



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

February 29, 2024

Kevin Shine
Swim Across America
165 Weyford Terrace
Garden City, NY 11530-1114

Dear Kevin and Nassau/Suffolk Team:

Thank you for your continued support of our research.

It was truly a pleasure to join the Swim Across America (SAA) beneficiary community last year. Your commitment to the fight against cancer powers advancements here at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and our team is truly motivated by your selfless efforts.

Your funding continues to save lives. SAA has been instrumental in launching groundbreaking, high-risk, high-reward research studies that push the boundaries of conventional approaches. Throughout the years, SAA has not only backed innovative and bold preclinical and translational studies but also provided support for young investigators at the beginning of their careers.

Our clinical trial testing a novel therapeutic combination in people with colorectal cancer (NCT04457284), along with ongoing research, will bring new treatment options to these patients. Our clinical trial involving anti-PD-1 treatment in locally advanced rectal cancer (NCT04165772) has achieved unprecedented success. The initial 14 participants had a 100% response with immunotherapy. We are excited to report that none of them have seen a relapse, and subsequently enrolled participants have also had a complete response. Since then, we have opened the trial for other cancer types. SAA supported the studies that made these trials possible.

Beyond these milestones, we are actively engaged in various studies, such as developing mRNA-based cancer vaccines, enhancing therapeutics' efficacy through engineered protein constructs, and seeking novel cancer detection strategies using target-bound drugs. With your support this year, we will keep making advances in understanding the disease and mechanisms of resistance, and improving therapeutic responses.

Your commitment to help patients propels us, and we are truly grateful for the profound impact you have on MSK's mission of ending cancer for life. We look forward to another great season in 2024. Together we can drive advancements in cancer research — saving lives as we change the face of this disease.

Warm regards,

Luis A. Diaz, M.D.
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NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center