



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact:

Linda House

(202) 650-5382

[Linda@cancersupportcommunity.org](mailto:Linda@cancersupportcommunity.org)

**Transforming the Cancer Patient Experience: A Key Priority**

*Raj Mantena issues challenge grant to advance key priority of comprehensive, quality cancer care*

**WASHINGTON - (May 28, 2014)** - The Cancer Support Community (CSC), the largest, professionally led, nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, announced today receipt of a generous challenge grant to help advance the key priority of ensuring that all patients with cancer and their families have access to a full suite of quality cancer care services that include distress screening, intervention and care planning. Long-time friend and supporter of CSC, Raj Mantena, has agreed to match gifts from individual donors to transform the experience of patients and families as they move through the cancer journey.

"Today's announcement is quite timely as we prepare to attend the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (or ASCO)," said Kim Thiboldeaux, President and CEO of the Cancer Support Community. "The world's largest meeting of biomedical care for cancer is the perfect backdrop to remind us about the importance of caring for the whole patient. We are incredibly grateful for and inspired by Raj's generosity."

"The Cancer Support Community is an organization on the leading edge of creating solutions proven to improve patient outcomes," said Raj Mantena. "I'm proud to join others who support CSC's mission to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community."

Dollars raised through this *Total Patient Care Challenge Grant* will be used to fund innovative programs and services to improve the patient experience, especially as it relates to distress screening, psychosocial support, care planning, community navigation, information and referral and post-treatment survivorship care.

"CSC is known for its ability to deliver innovative solutions for people touched by cancer," said Linda House, RN, Executive Vice President, Cancer Support Community. "One very relevant example is the Cancer Experience Registry, the first and only registry of its kind, exploring the full experience of patients and caregivers throughout their cancer journey. The contribution of so many, including Raj, will allow CSC to move into areas of research and program development otherwise not possible, and for that, we are grateful."

To participate in the *Total Patient Care Challenge Grant* and help support CSC with its vision to ensure that no one faces cancer alone, please visit [cancersupportcommunity.org/totalpatientcarechallenge](http://cancersupportcommunity.org/totalpatientcarechallenge) to make your tax deductible donation. This is THE time to give - and have your donation doubled thanks to this generous challenge grant and the kindness of Raj Mantena.

## **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 community, 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 2013, 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](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org)

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