



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center™

# Community M A T T E R S

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NEWS FROM MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER

## The Significance of Landing on Top

In 2013 Memorial Sloan Kettering's Cancer Center Support Grant was successfully reviewed and renewed for five years of funding. MSK's application earned a perfect score of ten — the first time a cancer center has received that rating.

"This is an important recognition by a prominent group of reviewers evaluating the quality of research at the highest-quality institutions in the world," said MSK President and CEO Craig Thompson. This grant, more commonly called the "Core Grant," supports efforts to share research learning and scientific knowledge among healthcare professionals across multiple disciplines, among other goals.

MSK's recent Core Grant secured \$64 million in funding from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for research activity from 2014 through 2018. The core facilities supported by the grant offer professional expertise and state-of-the-art equipment beyond what any individual research group can provide. For example, our Biostatistics Core Laboratory provides statistical expertise to support the best trial design and analysis.

As part of the Cancer Center Support Grant review process, MSK was approved to retain its status as an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. There are only three of these elite institutions in the state of New York and just 41 across the country. Comprehensive Cancer Centers integrate basic science, clinical research, and population-based science (the study of risk factors for cancer and cancer prevention measures) in a translational research program that links one type of science to another.

### Expanded space for clinical research

Significantly, a perfect score on the Core Grant demonstrates the quality of research infrastructure available at MSK, which speaks to our ability to support expanded access to clinical research trials at our planned new outpatient care facility on East 74th Street. A broad range of early-phase clinical trials designed to discover new cancer treatments with greater efficiency will be conducted at the facility (visit [www.mskcc.org/74street](http://www.mskcc.org/74street) for more information). At MSK, about 28 percent of our patients participate in clinical trials, compared with 3 to 4 percent nationwide. "We know that clinical trials lead to better treatments, but we want to focus on trials that offer patients the most promising therapies in the shortest possible time and share that knowledge with the world," said Paul Sabbatini, MSK's Deputy Physician-in-Chief for Clinical Research.

The traditional path of evaluating clinical therapies through phase I, II, and III trials produces results that typically take a long period of time to confirm and may convey only modest benefits to patients. Something



*"The research done here is world-class," said Department of Medicine Chair George Bosl. "How we apply the fruits of this research to helping patients is what we're really all about."*

we have begun to investigate is how to group patients — and their tumors — on the basis of their genetic similarities and how to use novel therapeutic agents that target specific mutations. This means that our clinical trials program will change. Instead of large clinical trials focused on a single disease and large numbers of patients, we will conduct smaller clinical trials that involve patients with many different tumor types.

The proposed outpatient care building on East 74th Street will enable MSK to effectively support this new approach by allowing our multidisciplinary researchers to care for thousands of patients with different types of cancer in a central location. This level of scientific collaboration, professional exchange, and patient engagement — strengthened by a strong core research infrastructure — is the best foundation for well-designed clinical trials that change practice and save lives.

### RESOURCES

#### Blood/Platelet Donor Program

212-639-7643

#### Construction Information

212-639-4444

#### To Make an Appointment

800-525-2225

## CancerSmart Programs

**Tuesday, April 8**  
**Getting Your Groove Back:  
Sex, Reproduction, and Body Image  
During and After Cancer**

**Tuesday, May 20**  
**Innovation and Hope:  
Our Liver Cancer Experts Discuss  
the Latest Treatment Options**

All CancerSmart talks will take place from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Rockefeller Research Laboratories building at 430 East 67th Street (between York and First Avenues).

Please call 212-639-3074 or visit us at [www.cancersmart.org](http://www.cancersmart.org) to register for our talks and to sign up for our e-newsletter. To view videos of previous CancerSmart talks, please visit [www.cancersmart.org/videos](http://www.cancersmart.org/videos).

## National Minority Cancer Awareness Week Events

**April 15, 2014**  
**5:30 – 7:00 PM**  
**Empowering People with Disabilities  
to Access Cancer Care**

Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention, 1919 Madison Avenue (entrance on East 124th Street)

**April 16, 2014**

**9:30 – 11:30 AM**

## Cancer in Minority Communities

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building, 163 West 125th Street, 2nd floor Art Gallery

*Photo identification is required to enter the building and cameras are prohibited.*

Spanish translation services will be provided at both events. Please RSVP to [diversity@mskcc.org](mailto:diversity@mskcc.org) or Angela Deoleo at 212-537-5352.



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## FREE CANCER SCREENINGS

### Head and Neck Cancer Screenings\*

**April 23, 2014**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

### Breast Examination Center of Harlem

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building

163 West 125th Street, 4th Floor

*Photo identification is required to enter the building.*

**April 24, 2014**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

### Enid A. Haupt Pavilion

425 East 67th Street, Fourth Floor, Suite 5

**April 25, 2014**

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

### Brooklyn Infusion Center

557-1 Atlantic Avenue

Brooklyn, NY

\* No appointment necessary. For further information, call 646-497-9161.

### Skin Cancer Screenings\*

**May 15, 2014**

**4:00 – 7:00 PM**

### Rockefeller Outpatient Pavilion

160 East 53rd Street, 10th Floor

By appointment only. To make an appointment, call 212-610-0772.

Phone lines open at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, May 6.

\* 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).