

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **CHILDREN'S MERCY HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING CANCER PROGRAM**

*Awarded the Commission on Cancer's Outstanding Achievement Award for the Second Time*

**Kansas City, MO – March 31, 2010** – The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer has awarded Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics with an Outstanding Achievement Award for the second time. Children's Mercy is the only free-standing pediatric hospital to receive this year's honor, awarded to fewer than one in five U.S. cancer programs.

The Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes the significant dedication by the multi-disciplinary oncology team at Children's Mercy to provide high quality cancer care to its patients, and to meet and exceed the quality and clinical standards set by the Commission on Cancer Accreditation Program.

"It is an honor to receive this award again, and an affirmation of our multidisciplinary team approach to the care of children with cancer," says Alan Gamis, MD, chief of the [Oncology](#) section at Children's Mercy. "It is also rewarding that our clinical trials and prevention and early detection programs received commendations by the Commission on Cancer, as this recognizes the commitment Children's Mercy has to develop treatments and drugs to improve the quality of life for all kids with cancer."

Established in 2004, the Commission on Cancer Outstanding Achievement Award is designed to recognize cancer programs that strive for excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients. The award is based on a rigorous on-site survey process that evaluates a cancer program's performance on quality-of-care standards that demonstrate a Commendation level of compliance across the full scope of cancer care - cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical services, research, community outreach, and quality improvement. The evaluation occurs every three years, and Children's Mercy was first recognized with the Outstanding Achievement Award in 2006.

The Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care.

### **About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics**

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, located in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the nation's top pediatric medical centers. The 314-bed hospital provides care for children from birth through the age of 18, and has been recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with Magnet designation for excellence in nursing services, and ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." Its faculty of 600 pediatricians and researchers across more than [40 subspecialties](#) are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. For more information about Children's Mercy and its research, visit [childrensmc.org](http://childrensmc.org). For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).