



MEDIA CONTACTS: Elizabeth Katz, 313-576-8043 or cell, 586-484-1272

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017**

Dr. Elisabeth Heath of Karmanos Cancer Institute appointed to Associate Center Director for Translational Sciences

DETROIT – Elisabeth Heath, M.D., FACP, of the [Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute](#) and [Wayne State University School of Medicine](#), has been appointed to Associate Center Director for Translational Sciences, effective immediately. She will report to Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D. president and CEO of Karmanos Cancer Institute, and chair of the Department of Oncology at Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSU SOM).

In this new position, Dr. Heath will enhance the ongoing work being done in translational research, create opportunities by facilitating interactions and communications between scientists and clinicians, advocate for resources to expedite multi-Principal Investigator projects, and develop teams of scientists and clinicians for major research grants.

In addition to her new responsibilities, Dr. Heath continues to lead the Genitourinary Oncology Multidisciplinary Team at Karmanos, serve as medical director of the Infusion Center, and remains director of Prostate Cancer Research at Karmanos, and is the Patricia C. and E. Jan Hartmann Endowed Chair for Prostate Cancer Research.

“Dr. Heath, with her expertise, strategic abilities, proactive communication style and proven results, continues to advocate for and advance cancer research while engaging other scientists, physicians and constituents,” said Dr. Bepler. “She is driven and committed to develop solutions for this complicated disease. It’s at the heart of everything she does so that more people survive cancer and thrive. This, and her ability to excite, engage and retain talent, makes her an excellent choice for this leadership position.”

Dr. Heath’s research focus is conducting clinical and translational research trials in genitourinary malignancies by investigating new therapies for preventing and treating cancer. She has been an active clinical and scientific member of Karmanos since 2003, and became a full professor of Oncology at WSU SOM in 2013.

“It’s critical that we as scientific leaders work together to move promising cancer research from the lab to the clinic; and with the resources and evidence-based findings, share innovative treatments with the community,” said Dr. Heath. “Enhancing the patient’s understanding of clinical trials and improving access to innovative treatments through trial enrollment is the driving force to develop new cancer treatments. I’m excited to accept this new role and work with our incredibly talented team of committed scientists to achieve best practices that lead to increased patient survival.”

Dr. Heath is active with several organizations such as the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), Michigan Cancer Consortium, and Southwest Oncology Group. She has published hundreds of research papers and continues to be recognized for her accomplishments. Recently, she received the Michigan Cancer Consortium Inaugural Champion Award for her leadership excellence, success and impact in the fight against cancer.

In addition, she is the principal investigator for a U.S. Department of Defense grant supporting the nationally-recognized Prostate Clinical Trials Cancer Consortium, and is co-investigator on multiple scientific grants with her peers at Karmanos and WSU SOM. Dr. Heath spearheaded Karmanos’ annual Prostate Cancer Symposium and created the Prostate Cancer Advocacy Program at Karmanos, which serves as a model to educate and engage survivors, and raise awareness of prostate cancer screening. The program also offers an

opportunity for patients to communicate directly with scientists. This invaluable experience increases the understanding between both parties and helps scientists enhance their application to secure research funding.

Dr. Heath received a fellowship in Medical Oncology from John Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD; completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC; received her Medical Degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, PA; and her Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. In addition, Dr. Heath received formal leadership training, recently completing the Rudi Ansbacher Women in Academic Medicine Leadership Scholars Program at the University of Michigan; and earlier completed The Academy Fellowship at The Advisory Board, in Washington, D.C.

About the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute

Located in mid-town Detroit, Michigan, the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, a subsidiary of McLaren Health Care, is one of 47 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States. Karmanos is among the nation's best cancer centers. Through the commitment of 1,000 staff, including nearly 300 physicians and researchers on faculty at the Wayne State University School of Medicine, and supported by thousands of volunteer and financial donors, Karmanos strives to prevent, detect and eradicate all forms of cancer. Its long-term partnership with the WSU School of Medicine enhances the collaboration of critical research and academics related to cancer care. Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D., is the Institute's president and chief executive officer. For more information call 1-800-KARMANOS or go to www.karmanos.org.

###