KIDS WALK FOR KIDS WITH CANCER
Pediatric Cancer Facts

Cancer is the leading cause of death by ***disease*** in children.

More children under age 18 die of cancer than by asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, congenital abnormalities and AIDS, ***combined***. About 1,380 children are expected to die from cancer in the United States this year.

Approximately 13,000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed in children and teens in the U.S. each year. That's roughly 46 children each school day, enough to fill a school bus! Of those new cases, about 10,730 are under the age of 15!

The rate of new pediatric cancer cases is **increasing** each year!

Many treatments can be painful and toxic, and can leave a surviving child with multiple health problems.

Research for pediatric cancer is drastically underfunded and few companies are interested in investing in the difficult research to develop new treatments. Virtually all funding for pediatric cancer comes from private donations and from the U.S. government.

10% of overall government medical research funding supports research for all pediatric diseases, and only 3% of NCI funding for research is allocated to fight ALL forms of childhood cancer.

For each dollar of the government budget devoted to cancer research, some people have estimated that only four pennies support pediatric cancer research.

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) federal budget in 2007 was $4.8 billion. Of that, breast cancer received nearly 12%, prostate cancer received more than 6%, and **all 12 major groups of pediatric cancers combined received less than 3.6%**

Research at MSKCC

The Kids Walk for Kids with Cancer is trying to bridge the funding gap for pediatric cancer research. We are happy to support the innovative work at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, one of the country's oldest and largest private institutions dedicated to prevention, patient care, and education in cancer.

Much of MSKCC's research focuses on specific differences between cancer cells and normal cells. Finding these differences is the first significant step in developing a new therapy by directing the immune system to respond to that difference. The immune system then does the work of traditional cancer drugs and helps to eliminate the cancer and prevent its return.

Advances in understanding the body's immune system response have also led to new opportunities for creating treatments for cancer that may work better and lead to fewer long term side effects.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering also conducts research into the biology of tumors. Some cancers are more aggressive than others, and MSKCC has found specific marks of aggressiveness by comparing the genetic makeup of tumors from many different patients. The research helps doctors predict how aggressive some tumors will be before they begin treatment on a patient. They can then take the best approach to fighting each patient's cancer and spare the child from some of the long term effects of chemotherapy and radiation.

As doctors get better at treating cancer with traditional therapies, such as chemotherapy and radiation, researchers have sought new forms of treatment that may help in preventing relapse. At MSKCC, doctors are discovering new ways to provide children with therapies that seek out and eradicate all traces of cancer, so that relapse becomes a thing of the past.

In summary, because of these and other major treatment advances and research, 80% of children will survive 5 years or more, and the 10-year survival rate is almost 75 percent. This is a huge increase from before the 1970s, when the 5-year survival rate was less than 50%.

Although the incidence of invasive cancer in children has increased slightly over the past 30 years, mortality has declined dramatically for many childhood cancers. These successes begin with contributions from events like The Kids Walk for Kids with Cancer.

Please help us continue our mission to end pediatric cancer.
Support the Kids Walk for Kids with Cancer!