

Memorial Sloan Kettering's Psycho-Oncology Education  
& Training Institute presents

# Psychopharmacology in Cancer Care

*An Update for Clinicians  
of All Disciplines*

**Saturday, September 26, 2026**

8:30 a.m. — 5:30 p.m. ET

*Live Virtual Course*



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# Overview

**Memorial Sloan Kettering's Psycho-Oncology Education and Training Institute is pleased to present the 2026 Psychopharmacology in Cancer Care course, an established educational program offered for more than a decade and designed for clinicians across disciplines who care for patients with cancer.**

Cancer patients commonly experience depression, anxiety, and other distressing psychological and physical symptoms related to their illness or its treatment. While oncologists and general practitioners often prescribe psychiatric medications, these conditions remain commonly underdiagnosed and undertreated, and many oncology settings lack dedicated psycho-oncology specialists. As a result, patients may experience unmanaged symptoms between visits, underscoring the critical role of psychologists, nurses, and social workers in recognizing symptoms, monitoring medication effects, and providing frontline psychosocial support.

This annual course provides an evidence-based overview of psychopharmacologic management of anxiety, depression, delirium, sleep disturbances, pain, fatigue, and appetite changes in adult cancer patients. The program also examines emerging therapies — including ketamine, medical cannabis, and psilocybin — highlighting their potential benefits, risks, and clinical considerations, while emphasizing the essential role of clinical social work in comprehensive care.

Participants will learn to differentiate psychological responses to medical illness from psychiatric disorders and medical presentations of psychiatric conditions. The course will review common medical complications related to psychiatric conditions and their treatments, and provide foundational guidance on medications used to manage quality-of-life symptoms across the cancer continuum. Participants will also explore the rationale for selecting or avoiding specific therapies, including benefits, side effects, and drug interactions, to strengthen patient education and clinical decision-making.

View full program details and register at:  
[\*\*msk.org/psychopharm\*\*](https://msk.org/psychopharm)

*“The breadth and depth of information delivered in this one-day virtual symposium was truly invaluable and practice-changing.”*

*“This was a great experience, and I now feel more confident in managing patients after gaining new, practical knowledge.”*

*“Outstanding presentations. I especially appreciated the shared emphasis on compassionate, patient-centered care.”*

— Participant Feedback

## Target Audience

This course is relevant for clinicians of all disciplines involved in cancer care, including psychiatrists, psycho-oncologists, oncologists, palliative care physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and counselors.

## Accreditation & Credits

This activity will offer *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*, ABIM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) points, and New York State Psychology Contact Hours. Applications have been submitted for ANCC Nursing Contact Hours and Social Work Contact Hours. Refer to the **Accreditation** section for additional details.

## Syllabus

After the course concludes, participants will receive access to an online syllabus that includes additional resources, recorded presentations, and PDFs of the slides.

View full program details and register at:  
[msk.org/psychopharm](https://msk.org/psychopharm)

# Faculty



**Yesne Alici, MD**

**COURSE DIRECTOR**

Vice Chair for Clinical Operations; Clinical Director;  
Associate Attending Psychiatrist, Psychiatry Service,  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



**William S. Breitbart, MD**

**COURSE CO-DIRECTOR**

Attending Psychiatrist, Department of Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Sciences; Attending Psychiatrist,  
Supportive Care Service, Department of Medicine  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



**Erik Bengtson, MD**

Director of Clinical Operations, Manhattan Ambulatory Sites;  
Assistant Attending Psychiatrist, Psychiatry Service,  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



**Christian Bjerre Real, MD, MMCI, FAPA**

Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry  
NYU Grossman School of Medicine



**Natalie Moryl (Khojainova), MD**

Attending Physician, Department of Medicine,  
Supportive Care Service, Addiction Medicine  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



**Andrew Roth, MD**

Emeritus Attending Psychiatrist, Psychiatry Service,  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



**Christine Wilkins, PhD**

Director, Department of Social Work  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

# Agenda

Saturday, September 26, 2026

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. EDT (UTC -4)

Dedicated time for questions and discussion will follow each presentation.

8:25 a.m.	Attendee Zoom Sign-In and Check-In
8:30 a.m.	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Yesne Alici, MD
8:45 a.m.	<b>Depressive Disorders</b> Andrew Roth, MD
9:30 a.m.	<b>Delirium</b> William Breitbart, MD
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	<b>Anxiety Disorders</b> Andrew Roth, MD
11:15 a.m.	<b>Sleep Disorders</b> Yesne Alici, MD
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 p.m.	<b>Cancer-Related Fatigue</b> William Breitbart, MD
1:45 p.m.	<b>Pain</b> Natalie Moryl (Khojainova), MD
2:30 p.m.	<b>Weight and Appetite Loss</b> Yesne Alici, MD
3:00 p.m.	Break
3:15 p.m.	<b>Cancer and Cancer-Treatment Related Cognitive Changes</b> Yesne Alici, MD
3:45 p.m.	<b>Novel Psychopharmacologic Interventions in Oncology</b> Christian Bjerre Real, MD, MMCI, FAPA
4:15 p.m.	<b>Ketamine and Esketamine for Depression</b> Erik Bengtsen, MD
4:45 p.m.	<b>Caring for the Whole Patient: The Role of Clinical Social Work in Psychosocial Support</b> Christine Wilkins, PhD
5:15 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Yesne Alici, MD William Breitbart, MD Andrew Roth, MD
5:30 p.m.	Adjourn

# Registration

Scan the QR code to  
register or visit:  
[msk.org/psychopharm](https://msk.org/psychopharm)



This program will be held virtually via Zoom.  
Discounted registration is available for specific groups.  
Visit the course website for details.

## Registration Fees

- Physicians (MDs, PhDs, DOs): \$200
- Residents, Fellows, Advanced Practice Providers, Nurses, and Other Healthcare Professionals: \$125
- Industry Professionals\*: \$350
- MSK Employees: Complimentary

# Accreditation



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

## AMA Credit Designation Statement

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center designates this live activity for a maximum of **7.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## ABIM MOC Recognition Statement

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to 7.50 MOC points in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

## Continuing Education for Licensed Psychologists in New York State\*\*

***This event offers 7.50 NYS Psychology Contact Hours.***

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is recognized by the New York State Education Department State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0166

## Accreditation Pending

Applications have been submitted for **ANCC Nursing Contact Hours** and **Social Work Contact Hours**.

\*An industry professional is defined as any individual, irrespective of their provider type (such as MDs, PhDs, APPs, RNs, etc.) that is employed by an ineligible company.

\*\*Not all states accept New York State contact hours. Please check with the licensing board in your state for guidance on their acceptance of the credit types offered for this course

# POETI

Psycho-Oncology Education  
and Training Institute

Memorial Sloan Kettering's **Psycho-Oncology Education & Training Institute** is led by faculty members in our Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, a global leader in evidence-based medicine in oncology and the original home to this psychiatry subspecialty in cancer.

The Institute's goal is to expand training opportunities in psycho-oncology for psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and other healthcare professionals practicing in oncology settings.

Training topics span a broad range and include:

- Meaning Centered Psychotherapy
- CBT in a Cancer Center
- Tobacco Cessation Interventions
- Management of Delirium and Depression
- Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis
- Caregivers
- Communication Skills
- Psycho-pharmacology
- Families and Pediatrics – Parents/Children
- Bereavement
- Survivorship
- Geriatric Oncology: Cognition and Communication

Learn more:

[msk.org/departments/psychiatry-behavioral-sciences/  
psycho-oncology-education-training-institute](https://msk.org/departments/psychiatry-behavioral-sciences/psycho-oncology-education-training-institute)



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## **Continuing Medical Education**

[msk.org/cme](https://msk.org/cme)

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