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NEWS RELEASE

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Grand Valley Oncology Announces Clinical Trials Open to Patients

Mesa County, Colo.--- Grand Valley Oncology with the support of Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah will offer a range of clinical trials for their patients. Physicians at Grand Junction Oncology will work closely with their counterparts at HCI to identify opportunities for patients in western Colorado to participate in clinical trials.

“All cancer treatments in place today began as a clinical trial,” said Sudy Jahangiri, MD, medical oncologist at Grand Valley Oncology. “Bringing these clinical trials to our region, means identifying better ways to treat cancer, to detect cancers earlier when they are easiest to treat, and wherever possible, to prevent cancers outright,” added Dr. Jahangiri.

The trials to be offered at Grand Valley Oncology are the trials available through HCI’s role in the National Cancer Institute National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN). This is part of the National Cancer Institute’s efforts to promote clinical cancer research to improve cancer care and cancer prevention strategies. The NCTN helps to both promote clinical trials in both academic institutions as well as the community, and also helps train the next generation of clinical researchers to conduct trials.

“This is possible because Grand Valley Oncology meets the high clinical care standards required for conducting these trials,” said Theresa Werner, MD, medical director of HCI’s Clinical Trials Office and assistant professor of medicine at the University of Utah. “This type of collaboration brings HCI’s robust infrastructure and expertise in clinical trials to hundreds of new cancer patients. We look forward to working closely with the Grand Valley Oncology physicians.”

In just over two years, Community Hospital’s oncology program has become a highly sought after, full-service cancer center, attracting patients from all over the region. Grand Valley Oncology employs the most tenured oncology physicians on the Western Slope with over 85 years combined experience. Community Hospital and Huntsman Cancer Institute are focused on bringing hope in the fight against cancer.

HCI is one of only 30 institutions in the nation that serves as a National Lead Academic Partnering Site (NLAPS) within the NCTN. To receive this designation, HCI had to demonstrate its ability to enroll patients on trials as well as its scientific leadership in the design and conduct of trials. This has included the only Phase I (first in human) clinical research program between Denver and Sacramento. HCI enrolls approximately 14% of patients annually on clinical trials, compared to an average of about 2-4% at hospitals nationwide.

To learn more about the medical and radiation oncology services offered through Community Hospital’s Grand Valley Oncology, please call 970-254-3180 or visit www.grandvalleyoncology.com.

To learn more about Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, please visit www.huntsmancancer.org.

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