



Contact: Yana Ogletree
Office: 936-639-7163
Cell: 936-635-9705

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Memorial's Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center
Ranked One of the Best*

LUFKIN, TEXAS (April 15, 2009)... The Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center at Memorial Health System of East Texas is being recognized by the National Commission on Cancer for clinical excellence. As a result, The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons has granted a three year approval with commendation to the local cancer program. According to the CoC only 25% of the cancer centers in the nation are accredited and less than half of those accredited achieve commendation.

According to the CoC the Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center demonstrates a Commendation level of compliance with one or more standards that represent the full scope of the cancer program. This means that the hospital's cancer program provides patients with comprehensive care, including a range of state-of-the-art services and equipment, a multispecialty team approach to coordinate the best treatment options, information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options, and access to cancer-related information, education, and support.

The Center's commendation status is based on cancer patient data reported by each CoC approved Cancer program to the CoC's National Cancer Data Base (NCDB), a joint CoC/American Cancer Society program. The NCDB currently contains demographics, tumor characteristics, and treatment and outcomes information for more than 18 million cancer patients diagnosed and treated at hospital cancer programs in the United States. Currently, the Tumor Registry at the Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center is following more than eleven thousand patients who have been diagnosed and/or treated at Memorial Health System of East Texas since the registry began collecting data in 1990.

Dr. Sid Roberts, Director of the Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center, says Memorial is pleased to offer patients a quality program that ranks among the top rated cancer treatment centers in the country. However, he states that the Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center is different from many cancer treatment facilities. "Our staff takes pride in knowing each of our patients by name. Through caring, compassion, and support, we take a team approach that treats our patients as individuals, not as a number. Our patients are exposed to a healing environment that treats the whole person, body, mind and spirit," said Dr. Roberts.

Also, East Texans have the latest technology at their fingertips in Lufkin. The Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center has Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), the first PET/CT scanner in the area, the ability to fuse PET/CT and MRI images for treatment planning, the Anatom-e system, CT-based simulation, and two Siemens Oncor multileaf collimator linear accelerators.

In addition to state-of-the-art equipment, The Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center has programs to support patients during and after treatment. A free Cancer Education Luncheon is open to the entire community the second Wednesday of each month. Through these informal lunches, patients hear educational information from local speakers about cancer awareness. Also, fundraisers such as the Dr. Bill Shelton's Totally Awesome Fishing Adventure support qualifying patients who need help with medications, travel expenses and lodging while receiving treatment. While the annual Power of Pink! event provides women with information on breast cancer awareness. To take part in any of these events, please contact the Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center at 936-639-7468.

About Memorial Health System of East Texas

As the largest health care system in the deep East Texas area, Memorial Health System of East Texas is a private, not-for-profit hospital that provides care to almost a quarter of a million patients each year. Since its inception in 1949, Memorial Health System has paved the way for quality, innovative health care in East Texas. In fact, Memorial consistently ranks among the nation's best for exceptional health care and patient satisfaction.

Memorial Health System of East Texas is comprised of four hospitals—Memorial Medical Center—Lufkin, Memorial Medical Center—Livingston, Memorial Medical Center—San Augustine, and Memorial Specialty Hospital, the only rural long-term acute care facility within the area. Memorial offers a wide array of services, including the newly renovated Arthur Temple, Sr. Regional Cancer Center, which has earned a three-year seal of approval with commendation from the Commission on Cancer. Additionally, Memorial is a regional cardiac care center affiliated with the Methodist-DeBakey Heart Center in Houston. The hospital also is known for providing the area's only comprehensive diabetes center—The Horace C. Polk Regional Diabetes Center. Other centers of excellence include the Temple Imaging Center that offers some of the most advanced procedures in the area, including PET/CT scanning for cancer and Alzheimer's, 64 Slice CT scanning, Open Bore MRI, 4D Ultrasound, and digital mammography. Other specialty areas include Orthopedic care, Women's Services, Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation, Homecare, Wound and Hyperbaric Therapy, Kidney & Diabetes Treatment, Sleep Disorders Treatment, and Express Lab. Memorial Health System of East Texas—founded and funded by the people it serves.

Cutline:

The Arthur Temple Sr. Regional Cancer Center at Memorial Health System of East Texas receives national recognition for clinical excellence. The Commission on Cancer recently awarded the local cancer center a three-year commendation level of approval. Members of the hospital's cancer team are (from left to right): Sharon Hadnot, Julie McClain, Alise Priesmeyer, Marty Lewis, Sid Roberts, M.D., Jackie Gilmore, Aimee Salas, Brenda Holbert, Amy Varnado, Jewel Randle. Not pictured: Charlotte Wammel, Madelene Collier and Linda Miller.