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Contact: Sam Caruso, Jr.
carusos@smhplus.org
985-649-8834

Karen Hales
halesk@smhplus.org
985-649-8616

Slidell Memorial Hospital Offers Free Prostate Cancer Screening *Screenings Aid in Early Detection and Treatment of Prostate Cancer*

(Slidell, La. –Jan. 20, 2010)—Aside from skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most prevalent type of cancer found in men, affecting one in six Americans in the course of a lifetime. To educate the community about prevention and early detection of the disease, Slidell Memorial Hospital (SMH) and its outpatient diagnostic imaging center, MD Imaging, will offer free Prostate Exams and PSA Tests to the community on Wed., Feb. 3 from 6 to 7 p.m. Registration begins at 5 p.m. The screening will be held at MD Imaging, located at 1495 Gause Blvd. Appointments are available by calling (985) 649-8585.

Because prostate cancer is a very real threat that often has no warning signs, it is important for men to know that if caught early, it can be cured. Symptoms may not appear for many years, making screening the key to early detection, diagnosis and treatment. By the time symptoms surface, the disease may have spread beyond the prostate. It is recommended that men age 50 and above be screened annually. African-American men and those with a history of prostate cancer in their family should begin screening earlier, at age 45.

Urologists Grant Simmons, MD, and H. Stephen Watson, MD, are donating their expertise for the prostate cancer screening. Appointments are required, and patients are asked to arrive 15 minutes in advance of their appointment times.

This free screening is a community service of Slidell Memorial Hospital's Cancer Program, which is accredited and designated as a Community Cancer Center Program by the American College of Surgeons. SMH offers annual cancer screening events, including prostate screenings for men, to increase the community's awareness of cancer prevention and detection. For information on cancer services, programs and support groups, call the SMH Cancer Resource Center at (985) 649-8582.

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 clinical and administrative employees. SMH serves as a primary healthcare resource for families in St. Tammany Parish, LA; Pearl River County, MS; and the greater Mississippi Gulf Coast region. It is located online at <http://www.slidellmemorial.org>.

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