

News Release

For Immediate Release
May 24, 2007

DR. TOMAS M. HEIMANN NAMED STATE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON CANCER BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



Dr. Tomas M. Heimann

Bronx, NY – Dr. Tomas M. Heimann, a highly regarded surgeon at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center, has been selected as the New York State Chairman of the Commission on Cancer (CoC) by the American College of Surgeons. The announcement was made by Dr. Frederick L. Green, National Chairman of the Commission on Cancer, in a letter dated March 29, 2007.

The State Chairmen serve as members of the CoC Cancer Liaison Program which guide the activities of the 1,600 Cancer Liaison Physicians (CLPs) appointed in cancer programs across the country. CLPs are responsible for fostering CoC initiatives and communicating these initiatives at the facility level; accessing and using data provided by the CoC to assess patterns of care and outcomes to improve the quality of cancer care; and working with the American Cancer Society (ACS) on cancer control projects in the community.

“The role of the State Chair is critical in communicating and coordinating the programs of the Commission on Cancer,” wrote Dr. Green, “the collaborative effort, spearheaded at the State Chair level, is an integrated and coordinated approach to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality in your state.”

Other responsibilities of the State Chair include working with the ACS, state cancer registry and the Department of Health to support data driven comprehensive cancer

control planning. In addition, they are responsible for communicating with the 13 CLPs in their state at least twice per year and hosting an annual meeting.

The State Chairs and CLPs actively participate in and utilize data generated by the CoC's National Cancer Database. This database currently contains patient demographics, tumor characteristics, treatment and outcomes for 20 million malignant cancers diagnosed and treated in hospital cancer programs in the United States between 1985 and 2004. The State Chair works regularly with this program in presenting, utilizing and interpreting generated reports for their individual states.

"The State Chair's participation in this program can positively impact cancer patient care at the state and local levels," continued Dr. Green, "Your leadership will result in significant contributions to the activities of the Commission on Cancer."

Ms. MaryAnn Musumeci, Director of the James J. Peters VA Medical Center, added her hearty congratulations to Dr. Heimann and noted his many years of dedicated service to America's veterans. "Dr. Heimann is a skilled surgeon with a reputation for high quality health care," said Ms. Musumeci, "We are fortunate to have him here on our staff and congratulate him on this important new assignment."

Dr. Heimann's three year appointment will run until January of 2010 after which he will be eligible to serve a second term.

For more information related to this release or the James Peters VA Medical Center, please contact Jim Connell, Public Affairs Officer, at 718-584-9000 x6620.

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