

Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY

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***** For Immediate Release *****

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the National Cancer Institute's Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP), Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY takes great pride in their 17-year participation in clinical research trials that have put them among only 51 in the nation.

The National Cancer Institute will launch the 20th Anniversary celebration of their Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP) on November 8, 2003. Through the CCOP, the physicians, staff and patients of Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY have had the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of cancer care and prevention in our community, as well as in our nation for over 17 years. In addition to finding new and more effective treatments for cancer, cancer control and prevention trials have also played an integral role in the program. The major focus in these prevention trials includes the avoidance or reduction of cancer related side effects, quality of life improvements, and the prevention of cancer itself.

In 1986, the physicians at Hematology-Oncology Associates felt that having access to these studies through a CCOP would be a valuable asset to our community. Dr. Jeffrey Kirshner, partner in the practice and principle investigator for the program states, "We all felt that our patients would be best served in their own community and wanted to provide them with access to investigational trials and new drugs without having to travel. Despite having a University Medical Center in the area, there were no such studies available at that site."

Both Hematology-Oncology Associates and the CCOP have undergone many changes since their inception. The practice now has 11 full time physicians that include two radiation oncologists. The CCOP staff has expanded and recently moved into the practice's state of the art cancer treatment facility at Brittonfield Parkway in E. Syracuse. The practice's accrual in these clinical research trials continues to increase and their commitment to high quality research remains as strong as ever. Says, Dr. Kirshner, "The experience we've gained through our CCOP has improved the overall quality of care we deliver to our patients throughout central New York."

The practice currently has over 100 active clinical trials. Hematology-Oncology Associates is one of 51 Community Clinical Oncology Programs in the nation. There is only one other CCOP in New York State, located in _____.

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