



MAKING AN IMPACT ON CHILDHOOD CANCERS

In 2016, approximately 16,000 children, teens, and young adults in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) is entrusted with many of these young lives: MSK treats more children with cancer than any other institution in the world.

MSK's Department of Pediatrics is working toward a common goal: to cure children, so they return healthfully to their homes, schools, and dreams of college, careers, and families of their own. Key to MSK's success is the collaboration of pediatric clinicians and scientists, who work together to translate research breakthroughs from the laboratory to children's bedsides.

MSK's experts are committed to identifying and eradicating tumors in their youngest patients, and doing so in a way that minimizes the long-term impact of cancer. MSK's pediatric patients receive the latest cancer therapies—often through a clinical trial—which may not be available elsewhere. MSK also participates in nationwide clinical trials and plays a leadership role in several multi-center clinical trial networks.

MSK's dedication to clinical research—spanning more than half a century—has contributed to the overall cure rate for childhood cancers being more than 70 percent. Some of MSK's notable initiatives are described below:

- MSK's Department of Pediatrics pioneered many treatments that are now the standard of care at other institutions throughout the US. For example, MSK was part of the first team bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor in 1973. Treatment regimens developed at MSK are now the standard for treating high-risk forms of leukemia, achieving cure rates greater than 80 percent. MSK was integral in the development of intra-arterial chemotherapy to treat retinoblastoma, a sight-preserving approach with a 99 percent cure rate.
- MSK's physician-scientists are developing new strategies, including antibody-based therapies, for neuroblastoma (humanized monoclonal antibody hu3F8) and osteosarcoma, to offer more effective and safer treatment for patients with these diseases.
- To complement the efforts of the pediatric medical team, MSK offers multiple programs and support services—from certified teaching, child life, and recreational programs, to special events for siblings and other family members—all designed to minimize the impact of cancer and its treatment.
- To help sustain normalcy and ease side effects, pediatric patients benefit from MSK's Integrative Medicine Service—the largest and most comprehensive in the world—which offers sessions in mind and body therapies (meditation, yoga, etc.), music, dance, and movement, and others.
- As part of the Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Program—designed to address the emotional needs of patients between the ages of 16 and 28—MSK is developing a mobile app to help AYA peers connect and support each other. Networking will also be offered with industry professionals to help with the transition back to work or school. A dedicated AYA Lounge is also under construction, to be a comfortable space to socialize and relax away from the clinical setting.
- Through its three-year accredited Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, MSK is actively involved in training talented young physicians to become the next generation of outstanding pediatric clinician-scientists. Many graduates of the program are today's leaders in the field.