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**NATIONAL SURVEY OF ADVANCED PROSTATE CANCER PATIENTS REVEALS  
MOST COMMON CONCERNS AS DISEASE PROGRESSES**

*Survey results to be presented at ASCO Prostate Cancer Symposium in San Francisco*

**Downers Grove, Ill.-Feb. 24, 2006** - For the first time, a groundbreaking survey conducted by leading patient advocacy group Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education & Support Network is calling attention to the significant quality of life issues faced by advanced prostate cancer patients and their caregivers. The survey brings to light the difficult decisions, the frustrations and anxieties with which these patients and their caregivers have to deal.

“When you listen to patients talk about their quality of life as disease progresses – the sometimes difficult to witness, devastating effects from treating the disease– it becomes very clear more needs to be done to identify more treatment options,” said Thomas Kirk, president and CEO of Us TOO International. “And it’s important that people hear the stories of patients whose disease continues to progress. These are stories of hope and survival, but also of difficult decisions, which are being quantified by this important survey.”

Prostate cancer traditionally has received less attention and less funding for research than other cancers. It has also been cast as a slow-growing disease in which men are more likely to die *with* prostate cancer rather than *from* prostate cancer. More than 30,000 men die from prostate cancer each year.

Overall, the survey found advanced prostate patients are largely dissatisfied (63 percent) with the treatment options available to them today. Currently, there are few options for men with late-stage prostate cancer, either chemotherapy or supportive care.

“When you’re talking about the advanced cancer patient experience, it is critical to understand the emotional concerns of the patient who is considering treatment options,” said Diane Blum, ACSW, Executive Director, *CancerCare*. “What we are seeing is that both patients and caregivers are recognizing the importance of being involved earlier in decisions about their treatment in order to preserve quality of life.”

The more than 400 advanced prostate cancer patients surveyed by Us TOO is just one of several reports highlighting the quality of life choices men face when fighting prostate cancer at this year’s Prostate Cancer Symposium to be held February 24 – 26 in San Francisco.

### **About Prostate Cancer**

One in six American men will develop prostate cancer in the course of his lifetime, making it the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in the United States. Every year more than 230,000 men are diagnosed with the disease, and in 2005 more than 30,000 will die from prostate cancer. In the next 10 years, the number of men diagnosed with prostate cancer is expected to increase by 40 percent from approximately 230,000 to more than 300,000 a year. Furthermore, it’s expected that during the next 10 years, the numbers of prostate cancer deaths could rise from 30,000 to 50,000 per year. Unfortunately, early prostate cancer has few recognizable symptoms, however if detected early by a physician, prostate cancer is often treatable.

### **About Us TOO**

Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education & Support Network is a nonprofit, grassroots organization started in 1990 by prostate cancer survivors for prostate cancer patients, survivors, and their spouses/partners and families. Us TOO, through its more than 325 chapters throughout the United States and internationally, helps men and their families learn more about prostate cancer so they can make better decisions on treatment options and cope with the emotional and quality of life issues following treatment. Us TOO and its chapters reach more than 50,000 men per month through discussion groups, lectures, publications and presentations by medical professionals. Visit [www.ustoo.org](http://www.ustoo.org) or call 800-808-7866 for more information.

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