

The Society of MSK Campaign

A New Era in Pancreatic Cancer Care

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THE
SOCIETY *of*
MEMORIAL
SLOAN
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TRANSFORMING PANCREATIC CANCER CARE THROUGH RESEARCH

The David M. Rubenstein Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research at Memorial Sloan Kettering is dedicated to improving the lives of people with pancreatic cancer through innovative multidisciplinary research. Its 50 faculty experts collaborate on breakthrough discoveries, harnessing their findings to offer bold new approaches in cancer prevention and care.

The Society of MSK 2021-2022 Campaign will accelerate ambitious, path-breaking progress at MSK. The need for novel approaches is urgent.



*A small cadre of treatment-resistant pancreatic cells drive this cancer, which has a **five-year survival rate of less than 10%**. I fundamentally believe we can beat this tumor type.*

CHRISTINE IACOBUZIO-DONAHUE, MD, PHD

Director, David M. Rubenstein Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research, MSK; David M. Rubenstein Chair

UNDERSTANDING CANCER FROM AN EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE

Pancreatic cancer, frequently symptomless, is often not detected until it has reached a late stage. Chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery rarely provide effective long-term treatment because this cancer type almost always develops an ability to spread.

Gastrointestinal pathologist Dr. Iacobuzio-Donahue, David M. Rubenstein Chair and Director of the Rubenstein Center, is investigating a small group of genetically differentiated, treatment-resistant pancreatic cancer cells that not only survive but thrive in response to the standard therapies that wipe out most diseased cells.

She and her team are radically reimagining prevention and care to better target these cells, transform the disease into a manageable chronic condition, and significantly extend survival. They continue to develop therapies that offer the hope of a cure.



Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue, MD, PhD

HOW YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP

The Society of MSK 2021-2022 Campaign will drive revolutionary change to provide people with or at risk for pancreatic cancer with life-changing care. Your philanthropy in support of pressing MSK initiatives at the Rubenstein Center promises an enduring global impact. These projects include:

- Expanding the prevention and early detection program
- Developing laboratory models, based on patient tumors, to identify existing treatments, test therapy response, and create new drugs
- Tracking tumors' long-term behaviors to pinpoint the forces that shape treatment resistance and metastasis
- Advancing personalized medicine approaches, including genetically targeted therapies and individualized vaccines
- Using sophisticated high-dose radiotherapy to shrink patients' tumors, making them operable
- Supporting the Last Wish Program, which empowers people with pancreatic cancer to posthumously donate their tissues — and contribute to research dedicated to improving outcomes

A NEW APPROACH TO DETECTION

Preventing or catching cancer early is a key to saving lives. Dr. Iacobuzio-Donahue's early detection program is using genetic sequencing, enhanced imaging, and other relevant information, such as a history of smoking or diabetes, to combine nonoverlapping indicators of pancreatic cancer — and identify who is at the highest risk for the disease.



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The Society is an essential and generous philanthropic partner, supporting an array of MSK programs that make a profound impact on the lives of people and families affected by cancer.

CRAIG B. THOMPSON, MD

President and CEO, MSK; Douglas A. Warner III Chair

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