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**American Society Of Breast Surgeons To Release Official Statement Regarding New Radiation Therapy Minimizing Treatment with Breast Lumpectomy From Six Weeks To One Week**

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**April 21, 2003, Nashville, Tennessee** - The American Society of Breast Surgeons will host their annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia April 30-May 4. The meeting will focus on standards for implementing new technologies, therapies, as well as real world practice issues to ensure that surgeons provide patients with treatments that are safe, up-to-date and effective. Among these new treatments, the American Society of Breast Surgeons will highlight a new therapy, accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI), which cuts the standard radiation time for lumpectomy patients from six weeks to one week. The American Society of Breast Surgeons will evaluate the progress of this treatment, and publish their official statement on how this new therapy should be applied with certain criteria.

APBI reduces the time, cost and inconvenience of radiation therapy. It also confines the radiation to a smaller area of the breast. The newest APBI technique involves placing a single balloon catheter in the breast. Radiation is evenly delivered to the breast tissue surrounding the balloon. The procedure is done twice daily for a total of five days.

According to Dr. Pat Whitworth, a Nashville, Tennessee-based surgical breast oncologist and member of the ASBS, "At this point, the new one-week radiation therapy has undergone clinical evaluation and has proved successful for a highly selected group of women who are at low risk for recurrent cancer. Yet, in order to achieve the most accurate evaluation, a Phase III Randomized Trial must be conducted. This will determine if a larger group of women who have undergone lumpectomies will have this new therapy as an option."

In a Phase III Randomized trial, treatment is ultimately decided by a computerized flip of a coin. Fifty percent of the women who volunteer will have a lumpectomy with standard radiation, which is a 5-6 week process, 5 days a week. The other fifty percent will have a lumpectomy and the new one-week radiation therapy. Women will not have a choice as to which therapy they will be picked for. The groups are picked randomly by computer. This trial will include a broad range of thousands of women, all in need of breast cancer treatment via lumpectomy and radiation.

"A Phase III Randomized Trial is truly the best way to evaluate the one-week radiation option, states Dr. Whitworth. We are looking forward to working with the NSABP on this trial later this year."

In the past, a Phase III randomized trial was done to evaluate full mastectomy versus lumpectomy and standard radiation to treat breast cancer. After several thousand patients and 20 years of careful observation, it is known through this trial and others that there is absolutely no difference in a patient's chance for cure whether they had a mastectomy or

lumpectomy with standard radiation. This was great progress for women, as it usually isn't necessary to remove the entire breast.

For more information regarding the one-week radiation treatment, the Phase III Randomized Trial or to schedule an interview with Dr. Whitworth, please contact Jaime Ringel at KMR Communications, Inc.

**About Dr. Whitworth**

Pat Winston Whitworth, MD is a surgical oncologist and has been the director of the Nashville Breast Center since 1998. He is a member of the board of directors for the American Society of Breast Surgeons. Dr. Whitworth completed his subspecialty training in surgical oncology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston in 1992. He serves as vice-chair for the Breast Organ Site Working Group for the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group, a multiinstitutional trials group funded by the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Whitworth is also the recipient of a special award for contributions to clinical research given by the American Society of Clinical Oncology to a representative of each major clinical trials group funded by the NCI. Dr. Whitworth has authored and co-authored over 25 publications dealing with breast oncology.

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