

March 24, 2006 - \$1 Million in Funding for University of Rochester's Wilmot Cancer Center

Rep. Slaughter to Announce \$1 Million in Funding for University of Rochester's Wilmot Cancer Center

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, yesterday joined Joel Seligman, President of the University of Rochester, Dr. McCollister Evarts, CEO of the University of Rochester Medical Center, and Dr. Richard Fisher, Director of the Wilmot Cancer Center, to announce \$1 million in federal funding for the Center the Congresswoman secured.

The funds will be used for the purchase of a new and novel piece of equipment for cancer treatment: the Trilogy Radiosurgery System. Trilogy is the most powerful, precise, and versatile non-invasive cancer treatment currently available. It brings together several radiotherapy techniques into one efficient tool.

"We have seen tremendous advancements in the treatment of cancer, but there are many more challenges ahead," Rep. Slaughter said. "With this kind of technology at our disposal, leading facilities like Wilmot will be able to help more cancer patients in a more effective way than ever before."

The instillation of the Trilogy system will be part of the construction of a new, centralized Wilmot Cancer treatment and research facility. The facility will make possible new studies and clinical trials, will support medical education efforts, and will possess enhanced ambulatory care and administration services.

It will also be the home of expanded clinical care programs and cancer research programs, which will in turn lead to earlier cancer diagnosis, as well as to state-of-the-art treatments for patients afflicted with breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers, as well as leukemia and lymphoma.

For patients, this technology offers the hope of faster, more effective treatment, and a reduction in radiation volume to minimize side effects and complications.

BACKGROUND

As life expectancy increases in the United States, more individuals are being forced to confront cancer within their lifetimes.

The Wilmot Cancer Center at the University of Rochester currently serves as a critical resource for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in upstate New York, a region with a population base of 1.4 million people.

Each year, the Wilmot Cancer Center admits more than 2,700 patients, conducts over 18,000 hematology-oncology outpatient visits, provides 19,000 outpatient infusions and chemotherapy treatments, administers 18,000 radiation treatments and procedures, and performs 120 stem cell/bone marrow transplants (the second most in the nation).

This Center is currently operating at full capacity. But experts estimate that the number of patients turning to it for help will double by 2009. When that occurs, facilities like Wilmot will be forced to handle a vastly increased need for treatment, as well as the associated need research to find new and novel ways to treat cancer.

The new facility being constructed at Wilmot is designed to address these needs.