



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### **ST. LUKE'S MSTI RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH**

*Honor Bestowed for Improving Care of People with Cancer Through Clinical Research*

**Boise, ID (May 16, 2006)** – St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) is one of only 12 community oncology practices in the country to receive honors from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) for efforts to improve the care of people with cancer through participation in clinical trials, which are research studies conducted with patients that are used to evaluate a new treatment, or drug, and develop better ways to treat individuals with a specific disease. ASCO's 2006 Clinical Trial Award will be presented to St. Luke's MSTI on Saturday, June 3 in Atlanta, Georgia.

At a nationwide level, less than 5 percent of adult patients with cancer are enrolled in clinical trials, and this lack of participation slows progress in the development of new therapies. As a commitment to providing patients with the most recent developments in cancer therapy and in an effort to advance the treatment of common malignancies, St. Luke's MSTI currently participates in 105 clinical trials that treat many different cancer types including pediatric malignancies, breast, lung, colon, and pancreatic cancers.

"This award is an incredible honor because we have been recognized by our peers as leaders in the cancer research effort," said Thomas Beck, MD, medical director of St. Luke's MSTI. "In the last several years, St. Luke's MSTI has enrolled thousands of patients in clinical trials. Our patients are the heroes who make personal contributions to the progress being made against cancer through research participation and we will make sure patients in our community continue to have an opportunity to participate in clinical trials."

"Today, more than 10 million cancer survivors are living in the United States and many of them owe their survival to those who took part in clinical trials before them," said Joseph S. Bailes, MD, Interim Executive Vice President and CEO of ASCO. "However, few people know about clinical trials and their potential benefits. St. Luke's MSTI is to be commended for increasing awareness and participation in clinical trials in their community."

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The award winners were selected based on many factors including patient accrual to clinical trials over a three-year period. Special consideration was given to practices that increased clinical trial participation among underrepresented populations, as well as practices that used innovative techniques to overcome barriers to the enrollment of cancer patients onto clinical trials.

In the area served by St. Luke's MSTI, a significant issue is the difficulty in delivering cancer therapy and research participation to rural populations. Our patient population is spread over 50,000 square miles. MSTI has expanded to a network of five sites, spanning a 200-mile radius. Research studies are currently available at four of the five sites with plans to have the fifth site up and running this summer. In addition, St. Luke's MSTI physicians attend Tumor Boards at many rural hospitals, fostering relationships with rural physicians and sharing their expertise and information regarding treatment that is available. The awards program is supported by a grant from the Coalition of National Cancer Cooperative Groups that enables ASCO to provide award recipients with a travel grant to attend ASCO's Annual Meeting.

In addition to being a national leader in providing patients access to clinical trials, St. Luke's MSTI offers state-of-the-art radiation oncology; genetic counseling; blood and bone marrow transplantation; psychosocial support; wound, ostomy, continence nursing; complementary and integrative medicine therapies; stereotactic radiosurgery; high dose rate brachytherapy; breast care services; marrow donor center; hemophilia; nutritional counseling; mole mapping; and hospice care.

For more information on participating in a clinical trial at St. Luke's MSTI, contact Jane Harris at 381-3132 or email [harrisj@slrhc.org](mailto:harrisj@slrhc.org). For a complete list of available clinical trials visit <http://www.stlukesonline.org/SLMSTI/research/index.html>.

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