



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center™

Community M A T T E R S

NEWS FROM MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER - COMMACK

Building a Team Around You



Wading River, NY resident Mark Gugliotti (right), with his wife Irma Gugliotti, shared his thoughts on being a cancer survivor at the MSK Cancer Survivors Dinner in 2013 held in Woodbury, NY. Hundreds of local patients and family members attend this annual event to reflect on life post treatment and to reconnect with their care team.

You may hear the buzzword “teamwork” used by healthcare providers more and more often these days. Although they emphasize its importance, few cancer care providers give the word meaning the way that Memorial Sloan Kettering does. By caring for more cancer patients than any other hospital in the tristate area and treating more than 400 different subtypes of cancer, we have developed a level of specialization that makes a real difference in our patients’ lives. Thanks to our team-based approach to care, the patient is at the core of all our efforts.

“Cancer is not just one disease. It is hundreds of diseases, and the expertise and singular focus of our teams run deep,”

explains gynecologic surgeon Richard Barakat, Deputy Physician-in-Chief for MSK Regional Care Network and Alliances. “We are constantly sharing ideas and resources to address the complexity of cancer treatment from every angle and every discipline.”

A Group of Specialists

Members of our disease management teams have unique skills and experience — and focus solely on cancer. At MSK Commack, the care of individual patients is discussed weekly by a group that includes medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, nurses, rehabilitation specialists, social workers, and others. Our team of experts reviews treatment plans for new patients

and discusses how best to coordinate care for people needing multiple services.

“Most patients treated at our facility benefit from this approach without even knowing it,” says medical oncologist Ephraim Casper, Head of the Division of Network Medicine Services. “We are able to confirm and refine our treatment plans with experts in medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgery, pathology, and other disciplines in our weekly case conferences.” More than a dozen specialists are available to offer treatment suggestions and to raise relevant concerns in real time — resulting in a level of coordinated care that supports each patient as a whole.

Team Approach, Individualized Care

With experts from different disciplines working closely with one another, our ability to treat each patient as an individual is greatly enhanced. The MSK Commack team discusses items specific to a patient, including how to manage pain and side effects, what type of rehabilitation services are appropriate, the order and frequency of imaging tests, whether a particular clinical trial should be considered, the patient’s mental and emotional well-being, and communication with family and other caregivers.

The exchange of information is vigorous and nuanced, covering details such as a patient’s returning to work or enjoying a favorite hobby, as an indication of renewed interest in life activities. The entire multidisciplinary team is driven not only by a keen understanding of each patient’s

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medical needs but also by quality of life concerns. As Dr. Casper states, "While we treat a large volume of patients — nearly 30,000 patient visits occur annually at Commack — each patient in our care is unique and receives attention tailored to their individual needs."

MSK has three treatment sites in Long Island — in Commack, Hauppauge, and Rockville Centre. Patients interested in receiving care at any Memorial Sloan Kettering location can contact our Physician Referral Service at 800-525-2225. We are in-network with most health plans.

Free Skin Cancer Screening

May 15, 2014
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

MSK Hauppauge
800 Veterans Memorial Highway, 2nd Floor
Hauppauge, NY 11788

By appointment only. To make an appointment, call 631-863-5100. 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).



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Free Community Event

FOR CANCER SURVIVORS
Wednesday, June 11
6:00 – 8:00 PM

MSK's Surviving Cancer Lecture Series presents
A New Normal: Coping Beyond Treatment

MSK Commack
650 Commack Road
Commack, NY 11725

If you are interested in attending, please call 631-623-4100.

RESOURCES

**Memorial Sloan Kettering
Commack**
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Commack, NY 11725

631-623-4000

Visit us online at
www.mskcc.org/commack