



NEWS RELEASE

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**KANSAS CITY CANCER CENTER UNVEILS RESEARCH RESULTS
AT 2009 ONCOLOGY CONFERENCE**
Genetic Cancer Risk and Evaluation the Focus of KCCC Abstract

KANSAS CITY – Kansas City Cancer Center (KCCC) unveiled the results of a new study at the 2009 American Society of Clinical Oncologists (ASCO) Conference in Orlando, May 29th - June 2nd. The study examines the role of the community-based oncologist in determining a patient's genetic cancer risk factors and prevention. KCCC oncologists Larry Geier, M.D., Maureen Sheehan, M.D., Manana Elia, M.D., and Sukumar Ethiraiyan, M.D. presented the results in an abstract entitled, *The Oncologist as Genetic Consultant: Two-year Results in a Large Community-based Practice*.

The new KCCC research provides unique insight into the role of the community-based oncologist in helping patients proactively identify cancer that's likely to occur or recur based on the patient's history and background. According to Geier, who, with his colleagues, has earned national recognition for their work in cancer risk management, this new role is changing cancer care in communities across the country. For KCCC, this new focus was the impetus for its own groundbreaking, new program, GREAT (Genetic Risk Evaluation and Testing).

"We don't just manage the cancer, we manage the risk," says Geier, who chaired a session on genetics in the community cancer care setting during the ASCO conference as well. "It's a strategic approach to cancer care before, during and after diagnosis."

KCCC's GREAT program begins with a genetic consultation, cancer risk assessment, testing and results analysis. It's a significant tool in the prevention and treatment of this disease. The primary focus of KCCC's GREAT program is to identify the "red flags" associated with Hereditary Breast/Ovarian Cancer Syndrome and Lynch Syndrome. Both have key markers that characterize these syndromes.

The success of KCCC's genetics consultation and testing is recorded in the ASCO abstract. Specifically, Geier and his colleagues discuss the methodology of providing genetic cancer risk assessment to patients at four KCCC locations. In each location, a designated oncologist was responsible for gaining expertise in the common hereditary syndromes and appropriate interpretation of gene testing results prior to beginning genetic assessments.

After two years, 490 patients had gone through gene testing after having received a genetic cancer risk assessment, and 85 were found to carry deleterious mutations. Geier and colleagues concluded this oncologist-centered model proved to be very effective in identifying mutation carriers, particularly among cancer survivors in whom the hereditary syndrome had been previously overlooked.

Today, KCCC works with patients at each of its locations to conduct genetic cancer risk assessment and leverage the results to affect prevention and treatment.

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About Kansas City Cancer Center

Kansas City Cancer Center is a full service cancer healthcare practice, with nine offices throughout the region. KCCC provides a wide range of patient support, from oncology treatment to imaging and counseling. Its patient-driven mission is to equip individuals and their families with everything they need to battle the disease, manage their care and navigate the insurance issues of a cancer diagnosis – all from a close-to-home environment. KCCC is an affiliate of US Oncology, a four-time winner of *FORTUNE* Magazine's Most Admired Companies ranking, and one of only a few private companies to receive this award. For more information about KCCC, visit www.KCCancerCenter.com.