



NEWS RELEASE

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SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine Benefiting from New American Cancer Society Patient Resource Center

*Patients and caregivers can get free services
to navigate and assist with their cancer care*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – February 17, 2009 – Springfield-area cancer patients and their caregivers seeking help can benefit greatly from a new American Cancer Society Patient Resource Center that is now part of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute (SCCI) at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield.

This resource center, made possible by a gift from AstraZeneca, directly connects cancer patients to a clinically trained American Cancer Society staff person – known as a patient navigator – who serves as a personal guide by providing individual assistance, resources, services and support to address the day-to-day challenges of fighting cancer. The service is free and confidential, and places an emphasis on helping patients get well by overcoming barriers to quality care, whether logistical, emotional or financial.

“A cancer diagnosis can be a life-changing experience for patients, their families and their caregivers,” said Dr. John Godwin, SIU’s chief of hematology/oncology and associate director for clinical services for SCCI. “Our American Cancer Society patient navigator is able to provide support every step of the way, from explaining what to expect with chemotherapy, to arranging transportation to care and providing information on the latest clinical trials. Fighting cancer is a difficult journey; but with the help of our trained patient navigators, patients don’t have to go through it alone.”

The Society forecasts that about 61,700 Illinoisans – or about 170 people on any given day – will be diagnosed with cancer in 2009. Through facility collaborations with more than 50 Illinois hospitals, as well as the American Cancer Society’s telephone call center (1-800-ACS-2345) with readily available Cancer Information Specialists, people fighting cancer can get unparalleled access to

information and services that complement what their doctors and hospitals provide. In the next year, the Society hopes to assist 27,000 more people throughout the state.

“While we provide sophisticated multidisciplinary cancer care here at SIU with nearly three dozen physician specialists working as part of nine cancer care teams, we know having resources like this provide an extra level of care for our patients,” explains Dr. K. Thomas Robbins, director of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute in Springfield. “Though we are still waiting to move into our new facility in Springfield, we have grown to 1,200 patient visits a month. So the ACS patient navigator already has proven invaluable to us and the patients who come to us from around the region.”

Approximately 16,217 individuals will be diagnosed and another 5,295 people will die from the disease in the Springfield or Western region, which encompasses 16 counties. In Sangamon County, the incidence rate for colorectal, lung and bronchus, female breast and prostate cancers is above the state average. The area accounts for 5.4 percent of the state’s cancer burden.

The new American Cancer Society Patient Resource Center at the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute is made possible by a gift from AstraZeneca, thanks to a \$10 million pledge to the Society to accelerate development of at least 50 new Patient Navigator Program sites in communities throughout the United States by 2011.

“AstraZeneca is thrilled to be the first company to give nationwide, large-scale support to the American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program,” said Lisa Schoenberg, Vice President of Specialty Care, AstraZeneca LP. “This program site at the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine is a testament to our commitment to provide cancer patients with the access to the medicines and care they need to live longer, healthier lives. We are proud to support the American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program in its mission to improve patient outcomes, not only in Illinois, but in communities throughout the country.”

About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. The Illinois Division has more than 120,000 volunteers and staff fighting cancer in the state. For the most up-to-date cancer related information and to join the fight against cancer, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

About SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine

The SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU is focusing the medical school’s efforts in cancer research, physician and public education, and treatment for patients from across central and southern

Illinois. Its new three-story building, dedicated in July, will consolidate SIU's multi-disciplinary cancer clinics along with research and outreach service programs when it opens, pending release of operational funds from the State of Illinois. The Institute's Web site is www.siumed.edu/cancer and its phone number is 217-545-6000.

About AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in the research, development, manufacturing and marketing of meaningful prescription medicines and supplier for healthcare services. AstraZeneca is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with healthcare sales of \$29.55 billion and is a leader in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory, oncology and infectious disease medicines. In the United States, AstraZeneca is a \$13.35 billion dollar healthcare business with 12,200 employees committed to improving people's lives. AstraZeneca is listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Global) as well as the FTSE4Good Index. For more information visit www.astrazeneca-us.com.

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