



## For Immediate Release

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### **SMH Moves Forward with Construction of New Regional Cancer Center**

SLIDELL, La.—(September 28, 2009)—Slidell Memorial Hospital's (SMH) comprehensive cancer center, scheduled to open in December 2010, has reached an important milestone in its construction process. Upon receiving an Official Building Permit from the City of Slidell, SMH was granted a Notice to Proceed on the center's construction, officially moving the \$19.2 million project into full production.

This notice allows 457 days from Sept. 15, the date the notice was granted, for completion of the new regional cancer center in Legacy Medical Park, 1150 Robert Blvd., next to the SMH Founders Building. Contractors are moving forward with all aspects of the project's construction work and are scheduled to receive a Certificate of Occupancy on Dec. 15, 2010.

"This is an exciting time for not only the hospital, but also for Slidell and surrounding areas," said Matthew McElveen, MD, medical oncologist and medical director of the new center. "As we move forward on the construction of the new regional cancer center, we move closer to providing the comprehensive care and support our patients need in one location, right here in our community."

The Cancer Center will feature all of SMH's cancer-specific diagnostic and treatment equipment under one roof, centralizing the latest technology available for fighting and diagnosing cancer. This includes: the Varian Image-guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) system used in both radiosurgery and more precise, targeted radiation treatment; CT Scanners and a new GE 16-slice CT Scan simulator with four-dimensional respiratory gating capabilities. The center also will feature a comfortable Infusion Center for patients undergoing chemotherapy.

### **ABOUT SMH**

Slidell Memorial Hospital is a full-service 182-bed acute care not-for-profit community hospital located at 1001 Gause Blvd., in the heart of Slidell. Founded in 1959, SMH is the third-largest employer in St. Tammany Parish, employing 1,100 full, part-time and pool employees. SMH serves as a primary healthcare resource for families in St. Tammany Parish, La.; Pearl River County, Miss.; and the greater Mississippi Gulf Coast region. It is located online at [www.slidellmemorial.org](http://www.slidellmemorial.org).

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