



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# Community MATTERS

NEWS FROM MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER WESTCHESTER

## Clinical Trials Lead the Way to Promising Cancer Treatments

For some patients, a clinical trial could be the best way to identify more effective treatments for their disease. That's why MSK supports one of the largest clinical research programs in the world, and can offer treatments that may not be available anywhere else. And now, we're offering our MSK Westchester patients additional access to trials. "We're making advances in cancer care here in Westchester each day through the robust number of trials open to local patients," says medical oncologist James Harding. "And, early phase I and II trials looking at treatments not previously studied are now available."

### How Basket Studies Are Changing the Way We Look at Treatment

Traditional cancer research focuses on patients who share a cancer type, like lung or breast cancer. Some patients with different cancer types, however, have the same genetic mutation in their tumors. At MSK, we use basket studies, a type of clinical trial that looks at how treatments can work based on the mutations found in tumors, as opposed to focusing on the location of tumors. Basket studies test therapies that target specific gene mutations, regardless of where the cancer began. As Dr. Harding explains, "Patients who we identify as having similar tumor mutations over a range of cancer diagnoses — from the most common to quite rare — can enroll in the same trial to learn if the treatment under study is beneficial." Many of these new basket studies are open to patients at MSK Westchester.

#### Lung Cancer



#### Colorectal Cancer



#### Ovarian Cancer



#### Multiple Myeloma



#### Breast Cancer



#### Various Rare Cancers



*Cancer treatments are typically based on the type of cancer a patient has. Now patients with similar genetic mutations (represented by the white dot) can enroll in and benefit from a single basket clinical trial.*

### Getting the Gold Star in Research Conduct

Patients can feel assured that MSK research protocols are held to the highest standard of patient safety, informed consent, and scientific review. In fact, we are proud that we are accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs for achieving and maintaining the highest research standards. To achieve this accreditation, MSK met rigorous standards that exceed federal requirements, proving our extensive safeguards in every level of research operation.

MSK Westchester offers a wide variety of clinical trials that are grounded in our comprehensive, patient-centered

approach to care. Each year, we receive thousands of referrals for patients to participate in our clinical trials. Last year, more than 300 participants enrolled in trials at our regional locations. Many of these trials are led by MSK clinicians who serve as the principal investigator on the study and are recognized leaders in their specialty. We encourage patients to talk about clinical trials with their doctors as part of their plan of care.

**Learn more about our clinical research program at:** [www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/clinical-trials](http://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/clinical-trials).

## SAVE THE DATES

# Community Events

### Cancer Disparities and Employer Support After Diagnosis

Wednesday, April 26, 5:30 – 7:00 PM  
MSK Westchester

Please join us for a talk on how and why people of diverse backgrounds are more negatively impacted by a cancer diagnosis. Among the topics that will be discussed are current efforts to improve cancer screening and survival for African-Americans and Latinos, and findings from a recent study on ethnically diverse patient populations

and the problems they may face returning to work after cancer. Space is limited. Please email your RSVP to [communityaffairs@mskcc.org](mailto:communityaffairs@mskcc.org).

### Free Skin-Cancer Screenings (By Appointment Only)

Tuesday, May 23, 12:00 – 5:00 PM  
MSK Westchester  
Lower Concourse

Take advantage of MSK's free skin-cancer screening event. Individuals at increased

risk for skin cancer are most likely to benefit from screening. Risk factors for skin cancer include family history of melanoma (two or more blood relatives), multiple atypical moles, and numerous actinic keratoses (scaly patches of skin, gray to pink in color, on sun-exposed areas of the body). Please call 914-367-7787 to schedule an appointment.



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

Department of Public Affairs  
1275 York Avenue • New York, NY 10065  
[www.mskcc.org](http://www.mskcc.org)

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Memorial  
Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# Community MATTERS

Vol. 17 • No. 1 • Spring 2017



Printed on Recycled Paper

Subscribe to our digital *Community Matters* at [www.mskcc.org/communitynews](http://www.mskcc.org/communitynews).



## MSK's Community Service Plan Now Available

Our 2016-2018 Comprehensive Community Service Plan summarizes our efforts to address cancer-related health needs present in the community.

- To read the report online, please go to [www.mskcc.org/communityserviceplans](http://www.mskcc.org/communityserviceplans).
- To request a copy by mail or for questions or comments about the report, please call 212-639-3199 or email us at [communityaffairs@mskcc.org](mailto:communityaffairs@mskcc.org).

### New Patient Appointments

800-525-2225  
MSK is an in-network provider with many insurance plans.

### Contact Us

MSK Westchester  
500 Westchester Avenue  
West Harrison, NY 10604  
914-367-7000