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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The ECD Global Alliance Welcomes North Carolina Center to Care Network

Duke Cancer Institute joins group of hospitals willing and able to treat Erdheim-Chester disease patients.

DeRidder, LA - March 20, 2018 – The Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD) Global Alliance welcomes Duke Cancer Institute in Durham, NC into the referral care center network that serves Erdheim-Chester disease patients worldwide.

Richard F. Riedel, MD will be leading the institute's team at the Emerging Referral Care Center. Dr. Riedel and the group of specialists at Duke have committed to serving ECD patients and are willing and able to effectively treat this disease. [Duke University Hospital](#) was listed on the national Honor Roll as the #17 medical center in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Dr. Riedel explains his connection with the ECD community and why he is compelled to be of service. *"ECD personally affected my family as my father-in-law succumbed to the disease. Unfortunately, it was only on autopsy that the diagnosis was able to be made. At the time, there was limited knowledge regarding ECD and certainly no patient advocacy group. The ECD Global Alliance has certainly filled a significant void. As a part of a world class clinical and research referral center, we are happy to partner with the ECD Global Alliance to bring increased awareness, education, clinical and research efforts to the field."*



ECD is a challenging illness that requires physicians across specialties to diagnose and treat patients. The disease can affect the brain, bones, lungs, heart, and kidneys in dissimilar ways from patient to patient. Referral care centers provide the most up-to-date treatment available from doctors interested in helping ECD sufferers.

The ECDGA has facilitated the ECD Referral Care Center network since 2015. Including the North Carolina center, there are now 31 centers willing and able to treat ECD patients. These institutions are committed to having a team of specialists available to provide the best care to ECD patients. This network serves help ECD patients directly and will also work with a patient's local medical team. Patients and local doctors are urged to reach out to the contacts at these centers for help in diagnosing, treating, and monitoring ECD patients.

To learn more about the ECD Referral Care Center network and how to contact them, visit www.erdheim-chester.org/care-centers.

[Erdheim-Chester Disease](#) is an ultra-rare condition that is believed to be under diagnosed. It is considered a histiocytic neoplasm (type of blood cancer). The illness is characterized by the accumulation of histiocytes, cells that normally fight infections, in tissue

and organs. The tissue and organs become dense and fibrotic due to the infiltration of the histiocytes and can lead to organ failure unless a successful treatment is found.

The [ECD Global Alliance](#) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to awareness, support, education, and research related to Erdheim-Chester Disease.

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