



Whip Pediatric Cancer: Impact Summary

For three decades, MSK Kids, Memorial Sloan Kettering’s pediatric program, has set the pace in all aspects of neuroblastoma research and patient care. Thanks to innovative biomedical research—and the power of philanthropy—more than 50 percent of children treated here now survive, as compared to fewer than five percent in the 1980s.

With the support of Whip Pediatric Cancer, advances made at MSK Kids have led to novel therapies that are powerful tools in the fight against neuroblastoma.

- In August 2018, the antibody therapy humanized 3F8 (Hu3F8)—which was invented and developed at MSK Kids—was granted Breakthrough Therapy Designation by the US Food and Drug Administration. This designation represents the culmination of 20 years of laboratory research, and the successful phase 1 clinical trial led by pediatric oncologist Brian Kushner, MD. 3F8 is an antibody that attaches to neuroblastoma cells and helps focus a child’s infection-fighting white blood cells to attack the diseased ones. Conventional 3F8 is made from mouse cells, but Hu3F8 is “humanized”—meaning it has been made to be more like the human immune system than a mouse’s, therefore causing fewer side effects.
- In 2017, burtomab (8H9)—which was also invented and developed at MSK Kids—received Breakthrough Therapy Designation and is being used in combination with standard therapies to treat neuroblastoma that has spread, or metastasized, to the brain. A variation of the antibody (131I-8H9) has been used by pediatric oncologist Kim Kramer, MD, since the 1990s to treat children whose cancer has spread to the leptomeningeal and central nervous system regions—with a cure rate of nearly 50 percent.

Thank you for your support of Whip Pediatric Cancer and MSK Kids’ neuroblastoma research program. Your generosity has brought us to this point of unprecedented momentum and hope. We promise to continue to push forward toward our shared goal: to provide the very best outcome for every child diagnosed with cancer.