

Information on Dr Barrie Cassileth:

1. We\* established a non-profit Society for Integrative Oncology (SIO) and held its first international conference at the Marriott Marquis on Times Square, New York, in November, 2004. Over 600 oncology professionals from all continents attended. Ray Lowenthal, an Australian oncologist & past president of the Australia Cancer League was one of the speakers. [www.IntegrativeOnc.org](http://www.IntegrativeOnc.org)

\* the "we" are the main cancer centers in the US (MSKCC, MD Anderson, Dana Farber) plus the American Cancer Society, the International Union against Cancer, and many more major cancer organizations internationally. I am SIO founding president & I chaired the 2004 meeting. The SIO goal is to further scientific

2. The terminology used by the SIO and at Sloan-Kettering, and which I have been pushing for global use is as follows: "Alternative" therapies are unproved or questionable or bogus methods of no value that we must warn patients against. "Integrative Oncology" is a synthesis of the best of mainstream cancer care and evidence-backed complementary therapies. "Complementary" therapies are used along with mainstream care to manage symptoms. Herbal and other botanical research is also part of integrative medicine.
3. Herbs are active biological agents; many interact or interfere with prescription medications including chemotherapy. Use of herbs during treatment is prohibited at MSKCC. See my department's web site: [www.mskcc.org/aboutherbs](http://www.mskcc.org/aboutherbs)
4. My Integrative Medicine department is organized like any academic dept., with inpatient & outpatient services, research, education & training, plus our web site. We have many open clinical trials of acupuncture, massage therapy, music therapy, and also 4 herbal agents, for all of which we have FDA approval. Our research is done at the highest scientific levels; as pilot studies and then as randomized, placebo controlled clinical trials. All of our research is conducted in collaboration with senior MSKCC investigators in various departments (Breast, surgical oncology, lung, radiation therapy, etc). It is NOT difficult to apply the same scientific rigour to complementary therapies- that is nonsense. See our many publications in major oncology journals.
5. Finally, re organizing programs in integrative medicine, ours at MSKCC is probably the most fully developed in the world (with clinical services and research and training). Our program was established with a goal of developing a prototypic program that other institutions could learn from and duplicate parts of. We receive many requests from hospitals and

hospital systems to assist them in developing programs in integrative medicine, and we have a consultation service for this purpose. We have assisted people from all over North America and other countries.

Best regards,  
Barrie Cassileth

Barrie R. Cassileth, MS, PhD  
Laurance S. Rockefeller Chair in Integrative Medicine  
Chief, Integrative Medicine Service  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
1275 York Avenue, H13  
New York, NY 10021 USA  
Phone: (212) 639-8629; Fax: (212) 794-5851  
E-mail: [Cassileth@MSKCC.org](mailto:Cassileth@MSKCC.org)