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Balancing Competing Demands puts Cancer Caregivers at High Risk for Emotional Distress
Cancer Support Community Releases First-of-its Kind Screening Tool for Cancer Caregivers

San Diego, Ca. – (Mar. 31, 2017) – The Cancer Support Community (CSC), an international nonprofit, has released two posters on cancer caregiving in less than one week. Because of the risks associated with the growing number of patients, the growing number of caregivers, and the heightened complexity of care, the research team at the Cancer Support Community’s Research and Training Institute developed and validated a distress screening program to identify and address social and emotional distress in cancer caregivers.

Distinct and important findings were presented last week at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network in Orlando and today at the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting in San Diego and can be found at www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/Presentations-Publications.

“Caring for people with cancer is often accompanied with a range of emotions and distress that can lead to poor outcomes for both caregivers and patients. The new web-based screening tool, CancerSupportSource® for Caregivers, will facilitate early identification of and targeted intervention for distress in caregivers in ways that do not exist today,” said Joanne Buzaglo, SVP of Research and Training. “We are proud to be able to provide a tool to help facilitate care for those who fill such a critical role in caring for people with cancer.”

Three themes emerged as a part of the analysis; caregiver self-care and emotional concerns, caregiving tasks, and patient well-being. Among the top concerns reported by caregivers of patients with cancer are:

- Worry about the future
- Disruptions in home life
- Patient’s pain/discomfort
- Changes in patient’s mood/behavior
- Patient’s eating and nutrition

CancerSupportSource® for Caregivers, is a web-based screening tool that will be initially launched at CSC affiliates where family members and loved ones of people living with cancer are provided professionally led support in community settings and also on CSC’s telephone Helpline. In addition to identifying signs of distress and risk for clinical depression, CancerSupportSource also refers participants to relevant resources in their community and allows them to designate specific areas where they would like follow-up from their medical team.

All of CSC's published research, including these posters can be found at www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/Publications-Presentations

About the Cancer Support Community

As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community (CSC), including its Gilda's Club affiliates, is dedicated to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. CSC achieves its mission through three areas: direct service delivery, research, and advocacy. The organization includes an international network of Affiliates that offer the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer, as well as a community of support available online and over the phone. The Research and Training Institute conducts cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research. CSC furthers its focus on patient advocacy through its Cancer Policy Institute, informing public policy in Washington, D.C. and across the nation. For more information, please call the toll-free Cancer Support Helpline at 888-793-9355, or visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org. So that no one faces cancer alone®

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