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Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (CORE) Is Approved for Tier III Funding Award by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

August 28, 2017 – The Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (Georgia CORE) has been approved for a funding award by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to support a project on Improving the Quality of Care and Quality of Life for Cancer Survivors in Georgia.

Georgia CORE will use the funds provided through PCORI's Pipeline to Proposal Awards program to build a partnership of individuals and groups who share a desire to advance patient-centered outcomes research focused on cancer survivorship.

Pipeline to Proposal Awards enable individuals and groups that are not typically involved in clinical research to develop the means to advance community-led funding proposals focused on patient-centered comparative effectiveness research (CER). Established by the nonprofit PCORI, the program funds help individuals or groups build community partnerships, develop research capacity, and hone a comparative effectiveness research question that could become the basis of a research-funding proposal to submit to PCORI or other health research funders.

The Pipeline to Proposal project lead is Angie Patterson, Georgia CORE's Vice-President and a 16-year cancer survivor. It was developed collaboratively with Lanell Bellury, PhD, an expert in cancer survivorship and Associate Professor at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University. The award from PCORI will enable Georgia CORE to engage cancer survivors, healthcare providers and many other stakeholders in the process of developing research to address the needs of vulnerable cancer survivors in Georgia. "The on-going healthcare needs of cancer survivors, especially vulnerable older and minority survivors, are well recognized, yet little evidence exists to guide the best care for survivors. With the number of cancer survivors growing exponentially, it is imperative that we discover the best way to meet the needs of survivors across the state," notes Dr. Bellury.

According to Nancy Paris, President, Georgia CORE has always been committed to developing collaborative partnerships with multiple stakeholders in the state. "Recognition and support from PCORI to implement the third year of the Patient-Centered Cancer Survivorship Care program supports our efforts to better serve the ever increasing number of cancer survivors in Georgia, now numbering 410,700."

"The Pipeline to Proposal Awards program is a manifestation of PCORI's commitment to the meaningful involvement of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other stakeholders in all our research endeavors," said Jean Slutsky, PA, MSPH, PCORI's Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer. "It provides support to those who may not otherwise have an opportunity to contribute to the field of comparative effectiveness research. We're pleased to follow the awardees' progress as they develop partnerships and begin to form research questions."

PCORI is an independent nonprofit organization authorized by Congress in 2010 to fund

comparative effectiveness research that will provide patients, their caregivers, and clinicians with the evidence needed to make better-informed health and healthcare decisions. PCORI is committed to seeking input from a broad range of stakeholders to guide its work.

Georgia CORE is a public-private partnership led by a Board of Directors of cancer experts focused on bringing higher quality, better-organized and more cost-effective care to cancer patients and survivors across the state of Georgia. Georgia CORE's flagship resource www.GeorgiaCancerInfo.org is the only online information center of its kind, where details can be found on oncologists, clinical trials, treatment centers and survivorship resources throughout the state. The organization's funders and sponsors include the State of Georgia, Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology, Georgia Research Alliance, Georgia Department of Community Health, State Office of Rural Health, Northside Hospital Cancer Institute, private foundations and individual donors. More information on Georgia CORE can be found at www.georgiacore.org.

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