The MSK Campaign

Leading Science. Changing Lives.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center | GIVING

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We are the most capable force against cancer the world has ever seen, and the MSK Giving community is an essential part of our strength. We will continue to innovate in cancer care and research, find new cures, and make sure that everyone can access these breakthroughs. I have every faith in our collective ability to build the future we envision.

Together, there is nothing we can’t achieve.

Selwyn M. Vickers, MD, FACS
President and CEO of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Selwyn M. Vickers, MD, FACS, President and CEO, meets with staff. At MSK, we work together to answer the biggest questions in cancer.

An MSK physician uses MRI-guided radiation and other advanced theranostic techniques to destroy tumors with precision.

At Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), we make news headlines worldwide with our groundbreaking cancer research discoveries. And our patients remind us why that matters.

Every day, MSK scientists bring courage and creativity to answering cancer's biggest questions. The stamina and insight to find cures previously considered impossible. The commitment to turn a legacy of innovation into impact for people with cancer across our community and around the world.

MSK played a role in creating the first chemotherapy, the first cancer immunotherapies, the first investigational mRNA vaccine for pancreatic cancer. Philanthropy was a driving force behind these historic advances.

Now, with your support, we will create a future of new firsts to help a new generation.

The MSK Campaign is an opportunity for the MSK community to raise essential funds to support our mission of ending cancer for life. Through these six strategic initiatives, we will transform cancer care for everyone.

Change lives with us.

At MSK, the entire care team is 100% focused on each individual's experience during cancer treatment and beyond.

1

Innovate Clinical Strategy

MSK is so much more than a single hospital. We drive clinical care and research so that people affected by cancer worldwide can benefit. We believe that everyone — no matter who they are, what neighborhood they live in, or how much money they make — deserves the best cancer care available.

The CDC estimates that between 2015 and 2050, the number of people with cancer in the United States will increase by nearly 50% as a result of the growth and aging of the population, and the global trends are similar. At MSK, we are transforming cancer care so that all patients can experience excellent outcomes and maintain their quality of life wherever they receive care.

We will achieve this important goal by expanding our clinical capacity and creating a state-of-the-art patient experience in New York City and the tristate area while researching and developing innovative models of delivery that will bring our world-class care to people everywhere, in the location that's best for them: at MSK's trailblazing new pavilion and other buildings in New York City, any of our regional sites, or even their own homes.

People with all types and stages of cancer come to MSK locations to receive the latest and most effective treatments and to gain access to novel therapies they often can't get anywhere else. Receiving the right treatment from the start can significantly increase a patient's chance for a cure. MSK's in-depth expertise and superior quality of care have demonstrably saved lives: Five-year survival rates for all types of cancer are an average of 50% higher at MSK than for the Commission on Cancer, a consortium of cancer organizations. MSK's positive outcomes are even starker for later-stage cancers, with survival rates for stage 4 disease an astonishing 128% higher. These statistics underline the importance of receiving the best and most effective forms of treatment available.

With the understanding that long-standing systemic inequities have caused disparities in cancer outcomes, MSK is focused on improving all aspects of the cancer journey for everyone, from prevention to diagnosis, treatment, and beyond. We are conducting farsighted research to ensure that all people with cancer get the care that will personally benefit them the most, including patients from medically underserved populations, whether defined by disease type, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, cultural differences, or self-identified race. We are rigorously investigating treatment options that are more or equally effective, and that may allow patients to choose to be cared for at home. Research will tell us the facts, so that patients can make informed decisions about when, where, and how to receive treatment.

Bold investments in MSK's clinical enterprise have already paid dividends, extending the lives of people with cancer and transforming global standards of care. Now we are challenging our clinicians to become even more entrepreneurial as they develop tomorrow's diagnostics and cures. We are generating new and increasingly effective treatments, establishing more robust prevention and surveillance programs, and developing strategic digital tools to deliver insights about individuals under our care and beyond. This is the time to accelerate MSK's impact even further.

2

Drive Scientific Discovery

Scientific discovery is the foundation beneath every bold and lifesaving innovation in cancer care. Before scientists could develop cancer immunotherapies, they needed to find out how the immune system interacted with cancer cells. Before researchers could create precision oncology drugs to target tumor mutations, they needed to understand that cancer is hundreds of unique diseases, many of which are caused by genetic mutations. Before doctors could offer the treatments that now help 85% of children with cancer survive, scientists needed to learn how pediatric cancers differ from adult forms of the disease and why cancer exists in children in the first place.

It is astonishing how much our knowledge of cancer has grown in the past century, this decade, and even a single year. Today, thanks to remarkable advances in the understanding of how cancer cells behave and evolve, researchers at MSK and elsewhere have devised previously unimaginable strategies to detect and treat the disease. Many people live with cancer for decades, managing it with medication like any other chronic condition. Many others achieve a full cure.

Despite this progress, cancer remains a leading cause of death in the United States and worldwide, and the incidence of several cancers, including colon, gastric, and breast cancers, has been steadily rising in adults younger than 50.

To respond to this urgency, MSK is driving the next phase of scientific discovery in cancer medicine — establishing an even broader understanding of the disease, investigating novel treatments, and finding new cures. We will achieve this by developing and building the next-generation technologies that can power scientific discovery in the modern era, and by training and recruiting the highly skilled specialists who are essential to using those tools to transform cancer care.

These new technologies will create images that allow us to visualize biological processes from the atom all the way up to the full organism. They will make it possible to sequence thousands of individual cells from both healthy and cancerous tissue, so scientists can study how single cells change over the course of a cancer diagnosis and treatment. And they will allow our research teams to develop accurate disease models to illuminate new therapeutic targets and will play a crucial role in later preclinical and translational studies.

With these advanced tools and a cadre of experts who will optimize their potential for discovery, MSK will catapult cancer research into a future in which technology breaks down the final boundaries in oncology.

MSK researchers ask the most challenging questions in cancer science, laying the foundation for a better understanding of the disease and new treatments and cures.

Medical oncologists Andrea Cercek, MD, and Luis Diaz Jr., MD, and their team of researchers made international news when 100% of patients who completed their clinical trial for a new rectal cancer immunotherapy achieved full remission without radiation, surgery, or chemotherapy, including the three joining the doctors here.

3

Harness the Immune System

Cancer immunobiology is one of the most transformational breakthroughs in modern medicine, and many of the greatest advances were driven by MSK. The interactions between immune and cancer cells shape the evolution of the disease, and MSK researchers are striving to understand an individual's immune system in all its complexity, to elucidate what makes current immunotherapies viable for some patients but not others, to develop new immune-based treatments, including cancer vaccines, and to discover the next generation of immunotherapy targets.

Over the past two decades, MSK has consistently led the world in the study and development of cancer immunotherapies, providing life-changing treatment options for people with cancer. MSK's leadership was unequivocally displayed in 2022 when international headlines announced the 100% remission rate achieved in an MSK clinical trial of a new immunotherapy approach to treat a subtype of locally advanced rectal cancer. On the heels of this remarkable outcome, the prestigious journal *Nature* published the results from a phase 1 MSK trial of the first investigational mRNA vaccine for pancreatic cancer. We are also making rapid progress in CAR T cell therapy, expanding the strategy to treat people with solid tumors and creating off-the-shelf models to improve the treatment's accessibility to patients.

The Marie-Josée Kravis Center for Cancer Immunobiology (CCI) is the hub for all immunotherapy research at MSK. The CCI unites the full spectrum of MSK's immunology research community, from basic immunologists to tumor immunobiologists to translational immuno-oncologists, energizing them to tackle the most challenging questions and inspire one another to advance the benefits of this therapeutic strategy for more patients. This visionary enterprise elevates, centralizes, and prioritizes immuno-oncology research across MSK. Basic research (like investigating tumor immunobiology), translational research (like developing cell therapies and cancer vaccines), and the creation of novel immunodiagnostic tests fall under the purview of the CCI, since in today's scientific climate, there is no line defining where one practice ends and the other begins. By breaking down research silos, we are ensuring that findings in the lab help people with cancer as soon as possible.

4

Expand Precision Oncology

MSK helped usher in the era of precision medicine, in which an individual's cancer treatment is tailored to the molecular characteristics of a person's disease. We developed MSK-IMPACT®, the first targeted tumor-sequencing test of its kind to be authorized by the FDA. By quickly determining whether a tumor carries mutations that make it vulnerable to specific drugs, doctors can tailor an individual's cancer treatment to the molecular characteristics of their disease. We have identified scores of cancer-associated genetic mutations, proteins, and other molecular features, and we've pioneered therapies that target them. These discoveries have been nothing short of revolutionary, changing the lives of many people with cancer, and we are committed to the continual development of new and more effective targeted therapies. But even the extraordinary innovations that power precision oncology — many of which came to light in MSK labs — aren't enough to help us appreciate the full range of genetic changes that help cancer grow, spread, and either respond to or resist treatment.

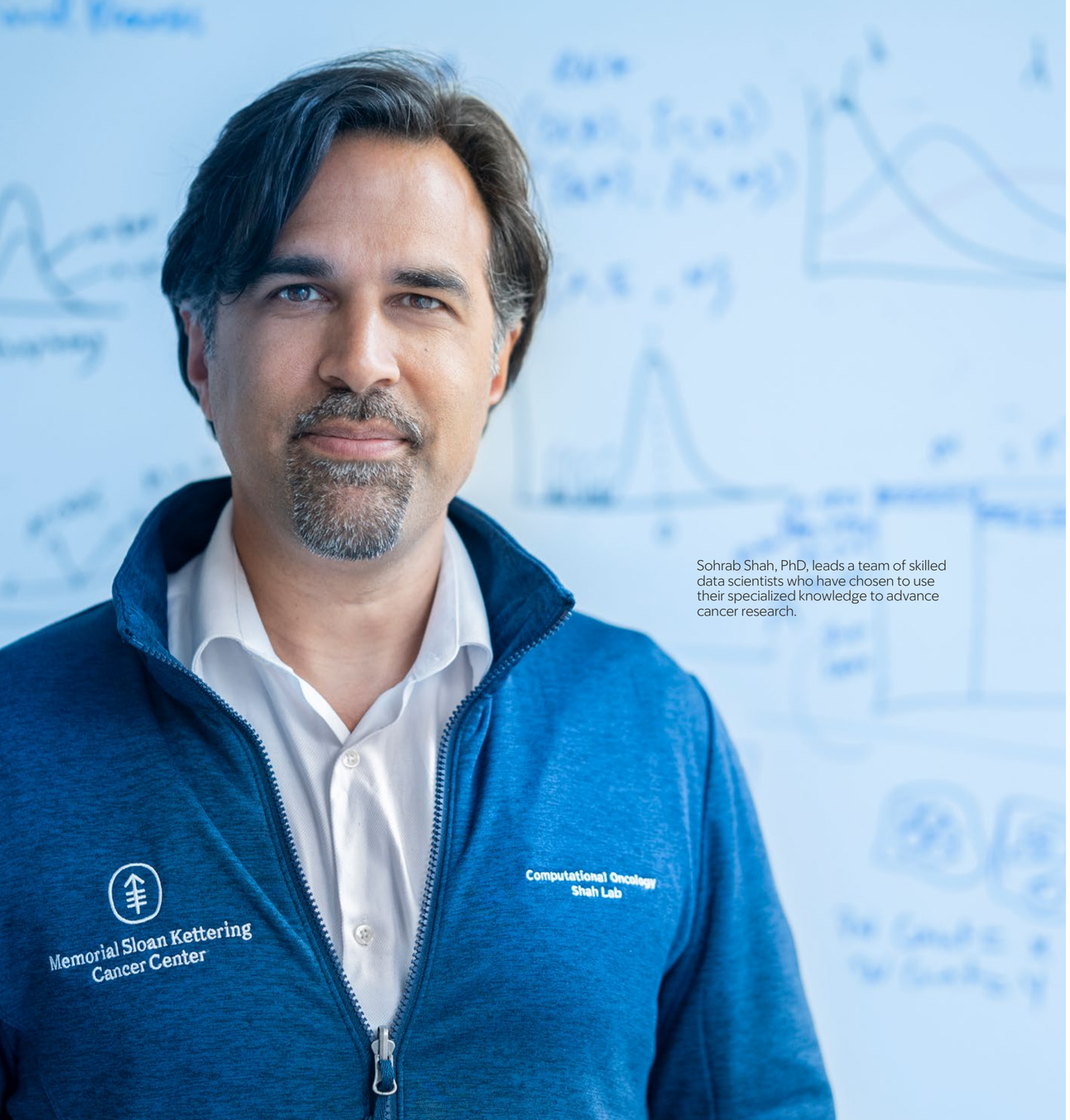
To do that, we need to develop the next generation of tools that will allow our scientists to delve deeper than ever before, see cancer in new ways, create innovative diagnostic tools, and sharpen the accuracy of precision cancer therapy.

Researchers across MSK are gleaning even more information from our deep reservoir of patient samples and gaining a fuller picture of how cancer works. Clinicians are working with computational oncologists to channel massive amounts of data through algorithms and analytical tools that will allow us to find new drug targets and guide clinical decision-making by accurately predicting how a patient may respond to treatment.

Advances in molecular oncology will also drive a sea change in early diagnostics — a major focus at MSK that will save lives by catching more cancers at their earliest stages. One way we can do this is to surface new biomarkers, or molecules that can indicate disease or provide critical information about its status. This work is especially important for boosting the usefulness of noninvasive tests like liquid biopsy, a technique that can identify and analyze cancer cells or tumor DNA that is shed into the bloodstream. We have already created a state-of-the-art liquid biopsy test, MSK-ACCESS®, which can help diagnose cancer early, detect recurrence, and allow doctors and researchers to flag early signs of treatment resistance. With additional research, liquid biopsies are on track to become widely used, reliable tools for early detection.

MSK has laid the foundation for a future in which profound molecular insights can give rise to powerful new therapies and diagnostic tools, and we are ready to push forward so that more people with cancer can benefit.

Molecular geneticist Debyani Chakravarty, PhD, cancer biologist Nikolaus Schultz, PhD, and physician-scientist David Solit, MD, collaborate on powerful new precision therapies and diagnostic tools.



Sohrab Shah, PhD, leads a team of skilled data scientists who have chosen to use their specialized knowledge to advance cancer research.

5

Transform Data Into Cures

Data science — including computational biology, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics — offers unprecedented insights into each patient's cancer and helps guide treatment decisions.

MSK has amassed a vast amount of high-quality data and information from our deep clinical experience. By catalyzing data science research, we will empower our doctors and scientists to perform in-depth analyses of this ever-growing cache and reveal key details that will help us improve cancer diagnosis, predict responses to therapy, and continuously advance patient care.

MSK has already demonstrated the extraordinary power of computational methods in cancer diagnosis and treatment: This discipline drove the development of MSK-IMPACT and MSK-ACCESS. These tools hold enormous promise as diagnostic and treatment aids for people with cancer, including those who live in areas of the world with limited medical infrastructure and resources. If a biomarker with an existing drug is identified through a liquid biopsy, the patient's disease could be controlled or even cured with oral medication, with the patient possibly never needing surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation.

And now we are on the brink of even greater discoveries as we expand our data collection and computational capabilities to improve patient care everywhere. Through multidisciplinary collaborations that unite researchers and clinicians across MSK, we aim to develop reliable methods for anticipating changes in precancerous and cancerous cells before they happen, predicting where and when cancer will spread, and forecasting how a particular patient will respond to treatment. By understanding how cancer evolves in real time, we can learn to get ahead of it and stop it in its tracks. We may even be able to prevent cancer from developing in the first place.

6

Develop the New Generation of Leaders

Demand is high for the exceptionally skilled and courageous physicians, scientists, and other professionals necessary to discover new cures and make sure everyone with cancer has access to the best cancer care available. MSK is committed to recruiting, training, and retaining transformative talent through our education programs, including high school and college internships, clinical and research fellowships, early-career programs, and endowed chairs.

With more than 2,300 residents, fellows, and PhD candidates training at MSK each year, we provide some of the most robust cancer research and clinical training opportunities in the world. We offer or participate in 12 PhD programs, all focusing on cancer. Our trainees are integral to discovery at MSK, with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows making up much of our scientific workforce. After their time here, they magnify our impact by raising the level of care wherever they go, working in nearly every state and 48 countries.

Education is one of society's great equalizers, and MSK recognizes the need to create opportunities for all people, regardless of their background. In addition to outreach initiatives with regional high schools, universities, and medical schools, MSK has established graduate and professional development programs that address disparities in the field of cancer medicine. We are devoted to increasing the number of scientists from underrepresented groups in oncology and believe that a diverse and inclusive workforce is key to maintaining our role as a global leader in cancer care, research, and education.

People are at the core of all our progress, and the cancer leaders of today and tomorrow will make MSK's vision a reality. Skilled, compassionate, and farsighted physicians, nurses, and scientists are essential to our ability to create and deliver new cures and treatments for people with cancer at MSK and worldwide. That's why MSK is committed to teaching, inspiring, and mentoring the next generation — the future pioneers of oncology.

Teaching is deeply engrained in MSK's culture. Each year, MSK trains more than 2,300 residents, fellows, and PhD candidates, all focused on cancer.

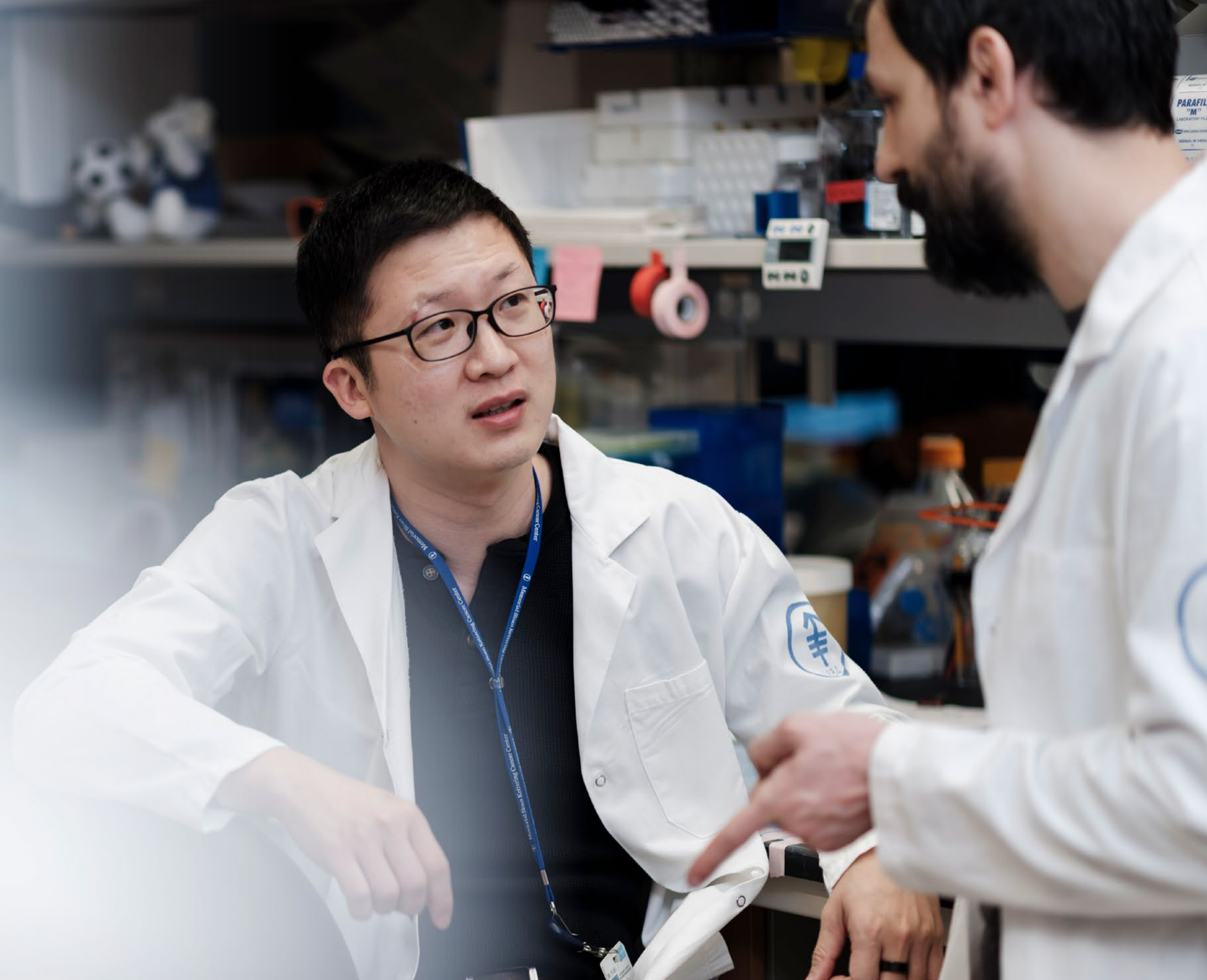
Change Lives With Us.

MSK leads the world in cancer breakthroughs. That means more hope, possibility, and cures for people with cancer in our community and worldwide. Leading science. Changing lives. Partner with us today and we will find new ways to advance MSK's mission of ending cancer for life.

About MSK Giving
MSK is a leader in patient care, research, and education. With expertise in over 400 cancer types and almost 2,000 clinical trials underway at a given time, MSK makes a massive difference in the lives of millions of people facing cancer around the world. MSK Giving is the donor-facing department that helps to advance and fund MSK's mission.

Why Give to MSK?
Giving to MSK drives remarkable progress for people facing cancer. With donor support, MSK dares to face the biggest questions in cancer and find previously unimaginable cures that go on to help people around the world. Our donor community helps MSK build on its legacy each year — discovering new ways to treat people with cancer and also prevent, detect, and cure all forms of the disease. Whether donors give to honor a family member, to fuel the next breakthrough, or to make the world a better place, everyone in our community is bound by hope, optimism, and an unrelenting drive toward impact.

To learn how you can be part of this vibrant community, visit giving.mskcc.org.



Computational biologist Yu-Jui "Ray" Ho, PhD, uses his computing skills to better understand the biological changes caused by cancer from multiple angles.

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Office of Development
633 Third Avenue, 5th floor
New York, NY 10017

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