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**MICHAEL C. VAN TUYL, MD, JOINS PATIENTS FIRST CANCER CENTER**

Washington, MO, March 5, 2010..... Patients First Health Care is pleased to announce that Michael C. Van Tuyl, MD, radiation oncologist, is joining the Patients First Cancer Center in Washington.

Prior to attending medical school at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, Dr. Van Tuyl completed five years active duty with the US Navy and then stayed in the reserves assigned to the Marine Corp Force Recon (Special Forces) becoming a navy diver while completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Nevada in Reno.

After medical school, Dr. Van Tuyl completed a one year internship in psychiatry at the US Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia, followed by residency training at Eastern Virginia Graduate School of Medicine, Norfolk, Virginia, in Radiation Oncology. He served as Chief Resident during his second year of residency. He was then assigned as a Staff Radiation Oncologist at the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia. During his eight years there, he served as the Director of Brachytherapy and was the Chairman for the Radiation Safety Committee.

Dr. Van Tuyl has held positions with the Department of Defense as Breast Health Initiative Manager in Portsmouth, Virginia, and was the Navy's representative to the US Congress in Washington, DC, where he was a member of the Breast Health Care Executive Steering Committee of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for three years.

He has served as both the primary and secondary investigator for the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) and participated in many clinical trials through the cooperative group process which included the National Cancer Institute. He retired from the Navy in October, 2004, at which time Dr. Van Tuyl was the chief of Radiation Oncology at Portsmouth and the senior Radiation Oncologist in the Navy. He is board certified by the American Board of Radiology.

Dr. Van Tuyl joins Patients First from a private practice in Arizona. He is dedicated to providing excellent care to his patients. He has been very active in clinical research and provides streamlined care through the use of the electronic medical record. He has special interest in brachytherapy as well as prostate, head and neck, breast and gynecologic cancers. He is an active member of the American College of Radiation Oncology, the American Brachytherapy Society and the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology.

Dr. Van Tuyl joins Dr. Isaac Cohen, hematologist-oncologist, at the Patients First Cancer Center where they will be available to patients on a full time basis. The Patients First Cancer Center is a new addition to the expanded Washington Campus. The center provides a serene setting for patients receiving comprehensive cancer treatment.

Dr. Van Tuyl will provide radiation oncology and Dr. Cohen will oversee all medical oncology and infusion therapy protocols for patients. Dr. Van Tuyl will join the Patients First Cancer Center in late March.

Patients First Health Care, with headquarters in Washington, is a multispecialty physician group offering 70 physicians and 16 locations in east central Missouri.