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**Contact:** Kevin Lavoie, Media Relations Specialist

(937) 384-3892; Pager: (937) 370-1092; E-mail: [Kevin.lavoie@khnetwork.org](mailto:Kevin.lavoie@khnetwork.org)

## **KMC Working with San Francisco Company to Develop Most Advanced Proton Therapy in Dayton**

**DAYTON** – Kettering Medical Center announced plans today for a new proton therapy center to be established within three years. Utilizing the most advanced proton technology, KMC officials say they can offer the same cancer treatment benefits with a project that costs about half the price of conventional proton centers currently operating in America.

Only eight proton treatment centers exist in the US, but as this technology is evolving another 20 centers are in development. “We have been working on this for nearly three years as part of our 2016 plan, and there is technology available now that makes proton therapy practical for the Dayton region and its patient base,” said Frank Perez, CEO of Kettering Health Network.

At a cost of up to \$80 million, KMC plans to establish its proton center either on the KMC campus or near the new Austin Pike interchange of I-75. Some questions remain to be answered, but KMC already has financing, medical imaging and supporting physician expertise in place. The Medical Center is working with American Shared Hospital Services, a San Francisco-based company it has already partnered with to successfully bring advanced cancer fighting technology to Dayton and southwest Ohio.

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“We’ve worked with American Shared Hospital Services for over 10 years as a partner in providing southwest Ohio’s only Gamma Knife,” said Roy Chew, PhD, President of Kettering Medical Center. “We are very comfortable with their ability to help bring proton therapy and complete a full continuum of cancer care here in Dayton and the surrounding Midwest region.”

“After doing demographic studies, arranging financing and talking with physicians and facility construction engineers, we are getting close to the building phase,” Chew added. “It’s important to have an integrated, multidisciplinary team in place to determine whether this therapy is appropriate and to build a plan for administering it. We have that team.”

Extensive studies on potential case load are key to effectively introducing technology this expensive and specialized. The proton therapy center will support a region far larger than the Dayton area, so Kettering will work to establish relationships with other hospitals that can benefit from proton therapy. KMC will be seeking support from local governments and community leaders as they answer the final questions before the construction phase. Once complete, the center is expected to house up to 100 new employees.

Proton therapy patients go through a series of treatments, each of which lasts a matter of minutes. Using extensive planning and complex medical imaging, physicians can focus the proton energy to attack cancer inside the body without using a scalpel and with minimal affect on adjoining tissue. This is especially useful for tumors near critical structures such as the spinal cord, eye, brain, and neck. Because of these unique properties of protons, they can also be used to re-treat patients whose tumors have progressed despite conventional radiation treatment.

Nationally-known radiation oncologist Douglas Einstein, MD, PhD, joined the KMC staff as Medical Director of Radiation Oncology in November of 2009. “With the addition of protons to the Kettering Health Network,” Dr. Einstein said, “we will be able to offer the full complement of state-of-the art radiation therapy including Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for the brain, Synergy Body Radiosurgery for the tumors outside the brain, High Dose Rate brachytherapy such as Mammosite, Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy, and Image Guided Radiotherapy.”

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"The addition of Proton technology will be a welcomed addition to a comprehensive approach in offering patients with cancers of the brain, head and neck, spine, eye, esophagus, prostate, liver and breast the most advanced treatment options," said Stuart Merl, MD, Chair of the Kettering Health Network Cancer Committee.

KMC has radiation oncology, medical oncology, gynecological oncology, oncology surgeons, urologists, physicists, nurse navigators, clinical nurse specialists, diagnostic imaging staff and a community outreach coordinator working together to assist people in their cancer journey. "This team is well-equipped to support a world-class, comprehensive cancer center," Chew said. "The medical team and technologies are already in place to support it, as is the research arm of KMC -- The Innovation Center."

The new proton treatment center will create outside support jobs and significant financial impact in the greater community as patients and family members come in to Dayton and stay for treatment. Nationwide about 60 percent of proton therapy patients live beyond commuting distance from existing centers.

"Ten years ago Kettering Medical Center brought in Gamma Knife to attack tumors in the brain without a scalpel, and soon our proton therapy center will allow us to attack tumors and spare good tissue in other parts of the body," said Fred Manchur, former KMC President and current President of Kettering Health Network. "Our namesake, the great inventor Charles Kettering, would certainly be proud to see us continuing to bring innovation to Dayton – just like he did with his inventions. We are very proud to offer both technologies along with the comprehensive cancer treatment approach they support."

"We are truly blessed to be able to offer this type of facility because practically every life has been touched by cancer in one way or another," said Manchur. "Our proton therapy center will offer the latest treatment to help sustain and enrich lives in our communities for years to come."