

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Surgical Oncologists Join Staff at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Commack**

NEW YORK, August 28, 2013 — Long Island residents are now able to see cancer surgery experts at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's outpatient treatment center in Commack, New York. The addition of breast surgeon Melissa Pilewskie, MD, and genitourinary surgeon [Raul Parra, MD](#), offers area residents the opportunity to make pre- and postsurgical appointments in a more convenient location closer to home.

“We are pleased to offer our Long Island residents more complete care in their local community,” says [Ephraim Casper, MD](#), Interim Medical Director for Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Regional Care Network. “In addition to surgery, which remains a primary treatment for many cancers, there is often a need for chemotherapy or radiation, follow-up care, and support services – all of which we offer at our Commack facility. Patients are now able to meet with their entire care team – surgeon, medical oncologist, and radiation oncologist – in one visit.”

Drs. Pilewskie and Parra will see patients in both Commack and Manhattan, where all surgeries are performed.

#### **About Melissa Pilewskie, MD**

Dr. Pilewskie is a breast surgeon who performs all aspects of breast cancer surgery, including sentinel lymph node biopsies and nipple-sparing mastectomies.

Her previous research has addressed the impact of MRI on surgical and long-term outcomes in women with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), the effect of margin status on recurrence in triple-negative breast cancers, the patterns of MRI use in elderly breast cancer patients, and the effects of a recent pregnancy on breast cancer subtype. Her current research is focused on the

development and implementation of standardized care plans for women at high risk for breast cancer through the Special Surveillance Breast Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, the goal of which is to have personalized screening protocols for specific high-risk groups, including women with a *BRCA* gene mutation, a strong family history of breast cancer, or a personal history of a high-risk breast lesion.

Dr. Pilewskie received her MD degree from the Ohio State University College of Medicine and completed her surgical residency at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. She has been with Memorial Sloan-Kettering since 2012 when she completed her surgical breast oncology fellowship.

### **About Raul Parra, MD**

Dr. Parra is a surgical oncologist with a particular interest in minimally invasive robotic surgery to treat cancers of the genitourinary system, such as prostate, kidney, bladder, and testicular cancers.

He was a pioneer in developing minimally invasive surgery for urologic cancers, and performed the first laparoscopic removal of bladder cancer in the world. In addition, Dr. Parra offers one of the few dedicated active surveillance clinics in the country, where men with prostate cancer can be followed, counseled, and treated if necessary by a multidisciplinary team of specialized physicians. Since the majority of men currently diagnosed with prostate cancer present with relatively small cancers, many can be watched closely and treated only when the cancer progresses or changes over time. Memorial Sloan-Kettering's experience demonstrates that many men will never need treatment and, for those who do, robotic surgery or other approaches can still be performed safely.

In addition to his appointment at Commack, Dr. Parra sees patients at our facility in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Dr. Parra received his MD degree from the University of Seville, in Spain, and completed residencies at Bronx Lebanon Hospital and St. Louis University Hospital and a

fellowship in urologic oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Center. He has been with Memorial Sloan-Kettering since 2008.

### **About Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Commack**

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Commack provides the same state-of-the-art care that Memorial Sloan-Kettering provides, while minimizing the need to travel to Manhattan. A broad spectrum of services for adults with cancer are offered, including screening, diagnostics, chemotherapy, medical oncology, radiation oncology, and supportive care. For more information or to make an appointment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Commack, please call 631-623-4000 or visit [www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/suburban-outpatient/msk-center-commack](http://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/suburban-outpatient/msk-center-commack).

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