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**BREAST SURGEON LUCY DE LA CRUZ, MD
JOINS JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER TEAM**

JUPITER, FLA. (September 28, 2016) – Jupiter Medical Center is pleased to announce that Lucy M. De La Cruz, MD, a fellowship-trained breast surgeon, has joined the team of skilled oncology specialists that make up the Jupiter Medical Center Physicians Group. Dr. De La Cruz brings her expertise in surgical oncology as well as her extensive background in research to the hospital’s multidisciplinary team of cancer experts. She will focus on treating patients with breast cancer as well as skin cancer, and serves as Medical Director of Oncologic Research at the Medical Center.

“Jupiter Medical Center is always seeking to build our bench of talented physicians,” said John Couris, President and CEO of Jupiter Medical Center. “The appointment of the highly skilled Dr. De La Cruz is yet another way we care for our community’s health and wellness.”

Dr. De La Cruz received her medical degree from Universidad Central Del Este in the Dominican Republic, completed her residency at the University of Miami and went on to a fellowship in breast surgery at the University of Pennsylvania.

Moving to Jupiter was a homecoming for Dr. De La Cruz, as she did her residency in Florida. She explains that Jupiter Medical Center, “is the combination of everything I wanted in a hospital: an academic mindset, paired with a community setting. This kind of hybrid is very unique.”

“Jupiter Medical Center, like the top academic medical institutions across the country, takes a collaborative approach to aggressively treating our patients,” explains Abraham Schwarzberg, MD, Chief of Oncology at Jupiter Medical Center. “Dr. De La Cruz increases the depth and expertise of our team, which elevates the level of care we provide both individually and collectively, and will ultimately improve outcomes.”

Dr. De La Cruz specializes in a number of procedures, including minimally invasive techniques that utilize the latest technological advancements. An example of this kind of procedure is a nipple-sparing mastectomy, which involves a small incision that allows a physician to remove most of the breast tissue, while sparing the breast envelope and nipple. A plastic surgeon can then reconstruct the breast in a way that is aesthetically more similar to the patient’s original state.

The Comprehensive Breast Care Program at Jupiter Medical Center provides a broad spectrum of breast health services, with the expertise afforded by advanced training and specialization in diseases of the breast. Additionally, the Breast Care Program is highly invested in research, which is of the utmost importance for breast cancer treatment and understanding. The team is conducting a clinical trial for intraoperative radiation, which allows patients to undergo a lumpectomy and have targeted radiation during the same surgery, eliminating the need for weeks of outpatient radiation treatment after surgery.

“Breast surgery requires a multidisciplinary team approach,” Dr. De La Cruz explains. “The Jupiter Medical Center physicians, staff, and administration are all very devoted to patient-centered treatment. Though the experience of going through a diagnosis is a scary one, the team at Jupiter Medical Center ensures that patients receive the best and most empathetic care possible.”

For more about Dr. De La Cruz, visit www.jupitermedphysiciansgroup.com. To schedule an appointment, call 561-263-4400.

About Jupiter Medical Center

A not-for-profit 327-bed regional medical center consisting of 207 private acute-care hospital beds and 120 long-term care, sub-acute rehabilitation and Hospice beds, Jupiter Medical Center is reimagining how to restore the community's health and wellness. Award-winning physicians, world-class partnerships and innovative techniques and technology enable Jupiter Medical Center to provide a broad range of services with specialty concentrations in cardiology, oncology, imaging, orthopedics & spine, digestive health, emergency services, lung & thoracic, women's health, weight management and men's health.

Founded in 1979, Jupiter Medical Center has approximately 1,500 team members, 575 physicians and 640 volunteers. Jupiter Medical Center continues to perform in the top 10% of hospitals for patient quality and satisfaction. For more information on Jupiter Medical Center, please call (561) 263-2234 or visit Jupitermed.com.

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