

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****DHR HEALTH CANCER RESEARCH CENTER IS OFFERING INNOVATIVE CLINICAL TRIALS USING TARGETED IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH COLORECTAL CANCERS**

**Edinburg, TX (May 2, 2022)** – The Cancer Research Center at DHR Health Institute for Research and Development has initiated two advanced clinical trials to treat patients with colorectal cancers using targeted immunotherapy. Funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and under the direction of Dr. Shravan Narmala, a board-certified medical oncologist at DHR Health, these trials would use combination immunotherapy for very high-risk patients with deficient DNA mismatch repair metastatic colorectal cancers.

Recognizing the need to offer advanced cancer care to patients in South Texas, DHR Health Institute for Research & Development has established a Cancer Research Center in Edinburg. As a dedicated advanced clinical research facility, the Cancer Research Center offers the most innovative and state-of-the-art clinical trials in the areas of breast, liver, colorectal, ovarian, lung, pancreatic, prostate, and other solid organ tumors. It has also initiated clinical trials in patients with lymphomas, leukemias, and other cancers in the blood.

“All existing cancer treatment is investigational and presently, majority of the patients who are exploring the opportunity to enroll in advanced cancer trials have to travel out of the Valley to distant locations” said Sohail Rao, MD, MA, DPhil, President and CEO, DHR Health Institute for Research & Development “This places enormous psychosocial and financial burden on the patients and their caregivers and seriously disrupts the continuity of care that these patients most rightfully deserve. This is equally onerous for patients with colorectal cancer which is the fourth most common malignancy and the second most frequent cause of cancer-related death in the United States”.

To alleviate this encumbrance and to ensure that cancer patients receive the most advanced clinical care in the Valley, the Cancer Research Center at DHR Health Institute for Research & Development has obtained full membership of [SWOG Cancer Research Network](#) with access to hundreds of NCI funded prevention and treatment trials. Additionally, the Cancer Research Center is also a member of the [Texas Hepatocellular Carcinoma Consortium](#), the [Hoosier Cancer Research Network](#) and it will continue to initiate novel clinical trials with these partners and with multiple collaborators in the biopharmaceutical industry.

If you or your patient is interested to participate or learn more about cancer clinical trials, please call 956-362-2395.



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### **About DHR Health Institute for Research & Development**

DHR Health Institute for Research & Development, is a nonprofit organized under the Federal Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(3). As the largest and the most comprehensive entity conducting translational and clinical research in South Texas, DHR Health Institute for Research and Development leads the way in bringing innovative, state-of-the-art advanced treatment options for our patients in the community. DHR Health Institute for Research and Development provides oversight of translational and clinical research in DHR Health – Edinburgh, DHR Health – Brownsville, Starr County Memorial Hospital, and in >70 clinics under Renaissance Medical Foundation. To learn more, visit this website at [www.dhrresearch.org](http://www.dhrresearch.org).

### **About DHR Health**

DHR Health was founded in 1997 to help over 1.4 million residents resolve limited health care access challenges in a community that lacked public and county hospitals. Today, it is a modern, 600+ bed full-service health system serving over 280,000 patients annually, with 5500+ employees, over 650 physicians and more than 1,400 nurses dedicated to offering a full continuum of care in over 70 different specialties and subspecialties. As the only Trauma Level I facility in South Texas, DHR Health proudly boasts the best specialty care in the region, a 24/7 functioning level-one trauma center, a robust clinical research division, and developing graduate medical education programs. DHR Health has revolutionized the health care landscape of the Rio Grande Valley and continues to raise the standard of care and transform the health care delivery model for the benefit of all local and regional residents. To learn more, visit this website at [www.dhrhealth.com](http://www.dhrhealth.com)

### **About SWOG Cancer Research Network**

SWOG Cancer Research Network (formerly the Southwest Oncology Group) is a NCI supported organization that conducts clinical trials in adult cancers. Comprising of more than 4,000 cancer researchers at more than 650 institutions across the United States and Canada, it is one of the largest of the NCI's clinical trial cooperative groups. Member institutions include 24 of the NCI-designated cancer centers, many university medical centers, private institutions, and Community Clinical Oncology Programs. To learn more, visit this website: <https://www.swog.org/>

### **About Available New Trials for Colorectal Cancer**

Randomized Trial of Standard Chemotherapy Alone or Combined with Atezolizumab as Adjuvant Therapy for Patients with Stage III Colon Cancer and Deficient DNA Mismatch Repair. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02912559>

Colorectal Cancer Metastatic dMMR/MSI-H Immuno-Therapy (COMMIT) Study: A Randomized Phase III Study of mFOLFOX6/Bevacizumab/Atezolizumab Combination Versus Single Agent Atezolizumab in the First-Line Treatment of Patients with Deficient DNA Mismatch Repair (dMMR)/Microsatellite Instability-High (MSI-H) Metastatic Colorectal Cancer. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02997228>