

MSKLife

WINTER 2004/2005

A PUBLICATION FOR THE STAFF OF MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER



Janice M. Levy, Associate Hospital Administrator, manages the patient satisfaction survey at MSKCC. The scores from the survey help the Center to identify its strengths and weaknesses from a patient's perspective. Using the results, the Center can make improvements when necessary.

Performance Measurement: The Patient Satisfaction Survey at MSKCC

eeping tabs on patient satisfaction helps Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to better understand its patients' needs. To do this, the Center uses Press Ganey surveys, a widely-used measure of patient satisfaction, as quarterly report cards to identify the Center's strengths and weaknesses from a patient's perspective. Based on the results, the Center can implement changes when necessary. The survey contains questions about aspects of the patient's experience at the Center such as admissions, rooms, nurses, tests and treatments, physicians, and discharge.

"It is important to always know your customer's perspective. The thousands of patients we have surveyed give us strong data about what we are doing right and what we can improve," said **Janice M. Levy**, Associate Hospital Administrator, who manages the survey at MSKCC. "People are happy to be asked about their experience at MSKCC. The survey is another way to let them know that we care and that we want their feedback."

The surveys are sent out continuously to approximately 2,000 randomly-chosen MSKCC patients, two weeks after discharge for inpatients and two weeks after an appointment for outpatients. The patients answer questions using one of five ratings, from "very poor" to "very good." Very poor is not worth any points, while very good is worth 100 points. Therefore, for a hospital to get a rating in the 90s, it needs to get mostly very good responses (See box on page 2). Overall, MSKCC did well in the last survey.

Some areas, such as the Department of Food and Nutrition Services, have increased their scores dramatically over the years

Continued on page 2



FEATURED INSIDE

3 Work Perks

MSKCC offers many opportunities for staff members to enhance their lives at home and at work, such as discounts on products and services. The Employee Discount Program's Web site (right) explains which discounts are available and how to use them.

2005 CALENDAR

5 Passionate Pursuits

What do you do on your own time? **Rocco Caputo** (left), from the Integrative Medicine Department, climbs the walls during evenings and weekends. See inside to learn more about the innovative ways four MSKCC employees spend their free time.

CELEBRATIONS

4 MSKCC staff reach milestone anniversaries with the Center.



Performance Measurement: The Patient Satisfaction Survey at MSKCC

by monitoring their scores and taking action to improve them when necessary. When the department received their first set of patient satisfaction scores in 2001, they were already thinking about ways to enhance their systems. The survey, however, helped them to pinpoint the areas where they needed improvement. As a result, the Department of Food and Nutrition Services came up with a new form of hospital hospitality that sent—and continues to send—their scores through the roof.

Through the results of the survey, the department realized that they needed to change how and when they delivered food to patients. To make meal times more flexible for patients, they decided to use a hotel room service model, where patients can order by phone from menus with various selections anytime between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. When patients call to order their food, a representative works with them to create appealing meals that fit their dietary needs. Once the order is complete, it is assembled and delivered within 40 minutes. Each floor has a Room Service Associate who delivers the meals and checks to make sure that the patients get everything that they ordered.

Using this model, the department has achieved scores in the 99th percentile for the past seven quarters. However, **Sharon A. Cox**, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, feels that there is always room for improvement. "We are always looking

for ways to kick things up a notch so that we don't just stay where we are," said Ms. Cox. "Looking at the scores quarterly lets us fine-tune specific aspects of the program throughout the year. Also, if any problems come up, we can isolate them quickly."

Understanding the patients' experience at the Center through the survey results helps staff members improve operations, sometimes in unpredicted ways. The members of the Department of Food Services and Nutrition enjoy seeing the progress they are making. "Everyone likes to play on a winning team. The survey results remind the staff that they are the ones achieving these scores," said Ms. Cox. The room service program also had a significant impact on other departments that perform procedures and tests on patients. Now, patients can be scheduled for procedures more easily because their mealtimes are no longer fixed, making their availability for procedures more flexible.

While MSKCC's scores are generally excellent, there is always room for improve-



Sharon A. Cox, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, and her staff members study their scores from the patient satisfaction survey and use the results to enhance their operations. The department improved its scores using a hotel room service model to deliver meals to patients.

ment. Hearing from patients through the survey helps the Center to direct its energies toward areas that could be improved to enhance the patient experience at MSKCC. For more information and quarterly results, go to the MSKCC Intranet's Table of Contents and select "Patient Satisfaction Surveys." •

Patient Satisfaction Survey, Third Quarter 2004												
Distribution of Patient Responses	Number of Patients' Responses (%)											
Survey Questions	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good							
Inpatient Report												
Overall Rating of Care Given	3 (0.2)	9 (1.4)	23 (3.5)	148 (23.1)	458 (71.5)							
Likelihood of Recommending Hospital	9 (1.4)	7 (1.1)	13 (2.0)	114 (17.8)	499 (77.7)							
Outpatient Report												
Overall Rating of Care Services	(0.3)	2 (0.2)	38 (3.7)	256 (25.2)	716 (70.5)							
Likelihood of Recommending Facility	5 (0.5)	9 (0.9)	24 (2.4)	136 (13.6)	829 (82.7)							



Grace Garfinkel, Manager of Patient Escort Service, donates platelets at least three times each year. Ms. Garfinkel started donating platelets with a friend a few years ago because she wanted to find another way that she could help patients directly.

New Math: 3 Platelet Donations = 1 Day Off

hen Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center employees donate platelets three times during 2005, they will be eligible to receive a day off from work. The Blood Donor Program will keep track of the number of times each employee donates platelets. After the third donation, that employee can arrange with his or her supervisor to take an extra day off.

With the new machines in the Blood Donor Room, it is also easier and, in many cases, faster than before, to donate platelets. The new machines require only one arm to withdraw blood, filter out the platelets, and return the rest of the blood to the donor, said **Marion Novack**, Blood Donor Recruitment Program Manager. Donors have the other arm free to leaf through

a magazine, jot down some thoughts, or even scratch an itchy nose during the 70 to 90 minute donation procedure.

Platelet donations are crucial to patients because certain cancer treatments cause a loss of platelets, the specialized blood cells that help control blood clotting. Patients are often given transfusions of platelets to prevent life-threatening hemorrhages. Because platelets can be stored for only five days, there is a constant, urgent need for donors. After giving platelets three times in one year, employees can enjoy their special days off and know that their generosity helped to save lives. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Mary Thomas at extension 122-3335 or visit the Web site at www.mskcc.org/blooddonations. •

Work Perks

emorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center offers many different opportunities for employees to enhance their lives at work and at home. Through the Center's various programs and services, staff members can enjoy a wide range of products and resources at reduced or no cost. Below are just some of the Center's offerings.

Di\$**CC Employee \$

■ Employee Discount Program

With a couple of mouse clicks on the MSKCC Employee Discount Program Web page, you can purchase an iPod from the Apple Store or check out the Center's special rates for rental cars. Through the site's link to SVM and Working Advantage, employees can order discounted tickets to Broadway plays or movies at specific theaters. To learn more about the products and services available to MSKCC employees at reduced rates, go to the Table of Contents on the Intranet and click on "Discounts for Employees." Information about employee discounts is also available in room C178 and in the Employee Relations Department at 633 Third Avenue, Fifth Floor. Call extension 123-3604 for more information.

■ Weight Watchers®

Weight Watchers® provides information, tools, and motivation to help individuals make the decisions about nutrition and exercise for healthy long-term weight management. Weight Watchers® group meetings, which have taken place at MSKCC for 18 years, provide motivation and instruction from knowledgeable leaders. For more information, call extension 122-3920.

■ Employee Assistance **Program Consortium**

The Employee Assistance Program Consortium (EAPC) is a confidential, short-term counseling and referral service that is available free of charge to the employees and dependents of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. For more information, visit EAPC's Web site at www.eapc.us.

Health and Wellness Opportunities Staff and families who are traveling abroad may receive necessary vaccinations and malaria tablets on Tuesday afternoons by appointment at MSKCC's Travel Clinic. For more information about costs or to make an appointment, call extension 122-2710. Periodic, free annual screenings for skin, breast, prostate, and head and neck cancers are also available. Schedules and instructions for participating are advertised in the Center Bulletin. Other free services include the CancerSmart lectures (extension 123-3074), smoking cessation workshops (extension 122-3920), and information at MSKCC's Annual Employee Health Fair.

■ Integrative Medicine Programs and Classes

Among the Center's discounted offerings that address the mind, body, and spirit are massage therapies, meditation, and acupuncture. There are also movement classes such as yoga, Pilates, and aerobics to alleviate stress or pain and promote overall well-being. For more information and rates, call extension 122-4700, or go to the Table of Contents on the Intranet and click on "Discounts for Employees." Then, select "Health and Fitness."

The Patient Library

Employees may borrow books from MSKCC's patient library, located at the main campus in the Adult Recreation Pavilion, M15. The library has 12,000 volumes, including fiction, non-fiction, mysteries, biographies and most of The New York Times bestsellers. In addition, it has a great selection of current magazines, including European editions. Using an employee I.D. and extension or beeper number, books may be borrowed for two weeks and magazines for three days. For more information, call extension 122-7579. ◆

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

MSKCC'S **SECOND CLIMATE SURVEY**

SKCC will be conducting its second Center-wide Employee Climate Survey from January 6th to January 21st. The Employee Climate Survey is part of the ongoing effort to identify the ideas and opinions of all employees, and work together to improve MSKCC.

Many actions were taken based on the 2002 employee survey results that addressed Center-wide and departmental concerns. Among the Center-wide changes were an updated attendance policy, reinstitution of the Perfect Attendance Club rewards, and modifications in staffing, training, and quality monitoring to improve the cleanliness of our environment. Individual departments have addressed unique issues in several ways including providing targeted communications, offering flexible work schedules, changing reporting relationships, and initiating employee recognition programs.

All MSKCC employees will be invited to participate in the 2005 confidential electronic survey on January 6th. The results of the survey will be reported to managers who will conduct feedback sessions with staff and develop action plans. For more information, contact Stella Lee at lees@mskcc.org or 123-3008 or Rony Rinat at rinatr@mskcc.org or 123-3660 in the Training and Development Department. •

MSKLife

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

1275 York Avenue

New York, New York 10021

Editor: Heather Andrews E-mail: MSKLife@mskcc.org © 2005 Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



2005 Holiday Schedule

Legal Holidays/Premium Pay:

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H1 - New Year's Day, Jan 1

H4 - Memorial Day, May 30

H5 - Independence Day, July 4

H6 - Labor Day, Sept 5

H8 - Thanksgiving Day, Nov 24

H9 - Christmas Day, Dec 25

Floating Holidays:

H2 - Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Jan 17 H3 - Presidents' Day, Feb 21

H7 - Columbus Day, Oct 10

Personal Holidays:

P1 - Saturday, Jan 1

P2 - Friday, July 1

P3 - Employee's Birthday

Use of Holidays:

Because of institutional needs, some departments may remain open during a legal holiday. Therefore, the holiday time off for some employees will not coincide with the date on which the Center observes the holiday.



Passionate Pursuits

veryone likes to unwind after a day at work. Some people like to watch television or read to relax. Others prefer to knit or play cards. The four Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center employees pictured here spend their time outside of their roles at the Center in activities such as climbing boulders, jumping from planes, managing a 32-room inn, or creating powerful images with words. They reflect the many talents that MSKCC staff members possess.

Pay Dates in Blue

					Pay Dates in	Blue
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Start Pay Peri	27	28	29	30	31	1 H1 - New Year's Da
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Start Pay Peri	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 H2 - Martin Lu King Jr.'s Birth		19	20	21	22
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20 Start Pay Peri	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



1. Rocco Caputo, a Massage Therapist in the Integrative Medicine Department, takes hanging out with his sister literally. When the siblings aren't climbing rocks outdoors, you can find them practicing their skills in rock gyms in Manhattan. In addition, Mr. Caputo has found a variety of other ways to experience the world from above, including swinging on the trapeze, hang gliding, and flying glider planes.



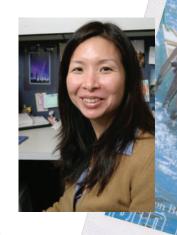
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							Pay Dates in Blue			
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National Library Week	7 1		,	_		_	1	2		
April 10 - 16 Medical	P	3 Start Pay Period 8	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Laboratory Week April 24 - 30	4	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
Administrative		17 Start Pay Period 9	18	19	20	21	22	23		
Professionals Day April 27		24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Oncology Nursing	>	1 Start Pay Period 10	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Month May	MAY	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
		15 Start Pay Period 11	16	17	18	19	20	21		
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
		29 Start Pay Period 12	30 H4 - Memorial Day	31						
Volunteer Week	ш				1	2	3	4		
June 5 - 11	JUNE	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
		12 Start Pay Period 13	13	14	15	16	17	18		
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
		26 Start Pay Period 14	27	28	29	30				



2. Every weekend, Patricia Soto, Administrator for Radiology, heads up to Lenox, Massachusetts, where she and her husband run The Village Inn, a 32-room inn furnished with country antiques. Ms. Soto uses many of the same skills that she uses in her role at MSKCC to run the inn, such as managing a staff and taking care of financial matters. In addition, she feeds her love of cooking by assisting the Inn's chef in making his regional American specialties.

3. Whether she is home or on vacation, Esther Choy, Quality Assessment Research Analyst in the Quality Assessment Program, likes to participate in unique sports. When she's home, she races dragons boats shaped like dragons in a sport that originates from a 2000-year-old Asian legend. Ms. Choy's all-female dragon boat racing team consists of paddlers, with a drummer in the front and a steersman in the back of their 39-foot boat. She has also gone sky diving in New Jersey and she bungee jumped off a cliff in New Zealand.



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						Pay Dates in Blue	
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Healthcare Housekeepers Week

September 11 - 17

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4. People express themselves in many different ways. Sylvia Stewart, Cancer Registrar in the Cancer Data Base Department, found her outlet in poetry and song writing. Ms. Stewart always keeps a pen and paper handy because she never knows when an idea for a song or poem will strike. People around the world can now enjoy her poems because she had two poems published in The International Library of Poetry last summer.





Saturday

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H8 - Thanksgiving Day

Healthcare Food
Services Week
October 2 - 8

Pastoral Care Week

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NOVEMB

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Start Pay Period 25

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October 23 - 29

Respiratory Care Week

October 23 - 29

Patient Transport Week

November 6 - 12

Radiologic Technology Week

November 7 - 11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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9	10 H7 - Columbus	11 Day	12	13	14
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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2005 Holiday Schedule

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H9 - Christmas Day, Dec 25

H2 - Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Jan 17 H3 - Presidents' Day, Feb 21 H7 - Columbus Day, Oct 10

P1 - Saturday, Jan 1

P2 - Friday, July 1 P3 - Employee's Birthday

Use of Holidays: Because of institutional needs, some departments may remain open during a legal holiday. Therefore, the holiday time off for some employees will not coincide with the date on which

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Memorial Sloan-Kettering

Cancer Center

Passionate Pursuits

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Library Week April 10 - 16

Medical Laboratory Week April 24 - 30

April 27

Week

June 5 - 11

Administrative **Professionals**

Therapist in the Integrative Medicine Department, takes hanging out with his sister literally. When the siblings aren't climbing rocks outdoors, you can find them practicing their skills in rock gyms in Manhattan. In addition, Mr. Caputo has found a variety of other ways to experience the world from above, including swinging on the trapeze, hang gliding, and flying glider planes.



Pay Dates in Blue

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Pay Dates in Blue



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Pay Dates in B

					Pay Dates in B	Blue								Pay Dates in Blu	ie .	Phil								Pay Dates in BI	lue
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17 Start Pay Period	18	19	20	21	22	23			17	18	19	20	21	22	23		Respiratory Care Week October 23 - 29	0	16 Start Pay Period 2	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		1	24 Start Pay Period	25	26	27	28	29	30				23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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i			1	2	3	4	Healthcare Housekeepers	Œ					1	2	3			~					1	2	3
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25		ПР	18 Start Pay Period	19	20	21	22	23	24			DECEN	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26 Start Pay Period	27	28	29	30				10	25	26	27	28	29	30					25 H9 - Christmas Da	26 y Christmas Day Holiday Obeserv	27 ed	28	29	30	31

MSKAnniversaries

Congratulations to MSKCC staff members who, during October, November and December, reached milestone anniversaries with the Center.

5 YEARS

Carmen Acevedo Bwochmatti Ali Frank Arce Elvira P. Atienza Matthew Ball Karen A. Bauer Elizabeth Beasley Donna Belmonte Tatiana A. Beresten Karen Biel Cherise D. Booker Robert L. Bovino Mary S. Brish Esther M. Carver Kamen Chou Ianev Chu John Como Cathleen A. Cooper Tuenchai V. Cory Paul H. Dalecki Katharine H. deBeer Catherine T. Deenihan Angel R. Deras Ellen Dermody Marilyn Diaz Nidia Diaz Miriam Favad Natalie Fuks Jeanette Gaughan Jeffrey A. Geist Anthony S. Giammanco Pamela K. Ginex Joni Ann Gomes Jane Gooen Karen Griese Darvl L. Grimes Ceceile F. Hall Gysette E. Hardy Melanie B. Harrow Ianet F. Haves Patricia M. Hendel Winston J. Hew Hedvig Hricak Gregory N. Huebscher Rosandro C. Irlanda Luz M. Isaza

Dominique S. Jean-Charles Gloria Juan Judy M. Kane Karlene P. Kelly Julia V. Koenigsamen Yuderca Lopez Wei S. Lui Amanda H. Ly Lilieth Lyons Mikhail Lyublinsky Ali J. Manjarres Octavio F. Maragni Yvonne Matos Aaron T. McCoy William McGee Tammy M. McGuire Kara F. McKenna Celia C. Mills Elizabeth Moore Ann Marie Mulligan Elsa Myers Tomoyo Okada Narciso Olvera Stacy Aubrey O'Neill Sang Hyun Jonathan Park Noelle M. Paul Karen Pauliny Janice M. Robinson . Marta Sanchez-Carbayo Martin Douglas J. Sandy Larvn M. Schimpf Raffaella Schiro Ann B. Schwartz Cathy L. Sender Hylton G. Senior Carla E. Stewart Elizabeth A. Stier Eileen M. Sullivan Inger Tappin Carlene Taylor Dahlia C. Taylor Julia L. Truesdale Anthony Turner

Tracie Tymon

Lai Wai

Edwin Vazquez

Andrew J. Vickers

Celia Weill
Aimee Beth White
Dale E. Whitehurst
Catherine J. Wickersham
Avernelle A. M. Williams
Harris
Evette E. Willis
Annie Suk-Man Wong
Vermone Wong
Fengxin Wu
Cindy J. Yee
Chi Kong Yu
Ping Zhou

10 YEARS

Patrick J. Anderson III Ellen Bonfiglio Valerie G. Brown Michelle De La Rosa John Vito K. Deluca Randolph Eagle Keith B. Edwards Marian S. Georgiev James E. Gettings Christine Hickey Christopher L. Horan Raymond M. Johnson Camille A. Knight Donald P. Krinner Marjorie A. Lang Claudette Y. Medley Khedoudja Nafa Peter J. Oreckinto Letizia Longo Pandolfi de Rinaldis Pier Paolo Pandolfi de Rinaldis Somwar Pooran Nestor S. Rosales Ping Z. Song Evangelos Stamelos Nathalee T. Taylor Bonita V. Van-Tull Grace F. Yee

15 YEARS

Yvette Bailey-Bristo Joseph J. Battipaglia

Audlyn V. Belfon Paul A. Bramwell Elizabeth Charytonowicz Zoraida Cruz Ireneo G. Dedote John A. Duncan Erwin A. Evelyne Lynette Ferrier Zephyr Ralph Garcia Robert C. Garcia Gloria Greenidge Anthony D. Hagan Gloria Hinds Iune C. Hunter Mark G. Klang Eleni Lafazanidis Pansy V. Lewis Mariano Maldonado Catherine A. O'Flaherty Angela Parris Jose A. Perez Zenovia Piper Michael Piscitelli Jagdeo Ramnarine Nyran Razack Ellen M. Rice Rony I. Rinat Nancy Roistacher Patricia A. Seigler Ralston C. Thomas Guadalupe P. Warren Patrick Wellington Joselito Yapchulay Nora S. Zmuidins

20 YEARS

Bradley Beattie
Bobbie J. Carter
Golovinsky Collo
Victor Crozzoli
Erliston Cumberbatch
Suvas Desai
Hindy E. Goldhammer
Adriana HaimovitzFriedman
Nicola E. Hamilton
Sharron J. Hastings

Pyrrha Lopez Evan Marks Theresa McAllister Belia Morales Henry A. Panton Michael E. Powers Patricia Schaindlin

25 YEARS

Sorita Alvarez Annette Bruno Patrick J. Cronin David Flores Avis Francis Annette F. Henry Anthony Moye Yvonne Murray Paul Nelson Marjorie P. Pagon Maria C. Rodriguez Leona F. Sellitri Bogdan Wysocki

30 YEARS

Nancy S. Chein Elizabeth Dean Joan B. Eckman Allan M. Fenton Victoria Frohnhoefer Norma Graham Hovanes Kalaigian Timothy E. Kiehn Claudia Little Lucia Luna Mary Mitchell Nina J. Pickett Ulysses Rivers Elizabeth A. Russell Donna L. Sbriglia Mary Agnes Templeton Howard T. Thaler Michele A. Wolfin Enid Lynne Zuckerman

35 YEARS

Jean Gretton Mary T. Hanna



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