

For Immediate Release

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**St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor offering free cancer screenings
for uninsured and low-income women**

St. Joe's is only See, Test & Treat® site in Michigan

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – (Feb 21, 2017) – Backed by a grant from the College of American Pathologists Foundation, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor (SJMAA) will provide free cervical and breast cancer screenings on Saturday, April 22, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Women's Health Center, 5320 Elliott Dr., Ypsilanti, Mich., located on the St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor hospital campus. Community health education and refreshments will be available.

As the only location in Michigan participating in the See, Test & Treat program, SJMAA will provide uninsured and low-income women ages 21 to 64 with free pelvic and breast exams and Pap tests with same-day results. Women ages 40 to 64 can also receive a free mammogram with same-day results. HPV tests, health education and access to community health resources are also offered. Spanish-speaking staff will be available for those needing translation services.

"Our growing Spanish-speaking population in Washtenaw county and neighboring communities can truly benefit from See, Test & Treat," said Dr. Sharon Bihlmeyer, pathologist, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor. "Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death for Hispanic women. And, among some underserved groups, the incidence of cervical cancer is 25 percent higher than national averages. But with regular screening, cervical cancer can be nearly eliminated and we can catch breast cancer early, when the potential for survival is greatest."

The St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor volunteer clinical team taking part in the screenings includes cytopathologists, gynecologists, internists, radiologists, nurses, technologists of various specialties, community health professionals, and many more. Additional organizations supporting this program include Ypsilanti-based Huron Valley Radiology, the American Cancer Society, and IHA, a multi-specialty healthcare provider group serving southeast Michigan.

As Dr. Bihlmeyer leads the coordinated team of interdisciplinary clinical volunteers, she also aims to have a long-term impact on the community's understanding and access to preventive care services.

"With See, Test & Treat, we have the potential to reach patients who otherwise might receive a diagnosis much later, perhaps too late," she says. "But more than that, as we serve these patients and their families, we hope to have a sustainable impact on their future health as they gain an understanding of the services they can regularly access in their community."

As physicians who specialize in diagnosing diseases through laboratory medicine, pathologists such as Dr. Bihlmeyer are uniquely qualified to explain how regular cervical and breast cancer screenings can help reduce deaths caused by these cancers.

Through See Test & Treat, a growing number of underserved women nationwide are gaining culturally sensitive access to preventive care, including Pap tests and mammography, with results and follow-up consults delivered the same day. Tailored to the needs of each targeted community, the program typically includes interpreters, multilingual patient outreach and education materials, even transportation and children's activities. This patient-centered, coordinated approach helps ensure that underserved women gain the early detection advantage and life-saving services that pathologists provide.

To register, call 734-712-7881. Space is limited, and registration is required.

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About Saint Joseph Mercy Health System

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) is a health care organization serving seven counties in southeast Michigan including Livingston, Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Jackson, and Lenawee. It includes 537-bed St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, 443-bed St. Joseph Mercy Oakland in Pontiac, 304-bed St. Mary Mercy Livonia, 136-bed St. Joseph Mercy Livingston in Howell, and 133-bed St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea. Combined, the five hospitals are licensed for 1,553 beds, have five outpatient health centers, six urgent care facilities, more than 25 specialty centers; employ more than 16,200 individuals and have a medical staff of nearly 2,700 physicians. SJMHS has annual operating revenues of about \$1.9 billion and returns about \$120 million to its communities annually through charity care and community benefit programs.

SJMHS is a member of Trinity Health, a leading Catholic health care system based in Livonia, Mich. Trinity Health operates in 22 states, employs about 97,000 people, has annual operating revenues of about \$15.8 billion and assets of about \$23.4 billion. Additionally, the organization returns almost \$1 billion to its communities annually in the form of charity care and other community benefit programs.

For more information on health services offered at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, please visit www.stjoeshealth.org.

About the College of American Pathologists and CAP Foundation

As the leading organization for board-certified pathologists, the College of American Pathologists (CAP) serves patients, pathologists, and the public by fostering and advocating excellence in the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine worldwide. With more than 18,000 physician members, the CAP has led as the gold standard in laboratory accreditation for 50 years with more than 7,600 CAP-accredited laboratories in 50 countries. Find more information about the CAP at cap.org. Follow CAP on Twitter at [@pathologists](https://twitter.com/pathologists).

The CAP Foundation, its philanthropic arm, supports patient-centered and humanitarian initiatives led by pathologists, striving to connect people in underserved communities with the specialized skills of pathologists. Contact the CAP Foundation foundation.cap.org or follow us on Twitter at [#seeestreat](https://twitter.com/seeestreat).

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