

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH Visiting Kansas to Bring Awareness to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) visit to take place May 6 & 7 in Kansas City and Wichita

Topeka, Kan. – Multiple organizations including the University of Kansas Cancer Center, Midwest Cancer Alliance, Children’s Mercy, and Kansas Foundation for Medical Care will be hosting a visit from Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH, the Director of the Immunization Services Division (ISD). Dr. Wharton is responsible for the national leadership for the immunization of children, adolescents and adults. A variety of events will be taking place including discussions with Pediatricians, Cancer Center representatives and Local Public Health officials to address topics around quality improvement, local innovations, barriers and successes to improve Kansas HPV vaccination rates. In addition, there will be a “Grand Rounds” event on-site and by webcast to educate attendees on the burdens of HPV disease and related cancers, effective communications tactics for parents and adolescents regarding the HPV vaccine, and the overall importance of making strong vaccine recommendations. Healthcare providers representing a variety of different settings are invited to participate in these events to engage in conversations about how to improve adolescent vaccination rates. The visit to Wichita on May 7 includes a pediatric clinic visit, a “Grand Rounds” event, and a community discussion to engage Wichita area clinicians in improving vaccination rates. For more information on the events taking place, please contact Rachel Linn at rlinn@kfmc.org.

In addition to these events scheduled for healthcare providers, the Kansas Vaccine Institute, along with The University of Kansas Cancer Center, Midwest Cancer Alliance, and Children’s Mercy, is hosting a free public screening of the documentary “Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic.” This event will include a reception with light refreshments, information booths from sponsoring organizations, and a panel discussion. The documentary reveals just how dangerous this virus can be, and how can lead to six different types of cancers in men and women. In the film, the stories of five brave women afflicted by HPV and cervical cancer are featured and interviews of some of the world’s top experts on the topic are included. Following the screening, a panel discussion will be held and feature Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH, as well as Terance Tsue, MD, FACS from The University of Kansas Cancer Center, an expert on head and neck oncology who treats oropharyngeal cancers caused by HPV. This event will be held at H & R Block City Stage at Union Station on Wednesday, May 6, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and is free for the public to attend. For more information on the event, click [here](#).

About Kansas Foundation for Medical Care

The Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC) is a not-for-profit organization focused on improving healthcare quality. KFMC is a member of the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network, the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. KFMC is also the Regional Extension Center (REC) and External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) for the state of Kansas. In addition, we contract with many private companies to provide health information technology (HIT) consulting services, quality improvement and review services. Throughout various contracts, our role is to work with healthcare providers and organizations

to develop ways to improve the use of HIT and the quality of healthcare provided to all Kansas healthcare consumers. To learn more, visit kfmc.org.

About The University of Kansas Cancer Center

The University of Kansas Cancer Center is a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Cancer Center transforming cancer research and clinical care by linking an innovative approach to drug discovery, delivery and development to a nationally-accredited patient care program. KU Cancer Center partners with cancer research and healthcare professionals associated with the University of Kansas Medical Center and The University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, Kan., the University of Kansas in Lawrence, the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita and Salina, and the members of the Midwest Cancer Alliance. KU Cancer Center's NCI Consortium partners include The Stowers Institute for Medical Research and Children's Mercy in Kansas City, Mo. For more information on The University of Kansas Cancer Center's research and outreach programs and award-winning patient care offered at the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Care Pavilion and The University of Kansas Hospital, please visit <http://kucancercenter.org> or call 1-800-332-6048.

About Children's Mercy Kansas City

Children's Mercy Kansas City is a non-profit, independent pediatric medical center founded in 1897. The 354-bed hospital provides care for children from birth through the age of 21, and has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." For the third time in a row, Children's Mercy has achieved Magnet nursing designation, awarded to fewer than seven percent of all hospitals nationally, for excellence in quality care. Its faculty of 600 pediatricians and researchers across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. For more than a century, Children's Mercy has provided the highest level of medical care to every child who passes through its doors, made possible through generous community support. For more information about Children's Mercy and its research, visit childrensmercy.org. For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

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