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****Editor Note: Video and photos available for download at: <http://bit.ly/1qHavXa>****

Ohio State Opens First Fully Integrated Cancer Emergency Department

Innovative service part of new 21-floor, 1.1 million square foot freestanding cancer hospital opening in December

COLUMBUS, Ohio – For cancer patients with already compromised immune systems, what seems like a minor medical issue -- fever, dehydration, viral infection – can rapidly escalate into an emergency situation requiring care from a medical team familiar with managing the side effects of cancer treatment.

“Cancer patients develop a number of conditions that we want to be very well prepared for – to stabilize them, to receive them in the hospital. We want to know about them in advance so we can give them the absolute best care – and fast,” says [Thomas Terndrup, MD](#), chair of the [Department of Emergency Medicine](#) at [The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center](#).

Because the needs of cancer patients are often so complex, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) and Wexner Medical Center Emergency Department, have worked in close partnership to develop a clinical care model that combines the expertise of emergency medicine physicians and sub-specialized oncologists working together in a cancer-specific emergency department to manage the emergency care needs of oncology patients.

“We’ve assembled a truly unique team that works together—both on stage and off stage -- to establish protocols for delivering cancer-specific emergency care most effectively and in a way that allows us to clearly communicate that to the patient and their caregivers throughout the treatment process to reduce anxiety and stress in an already stressful situation,” Terndrup said.

The oncology team, for example, will communicate with the cancer emergency treatment team in advance of the patient’s arrival in the James Emergency Department via the medical center’s electronic health record system. This ensures the staff on-site triaging the emergent patient understand the patient’s complete history and influencing factors before they arrive.

Clinical care guidelines have also been developed through a collaboration of oncologists at the OSUCCC - James and Wexner Medical Center emergency medicine physicians to guide emergent situations that occur in the cancer patient population – for example, severe dehydration, fever or high calcium levels – so that both teams involved in the patient’s emergency care are following best-in-practice protocols to address that patient’s unique needs.

This unit—which includes 15 treatment stations—was designed specifically to address the unique needs of cancer patients and their family members.

“Emergency departments can be noisy and chaotic at times. The cancer treatment areas at the OSUCCC - James have been designed to reduce that intensity for cancer patients by offering enhanced privacy – including private bathrooms, natural light and quiet space for family-physician conversations,” Terndrup said. “Private treatment rooms also allow us to isolate cancer patients in a negative air flow space. This was done to reduce exposure to infectious diseases in a population that is often at higher risk due to the nature of their disease and treatment.”

Staffed by a core team of emergency medicine physicians, oncologists and a highly experienced nursing team, the OSUCCC - James cancer emergency department will expedite after-hours care for cancer patients, provide management of pre-existing medical conditions that can be complicated by cancer treatment (i.e. COPD, heart disease, diabetes); and seek to reduce in-patient admissions.

In December 2014, [The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute](#) will open the doors of a new 1.1 million square foot, 21-floor freestanding cancer hospital – making Columbus, Ohio, home to the third largest cancer hospital in the United States.

The facility – which integrates a robust clinical research enterprise and highly subspecialized care model into one building – promises to deliver the most advanced genomic-driven care options while also accelerating the pace of research discoveries by integrating translational research labs on the same floors where patient care takes place.

“Every aspect of our new hospital was designed to address the specific needs of each cancer patient who comes into our care,” says [Michael Caligiuri](#), MD, director of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and chief executive officer of the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

“Sub-specialization is built into the hospital, floor by floor, and integrates evidence-based care and genomics to allow for true customization of care for each patient. It also facilitates an unprecedented level of collaboration between the oncologists and scientists who work every day to achieve a cancer-free world in Ohio State’s clinics and labs.”

Community Open House Nov. 9

Members of the community are invited to be among the first to view the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, Sunday, Nov. 9, 2014, from 1- 4 p.m. by attending an open house. Complimentary parking is available. The new hospital is located at 460 W. 10th Ave.

To learn more about the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, visit cancer.osu.edu. To inquire about patient care programs or clinical trials, call The James Line at 1-800-293-5066.

About The OSUCCC – James

[The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute](#) strives to create a cancer-free world by integrating scientific research with excellence in education and patient-centered care, a strategy that leads to better methods of prevention, detection and treatment. Ohio State is one of only 41 [National Cancer Institute](#) (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers and one of only four centers funded by the NCI to conduct both phase I and phase II clinical trials. The NCI recently rated Ohio State's cancer program as "exceptional," the highest rating given by NCI survey teams. As the cancer program's 228-bed adult patient-care component, The James is a "Top Hospital" as named by the Leapfrog Group and one of the top cancer hospitals in the nation as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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