



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 7, 2009**

### **Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center Receives Grant for Radiation Clinical Trials**

(Washington, NC) – The Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center is one of only three community oncology practices in the country to receive a grant from ASCO, the American Society of Clinical Oncology and The ASCO Cancer Foundation. The grant supports efforts to improve care of people with cancer through participation in clinical trials by enhancing their clinical trials programs. ASCO’s 2009 Community Oncology Research Grant was presented to Dr. Jennie Crews, Medical Director of the Center on, May 31, 2009 at ASCO’s 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Orlando.

“Our goal at the Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center is to provide our patients with the best care available,” said Crews. “In 2008, 27 of our patients participated in cancer clinical trials, giving them the opportunity to participate in cutting edge treatments. We are honored to have been chosen for this award and grateful for the opportunity it provides us to offer more clinical trials to our patients.”

Of the 1.3 million people who will be diagnosed with cancer this year, only 3 to 5 percent will participate in cancer clinical trials. In 2008, the Center enrolled 10% of new patients onto clinical trials, surpassing the national average. The Shepard Cancer Center currently has 18 ongoing clinical trials in four different cancer types, including breast, lung, prostate, and colon.

“ASCO is pleased to reward the Community Oncology Research Grant to the Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center for striving to give their patients the most state-of-the-art medical care and improving the way that cancer is treated and prevented through the enhancement of their research program,” said Joseph S. Bailes, MD, chair of The ASCO Cancer Foundation Board of Directors.

Clinical trials are research studies designed to evaluate whether a new treatment or procedure is safe and effective compared to the current standard of care. Thanks in large part to the knowledge gained through clinical trials, today two-thirds of cancer patients survive at least five years after diagnosis, compared with half in the 1970s.

The Community Oncology Research Grants, which are supported by The Astellas USA Foundation, are designed to help practicing oncologists enhance their trials program, based on the standards highlighted in the [ASCO Statement on Minimum Standards and Exemplary Attributes of Clinical Trial Sites](#). Each of this year’s three award-winning practices will receive a one-year grant of \$30,000. The Shepard Cancer Center will use the grant money to fund the credentialing and certification process that will allow them to offer radiation clinical trials to their patients.

In addition to providing patients access to clinical trials, the Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center offers treatment and care for both the physical and emotional symptoms of cancer. We provide chemotherapy and radiation treatment, transfusions, nutrition counseling, complementary therapies as well as access to support groups and educational opportunities. Our dedicated team of physicians and professional staff provide high-quality, comprehensive cancer treatment in our state-of-the-art cancer center. At the Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center we treat you, not just your cancer.

For more information on participating in a clinical trial at the Shepard Cancer Center, please contact Sharon Bell at 252-975-4308.

#### **About the Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center**

The Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center, a division of Beaufort Regional Health System, provides medical services in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and blood disorders. This state-of-the-art cancer center provides high-quality, comprehensive cancer treatment along with compassionate care to the residents of Beaufort and surrounding counties.

#### **About The ASCO Cancer Foundation**

As the charitable arm of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), The ASCO Cancer Foundation funds research, education and cancer care programs both in the United States and abroad. By harnessing the knowledge of the ASCO’s 27,000 oncology professionals, we help deliver physician-approved information directly to those in need. Through these efforts, we improve the lives of those affected by cancer.

#### **About ASCO**

ASCO is the world’s leading professional organizations representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With more than 27,000 members, ASCO is committed to improving cancer care through scientific meetings, educational programs and peer-reviewed journals. For ASCO information resources, visit [www.asco.org/presscenter](http://www.asco.org/presscenter). Patient-oriented cancer information is available at [www.cancer.net](http://www.cancer.net).

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