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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cedars-Sinai's Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute will offer "Outsmarting Brain Tumors" in Las Vegas on March 4 and 5 for patients and caregivers. In addition to providing information on recent research and the latest treatment options, the conference will address many day-to-day issues. It is open to the public at no cost but pre-registration is required.

SPECIALISTS FROM MAXINE DUNITZ NEUROSURGICAL INSTITUTE OFFER FREE CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS

LOS ANGELES (Feb. 16, 2005) – Neurosurgeons, physicians, a specialist in complementary medicine, and other professionals affiliated with Cedars-Sinai's Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute will present a two-day conference, "Outsmarting Brain Tumors," at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel on March 4 and 5.

Although the conference focuses on educating patients and their caregivers about the latest research being translated into treatments for adult and pediatric brain tumors, it includes a wide range of subjects to help ease and simplify the everyday lives of patients.

Topics include new therapeutic discoveries, surgical and non-surgical options, and the value of diet and alternative treatments. Many of the lectures will address specific treatments, symptoms, and types of tumors, as well as issues that patients and families often contend with, such as financial, emotional and legal challenges.

Keith L. Black, M.D., founder and director of the Institute, will present Friday's keynote address, "Advances in Brain Tumor Research." Evan Ross, licensed acupuncturist, Doctor of Oriental Medicine, and director of Acupuncture Services at Cedars-Sinai, will present "Surviving Cancer: Complementary Medicine and the Journey of Spirit" as the keynote address Saturday.

Rufus Mark, M.D., radiation oncologist from the Joe Arrington Cancer Research and Treatment Center and Texas Tech University Medical Center, will be the first of four guest lecturers. Other guest faculty are Rick A. Friedman, M.D., Ph.D., chief of the Division of Skull Base Surgery at Cedars-Sinai and a surgical specialist at the House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles; Barbara Ullman Schwerin, director of the Cancer Legal Resource Center and an adjunct professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles; and Paul Zeltzer, M.D., a neuro-oncologist in Encino.

Additional faculty from the Institute and Cedars-Sinai include several neurosurgeons and brain tumor researchers, neuro-oncologists, a pediatric neurosurgeon, a registered nurse specializing in case management, a physician specializing in carcinoid and neuroendocrine tumors, a specialist in pediatric neurology, and a surgeon specializing in head and neck cancers.

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The conference is supported by a grant from Guilford Pharmaceuticals and endorsed by the American Brain Tumor Association, the National Brain Tumor Foundation, the Florida Brain Tumor Association, and The Wellness Community.

There is no charge to attend but pre-registration is required. Those interested may call (800) 233-2771 (1-800-CEDARS-1) or visit <http://www.cedars-sinai.edu/6640.html>.

One of only four hospitals in California whose nurses have been honored with the prestigious Magnet designation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is one of the largest nonprofit academic medical centers in the Western United States. For 17 consecutive years, it has been named Los Angeles' most preferred hospital for all health needs in an independent survey of area residents. Cedars-Sinai is internationally renowned for its diagnostic and treatment capabilities and its broad spectrum of programs and services, as well as breakthroughs in biomedical research and superlative medical education. It ranks among the top 10 non-university hospitals in the nation for its research activities and was recently fully accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP). Additional information is available at www.cedars-sinai.edu.

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