



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# Community MATTERS

NEWS FROM MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER - BASKING RIDGE

## Taking a Fresh Approach to Studying New Treatments

Clinical trials are research studies that test new ways to prevent, detect, or treat cancer. For many patients, they're often the best way to identify more effective treatments for their disease. At MSK, we're using a type of clinical trial called a basket study to look at how the same treatment can work for different types of cancer.

"We are determined to help our patients benefit from new drugs and therapies as quickly as possible. Our clinical trials move forward at a pace that safely allows important treatment advances to become available in less time," says Deputy Physician-in-Chief for Clinical Research Paul Sabbatini.

### Moving Forward with Basket Trials

Traditional clinical trials focus on a particular cancer type. However, some patients with different cancer types share the same mutation in their tumors. Basket studies use this idea to test therapies that target these specific gene mutations, regardless of where the cancer began to grow in the body.

In this way, the effectiveness of a treatment can be explored early, quickly, and in one trial. As MSK medical oncologist Han Xiao further explains, "In addition to clarifying a treatment's effectiveness in different tumor types, basket studies provide an important opportunity to test therapies for rare cancers, which are severely underrepresented in clinical trials. Patients with rare disorders can enroll as long as they have the mutation under study."

#### 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.

### Smarter, More Targeted Trials

At MSK, we are moving toward smaller and smarter trials to find clear improvements in how patients respond to treatment. People with cancer can often benefit from participating in a clinical trial early on in their treatment. We encourage our patients to have regular discussions with their doctors about these options as part of planning their care.

As part of clinical trials, our patients have access to the most advanced treatments, sometimes years before they're available elsewhere. Patients never receive a placebo as a substitute for treatment that's proven to be effective. There is also no cost to

patients for treatments being studied as part of a clinical trial.

MSK Basking Ridge offers a wide variety of clinical trials. These include a study evaluating an investigational drug to treat recurrent endometrial cancer, a study of sexual and reproductive health in women with breast cancer and lymphoma, and a study of body radiation therapy for patients with locally advanced non-small cell lung cancer that cannot be removed through surgery.

Learn more about our current clinical research at [mskcc.org/cancer-care/clinical-trials](https://mskcc.org/cancer-care/clinical-trials).

# Nursing at Its Best

Anyone who has had cancer knows firsthand how important nursing care is to healing and supporting both patients and their loved ones. We couldn't be more proud to share that our nursing team earned Magnet® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This honor places us in the top 7 percent of hospitals across the nation recognized for excellence in nursing practice and patient outcomes.

We thank our nurses (including more than 60 nurses at Basking Ridge) for their continued hard work and dedication, and for achieving top marks in patient care.



*MSK's Craig Thompson, President and CEO, and Elizabeth Nelkin McCormick, Chief Nursing Officer (seated at table), celebrated achieving Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence with nurses, doctors, support personnel, and administrators.*



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Please visit us online at [www.mskcc.org/baskingridge](http://www.mskcc.org/baskingridge).

### New Patient Appointments

800-525-2225

We are in-network with most health plans.

### Contact Us

MSK Basking Ridge  
136 Mountain View Boulevard  
Basking Ridge, NJ  
908-542-3000

### Free Skin Cancer Screening

Tuesday, May 10 • 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

By appointment only. To make an appointment for skin screening, call 908-542-3396. 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).

