

PROVIDENCE CANCER INSTITUTE PHYSICIAN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL HONOR

Contact: **Jean Powell Marks**
503-215-6433
jean.marks@providence.org

Aug. 12, 2020

PORTLAND, Ore. — R. Bryan Bell, M.D., D.D.S., F.A.C.S., of Providence Cancer Institute, has been awarded fellowship *ad hominem*, the most prestigious designation a surgeon can receive from the college, to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the oldest surgical organization in the world.

He is one of only **four current surgeons in Oregon** – or 0.4% of Oregon’s total number of practicing surgeons – to achieve this honor. In the United States, only 271 surgeons of the total 76,415 practicing surgeons are fellows in the Royal College.

Dr. Bell is physician executive and director of the Division of Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Clinical Programs at Providence Cancer Institute; director of Surgical Oncology Research at the Earle A. Chiles Research Institute; and co-director of the Providence Head and Neck Cancer Program.

First named in 1505 as the Barber Surgeons of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has been an international leader of surgical innovation and developments for more than 500 years.

Today the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is a modern global network of more than 27,000 medical professionals who live and work in more than 100 countries around the world.

“We are very proud of Bryan and pleased to see him receive recognition for his outstanding surgical career. We look forward to his future contributions to enhance the care of patients with cancer,” said Walter Urba, M.D., Ph.D., director of cancer research, Earle A. Chiles Research Institute; senior vice president of research, Providence St. Joseph Health.

The college’s primary role is to ensure patient safety and quality of care. The organization champions the highest standards of surgical and dental practice; provides

continuing medical education, examinations and professional development; collaborates with external medical bodies; and works to influence health care policy across the UK.

“International collaboration has always been one of the most effective ways to advance patient care and scientific research,” says Dr. Bell. “I hope this recognition helps stimulate intellectual exchange and expands opportunities for Providence to advance cancer care on behalf of the patients whom it is our privilege to serve.”

Dr. Bell’s clinical activity, teaching and research have been devoted primarily to the comprehensive surgical management of patients with head and neck cancer. He has pioneered the use of virtual surgical planning in head and neck surgery. He was one of the first surgeons on the U.S. West Coast to perform transoral robotic surgery for treating oropharyngeal and laryngeal cancer.

His research for the last 10 years has focused primarily on immunotherapy to enhance the effectiveness of surgery for patients with oral, head and neck cancers. His work at Providence Cancer Institute has received generous support from donors, whose gifts have helped fund additional research and scientists.

Dr. Bell’s work has resulted in more than 150 scientific articles and book chapters, and he is co-editor of two major textbooks. He has been appointed or elected to leadership positions in many professional societies, boards, foundations and committees, including the National Institutes of Health. He uses his surgical practice to conduct clinical trials studying reversal of immunosuppression through monoclonal antibody therapy and other technologically advanced interventions. His work bridges basic, translational and clinical activities.

###

Providence Cancer Institute, a part of Providence Health & Services, offers the latest in cancer services, including diagnostic, treatment, prevention, education, support and internationally renowned research. The Earle A. Chiles Research Institute at Providence Cancer Institute is one of 16 research institutions selected to form the Bristol Myers Squibb International Immuno-Oncology Network. This global collaboration will focus on helping the body’s own immune system fight cancer and bring more clinical trials to more patients in our community than ever before. Visit www.providenceoregon.org/cancer.