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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Trinitas Cancer Center announces clinical trial to begin for previously untreated patients with multiple myeloma**

A Phase II Trial with VELCADE® (PS-341), Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide), Dexamethasone and Thalomid® (VEL-CTD)

Aptium Oncology Research Network Protocol\* #05-MM-01

Elizabeth, New Jersey - Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center (Trinitas CCC) announced today its participation in a nationwide, multi-center clinical trial for previously untreated patients with multiple myeloma. As part of the Aptium Oncology Research Network, Trinitas CCC is working in partnership with several U.S. cancer centers and principal investigators. Dr. Gerardo Capo is serving as the principle investigator locally at Trinitas CCC. Participation in the 05-MM-01 study is currently available in NJ through the Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center, which is currently one of 10 medical facilities in the United States accepting volunteers for this Phase II study.

Heading the study for the Aptium Oncology Research Network is Dr. Brian Durie from the Cedars Sinai Outpatient Cancer Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Durie is the National Director for Hematology Malignancies for Aptium Oncology and Chairman of the International Myeloma Foundation. Also leading this study and collaborating with Trinitas CCC is Dr. Sundar Jagannath, Chief of the Multiple Myeloma Program and Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation Program at St. Vincent's Comprehensive Cancer Center in New York City and Editor-in-Chief of Clinical Lymphoma & Myeloma.

Trinitas CCC researchers hope to move rapidly to begin this clinical trial. The Phase II study is open label, single arm and multi-institutional. It will evaluate an investigational\* treatment regimen that includes sequential use of multiple myeloma drugs. The drugs in this study consist of VELCADE® (developed and provided by Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), Cytoxan (commercially available), dexamethasone (commercially available), and Thalomid® [provided by Celgene Corporation through the PTAP (Protocol Treatment Assistance Program)] and will be administered in varying doses and combinations in six treatment cycles.

Over the past three decades, the treatment for multiple myeloma has been mainly palliative with a median life expectancy of 3 years and less than 10% living 10 years or longer. "Nearly all patients experience a relapse after their initial treatment, and unfortunately, there is still no cure," said Gerardo Capo, Medical Oncology and Hematology specialist at the Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center. "The best therapies we

have still only provide a controlled remission in the most successful instances. There is clearly an urgent need for more therapies. This clinical trial may offer an option for multiple myeloma.”

Participants in the 05-MM-01 clinical trial must meet the following eligibility:

- A confirmed diagnosis of multiple myeloma requiring treatment
- No prior chemotherapy, immunotherapy, vaccine, or other agents for the treatment of active multiple myeloma
- Adequate cardiac, liver and kidney function
- Age 18 or older

"We have some of the best minds in Multiple Myeloma research working on this clinical trial," said Gary Horan, President of Trinitas Hospital. "Cancer is a major focus of our clinical research activities at Trinitas and this clinical trial is a prime example of our commitment to discover possible ways to fight cancer."

For additional information on this clinical trial, please visit our web site at [www.trinitasccc.org](http://www.trinitasccc.org) <<http://www.trinitasccc.org>> or contact Maria Serrano, Clinical Research Manager at (908) 994-8539.

\* The treatment regimens in this study are considered investigational due to the fact that there has not been FDA approval of the use of the drugs in these combinations for the treatment of newly diagnosed multiple myeloma. VELCADE® is currently approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) and it is registered in Europe for the treatment of multiple myeloma patients who have received at least one prior therapy.

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### **About Multiple Myeloma**

Multiple myeloma is a disease of malignant plasma cells. It affects about 5 in 100,000 Americans at a median age of 65 years and is still incurable. Multiple myeloma is the second most prevalent blood cancer and is approximately twice as prevalent in men as in women. It is also among the ten leading causes of death in African Americans. In the United States over 14,000 new cases of multiple myeloma are diagnosed every year and over 11,000 people die of the disease.

### **About Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center (TCCC) is located in the new, 28,000 square foot, five-story Andrew H. Campbell Pavilion located on the campus of Trinitas Hospital. The Center offers the most advanced technology available to cancer patients including the first Trilogy Linear Accelerator for radiation therapy in New Jersey. Board certified physicians, nurses and allied health professionals are passionate in their fight against cancer and their mission to provide excellent patient care. The medical oncology treatment area and infusion center includes 15 first-class private infusion rooms. Licensed state-of-the-art laboratory and pharmacy services are all located on-site. With an interior design reminiscent of a fine hotel, the Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center offers patients and their companions a supportive and healing atmosphere. The Center's professional services also include nutritional, psychosocial, pain management, integrative therapy services and clinical trials.

### **About Trinitas Hospital**

Trinitas Hospital is a full service healthcare facility and a Catholic teaching hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation, serving those who live and work in Eastern and Central Union County. It is the result of the merger of Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital in January, 2000. Operating on two major campuses, Trinitas Hospital offers 531 beds, including a 120-bed extended care center, and a comprehensive cancer center. Trinitas Hospital provides comprehensive medical/surgical services, adult and child/adolescent psychiatric care, a bloodless medicine/surgery program, cardiac care, diabetes management, emergency services, inpatient pediatric care, maternal/child health services including a high-risk newborn nursery,

renal services, senior services, a sleep disorders center, and a wound healing center. For further information about Trinitas Hospital, visit the hospital's website, [www.TrinitasHospital.org](http://www.TrinitasHospital.org)