



MEDICAL ONCOLOGY & HEMATOLOGY

James L. Wade III, MD, FACP, FASCO
Benjamin T. Esparaz, MD, FACP
Philip A. Dy, MD
Perry P. Guaglianone, MD, FACP
Mario R. Velasco Jr., MD, FACP
Hanna M. Saba, MD
Sebastien S. Kairouz, MD
Bassam N. Maalouf, MD
Mark A. Walshauser, MD, FACP

Justin D. Floyd, DO, FACOI
Gibran H. Mahmud, MD
Evelena P. Ontiveros, MD, PhD
Vijay K. Damarla, MD, MPH
Kristi M. Toennies, FNP, AOCNP
Leah D. Teichmiller, PA-C
Jennifer N. Born, APRN, NP-C
Christel G. Wheeler, FNP-BC

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Edward C. Elliott, MD, FACR, FCAP
Mary Anne de Paz, MD
Renata C. Moore, MD
Seong R. Cho, MD
Harold A. Yoon, MD
Casey E. Duncan, MD

UROLOGIC ONCOLOGY

Thomas H. Tarter, MD, PhD
Nicole S. Soper, APN, FNP-BC

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

www.CancerCareSpecialists.org

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

c/o Courtney Avery, Administrator
525 W. Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62701

RE: Letter of Support for Cancer Center and Proton Therapy in Peoria, Illinois.

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members and Staff,

Cancer Care Specialists of Illinois (CCSI) expresses our strong support for the CON application of OSF HealthCare to develop a Proton Therapy Center and improved cancer care services in Peoria, Illinois.

CCSI is the largest interdisciplinary cancer treatment private practice group in Illinois outside of the Chicago area. Our team of thirteen medical oncologists, seven radiation oncologists, two nurse practitioners and five patient navigators provide cutting edge cancer care at five full time centers and sixteen rural clinics throughout Central and Southern Illinois. Over our 35 year history we have focused on helping every patient and their family face this challenging disease and we have brought to small towns and cities throughout Illinois National Cancer Institute and University of Chicago state of the art clinical trials that elevate the quality of care and bring access to all those we serve the latest options in cancer treatment. Over this past year we cared for over six thousand NEW patients, which is a volume that exceeds that experienced by several of the university cancer centers in the Chicago area.

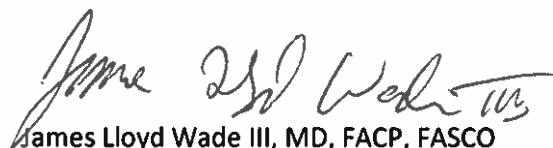
World Class cancer care delivery is a complex process that requires the close cooperation and interaction of multiple medical specialists across many disciplines. This collaborative work is best demonstrated in each of our hospital's cancer committee and tumor board meetings. In these processes we lead a broader community of dedicated local physicians and staff across eight community and regional hospitals to reach the highest levels of excellence and evidence based medicine. Our collaborative efforts have applied not only to daily patient care but also to our nationally recognized National Community Oncology Research Program known as Heartland NCORP. The Heartland NCORP, comprised of other like-minded community cancer specialists from Peoria, Springfield, Carbondale, St. Louis, and Cape Girardeau is one of the nation's five largest and most productive community cancer research programs. Our regional combined effort has helped develop better treatments for many common cancers including lung cancer, colon cancer, pancreas cancer, breast cancer, and multiple myeloma.

In recognition of our dedication to quality and excellence in cancer care we have been nationally recognized and we have received multiple awards from the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the National Cancer Institute, the Association of Community Cancer Centers, and the MD Anderson Cancer Institute. Our thirty-five year history, our proven dedication to every patient, our bedside application of the latest treatments cancer science offers and our continuous striving for excellence places us in the proper context to support the application of OSF HealthCare for approval of a certificate of need for a Proton Therapy Facility and for improved cancer services.

Proton beam radiation is an important tool for accurate delivery of radiation to sensitive areas, particularly for children. For example, Proton beam radiation is the preferred type of radiation for children with cancers involving tissues of the brain or spinal cord, as this type of radiation reduces the risk of permanent damage to sensitive normal tissues that lie close to the cancer. OSF HealthCare is particularly well suited to provide this important new approach because its associated Children's Hospital of Illinois provides the necessary support teams needed to deliver such treatment to children safely. Radiation therapy delivery to children necessitates strong support from pediatric anesthesiologists, pediatric neurosurgeons, pediatric endocrinologists and pediatric oncologists, all of whom are readily available at OSF St. Francis in Peoria. The new capability that the Proton Therapy Center brings to Illinois not only helps children but also their families who shoulder the burdens of caring for their loved ones; a daily trip to Peoria for a family from Macomb, Bloomington, Springfield, or Decatur will be much easier to bear than a daily trip to Chicago or St. Louis. Proton therapy can also provide benefit for adult patients who also require heightened accuracy in radiation delivery. These adult patients, particularly those who have already received radiation, face potentially grave side effects if the additional radiation needed is not delivered and focused and precisely as possible, a technique only available using Proton treatment.

We of CCSI welcome OSF Peoria in to our Illinois Oncology community's life-long effort to reduce the tremendous toll cancer takes on Illinois citizens. The greater the collaborative effort against cancer that we all put forth will hasten the time when the illness known as cancer becomes history. Toward this end we strongly support the OSF HealthCare application to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for approval of their request for a certificate of need.

Respectfully



James Lloyd Wade III, MD, FACP, FASCO
President Emeritus, CCSI