FOR IMMEDIATE RELASE:

The Erdheim-Chester Disease Global Alliance Welcomes Vanderbilt University Medical Center to the ECD Referral Care Center Network

Nashville, TN is the newest location Erdheim-Chester Disease patients can go for treatment by ECD-knowledgeable doctors



Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Credit: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

DeRidder, LA - March 22, 2017 – Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee is the most recent addition to the Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD) Referral Care Center network. Nishitha M. Reddy, M.B.B.S., MsCI and her team of ECD-knowledgeable specialists now can collaborate with a large community of other ECD-knowledgeable doctors and researchers to provide the best care available to ECD patients.

ECD is a very complicated and rare type of blood cancer. The disease is multi-systemic and can affect each patient differently making it difficult to diagnosis and treat. However, the ECD Referral Care Center network facilitates open communication among

doctors treating ECD patients, can serve as a point of reference for out-of-network doctors, and encourages constant learning about the disorder through annual symposia.

Professor Reddy explains why she and her team joined the ECD care network. "To advance our mission of improving access to care for patients with this rare disorder. We would like to promote increased awareness of ECD among patients and health care professionals. One of our goals is to collaborate with world class experts and provide access to novel therapies." She has seen 5 ECD patients in her career. Vanderbilt University Medical Center has had 8 reported ECD cases.

There are now 25 care centers in the Referral Care Center network, 14 in the United States, and 11 internationally. Prior to Vanderbilt's induction into the network, the ECD Global Alliance received its first Chinese ECD Referral Care Center, Peking Union Medical College Hospital this past January.



Nishitha M. Reddy, M.B.B.S., MsCl, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Other notable U.S. ECD Referral Care Centers include Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA, and Columbia University Medical Center in New York, NY.

Learn more about the ECD Referral Care Center network by visiting http://erdheim-chester.org/care-centers/.

<u>Erdheim-Chester Disease</u> is a rare multi-systemic histiocytic neoplasm with no known cause that is challenging to diagnosis and treat. Unless successful treatment is found, organ failure can occur.

The <u>ECD Global Alliance</u> is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to awareness, support, education, and research related to Erdheim-Chester Disease.

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