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## **CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER ESTABLISHES THE NEW SAMUEL OSCHIN COMPREHENSIVE CANCER INSTITUTE**

*Cancer Institute Encompasses Newly Formed Board of Governors Cancer Research Center and all Cancer Clinical Services at Cedars-Sinai*

LOS ANGELES, CA (May 18, 2004) – At a time when cancer claims the lives of one out of every four Americans, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is now establishing the new Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute. The Institute has been generously funded by a lead gift from the Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Oschin Family Foundation, through the generosity of Lynda Oschin, a dedicated philanthropist who has devoted many years to supporting the mission of Cedars-Sinai.

“Lynda Oschin’s generosity is a prime example of how philanthropic support from the community enables Cedars-Sinai to advance our mission to provide patients with excellent healthcare and to expand our biomedical research programs in an effort to find a cure for cancer,” said Barbara Factor Bentley, Chair, Board of Directors at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

“We have long envisioned setting up a world-class Cancer Institute at Cedars-Sinai where dedicated scientists and physicians across specialties would work closely together to find cures for patients with cancer,” said Thomas M. Priselac, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cedars-Sinai. “Now, the wonderful generosity of Lynda Oschin, has enabled us to take the next logical step in enriching, expanding, and integrating all-encompassing cancer care and treatment opportunities provided by Cedars-Sinai.”

The Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute will encompass the newly formed state-of-the-art Board of Governors Cancer Research Center, as well as other areas of cancer care excellence, and will facilitate all cancer activity at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Physicians and scientists at the new Institute will work collaboratively with cancer related programs throughout the Medical Center to bring new discoveries to cancer patients, expediting the bench-to-bedside application of these breakthroughs.

“Establishing the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute exemplifies Cedars-Sinai’s commitment to eradicating cancer as a threat to all individuals,” said Dr. Shlomo Melmed, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs. “The Institute will greatly expand our existing basic research programs and clinical trial opportunities for patients in our community, which will improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their families throughout Los Angeles and, ultimately, worldwide.”

Serving as the “umbrella” for all cancer research and care conducted at Cedars-Sinai, the new Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute will expedite research that focuses on bringing the latest clinical care for

cancer patients, cutting edge clinical trials, and research into the role that genes and the environment play in cancer development; developing drugs to target molecular pathways in the development of cancer; identifying the molecular causes of cancer; and developing effective imaging and pathology technology for the earliest possible detection of the disease.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), cancer will strike about 1.3 million people annually in the United States and will take the lives of almost half of those with the disease. In fact, the ACS estimates that about one in two men will develop cancer over their lifetime, while one out of every three women have a lifetime risk of developing cancer.

To combat the threat of cancer – a disease that ranks as the number two killer of Americans next to heart disease – Cedars-Sinai has established the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, and will recruit top physician scientists who will work collaboratively with cancer programs of excellence already in place at Cedars-Sinai. These include the Women’s Cancer Research Institute, the Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute, the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center, the Saul and Joyce Brandman Breast Center, the Gene Therapeutics Research Institute, and the Divisions of Medical, Surgical, Gynecologic, and Pediatric Oncology. Operating as a multidisciplinary team, the Institute members will work together with clinical departments across specialties that include medicine, surgery, genetics, gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, imaging, radiation therapy, pathology and the Cedars-Sinai Outpatient Cancer Center, the only outpatient cancer center in California that operates 24 hours a day.

“Because the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute will greatly enrich both the basic science and clinical trial component of cancer research currently being conducted at Cedars-Sinai, we believe that medical breakthroughs will be much more likely to occur,” said Dr. Melmed.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is one of the largest non-profit academic medical centers in the Western United States. For the fifth straight two-year period, Cedars-Sinai has been named Southern California’s gold standard in health care in an independent survey. Cedars-Sinai is internationally renowned for its diagnostic and treatment capabilities and its broad spectrum of programs and services, as well as breakthrough in biomedical research and superlative medical education. The Medical Center ranks among the top 10 non-university hospitals in the nation for its research activities.

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