lives and improve treatment outcomes for patients.” Through this and future alliances, practitioners at MSK will also learn more about how community care is conducted. The aim is to focus on developing MSK’s relationship with HHC into a model that could be used with other institutions that are potential members of the MSK Cancer Alliance. “Our goal is to achieve success with HHC and then establish similar collaborations with other community hospitals,” says Victor Ribaud, Vice President of MSK Affiliations. To learn more about the MSK Cancer Alliance, please visit [www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/msk-alliance](http://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/msk-alliance).



The city of Hartford, the capital of Connecticut. Hartford HealthCare is the first member of the MSK Cancer Alliance, an initiative designed to bring the latest cancer advances to patients more quickly and offer clinical trial opportunities to the community.



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## PRIDE IN OUR DIVERSITY

Recognized in 2013 as a “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign, MSK took a leadership role earlier this year with the National LGBT Cancer Network and the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center and convened a two-day summit on LGBT cancer-related health issues, the first of its kind. The summit leadership invited experts from across the country to draft a national LGBT cancer action plan. Recommendations based on findings from the summit are expected later this year.

Everyone is invited to attend the NYC Pride March on Sunday, June 29. Be on the lookout for MSK’s LGBT Pride Employee Resource Network who will be participating! All are welcome to join them in the walk down Fifth Avenue.

If you’d like more information on the Pride March or have thoughts on how to improve care and support services for LGBT cancer patients, email [lgbtpride@mskcc.org](mailto:lgbtpride@mskcc.org).

## RESOURCES

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Program  
212-639-7643

Construction Information  
212-639-4444

To Make an Appointment  
800-525-2225