



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION AWARDS \$1.7 MILLION TO INCREASE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF CLINICAL TRIALS FOR PEOPLE WITH BLOOD CANCER

Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials and The Wellness Community Lead Effort

WASHINGTON, DC – October 15, 2007 – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded a five year \$1.7 million cooperative agreement to the Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials (ENACCT) and The Wellness Community (TWC). The funding will support a pilot project addressing the information and support needs of people newly diagnosed with hematological cancers, such as leukemia, multiple myeloma, or lymphoma, with a strong focus on enhancing quality of care and access to clinical trials.

Trial participation among adult cancer patients remains at approximately three **percent**; this rate is even lower among people of color and the medically underserved, who tend to have higher cancer mortality rates than the population as a whole. Treatment approaches for hematological cancers are limited, and not all patients have access to or benefit from the same quality of care. "Because the vast majority of people with cancer are never informed about the opportunity to receive treatment through a clinical trial, and because clinical trials can be high- quality treatment options for many of them, we need to implement innovative education programs at the community level," said Margo Michaels, Executive Director of ENACCT. "This cooperative agreement with the CDC will enable us to improve local treatment and support services for hematological cancer patients and their families."

In Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Cincinnati, ENACCTing WELLNESS will work to address the needs of hematological cancer patients, their families and their providers by:

- 1) Educating newly-diagnosed and newly-recurred hematological cancer patients about their treatment options, including the option of receiving their treatment through a clinical trial;
- 2) Increasing awareness of local and online support services for patients, their family members, friends and caregivers;
- 3) Educating primary care providers, especially those caring for the medically underserved, about options to refer patients to local clinical trials for first line treatment; and,
- 4) Enhancing the cultural competency skills of local clinical trial investigators and their teams.

“We believe the experience and passion for increasing awareness of cancer clinical trials that ENACCT brings to the table, combined with the reach that The Wellness Community has in connecting with and educating cancer patients and their caregivers, will help us improve care and enhance access to clinical trials for those diagnosed with hematological cancers,” said Kim Thiboldeaux, president and CEO of TWC. “At the end of this pilot project, we hope to expand this program to all cancer types.”

Nine organizations were awarded funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funding opportunity:

- * Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials
- * Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- * Lymphoma Research Foundation
- * Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
- * National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
- * National Marrow Donor Program
- * Oregon Health & Science University
- * Patient Advocate Foundation
- * Sibling Survivors Education and Information

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ABOUT ENACCT

The Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials' (ENACCT) is the only national organization devoted solely to implementing and evaluating clinical trial educational efforts. **ENACCT's mission is to identify, implement and validate innovative community centered approaches to cancer clinical trials education. In its work, ENACCT**

- Develops and delivers the highest quality, evidence based, community-focused clinical trials education programs for health care providers, patients, and the public.
- Offers high quality, fee-based services that enhance the capacity of organizations conducting cancer clinical trials outreach, education and recruitment; and
- Advocates for the inclusion of appropriate cancer clinical trials education as a top national priority.

For more information, please visit www.enacct.org.

ABOUT THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in June 2007, The Wellness Community is an international organization dedicated to providing support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. Through participation in free professionally-led support groups, educational workshops, nutrition and exercise programs, and stress reduction classes, people affected by cancer learn vital skills that enable them to regain control, reduce isolation and restore hope regardless of the stage of their disease. The Wellness Community provides support, education and hope for people affected by cancer at more than 100 locations worldwide including 24 U.S.-based and two international centers with 73 satellite and off-site programs and online at www.thewellnesscommunity.org.