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The MSK Tow Center for Developmental Oncology proudly presents the

5th Annual Robert Steel Symposium in Developmental Oncology

MAY 4—5, 2026

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Zuckerman Research Center
New York City

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Overview

The **MSK Tow Center for Developmental Oncology** proudly presents the **Robert Steel Symposium in Developmental Oncology**. Now in its fifth year, this symposium convenes leading scientists from across the country to examine the latest discoveries in the molecular mechanisms underlying cancers in children and young adults, as well as the development of innovative approaches for their treatment and control. This two-day, in-person symposium offers a unique forum to explore the genetic and epigenetic regulation of developmental processes, the molecular characterization of pediatric and young adult cancers, and emerging therapeutic strategies.

Despite significant advances, many fundamental questions remain unanswered in childhood and young adult oncology, including:

- How do normal developmental and genetic processes protect against cancer in children and young adults?
- What drives cancer development in the absence of inherited cancer-predisposing mutations or known environmental exposures, and how do genetic susceptibility and environmental factors contribute?
- Which developmental processes become dysregulated, leading to mutation and malignant transformation in otherwise healthy tissues?
- How do alterations in developmental pathways — particularly those involving transcription factors and epigenetic signaling — initiate and sustain cancer?
- How can effective therapeutics be designed to block, activate, or modulate protein interactions that regulate transcription factors and other key developmental regulators?
- How can novel targets for immunotherapy be identified in developmental tumors that harbor relatively few mutations?

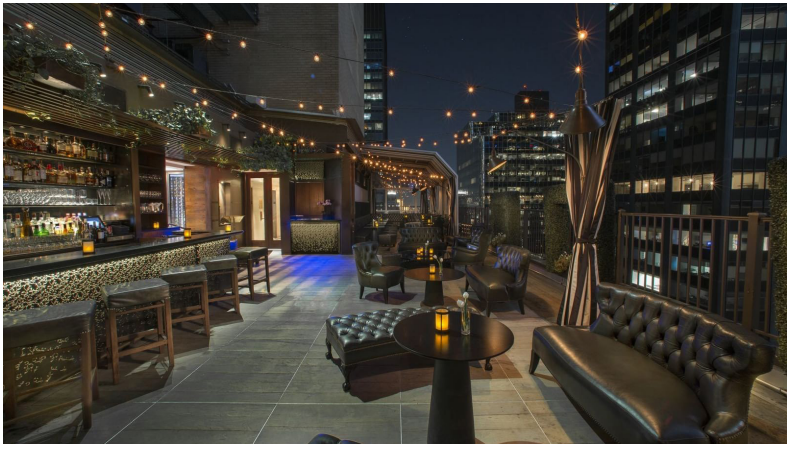
This symposium provides an intimate and dynamic setting for sharing new insights that address these critical questions. The program also fosters meaningful dialogue between established investigators and early-career researchers, encouraging interdisciplinary perspectives and the generation of new research directions relevant to the biology of cancers arising in children and young adults.

Target Audience

This symposium is intended for scientists, physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, and other healthcare professionals interested in advances in the biology and treatment of childhood cancers. **Complimentary registration** is available for students, trainees, and participants residing and practicing in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

Networking Reception

Participants are invited to a complimentary networking reception on Monday evening at **Upstairs at The Kimberly Hotel** (145 East 50th Street), a rooftop venue offering sweeping views of New York City.



msk.org/DevelopmentalOncology

Symposium Director

Alex Kentsis, MD, PhD
Member, Molecular Pharmacology Program
Director, Tow Center for Developmental Oncology
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Symposium Co-Directors

Andrew Kung, MD, PhD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Lisa G. Roth, MD
Division Director, Pediatric Hematology Oncology
NYU Langone Health

Symposium Planning and Support

Gabriella Casalena, PhD
Scientific Research Manager
Tow Center for Developmental Oncology

Colleen Maher
Senior Program Manager
Tow Center for Developmental Oncology

The **Tow Center for Developmental Oncology (TCDO)** at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) was founded to address the distinct mechanisms that drive cancer in developing tissues in children and young adults. The Center brings together investigators from across MSK, including basic scientists from the Sloan Kettering Institute, clinicians from MSK Kids (MSK's pediatric program), and physician-scientists from Memorial Hospital and the Human Oncology & Pathogenesis Program.

Agenda

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026

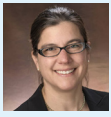
Zuckerman Research Center
417 East 68th Street

8:00 a.m.	*Breakfast and Check-In*
8:35 a.m.	**Welcome and Introduction** Alex Kentsis, MD, PhD
8:45 a.m.	 **Advances in Detecting and Therapeutic Modulation of the Pre-Metastatic Niche** Rosandra Kaplan, MD *National Cancer Institute*
9:25 a.m.	**Deciphering the Spatial Architecture of the Tumor Microenvironment in SMARCB1-Deficient Epithelioid Sarcoma** Wesley Tansey, PhD
9:45 a.m.	**Single-Cell Sequencing Enables Lineage-Informed Targeting of Osteosarcoma** Corey Weistuch, PhD
10:05 a.m.	**ATRX In-Frame Fusions Drive Mesenchymal Transcriptional Programs in Neuroblastoma via FOXC1** Alja Kozulic Pirher, PhD
10:25 a.m.	**Modeling of IDH1-Mutant Astrocytoma Using hESC-Derived Pluripotent Progenitor Cell Platform** Yanhong Yang, PhD
10:45 a.m.	*Break*
11:00 a.m.	 **Developmental Origins Shape the Paediatric Cancer Genome** Jinghui Zhang, PhD *St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*
11:40 a.m.	**Synthetic Lethality of G6PD Deficiency and Asparaginase for Colorectal Cancer Therapy** Alejandro Gutierrez, MD
12:00 p.m.	**Pathogenesis and Therapeutics for the Fusion-Driven Cancer Fibrolamellar Carcinoma** Sanford Simon, PhD
12:20 p.m.	**PRC2 Loss in Cancer Induces Distinct Fetal-Like Cell State and Activates Imprinted Genes via 3D Chromatin Rewiring** Juan Yan, PhD
12:40 p.m.	*Lunch Break*

1:40 p.m.	 **Developmental Origins of Leukemia Biology** Elvin Wagenblast, PhD *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*
2:20 p.m.	**Oncogenic DNA Damage Repair Signaling Driven by Developmental Genome Remodeling** Helen Mueller, PhD
2:40 p.m.	 **The Brain's Self-Avoidance Code Is Recording Clonal History Across the Human Body** Jamie Blundell, PhD *University of Cambridge*
3:20 p.m.	*Break*
3:40 p.m.	**Associations Between Gut Microbiome Features and Clinical Outcomes in Pediatric Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation** Oriana Miltiadous, MD
3:55 p.m.	**^{225}Ac Alpha-Particle Radioimmunotherapy Targeting PTK7 in Pediatric Solid Tumors Using Bispecific (BIPE) and Trispecific (TRIPE) Payload Engagers** Sophia Meixuan Zhang, BS
4:15 p.m.	**Dissecting Epigenetic Regulation of GD2 Expression in Pediatric Solid Tumors** Nathaniel Mabe, PharmD, PhD
4:35 p.m.	 **Beyond GD2: Allogeneic γδ T Cells and New Targets for Neuroblastoma Immunotherapy** Kelly Goldsmith, MD *Winship Cancer Center, Emory University*
5:15 p.m.	**Closing Remarks** Andrew Kung, MD, PhD
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	**Networking Reception and Dinner** *Upstairs at The Kimberly Hotel* *145 East 50th Street* *RSVP recommended at the time of registration.*

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

Zuckerman Research Center
417 East 68th Street

7:45 a.m.	*Breakfast and Check-In*
8:20 a.m.	**Welcome and Introduction** Lisa G. Roth, MD
8:30 a.m.	 **Mutational Signatures Drive Subtypes and Immune Response of Replication Repair-Deficient High-Grade Gliomas** Uri Tabori, MD *The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)*
9:10 a.m.	**Mutations in the Menin–KMT2A–LEDGF Chromatin-Association Complex Drive Resistance to Menin Inhibitors in KMT2A-r AML** Wallace Bourgeois, MD
9:30 a.m.	**Transcriptomic Profiling of Hodgkin and Reed–Sternberg Cells Reveals an Unfolded Protein Response and Impaired NK Cell Recognition** Isabella Kong, PhD
9:50 a.m.	**Early-Life Tumors Exploit Developmentally Programmed Treg Differentiation** Vanja Cabric, MD
10:10 a.m.	 **Canonical WNT Signaling as Evolutionary Constraint in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia** Markus Müschen, MD, PhD *Yale Cancer Center*
10:50 a.m.	*Break*
11:05 a.m.	 **Myeloid Differentiation as a Mechanism of Resistance to Chemo/Immunotherapy for B-ALL** Kathrin Bernt, MD *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*
11:45 a.m.	**A Non-Canonical Lymphoblast Underpins Refractory T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Children** Holly Whitfield, PhD
12:05 p.m.	**Trisomy 18 and 21 Disrupt Lineage-Specific Regulatory Networks in Fetal Hematopoiesis** Andrew Marderstein, PhD
12:25 p.m.	 **Genetic Screening Around Fusion Oncoproteins** Christopher Vakoc, MD, PhD *Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory*
1:05 p.m.	**Closing Remarks** Alex Kentsis, MD, PhD
1:15 p.m.	*Adjourn and Lunch*

Faculty

Kathrin Bernt, MD
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Jamie Blundell, PhD
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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center adheres to the ACCME's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. Any individuals in a position to control the content of a CE activity, including faculty, planners, reviewers, or others are required to disclose all financial relationships with ineligible companies (commercial interests). All relevant financial relationships have been mitigated prior to the commencement of the activity.

Registration

This program will be held **in person only**; a virtual streaming option is not available. **Discounted registration** is available for select groups. Please visit the Symposium website for full details.

Registration Fees

- Physicians (MDs, PhDs, DOs): $225
- Other Healthcare Physicians: $40*
- Industry Professionals**: $400
- Students, Trainees, and Registrants in LLMICs: Complimentary
- MSK Employees: Complimentary

*Certain registration rates are non-refundable. Please review the cancellation policy for additional information.
**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.

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 **11.00 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™***. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

ABP MOC Recognition Statement
Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the learner to earn up to 11.00 MOC points in the American Board of Pediatrics' (**ABP**) Maintenance of Certification (**MOC**) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit learner completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABP MOC credit.

For full details and registration, visit:

msk.org/DevelopmentalOncology

The **Tow Foundation** has been a leading benefactor of Memorial Sloan Kettering since 1976, supporting areas including cell therapies, inflammation and cancer, radiotheranostics, skin cancer research, and, especially, pediatric cancer research. The Foundation's visionary and generous 2018 commitment established the **Tow Center for Developmental Oncology**, which seeks to unite scientists across MSK to develop fundamental insights into the molecular mechanisms of cancers in children and young adults and to devise new approaches for definitive therapy and control.

The **Robert Steel Foundation for Pediatric Cancer Research** was established to honor the memory of Robert Steel, who died in 1984 at the age of eighteen after a heroic two-year struggle against rhabdomyosarcoma. Throughout the years, the Foundation supported MSK programs and initiatives devoted to speeding progress against childhood cancers, and its farsighted generosity has made the **Robert Steel Symposium in Developmental Oncology** possible. By bringing together leading scientists to address the latest challenges and opportunities in pediatric cancer research and treatment, the **Robert Steel Symposium in Developmental Oncology** continues to advance the vital work launched by the **Robert Steel Foundation for Pediatric Cancer Research** more than three decades ago.

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