



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Community MATTERS

NEWS FROM MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER - COMMACK

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.

Precision Medicine Progress

Traditional cancer research focuses 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. "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," notes Steven M. Sugarman, Chief of Commack Medical Oncology.

Lung Cancer



Colorectal Cancer



Ovarian Cancer



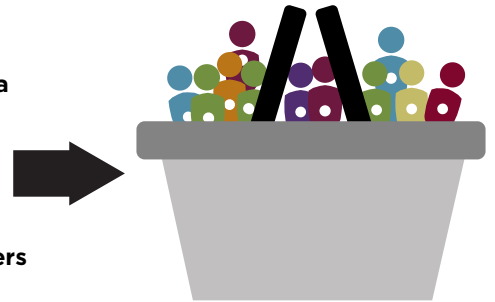
Multiple Myeloma



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.

Within clinical trials, our patients have access to the most-advanced treatments, sometimes years before they're available elsewhere. In spite of common misperceptions, placebos are not used as a substitute for a treatment that's proven to be effective, and there is no out-of-pocket cost to patients for treatments being studied as part of a clinical trial.

MSK Commack offers a wide variety of clinical trials. These include a study of

an investigational drug to treat recurrent B cell lymphoma, a study of ethnic differences in the impact of breast cancer on employment status, 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.

New Patient Appointments

800-525-2225

We are in-network with most health plans.

Contact Us

MSK Commack

650 Commack Road

Commack, NY 11725

631-623-4000

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 — including our more than 60 nurses at Commack — earned Magnet® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This honor places us in the top 7 percent of hospitals across the nation that are recognized for excellence in nursing practice and patient outcomes. We have always known that MSK nurses are in a class of their own, and now the rest of the world knows, too!



MSK nurses celebrated achieving Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence.

Free Skin Cancer Screening

MSK HAUPPAUGE

800 Veterans Memorial Highway
Second Floor, Hauppauge, NY

Friday, May 20, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

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 a family history of melanoma (two or more blood relatives), multiple atypical moles, and numerous actinic keratoses (scaly patches of skin, from gray to pink in color, on sun-exposed areas of the body).



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Please visit us online at www.mskcc.org/commack.

Community Connections

MSK Commack welcomes opportunities to partner with community organizations throughout Long Island. A big thank you goes out to Teachers Federal Credit Union (TFCU) and their generous donation of \$5,000. Robert G. Allen, TFCU President and CEO, said, “Through our support, we hope to help continue MSK’s outstanding care for our Long Island neighbors combating cancer.”

COOL Program

Thanks to our innovative partnership with Stony Brook University offering summer internships to female undergraduate students at our Long Island sites. MSK’s Clinical Oncology Open Learning (COOL) Scholars program earned the university’s Internship Program of the Year award in April.



Dr. Jennifer DeFazio (left) of MSK Hauppauge accepted Internship Program of the Year award with student intern Emily Sawyer.