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New Mexico Cancer Center Wins NAIOP Award of Excellence

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ALBUQUERQUE – New Mexico Cancer Center (NMCC) recently won the 2008 NAIOP (National Association of Industrial and Office Properties) Award of Excellence for medical facilities for its new three-story, 34,500 square-foot building. The building, which is adjacent to the Center's main Albuquerque facility at 4901 Lang Ave. NE, is comprised of office suites, advanced PET/CT and MRI diagnostic and treatment spaces and increased infusion treatment spaces.

Located close to one of the busiest areas in the city, NMCC's new building was designed to complement the center's existing building by utilizing similar colors and materials, with unique design features to set it apart. One unique feature is a colored glass enclosed stairwell, resembling a stained-glass mural, which is a focal point of NMCC's campus. The colored glass is designed to invoke positive uplifting healing notions to patients and staff, according to Doug Majewiski of Hartman + Majewski, architect for the project. The vibrant colors of the glass are integrated into finishes throughout the facility.

Another important aspect of the project is landscaping. Dr. Barbara McAneny, managing partner and chief executive officer of NMCC, said, "I believe nature plays a vital role in the healing process, so it was important that the landscape architect, Richard A. Borkovetz, create a warm and inviting landscape that would have its own unique design aspects." The landscape features a blend of xeric (low-water-use) plants and bushes and colorful, welcoming flowers.

Majewiski said one of the most challenging aspects of construction was successfully connecting the new building to the existing part of the center on two levels without disrupting ongoing operations. "We had to make sure patients could access treatment as easily as possible by taking measures to keep parking available. We also had to control dust and other potentially hazardous materials so that patients whose immune systems were already weakened due to chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy were not exposed," he explained.

Majewiski said Hartman + Majewski, the executive team at NMCC and the general contractor, Gear & Condon, collaborated closely throughout the project to ensure patient's needs received first priority, and that design of the building took their needs into account. "We designed and placed windows and exterior covered balconies in ways that would take

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advantage of the tremendous views offered by the site. The building incorporates a comfortable, cozy sheltered courtyard space between the new building and the original facility, and maximizes convenient patient parking as well as providing separate covered areas for patient drop off and pick up," he said.

Another challenge the design team faced was not only to make the new building a spectacular landmark, but also use each square foot very efficiently. The team created the critical space needed for the already crowded cancer treatment center, specialized areas for high-tech cancer diagnostic and imaging equipment, and the capacity for additional infusion treatment areas.

NMCC is one of the largest physician-owned and operated cancer treatment centers in the Southwest. The center is operated by New Mexico Oncology Hematology Consultants, Ltd., which is comprised of nine medical oncologists and four radiation oncologists who specialize in treating cancer and blood disorders. In addition to its main center in Albuquerque, New Mexico Cancer Center has facilities in Gallup and Rio Rancho, and provides services in Silver City and Ruidoso. All physicians are board-certified in internal medicine, medical oncology, hematology and/or radiation oncology. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and the Center accepts many types of insurance. For more information, persons can call New Mexico Cancer Center at (505) 842-8171 or visit www.nmcancercenter.com.

Space is available in the new building. Leasing agent for the property is CB Richard Ellis. Contacts for more information are Debbie Dupes and Dan Newman at **(505) 837-4999** or Dan Newman by email at Dan.Newman@cbre.com.

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