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Kennewick-Based Oncology Practice Joins Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Network

SEATTLE – Columbia Basin Hematology Oncology, a medical practice specializing in cancer and blood diseases based in the Tri Cities, has joined the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Network. The network provides a structured program for supporting community-based oncology services such as continuing medical education, access to clinical trials for local patients through qualified community researchers and patient management collaboration.

Access to clinical trials of the latest cancer therapies is a key reason CBHO chose to affiliate with SCCA, according to Thomas Rado, M.D., Ph.D., leader of the five-physician private practice.

“Our vision is to provide evidence-based care when evidence exists, and to make clinical trials available to patients who might benefit from them,” Rado said. “We see our affiliation with SCCA as one of the best ways for our patients to have access to the latest clinical trials of promising new therapies.”

Rado said that for Tri-Cities patients, the affiliation with SCCA will also assure them that they and their doctors have a direct link to some of the most highly respected cancer clinicians in the country.

CBHO sees patients from southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. Established in 1998, its providers had about 15,000 patient visits in 2010. In addition to five physicians, the group includes four nurse practitioners who are all oncology certified and four staff dedicated to research protocols, among other staff members.

“Seattle Cancer Care Alliance’s affiliation with community-based oncology programs recognizes the value in developing partnerships with local physicians to ultimately benefit

patient care,” said Benjamin Greer, M.D., the network’s medical director who leads the gynecological oncology program at the SCCA. “Part of the SCCA’s mission is to enhance the standard of cancer care regionally and beyond, and we are working to do this efficiently through the SCCA network of affiliates.”

The other members of the SCCA Network are Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, Bozeman, Mont.; Cascade Cancer Center, Kirkland, Wash.; Clinic Cancer Care, Great Falls, Mont.; Group Health Medical Centers, Seattle; Multicare Regional Cancer Center, Tacoma, Wash.; Olympic Medical Center, Port Angeles, Wash.; Overlake Hospital Medical Center, Bellevue, Wash.; Providence Alaska Medical Center, Anchorage, Alaska; Skagit Valley Hospital, Mount Vernon, Wash.; and Wenatchee Valley Medical Center, Wenatchee, Wash.

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About Seattle Cancer Care Alliance –Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) is a cancer treatment center that unites doctors from Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, UW Medicine and Seattle Children’s. Our goal, every day, is to turn cancer patients into cancer survivors. Our purpose is to lead the world in the prevention and treatment of cancer. SCCA has three clinical care sites: an outpatient clinic on the Hutchinson Center campus, a pediatric inpatient unit at Seattle Children’s, and an adult inpatient unit at UW Medical Center. For more information about SCCA, visit www.seattlecca.org.

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