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**MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**TRI-CITIES CANCER CENTER WELCOMES DR. JOSEPH R. KELLEY**

**Kennewick, WA** – The Tri-Cities Cancer Center is proud to announce Dr. Joseph R. Kelley has joined their staff a Radiation Oncologist. Dr. Kelley grew up on the East Coast and earned both a M.D. and a Ph.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina. He brings a wealth of experience in cancer biology, clinical research trials, and has extensive knowledge in the use of radiation for treatment of all types of cancer.

Dr. Kelley is a Board Certified Radiation Oncologist and is highly skilled in standard radiation treatment methods. He worked for several years in the VA hospital system caring for patients with lung cancer and prostate cancer. Dr. Kelley also has a special interest in breast cancer working with the founders of the partial breast irradiation trial and more recently studying the effect of diet and antioxidants to reduce the side effects of radiation therapy.



Earning his doctoral degree in molecular biology, Dr. Kelley focused on new genetic changes for early detection of colon cancer and studying gene therapy for pancreatic cancer. He remains interested in GI cancers using new methods to treat liver tumors and working with laser therapy to decrease the toxicity of cancer treatment. Dr. Kelley will draw on his research background to bring national cancer research trials to the Tri-Cities.

Dr. Kelley also brings expertise in the use of stereotactic radiosurgery (single treatment) and stereotactic radiotherapy (three – five treatments). Both offer a major advance in cancer treatment of certain types of tumors, which will allow for shorter treatment time, fewer side effects, and better chances for cure. This modern form of radiation therapy was not available in the Tri-Cities prior to Dr. Kelley's arrival. He brings extensive experience with CyberKnife™, and BrainLab™ based stereotactic treatment. Patients at the Tri-Cities Cancer Center will benefit from this new treatment option for some lung, spine, and brain tumors beginning this spring.

Dr. Kelley will begin treating patients in April. He is currently focused on meeting with local medical providers; reviewing and updating the Center's treatment modalities and protocols; establishing a local clinical research trials program; and creating the Center's stereotactic program. He will also oversee the final stages of the Tri-Cities Cancer Center's transition to a paperless electronic medical record system, slated for implementation April 2012.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Kelley join the Cancer Center," states Tom Cothran, Executive Director for the Tri-Cities Cancer Center. "His education, extensive background, and leadership make him an ideal addition to our highly skilled team of professionals. With Dr. Kelley's expertise in stereotactic treatment, patients who currently travel to Seattle or outside the area for specialized care will soon have the option of treatment close to home at the Tri-Cities Cancer Center. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kelley and his family to the Tri-Cities."

Originally, from Augusta, Georgia, Dr. Kelley and his family have now relocated to the Tri-Cities. He and his wife, Paula who is a Nurse Practitioner, have three beautiful daughters. In his free time, Dr. Kelley enjoys fishing, cooking, gardening, and playing tennis.

Tri-Cities Cancer Center is a joint venture of Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Kennewick General Hospital, and Lourdes Health Network. Offering state-of-the-art radiation oncology, patient navigation assistance, free cancer screenings, education, and support services. As a non-profit organization, donations made to the Foundation are tax deductible and support local cancer patients and their families.

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**Media:** To help us ensure the confidentiality of our patients, if you wish to visit the Tri-Cities Cancer Center for the purpose of interviewing and/or covering an activity, please call ahead. A member of the Cancer Center outreach staff will be available to assist you. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.