

NEWS RELEASE



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Cancer Patients and Their Families to Benefit from American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program at the Queens Health Network

***Program to Provide Personal Guide to Help Local Cancer Patients Better Navigate Their Cancer Experience
Thanks to Support from AstraZeneca***

[Queens, NY] – [June 16, 2010] – The American Cancer Society today has committed to continue its Patient Navigator Program at the Queens Health Network, comprised of Queens Hospital Center and Elmhurst Hospital Center, thanks to support received from AstraZeneca pending New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation Board of Directors approval. This is the only Patient Navigator Program site in the State of New York that is part of a strategic nationwide effort to significantly extend the reach of this innovative program and assist individual cancer patients in negotiating the health care system.

“A cancer diagnosis can be a life-changing experience for patients, their families and their caregivers,” said Tameron Ackley, regional vice president for the American Cancer Society in Queens. “Our Patient Navigator Program helps patients focus on getting well by providing support every step of the way, from explaining what to expect during treatment, to making sure patients have transportation to and from appointments. Fighting cancer is a difficult, challenging journey; but with the help of trained American Cancer Society patient navigators, people don’t have to go through it alone.”

The American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program directly connects patients to a cancer education and support specialist – known as a “patient navigator” – who, through one-on-one relationships, serves as a personal guide to patients and caregivers as they face the psychosocial, emotional and financial challenges that cancer can bring. The service is free and confidential, and places an emphasis on assisting the medically underserved.

With anticipated approval from the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation Board of Directors, AstraZeneca’s support will enable the re-launch of a full-time American Cancer Society Patient Navigator who will work at both the Queens Cancer Center of Queens Hospital and Elmhurst Hospital Center.

“The Queens Health Network is extremely fortunate and grateful for the opportunity to receive extended funding from AstraZeneca, which would enable us to maintain the ACS Patient Navigator Program at both facilities for another two years,” said Ann M. Sullivan, MD, Senior Vice President of the Queens Health Network. “Residents served by our network are among the most in need throughout New York City, and the renewed funding would ensure our cancer patients the benefit of a fulltime patient navigator who will work at each facility. Our patients will find ongoing and wide-

ranging support, whether it is in identifying resources for financial assistance, medication needs, insurance questions, transportation concerns – or simply having a hand to hold in their time of need.”

“The re-launching of the American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program at Queens Cancer Center will allow us to continue our protocol of attentive, personalized care for our cancer patients,” said George M. Proctor, Executive Director of Queens Hospital Center. “As a result of generous funding from AstraZeneca, our patients are assured the benefits provided by a trained patient navigator, who will assist them through every step of their treatment. Knowing that they can count on receiving this special care and consideration while going through difficult passages in their lives is one more reason for cancer patients to elect the Queens Cancer Center for their course of treatment.”

“We are excited to be able to continue our relationship with the American Cancer Society’s Patient Navigator Program,” said Elmhurst Hospital Center Executive Director Chris Constantino. “ACS Navigators play a vital role in connecting our patients to the programs and services they need most.”

As the cancer experience is different for each patient, American Cancer Society patient navigators connect patients and caregivers with the most appropriate programs and services to help improve each individual’s access to health care and to help them on their journey to get well. Whether it is getting patients and caregivers the information they need to make treatment decisions and better understand their disease, helping them deal with the day-to-day challenges of living with cancer, such as transportation and insurance issues, or connecting them with community resources such as support groups, American Cancer Society patient navigators can provide help throughout the disease continuum – from the time of diagnosis, through treatment, into survivorship. Furthermore, navigators are able to increase treatment compliance and follow-up care.

“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 at Queens Health Network is a testament to our commitment to help provide patients with personalized cancer care. We are proud to support the American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program in its mission to improve patient outcomes and save lives, not only in Queens, but in communities throughout the country.”

About the American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program

Formally launched in 2005, the Patient Navigator Program, in collaboration with community-based hospitals and cancer centers, links those affected by cancer to patient navigators who serve as personal guides for patients and their caregivers to help them navigate the cancer experience – with a focus on eliminating barriers to cancer care for the medically underserved. Patient navigators receive national-level training through the American Cancer Society, in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute Patient Navigation Research Program, as well as localized training and opportunities for ongoing education.

There are currently more than 130 American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program sites across the U.S. The American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program is just one of the many American Cancer Society programs that help patients, their families, and caregivers manage the impact of cancer on their lives so they can focus on getting well.

About The American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers, we fight for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. We save lives by helping people stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early; helping people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery; and by fighting back by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight. As the nation’s largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing about \$3.4 billion, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. As a result, more than 11 million people in America who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating

birthdays this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call us anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

About Queens Hospital Center

A member of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation and the Queens Health Network (along with its sister facility, Elmhurst Hospital Center), Queens Hospital Center is a major healthcare provider in the borough of Queens. Its foremost mission is to provide quality, comprehensive care to all members of the public regardless of their ability to pay. The year 2010 marks its 75th anniversary of serving the communities of central and southeastern Queens, having first opened its doors as Queens General Hospital in 1935. Newly modernized – the result of a four-year, \$149 million capital project – the hospital officially reopened its doors to the community in January 2002 with a sprawling state-of-the-art facility. Encompassing 360,000 square feet, it is comprised of 279 licensed beds, spacious ambulatory care suites featuring both primary and specialty services, and cutting-edge equipment. It also houses four Centers of Excellence in Cancer Care, Diabetes Management, Women’s Health and Behavioral Health.

About Elmhurst Hospital

Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) is the major tertiary care provider in the borough of Queens. The hospital is comprised of 545 beds and is a Level I Trauma Center, a Designated Stroke Center, an Emergency Heart Care Station and a 911 Receiving Hospital. It is the premiere health care organization for key areas such as Surgery, Cardiology, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Rehabilitation Medicine, Renal and Mental Health Services.

Elmhurst Hospital Center serves an area of approximately one million people. This community is recognized as the most ethnically diverse in the world. Last year, EHC received 693,600 ambulatory care visits as well as receiving 130,042 Emergency Room visits, making it one of the busiest ERs in New York City. Over 4,000 babies were delivered at Elmhurst last year alone—the most in the region. Ensuring accessible health care is our top priority.

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