



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE REVIEW

October 5, 2004

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### Lower Income Patients Less Informed About Treatment Options

Atlanta – Prostate cancer patients from lower income brackets are less informed about their treatment options, less likely to seek a second opinion and more often unhappy with their treatment decision than patients from higher income brackets, according to a new study presented October 5, 2004, at the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

There are several different treatment options available to prostate cancer patients, including radiation therapy, surgery and hormone therapy. Because of this, patients face difficult decisions in deciding the best treatment for their cancer and lifestyle. Various factors, such as income, can impact how much treatment information a patient receives and can influence the patient's decision. Researchers in this study sought to evaluate how income alone affects a patient's treatment decision and satisfaction afterwards.

In 2003, Us TOO International, a non-profit prostate cancer patient support group network, collaborated with NexCura Inc. to conduct an online survey of 4,587 prostate cancer patients and their caregivers. Of them, 87 percent were prostate cancer patients, 72 percent of whom had been diagnosed within the past two years. The majority of patients were Caucasian – 93 percent – and 66 percent had completed college.

Us TOO found patients with higher incomes felt better informed about the disease, were more likely to seek a second opinion and were generally happier with their treatment decision. According to the survey, 95 percent of patients who earned \$120,000 or more said they felt informed about prostate cancer in general compared to 69 percent of patients earning less than \$20,000 per year. Prior to treatment, 79 percent in the highest income bracket sought a second opinion versus 47 percent in the lowest income range. Afterwards, 92 percent of patients making \$120,000 or more said they would make the same treatment decision again compared to 77 percent in the \$20,000 or less range.

“This study shows that prostate cancer patients in lower income brackets often lack information on treatment options, are less likely to receive a second opinion and are more often unhappy with their treatment afterwards,” said Peter Grimm, D.O., lead author of the study and a radiation oncologist at the Seattle Prostate Institute in Seattle. “These results show that we must work harder to educate prostate cancer patients, particularly those in the lower income levels, about the disease and the treatment options available to cure it.”

**If you would like a copy of the abstract, “The Effect of Income on Prostate Cancer Patient’s Satisfaction, Awareness and Discussion Levels of Treatment Options,” or you would like to speak to the lead author of the study, Peter Grimm, D.O., please contact Pam Barrett at Us TOO International, ph 630-795-1002, [pam@ustoo.org](mailto:pam@ustoo.org).**

### **ABOUT Us TOO**

*Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network. is the world's oldest and largest independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) prostate cancer education and support network, established in 1990 by five men who had each been diagnosed with and treated for prostate cancer. Since then, Us TOO has grown to more than 350 chapters throughout the United States and internationally. Us TOO and its chapters reach more than 50,000 men per month through discussion groups, lectures, publications and presentations by medical professionals. Us TOO helps men and their families learn more about prostate cancer so they can make better decisions on treatment options and cope with emotional and quality of life issues following treatment. For more information, visit the Us TOO web site at <http://www.ustoo.org>.*

### **About ASTRO**

*The American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology is the largest radiation oncology society in the world, with more than 7,500 members who specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies. As a leading organization in radiation oncology, biology and physics, the Society is dedicated to the advancement of the practice of radiation oncology by promoting excellence in patient care, providing opportunities for educational and professional development, promoting research and disseminating research results and representing radiation oncology in a rapidly evolving socioeconomic healthcare environment.*

### **ABOUT NexCura**

*NexCura is a Seattle-based healthcare education and information company that offers patients, caregivers and providers relevant, timely and evidence-based knowledge that is individually tailored to each patient's unique clinical situation, enabling them to make better informed decisions about treatment options and care. The company distributes its services to consumers and providers for free through a network of pre-eminent resource centers, including national patient advocacy groups, payers, providers and healthcare portals. The core technology, registered U.S. Patent No. 6,581,038, known as the NexProfiler(tm) Treatment Option Tools for Cancer, Heart and Lung, enables NexCura to provide mission-critical communication and research communication services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries. NexCura has experienced rapid patient adoption and is now serving over 400,000 new registered patients annually in oncology, cardiovascular and pulmonary disease. For information about NexCura visit <http://www.nexcura.com>.*

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