Renowned Oncologist Joins Southeast Georgia Health System

BRUNSWICK, Georgia: June 10, 2020 – Southeast Georgia Health System is pleased to welcome internationally recognized oncology and hematology specialist Robert K. Oldham, M.D., to Southeast Georgia Physician Associates-Hematology & Oncology and the Brunswick and Camden Campus medical staff. Oldham is regarded as a leading pioneer in the development and use of immunotherapy, which uses a patient’s immune system to attack cancer.

Oldham’s research and development led him to work at renowned institutions in the U.S. and Europe. Positions he has held include associate professor of Medicine and associate director of the Vanderbilt Cancer Center, where he also founded and directed the Division of Oncology. He has worked at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) as an associate director of the Division of Cancer Treatment and as a founding director of the Biological Response Modifiers Program.

His expertise with difficult oncology cases made him highly sought after as a consultant at medical centers throughout the country. Oldham has been listed among “The Best Doctors of America” since Woodward/White began publishing the list.

“Dr. Oldham’s expertise is in high demand and having a physician of his caliber allows us to provide a level of sophistication in cancer treatment that patients would find at the nation’s most recognized cancer centers. We are extremely fortunate that he chose our Health System,” said Michael D. Scherneck, president & CEO, Southeast Georgia Health System.

For his part, Oldham believes that a community hospital can be as effective as facilities located in a major metropolis for most cancer patients. “I’ve worked at 100-bed and 1,000-bed hospitals. When it comes to quality of care, just because a hospital is smaller, doesn’t mean it’s not excellent.”

Oldham considered several community hospitals before choosing the Health System. “I needed a good partner, a hospital that was supportive of me, where I would feel at home and be productive and helpful. I also wanted a location I liked and where my family and I had access to good health care.”

Oldham’s interest in immunotherapy came out of research demonstrating that cancer is a highly individualized disease. “My experience demonstrated that certain drugs stimulate immune responses to cancer. We now consider immunotherapy as the fourth method for treating cancer, in addition to surgery, radiation and chemotherapy,” Oldham said.

In addition to teaching at the University of Missouri-Columbia and Florida State University, Oldham has served as a consultant at medical and pharmaceutical companies in the U.S. and abroad, founded and served as editor-in-chief at three medical journals and co-edited Principles of Cancer Therapy,
the first comprehensive textbook on the topic. He has contributed to nearly 500 medical/scientific papers and presented extensively at cancer research and treatment meetings. He is also an active member of several professional organizations.

Oldham attended the University of Missouri where his undergraduate studies focused on Chemical Engineering and Pre-Medical Sciences. He earned his medical degree from the same institution in 1968. His internship and residency in Internal Medicine took place at Vanderbilt University. Oldham then pursued a Medical Oncology Fellowship and graduate studies in Immunology at NCI. While there, he served as a clinical associate in the Radiation Branch and in the Cellular and Tumor Immunology Section of the Laboratory of Cell Biology.

Oldham joins Abraham Cheong, M.D., and Duane P. Moores, M.D., Ph.D., at Southeast Georgia Physician Associates-Hematology & Oncology, 2500 Starling Street, Suite 506, Brunswick; 912-466-5506.

ABOUT SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM
Southeast Georgia Health System is a not-for-profit health system comprised of two acute care hospitals, two long term care facilities, two comprehensive Cancer Care Centers and multiple specialty care centers, including orthopaedic and spine care, joint replacement, breast care, maternity, outpatient rehabilitation, sleep management and wound care. The Brunswick Campus Cancer Care Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and offers the only CyberKnife® M6 with MLC technology in Georgia. Additionally, the Southeast Georgia Physician Associates medical group includes more than 140 providers working in 20 different medical specialties at more than 50 locations. The Health System is part of Coastal Community Health, a regional affiliation between Baptist Health and Southeast Georgia Health System forming a highly integrated hospital network focused on significant initiatives designed to enhance the quality and value of care provided to our contiguous communities. For more information, visit sghs.org.

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