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A MESSAGE FROM US TOO PRESIDENT AND CEO, TOM KIRK

I am repeating thoughts here in the Hot Sheet which originally appeared in December's Us TOO Prostate Cancer NEWS You Can Use e-newsletters to once again highlight Prostate Pointers and its web-based support communities. I wrote this after attending a moving and inspirational memorial service with my wife for a young woman, who passed away from metastatic breast cancer. It reminds me of one of the articles we highlighted last edition in the NEWS You Can Use that states "A federal report on cancer rates shows prostate cancer is the leading cancer among U.S. men and breast cancer is the most common form seen in women."

During Sharon's service it was repeatedly clear that we need to embrace life and as she frequently said during her life "concentrate on love while we are here".

It was so clear once again that

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CHANGES TO MEDICARE PAYMENTS FOR CANCER DRUGS AFFECTING DELIVERY OF PROSTATE CANCER THERAPIES

The Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act (PAMA) included major changes in Medicare payments for cancer therapies and other drugs covered under Medicare and administered in physicians' offices.

Many health policymakers believed these payments exceeded providers' true drug costs, creating financial incentives for a physician to choose certain drugs based on reimbursement rates vs. patients' medical needs. Thus, as of January 1, 2005, drug payments will be based on a new Average Sales Price plus 6% formula.

However, there is a great deal of disagreement whether this new formula adequately covers the costs of administering cancer drugs. Thus, these changes could have an unintended, but very negative impact, on prostate cancer patients

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LUPRON® SETTLEMENT NOTIFICATION BEGINS

Consumers, insurers and health benefit plans are expected to share \$150 million in compensation to settle lawsuits alleging drug companies fraudulently promoted the prescription medication Lupron.

A court-ordered program was announced Friday to notify parties eligible for compensation under a proposed settlement, scheduled to be considered by a federal judge April 13.

The settlement would cover parties who paid for Lupron from January 1, 1985 through March 31 of this year, according to an announcement by U.S. District Court in Boston. The class includes consumers who paid for any portion of the drug's cost, as well as insurers, employee welfare benefit plans and governmental employer plans.

The proposed \$150 million payment would settle litigation against TAP Pharmaceutical Products Inc., Abbott Laboratories Inc. and Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Litovaitis alleged fraud involving

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