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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DHR HEALTH BREAST CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IS SELECTED TO LEAD A STATE-WIDE EFFORT IN A GROUNDBREAKING BREAST CANCER STUDY

Edinburg, TX (May 9, 2022) – The Breast Center of Excellence at DHR Health and the Cancer Research Center at DHR Health Institute for Research and Development have been selected to lead an innovative breast cancer study – WISDOM (Women Informed to Screen Depending on Measure of risk). The overall study is funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute and the National Cancer Institute and local funding will support the DHR launch under the direction of Dr. Lisa Chapa, a board-certified surgeon and breast cancer oncologist at DHR Health, this study aims to recruit women of diverse backgrounds across the entire State of Texas.

“Despite advances in the past three decades, breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women in the United States,” said Lisa Chapa, MD, director, DHR Health Breast Center of Excellence. “The incidence of breast cancer in women of Hispanic ethnicity is higher than in general population and it is vital to involve minorities in this trailblazing longitudinal study. We are pleased that we will be working with the WISDOM team of investigators and community groups to offer this opportunity that we are the sole site and will be offering this opportunity to all women in the State of Texas.”

“Having a standard for risk assessment with tailored screening recommendations for all women will be an important step forward in reducing these cancer disparities,” said Sohail Rao, MD, MA, DPhil, president and chief executive officer, DHR Health Institute for Research & Development. “To maximize the impact of this clinical study and to benefit all women in the State of Texas, we will be seeking funding from the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) in the Prevention and Early Detection program.”

“Most women spend 30 to 35 years getting breast screenings,” said Laura Esserman, MD, a University of California San Francisco professor of surgery and radiology and the national principal investigator of this study. “So, we recommend that women in Texas join the WISDOM study and spend the next 5 years helping us create a better future where we can learn how best to target both screening and prevention. Now, more than ever it’s important for women to understand their personal risk and to know how often they should screen.”

To join this landmark study, please visit: [JOIN WISDOM STUDY](#) or call (956)362-2367 or email wisdom@dhr-rgv.com.

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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 – Edinburg, DHR Health – Brownsville, Starr County Memorial Hospital, and in >70 clinics under Renaissance Medical Foundation. To learn more, visit this website at www.dhrrresearch.org.



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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

About WISDOM

- To learn more: <https://www.thewisdomstudy.org/>
- View the four-part TIME series by Alice Park and watch videos here: <https://time.com/6109518/laura-esserman-breast-cancer-wisdom/>.