

Richardson Cancer Center accredited

BY DAVID ALVEY

The Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons has granted "Three-Year Approval with Commendation" to the cancer program at Richardson Regional Cancer Center, an affiliate of UT Southwestern Medical Center.

"This accreditation reaffirms our commitment to providing patients with the highest quality of cancer care, from diagnosis through treatment," said Dr. Barry Levinson, medical director of the cancer center and associate professor of internal medicine in the hematology-oncology division at UT Southwestern.

"We have a highly experienced and dedicated team of cancer specialists, advanced equipment and services, and outstanding support and education programs."

Established by the American College of Surgeons, the commission sets nationwide standards for cancer care. There currently are 1,400 approved cancer programs across the country, representing close to 25 percent of all hospitals.

To become an approved program, facilities must undergo a rigorous evaluation process and

review of their performance. In addition to meeting all commission standards, Richardson Regional's cancer program also earned commendations for its patient guidelines, community outreach programs and staff education.

Richardson Regional offers a full range of chemotherapy and surgical treatment, genetic testing, clinical trials, and some of the most advanced radiation technology in the area.

In October, the Cancer Center will have a new home at the hospital's Bush/Renner campus in East Richardson.

"The new facility that is currently under construction will bring an enhanced level of care to the region," said Levinson. "We will continue to make strides in the fight against cancer by offering innovative treatment options and focusing on clinical research."

David Alvey is a frequent contributor to neighborsgo.com and neighborsgo print editions.

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Cancer survivor Lois Ferrara and Gayla Von Her. **For more photos, see Page 9.**