



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

March 13, 2018

Dear Ms. Bagrationi,

Your leadership support for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) has led to new treatments for cancer, increased our understanding of the disease, and improved outcomes for patients. By supporting the *Strategic Initiatives Fund*, you provide MSK with a solid and reliable source of funding for the institution's top priorities. Thank you so much for your ongoing commitment!

MSK freely shares the findings of its scientists and physicians throughout the oncology community, often setting the standard of care and serving as a model for other hospitals around the world. Recent progress—that you helped fuel—includes:

- **The first CAR T cell therapies approved by FDA.** A major achievement in 2017 was the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy for certain types of leukemia and lymphoma. This breakthrough in cancer treatment uses genetically engineered versions of a person's own immune cells to find and fight cancer. The FDA approved tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah) for children and young adults with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta) for people with certain types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. MSK scientists played key roles in the development of CAR T cell therapy and are pioneering the next generation of these medicines.
- **Targeting treatment for early-onset colorectal cancer.** Diagnosed cases of colon and rectal cancers are on the rise among younger populations, and MSK has developed several initiatives to study the cause of this trend and how to reverse it. Among these initiatives is finding out how the genetic make-up of early-onset cancers differs from those in people over 50 years old. Discovering these genetic differences will help scientists determine how to tailor treatment.
- **A breakthrough designation for new neuroblastoma drug.** MSK reached a milestone when a drug developed by its researchers for neuroblastoma, a deadly pediatric cancer that can spread quickly in the brain, received an FDA Breakthrough Therapy Designation. The drug delivers precision liquid radiation that attacks and destroys cancer cells, offering real hope for children with this disease.

(over, please)

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[www.mskcc.org](http://www.mskcc.org)

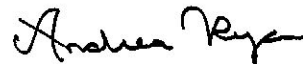
NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center

These are just a few of the advances that are expanding the frontiers of cancer research and care. We hope you will strengthen your philanthropic support with a gift today to help translate additional scientific discoveries into lifesaving treatments. Cancer breakthroughs don't happen overnight—they result from the collective investment and long-term commitment of scientists, physicians, and partners like you.

The enclosed brochure highlights some of MSK's research projects and programs that received significant support from the *Strategic Initiatives Fund* last year. I invite you to take a few moments to learn how your compassion and generous gifts have already made a difference, and how your ongoing support can lead to new discoveries and treatments in the future.

Thank you again for your committed support of the MSK community. We are extremely grateful to have you as a partner in our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea Ryan  
Office of Development