Lawrence D. Wagman, M.D., Appointed Executive Medical Director

ORANGE, CA -- The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment at St. Joseph Hospital is pleased to announce the May 2008 arrival of Lawrence D. Wagman, M.D., FACS, as its Executive Medical Director. Dr. Wagman is nationally known as a leading oncologic surgeon and researcher specializing in breast and liver cancers. Dr. Wagman was most recently at City of Hope for more than 20 years where he served in numerous leadership positions including Chairman Emeritus of the Division of Surgery and the Associate Director of the Surgical Oncology Training Programs, including a Society of Surgical Oncology-approved fellowship in surgical oncology. His current research focuses on clinical issues related to breast cancer treatment and prevention, colorectal cancer metastases to the liver, primary hepatic tumors and palliative surgery. He also initiated and developed a highly respected Liver Tumor Program, a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of liver tumors. He has authored more than 150 medical journal articles, book chapters and abstracts, including a book he coauthored on the multidisciplinary management of cancer.

Dr. Wagman expressed his excitement about further developing St. Joseph Hospital’s world-class cancer care and collaborating with those he refers to as, “some of the nation’s leading cancer experts in their fields on our campus.” He added, “With current advancements in surgery, oncology medications and alternative therapies and support systems, we’ve moved from treating cancer as a one-time, acute stage disease to more of a long-term, chronic condition that is treatable. The patients’ quality of life has become a very important issue for all of us who have dedicated our lives to helping cancer patients. We will be paving the road to better outcomes, improved quality of life and a very comfortable and accessible new cancer center for Orange County residents.”

Among Dr. Wagman’s numerous professional roles are board of director positions for the Los Angeles Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project. He is a past president of the Los Angeles Surgical Society and past state chair for the Commission on Cancer. He is currently the chair of the California Department of Health Services Clinical Protocols Workgroup, a governor-appointed member of the State of California Breast Cancer Advisory Council, and a member of the board of governors of the American College of Surgeons.

A reception held July 23 on the scenic patio of the historic Newport Harbor Yacht Club welcomed Dr. Wagman and his wife, Michele (at right), to the Orange County community and provided an opportunity for 50+ attendees to become better acquainted with Dr. Wagman’s vision for the future of cancer care in Orange County. The event was hosted by St. Joseph Hospital donor and Board Member Ernie and Barbara Townsend of Corona Del Mar (at left).