

Research at MSKCC

Memorial Sloan-Kettering is the world's oldest and largest private institution dedicated to prevention, patient care, and education in cancer. Its scientists and clinicians generate innovative approaches to better understand, diagnose and treat cancer. Its specialists are leaders in biomedical research and in translating the latest research to advance the standard of care worldwide.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center treats more children with cancer than any other institution in the world. The unique multidisciplinary approach employed offers children with cancer the best opportunity for accurate diagnosis and the most effective treatment available, emphasizing treatments that target and cure cancer and return children to a normal life as quickly as possible.

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.

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.

Although the incidence of invasive cancer in children has increased slightly over the past 30 years, mortality has declined dramatically for many childhood cancers. Due to 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%.

While huge strides have been made, there are still several hard-to-cure cancers. MSKCC researchers are leading the world in creating more effective treatments and improving the stats for these hard to cure cancers.

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