

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- » Treating Rare Cancers
- » Center for Stem Cell Biology Launched
- » Healing Meals
- » Memorial Sloan-Kettering Physician-Scientists Present Significant Clinical Cancer Research Advances at ASCO Annual Meeting
- » Novel Immunotherapy Drug Receives FDA Approval for the Treatment of Metastatic Melanoma
- » Gene Mutation Contributes to Leukemia by Enhancing Function of Blood Stem Cells
- » Breast Cancer Treatment Shows Benefit for Women with Small, Localized Disease
- » Memorial Sloan-Kettering Researchers Discover Prostate Cancer Disease Pathways Regulate Each Other
- » Study Leads to New Recommendations for Surgical Treatment of Many Women with Breast Cancer
- » Change in PSA Level Does Not Predict Prostate Cancer
- » Studies Provide New Insight into Fundamental Biological Process
- » Memorial Sloan-Kettering Researchers Show Brain Tumors Make Their Own Blood Vessels from Stem Cells
- » Study Elucidates How Antibiotics Can Increase Some Harmful Infections in Cancer Patients
- » Thomas Kelly Honored
- » Charles Sawyers Receives Korsmeyer Award

News@MSKCC provides journalists with news and information from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and is released six times a year.

For more information about these and other potential story ideas, contact Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Department of Public Affairs at: 212-639-3573 or at mediastaff@mskcc.org

What's New

Treating Rare Cancers



Patients diagnosed with rare cancers sometimes have difficulty finding a physician knowledgeable in treating their type of disease. Memorial Sloan-Kettering's depth and breadth of experience managing all cancers means that patients get the best possible care no matter how uncommon their disease.

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Center for Stem Cell Biology Launched

To take advantage of the potential of embryonic stem cells and human adult cells to produce regenerative treatments and provide insights into cancer, the Sloan-Kettering Institute at Memorial Sloan-Kettering has created a Center for Stem Cell Biology.

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Healing Meals

Memorial Sloan-Kettering chefs and dietitians are working together to devise meals that satisfy both compromised appetites and finicky tastes of children with cancer, while adhering to the nutritional needs of individual patients.

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Research Highlights

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Physician-Scientists Present Significant Clinical Cancer Research Advances at ASCO Annual Meeting

In an extraordinary demonstration of excellence, five Memorial Sloan-Kettering physician-scientists were selected to participate in the press program at the 2011 American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting, held June 3-7 in Chicago.

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Novel Immunotherapy Drug Receives FDA Approval for the Treatment of Metastatic Melanoma

The first drug ever to show improved overall survival for patients with advanced melanoma was recently approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

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Gene Mutation Contributes to Leukemia by Enhancing Function of Blood Stem Cells

Researchers at Memorial Sloan-Kettering and New York University have discovered how a mutation in the gene known as *TET2* contributes to the development of some leukemias.

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Breast Cancer Treatment Shows Benefit for Women with Small, Localized Disease

Memorial Sloan-Kettering physician-scientists report that women with small, node-negative, *HER2*-positive breast cancer may obtain a significant benefit from adjuvant chemotherapy with trastuzumab, a drug previously shown to improve outcomes in advanced cancer and prevent the return of cancer in women diagnosed with higher-risk, early-stage, *HER2*-positive breast cancer.

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Memorial Sloan-Kettering Researchers Discover Prostate Cancer Disease Pathways Regulate Each Other

Memorial Sloan-Kettering researchers have discovered that the AR and PI3K disease pathways regulate each other through reciprocal negative feedback.

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Study Leads to New Recommendations for Surgical Treatment of Many Women with Breast Cancer

A multicenter study led by Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Monica Morrow found that for women who meet certain criteria -- about 20 percent of all breast cancer patients -- surgery, called axillary node dissection, is unnecessary and does not improve survival or reduce rates of recurrence.

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Change in PSA Level Does Not Predict Prostate Cancer

Researchers at Memorial Sloan-Kettering have found that change in PSA levels over time -- known as PSA velocity -- is a poor predictor of prostate cancer and may lead to many unnecessary biopsies. The new study of more than 5,000 men was published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

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Studies Provide New Insight into Fundamental Biological Process

Memorial Sloan-Kettering developmental biologist Maria Jasin has devoted much of her career to the study of homologous recombination and its role in maintaining the integrity of the genome. Recently, Dr. Jasin and her colleagues published several studies that provide new insights into this biological process that is fundamental to life -- from the birth of a new cell to sexual reproduction and fertility to aging -- but can lead to cancer or other conditions when it malfunctions.

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Memorial Sloan-Kettering Researchers Show Brain Tumors Make Their Own Blood Vessels from Stem Cells

Memorial Sloan-Kettering researchers have published new findings that may help explain why certain brain tumors are so resistant to treatment.

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Study Elucidates How Antibiotics Can Increase Some Harmful Infections in Cancer Patients

An interdisciplinary team from Memorial Sloan-Kettering has shown that antibiotics can disrupt the normal, healthy balance of microorganisms in the gastrointestinal tract, allowing a potentially harmful bacterium known as vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* to take over as much as 99 percent of the population of intestinal microbes.

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Staff Notes

Thomas Kelly Honored

Sloan-Kettering Institute Director Thomas J. Kelly is the co-recipient of the 2010 Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize from Columbia University.

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Charles Sawyers Receives Korsmeyer Award

Charles L. Sawyers, Chair of the Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program, is a co-recipient of the 2011 Stanley J. Korsmeyer Award from the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

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