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

Psychopharmacology in Cancer Care

An Update for Clinicians of All Disciplines



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, on demand.

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

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.

> *"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**

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 enduring material 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.

On Demand Content

This on demand program includes access to the recorded lectures listed below, along with PDF copies of the presentation slides

45 min.	**Depressive Disorders** Andrew Roth, MD
45 min.	**Delirium** William Breitbart, MD
45 min.	**Anxiety Disorders** Andrew Roth, MD
45 min.	**Sleep Disorders** Yesne Alici, MD
45 min.	**Cancer-Related Fatigue** William Breitbart, MD
45 min.	**Pain** Natalie Moryl (Khojainova), MD
30 min.	**Weight and Appetite Loss** Yesne Alici, MD
30 min.	**Cancer and Cancer-Treatment Related Cognitive Changes** Yesne Alici, MD
30 min.	**Novel Psychopharmacologic Interventions in Oncology** Christian Bjerre Real, MD, MMCI, FAPA
30 min.	**Ketamine and Esketamine for Depression** Erik Bengtsen, MD
30 min.	**Caring for the Whole Patient: The Role of Clinical Social Work in Psychosocial Support** Christine Wilkins, PhD

Content for This Activity Was Recorded/Reviewed: September 26, 2026
Original Release Date: November 20, 2026
Termination Date: June 30, 2027

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; Jimmie C. Holland Chair in Psychiatric Oncology,
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



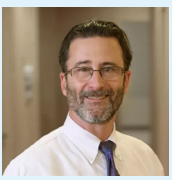
Christian Bjerre Real, MD, MMCI, FAPA

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

POETI | Psycho-Oncology Education and Training Institute

Memorial Sloan Kettering's **Psycho-Oncology Education and 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



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Continuing Medical Education

VISIT US ONLINE
msk.org/cme
Instagram.com/MSKcontinuingmedicaleducation
LinkedIn.com/showcase/MSK-CME
Facebook.com/MSKCME
X.com/MSKCME

Copyright 2026 © Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center