

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

“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

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 Bengtsen, 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, 2022

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

Registration

Scan the QR code to register or visit: 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



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



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Cancer Center

Continuing Medical Education

msk.org/cme

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