



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **UNC and Rock Against Cancer mark National Childhood Cancer Awareness Day**

Chapel Hill, NC – UNC and Rock Against Cancer (RAC), a local nonprofit that funds music therapy for pediatric cancer patients, will present Governor Perdue's Special Proclamation declaring September 13<sup>th</sup> Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in a special ceremony in the lobby of the North Carolina Children's Hospital on the UNC Health Care Campus at 9:30 a.m.

Deputy Secretary for Health Services Michael Watson will join cancer survivor Tucker Petty, UNC Pediatrics Chair and North Carolina Children's Hospital Physician-in-Chief Alan Stiles, MD, and UNC Pediatric Oncology Chief, Stuart Gold, MD to mark the occasion.

Ms. Petty, currently a UNC student, is a brain cancer survivor treated by Dr. Gold who worked as a summer intern with RAC through the APPLES service learning program at UNC-Chapel Hill. Ms. Petty spent the summer advocating for federal funding for research into childhood cancers.

#### **Fast Facts About Childhood Cancer:**

- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in children and teenagers, surpassed only by unintentional injuries;
- More than 15,000 children are diagnosed with cancer each year;
- Currently more than 50,000 individuals under age 21 are being treated for cancer in the United States;
- Because childhood cancers are relatively rare, many are not well-studied and research funds are relatively difficult to obtain.

#### ***About Pediatric Cancer at UNC***

UNC is home to the nationally-ranked North Carolina Children's Hospital and UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. As one of only 40 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers, UNC Lineberger has brought together some of the most exceptional physicians and scientists in the country to combat cancer. Our efforts span the spectrum from the laboratory to global practice, meaning that we work to understand the causes of cancer at the genetic and population levels, conduct groundbreaking laboratory research, and pioneer innovative clinical trials that bring the latest discoveries to patient bedsides.

The power of one of the nation's top public universities, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, means that at UNC Lineberger and UNC Health Care collaboration, creativity, and innovation are the rule -- not the exception. Our peers have recognized UNC Lineberger as an exceptional cancer center. But the greatest praise comes from patients, who tell us that the cancer team at UNC treats them like family.

#### ***About North Carolina Children's Hospital***

North Carolina Children's Hospital protects the health and well-being of North Carolina's 2.1 million children by aligning premier health care practitioners, world-class medical education, and innovative, interdisciplinary research to provide the highest-quality, family-centered care, regardless of a family's ability to pay. As a major referral center for children with complex and chronic conditions, N.C. Children's Hospital works hand-in-hand with community hospitals and pediatricians across the state, providing specialty care to more than 70,000 children from all 100 counties each year.

N.C. Children's Hospital offers complete pediatric inpatient and outpatient care in its 140-bed state-of-the-art facility at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill and at more than 25 satellite outpatient clinics throughout North Carolina. The Children's Hospital's world-class physicians, nurses and other clinical staff represent all pediatric subspecialties and are capable of treating children with virtually any disease or disorder. For more information, please visit [www.ncchildrenshospital.org](http://www.ncchildrenshospital.org).