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Cooper Announces \$2 Million Grant from William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation to Support Cancer Genetics Program

CAMDEN, N.J.— Cooper University Health Care Chairman George E. Norcross, III, today announced that the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation has awarded The Cooper Foundation a \$2 million grant to help fund the expansion of the cancer genetics program at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper.

The grant is the largest to MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper since it opened in 2013.

“With this grant we are taking a major step forward toward our goal of conquering cancer,” said Norcross. “I am deeply appreciative of the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation’s support for MD Anderson Cooper and for sharing our commitment to bringing the best possible cancer care to patients across the region.”

Norcross announced the grant during an afternoon news conference at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. He was joined by Linda Rohrer, President, William G. Rohrer Foundation; Susan Bass Levin, President and CEO, The Cooper Foundation; Adrienne Kirby, President and CEO, Cooper University Health Care, and Generosa Grana, MD, Director, MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper.

“This grant is a reflection of my family’s longstanding love of Cooper and our great admiration for the life-saving care and research that takes place here each and every day,” said Rohrer, who was born at Cooper and served on the Cooper Board of Trustees. “The cancer genetics program at MD Anderson Cooper represents the future of cancer care, and my dad would want to be a part of it.”

Rohrer’s father, the late William G. Rohrer, also served on the Cooper Board of Trustees and was mayor of Haddon Township for 36 years. The cancer genetics program will officially be named the William G. Rohrer Cancer Genetics Program in his honor.

The program provides genetic counseling, testing and long-term cancer risk reduction strategies for people at increased risk for cancer due to hereditary mutations. The program also focuses on the evolving use of molecular profiling to define cancer treatment.

“Cancer is a genetically driven disease,” said Grana. “Genetic variation in healthy individuals may predispose them to developing certain cancers, and genetic alterations in the cancer cells

themselves determine prognosis and response to anti-cancer drugs. Until recently, certain types of cancer, such as breast and lung, were largely treated the same irrespective of their genetic make-up.

“The funding from this generous grant allows us to expand our cancer genetics program to provide testing and counseling to more patients and enables patients to receive personalized medicine regimens of new drugs to target their tumor based on its genomic sequencing.”

The program will be expanded in phases and will include:

- Additional staff, including two additional genetic counselors, a physician director, a pathologist, a medical oncologist, a clinical trials nurse, two social workers and an administrative coordinator.
- Next Generation Sequencing capabilities to allow for identification of defined mutations in tumors that can then be targeted with drugs that focus on the affected molecular pathways. This will include a molecular tumor board to help guide selection of therapy.
- A biorepository for the acquisition and storage of tumor samples and body fluids that will be used to contribute to cutting edge research in the field of cancer biology.

“The William G. Rohrer Cancer Genetics Program is an extension of our mission to serve, to heal and to educate,” said Kirby. “As the leading provider of comprehensive health services in South Jersey, we accomplish this mission through innovative and effective systems of care and by bringing people and resources together, creating value for our patients and the community.”

Kirby thanked the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation for the grant and recognized the leadership of Levin and The Cooper Foundation in securing the funding.

“The Cooper Foundation is honored to work with the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation, whose generosity is helping us make cancer history,” Levin said. “Support for the cancer genetics program means we can provide more patients with better options for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease and move one step closer to ending the disease.”

About the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation

The William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation was funded by the estate of William G. Rohrer, a former banker, businessman, public official and humanitarian from Camden County whose life was dedicated to improving the educational and economic prosperity of southern New Jersey. The Foundation’s mission is to improve the quality of life for the people of Southern New Jersey by supporting organizations that deal with education, youth, and health related issues.

About MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper

Cooper University Healthcare and MD Anderson Cancer Center – the nation’s No. 1 cancer hospital – partnered to create MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper in September 2013. MD Anderson Cooper physicians adhere to the philosophy, process and guidelines set by MD Anderson in Houston, Texas, and patients receive the same proven practice standards and treatment protocols provided at MD Anderson. Disease-site specific multidisciplinary teams consisting of physicians, nurses and other clinical specialists work together to provide cancer patients with advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies, access to a wide range of groundbreaking clinical trials and dynamic patient-physician relationships. A full complement of support services provides complete, compassionate care for our patients. MD Anderson Cooper services are provided in Camden, Voorhees, Willingboro, Mt. Laurel and many other locations throughout South Jersey.

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