

Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center

News Release

225 Williamson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07207

Contact: Ron Sohn

(908) 994-8706

Doug Harris

(908) 994-5138

For Immediate Release

Trinitas Cancer Nurses Achieve National Recognition *Make Multiple Presentations at Congress of the Oncology Nursing Society*



Elizabeth, New Jersey – May 29, 2008 – Trinitas Cancer Nursing experts gave multiple presentations at the 33rd Annual Congress of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), the nation’s premier cancer nursing conference, recently held in Philadelphia. Included was a poster discussion on improving patient adherence to clinical protocols, a poster on an innovative interdisciplinary program to relieve patient fatigue, a presentation on achieving high rates of oncology nursing certification, and an abstract on enhancing programs related to National Cancer Survivors Day. The Trinitas Cancer Nurses achieved national recognition among their peers by sharing their best practices for outstanding patient care at Trinitas. The 33rd Annual ONS Congress was attended by 6,200 cancer nurses from hospitals and cancer centers throughout the country.

Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of Trinitas Hospital, stated, “Having four Best Practices presented at the premier national oncology nursing conference is a proud achievement for Trinitas. I am gratified that our outstanding nurses

continue to receive well-deserved recognition not only for their dedication to continuously improving patient care but also for their commitment to share their professional expertise with the entire nursing profession.”

A Team Approach toward Promoting Patient Adherence to Oral Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Protocols, presented and authored by Mrs. Carol S. Blecher, RN, MS, AOCN, APN,C, Advanced Nurse Practitioner at Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center as well as Jeanette Barefoot, RN, MSSL, OCN; Diane Davis, BSN, OCN; Juanita Fryar, RN, BSN, OCN; and Julio Fumoso, BS, RPh, offered details on a program designed for physicians, nursing and pharmacy professionals to partner in providing safe and effective management of oral anti-cancer regimens. The poster noted that with the increased use of these regimens, multiple risks and challenges have been identified throughout the country. The poster demonstrated the effectiveness of checks and balances instituted at Trinitas that maximize patient safety and treatment effectiveness.

The Development of an Interdisciplinary Exercise Program for Patients Reporting Fatigue Related to Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy, presented and authored by Jeanette Barefoot and Mrs. Blecher, as well as by James Dunleavy, PT, MS; and Donna Filocamo, LCSW, ACSW, described an interdisciplinary program involving Oncology and Rehabilitative Medicine designed to increase awareness of patient fatigue and to help patients overcome it. Fatigue sometimes causes deleterious effects on the quality of life affecting a patient’s well-being, emotional state, and ability to cope. The team of clinical experts at Trinitas offer a systematic and effective means of screening patients for fatigue and evidence-based interventions to improve the lives of those patients.

Mrs. Blecher delivered the third presentation, *Planting the Seed and Growing OCN Certified Staff*. The presentation focused on teaching participants to evaluate methods for staff certification, analyze motivational factors influencing the desire to seek certification, and generate a staff education strategy leading to certification.

A podium abstract entitled *Child’s Play: Two Innovative Survivor’s Day Programs*, delivered by Gabriela Kaplan, RN, MSN, AOCN, Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist at Trinitas Hospital, explained the functions of the National Cancer Survivor’s Day Foundation and further described the Healing Hearts artwork created in 2006, and the Scrapbook for Hope developed earlier this year. Ms. Kaplan concluded her presentation by asserting that “Our patients and their families are survivors from the first day of diagnosis.”

“I am gratified that Trinitas Cancer Nurses were selected to share their expertise at the largest and most important oncology nursing conference in the country,” said Mrs. Blecher. “Their presentations underscored the tremendous level of knowledge and professionalism of our Oncology Certified Nurses (OCN) at Trinitas.”

For more information on Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center, please call (908) 994-8000. Information on Trinitas CCC’s cancer treatments and programs may also be obtained by visiting www.TrinitasCCC.org.

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About Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center

Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center (TCCC) is located in the new, 28,000 square foot, five-story *Andrew H. Campbell Pavilion* located on the campus of Trinitas Hospital. The Center offers the most advanced technology available to cancer patients including the first Trilogy Linear Accelerator for radiation therapy in New Jersey. Board certified physicians, nurses and allied health professionals are passionate in their fight against cancer and their mission to provide excellent patient care. The medical oncology treatment area and infusion center includes 15 first-class private infusion rooms. Licensed state-of-the-art laboratory and pharmacy services are all located on-site. With an interior design reminiscent of a fine hotel, the Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center offers patients and their companions a supportive and healing atmosphere. The Center's professional services also include nutritional, psychosocial, pain management, integrative therapy services and clinical trials.

About Trinitas Hospital

Trinitas Hospital is a full service healthcare facility and a Catholic teaching hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation, serving those who live and work in Eastern and Central Union County. It is the result of the merger of Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital in January, 2000. Operating on two major campuses, Trinitas Hospital offers 531 beds, including a 120-bed extended care center, and a comprehensive cancer center. Trinitas Hospital provides comprehensive medical/surgical services, adult and child/adolescent psychiatric care, a bloodless medicine/surgery program, cardiac care, diabetes management, emergency services, inpatient pediatric care, maternal/child health services including a high-risk newborn nursery, renal services, senior services, a sleep disorders center, and a wound healing center. For further information about Trinitas Hospital, visit the hospital's website, www.TrinitasHospital.org

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