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THE IMPACT OF A MULTIPLE MYELOMA DIAGNOSIS ON CAREGIVERS IS NOT UNDERSTOOD

The Cancer Experience Registry Expands to Include Registry for Caregivers of People Living with Multiple Myeloma

WASHINGTON – (Feb. 12, 2015) – The Cancer Support Community (CSC), an international nonprofit dedicated to providing support, education and hope to people impacted by cancer, launched today a new registry to study the unique social, emotional and financial impact multiple myeloma has on caregivers to someone living with this diagnosis.

This project, Cancer Experience Registry: Multiple Myeloma Caregivers is an expansion of CSC's Cancer Experience Registry, a first-of-its-kind study dedicated to fully understanding the experiences of people touched by cancer. Since its launch in 2013, the Cancer Experience Registry has collected over a million data points from more than 7,500 people who have ever been diagnosed with cancer. This new registry will provide a deeper insight into the unique needs and concerns facing caregivers of patients who have multiple myeloma in order to provide them with resources and support.

Multiple myeloma is a cancer of the plasma cells, a type of white blood cell that develops in the bone marrow. According to the National Cancer Institute, there are approximately 24,000 new cases each year with an average of 83,000 patients and their loved ones living with the disease.

“Because of the multi-faceted nature of this illness, there are special considerations facing caregivers including time off work, companion care, the financial impact and more,” said Linda House, President of the Cancer Support Community. “The Cancer Experience Registry: Multiple Myeloma Caregivers will help us learn more about the impact these unique considerations are having on caregivers and will allow the community to create programs and services that will support them.”

Members of the Cancer Experience Registry: Multiple Myeloma Caregivers will be asked questions on several different topics including their role as a caregiver, the experience of caregiving and their level of preparedness. After completing the survey, participants will be able to instantly compare their responses with others in the community, get connected to support and resources that meet their unique needs and have the option to receive additional information from CSC and its partners.

The Cancer Support Community defines a caregiver as anyone who provides physical, emotional, spiritual, financial or logistical support to a loved one with cancer. This could include family members, friends or neighbors. Anyone who self-identifies as a caregiver of someone with multiple myeloma, whether currently or in the past, is eligible to join the Registry at www.CancerExperienceRegistry.org.

The Cancer Experience Registry: Multiple Myeloma Caregivers was created thanks to support from Takeda Oncology.

For more information on the Cancer Experience Registry: Multiple Myeloma Caregivers or to sign up, please visit www.CancerExperienceRegistry.org.

About the Cancer Support Community

The mission of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community. The combined organization, with more than 50 years of collective experience, provides the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer through a network of more than 50 licensed Affiliates, more than 120 satellite locations and vibrant online and telephone communities, touching more than one million people each year.

Backed by evidence that the best cancer care includes social and emotional support, the Cancer Support Community offers these services free of charge to men, women and children with any type or stage of cancer, and to their loved ones. As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community delivers a comprehensive menu of personalized and essential services including support groups, educational workshops, exercise, art and nutrition classes and social activities for the entire family. Through cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research, the Cancer Support Community's *Research and Training Institute* is helping CSC change the future of cancer care through education and training. The Cancer Support Community's *Cancer Policy Institute* ensures that the voices of 13.7 million cancer survivors and their families are heard in the nation's capital and state and local legislatures across the country. In 2014, the CSC network delivered nearly \$48 million in free services to patients and families. The Cancer Support Community is advancing the innovations that are becoming the standard in complete cancer care. So that no one faces cancer alone®.

For more information, please visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org

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