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UT Southwestern public forum to address connection between excess body fat and cancer

DALLAS – April 2, 2009 – The Friends for Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research will hold its Spring Public Forum “Can You Change Your Risk: The Link Between Diet and Cancer” on Wednesday, April 22, at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Dr. David Euhus, professor of surgical oncology at UT Southwestern and director of the Mary L. Brown Breast Cancer Genetics and Risk Assessment Program at the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, will be the featured speaker at the 7 p.m. event.

Dr. Euhus is currently working with scientists at UT Southwestern to understand how excess body weight impacts the development and progression of breast cancer. The team is also developing new approaches for targeting fat to prevent and treat breast cancer.

As a woman ages, her body becomes very efficient at storing fat and very inefficient at losing it. For some, this leads to a release of factors into the bloodstream that stimulate and stress normal breast cells, leading to precancerous changes. Physical activity is a good way for women to reduce these factors, but certain dietary habits can quickly reverse those benefits.

“It’s easy to tell someone to lose weight,” Dr. Euhus said. “But it can be very tough to achieve. We need to come up with more effective weight-loss strategies and new ways to counter the influence that fat cells have over normal breast cells and breast cancers.”

The forum will be held in the Excellence in Education Foundation Auditorium in the Simmons Biomedical Research Building on the UT Southwestern North Campus, 6000 Harry Hines Blvd. Complementary valet parking will be available.

Attendance should be confirmed by calling 214-648-2344 or through e-mail at RSVP@utsouthwestern.edu.

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