



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# Community MATTERS

NEWS FROM MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER - WESTCHESTER IN WEST HARRISON

## 3-D Photography Takes Aim at Skin Cancer

Three-dimensional body photography is changing how doctors at MSK Westchester in West Harrison monitor people at high risk for melanoma. Early detection of this serious skin cancer is crucial because it can often be cured if caught quickly. At this time, MSK is the only institution in the world to offer this service.

Our doctors use 3-D total body photography to find and evaluate new, changing, or suspicious skin lesions and to keep track of them digitally. This type of leading-edge screening is ideal for people at a higher risk for melanoma. This includes those with a personal or family history of the disease or many abnormal moles.

“Detecting a change in a lesion is the most sensitive way to pick up cancers early,” says Allan Halpern, Chief of MSK’s Dermatology Service. “We learned years ago that the best way to detect change of concern was to periodically compare a patient’s moles to a previously taken set of photos of the entire body.”

### The Basics

Our process uses 46 digital cameras mounted on scaffolding that surrounds the patient. All of the cameras take images at the same time. Specialized software then processes those images and creates a 3-D “avatar,” or model of the patient. In minutes, a detailed 3-D image is available for monitoring skin lesions at follow-up visits.

Our dermatologists also routinely perform dermoscopy. This procedure uses a special magnifying lens and a light source

to analyze the skin underneath suspicious areas and link these findings with the lesions on the 3-D model. Dermoscopy helps find the earliest signs of cancer while preventing unnecessary biopsies.

### Out of the Darkroom

Daphne Demas, a senior medical photographer at MSK, used to spend hours processing digital photographs to assemble 2-D images of a patient’s entire body. With 3-D total body photography, the computer processes all of a person’s images into a complete 3-D model in about

eight minutes. “When I started my career, I was working with film in the darkroom,” she says. “Compared with the 3-D approach, 2-D total body digital photography is now like the darkroom.”

Patients who undergo 3-D total body photography receive a flash drive of their images (encrypted for privacy) that they can view at home. “These images will empower patients to do self-checks and to make those self-exams more effective,” notes dermatologist Meenal Kheterpal. The patient can share the images with his or her other healthcare providers.



MSK developed the world’s first 3-D total body photography system using 46 mounted digital cameras for those at high risk for melanoma. This screening service is now available at MSK Westchester in West Harrison.

## 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 70 nurses in Westchester – 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.



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

Department of Public Affairs  
1275 York Avenue • New York, NY 10065  
www.mskcc.org

NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 278  
WHITE PLAINS NY

## Community MATTERS

Vol. 16 • No. 1 • Spring 2016

 Printed on Recycled Paper

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

## MSK Sleepy Hollow Moving to MSK Westchester in West Harrison

After 20 years of providing unsurpassed cancer care at MSK Sleepy Hollow, we will be relocating patients from this facility to West Harrison this summer.

We will continue to see patients at MSK Sleepy Hollow until July 29.

To make this necessary move as easy as possible, we've doubled our ability to deliver advanced radiation treatments in West Harrison. Since opening in the fall of 2014, this beautiful outpatient cancer care

facility has brought MSK's world-class care closer to home for thousands of patients.

Given the central role it plays in cancer care in Westchester – and the fact that it will soon be our only location in the county – we have changed our name to MSK Westchester in West Harrison.

We look forward to welcoming our Sleepy Hollow patients, families, and staff to the West Harrison community!

### New Patient Appointments

800-525-2225

We are in-network with most health plans.

### Contact Us

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