



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Warren, OH – December 4, 2009) New breakthrough technology is enabling doctors at Trumbull Memorial Hospital to use a minimally invasive procedure that can reach small lesions deep within the lung. For patients, this means that lung cancer can be diagnosed and treated earlier than before, which increases their chance of survival.

Trumbull Memorial is the only area hospital between Cleveland and Pittsburgh, and one of only seven hospitals in Ohio, which offers this new technology.

The inReach Electromagnetic Navigation System by superDimension can replace the need for a needle biopsy or surgery often used for the diagnosis of lung cancer. The technology acts as a GPS to provide a road map of the lungs. The map allows doctors to navigate a catheter through the small, narrow lung passages to locate and biopsy a targeted lesion or lymph node in the outermost area of the lung.

Previously, transthoracic needle aspiration or surgery was used to reach lesions in the deeper regions of the lung.

“We can now access hard-to-reach outer areas of lung, take tissue samples from lesions as small as 1 cm. without surgery and its associated complication risk,” explained pulmonologist Kowriah Amirthalingam, M.D., one of two physicians at TMH trained to perform the procedure. “This greatly relieves a patient’s anxiety and gives him or her peace of mind.”

Because small lung lesions are often found to be non-cancerous, and due to the complication risks for procedures such as thoracotomy and needle aspiration, patients with small lesions in the outer two-thirds of the lung are often placed on “watchful waiting” status. Now with the advancements offered by the inReach system, a patient can be diagnosed safely and begin treatment sooner.

“This breakthrough technology adds to the diagnostic capability for lung cancer and benign disease of the lung,” stated cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon Thomas D’Amato, M.D. “It is especially beneficial for patients that may not have been a candidate for surgery, such as those with an indeterminate lesion or for higher risk patients with poor pulmonary function or severe cardiac disease who could not tolerate removal of all or part of the lung.”

Now with this new technology, doctors can reach lesions deep inside the lung without

any incision by using the patient's natural airway. A CAT scan is used to create a GPS map of the lung. Real-time three dimensional images and different views of the lung help doctors guide a catheter beyond the main bronchial tubes through the small, narrow branches of the lung. Once the located, tissue samples of the lesion are removed for biopsy. The system is also useful for cancer staging of lymph nodes and marker placement for a later biopsy or radiation therapy.

Both Dr. Amir and Dr. D'Amato noted that patients in a clinical trial with a solitary or newly discovered lesion can benefit from this new diagnostic tool. Lung cancer can be detected, removed and treated at an earlier stage which greatly improves survival. And, since this technology is available locally, patients can remain in the valley rather than travel to distant diagnostic centers for the same procedure and treatment.

Lung cancer is the most common cancer-related death in American men and the second most common in women. Each year it claims more lives than breast cancer, prostate cancer and colorectal cancer combined.

In 2007 alone, more than 200,000 Americans were diagnosed with lung cancer. More accurate detection, early diagnosis and intervention can save lives and successfully improve the rate of life expectancy. The In-Reach system is now aiding physicians at Trumbull Memorial Hospital in doing just that.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: TMH physicians are available for media interviews about this new system. For more information or to set up an interview, please contact Deb Bishop at 330-841-3305