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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Get Behind Early Detection**

*Colonoscopy Saves Lives*

MARSHALL (March 21, 2017) – According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States. As with many types of cancer, screenings available to determine if signs of cancer exist, and early detection is often the single most effective means of treating cancer.

“With proper screening, colon cancer can be detected before symptoms develop, when it is most curable,” said Angelica Belo, MD, Gastroenterologist. “Colonoscopy is the most effective screening allowing for examination of the entire colon.”

A colonoscopy is an internal examination of the large intestine and rectum, using a small camera attached to a flexible tube. As the scope is moved around, tissue samples may be taken with tiny biopsy forceps inserted through the scope and polyps may be removed. Nearly all colon cancers begin as noncancerous (benign) polyps, which slowly develop into cancer.

Colon cancer can affect anyone - both men and women - and risk increases with age. Some people are at greater risk than others. Some risk factors include:

- Are 50 years of age or older;
- Are African-American or of eastern European descent;
- Overweight and obesity;
- Have a family history of colon cancer or colon polyps; or
- Lead a sedentary lifestyle.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with very little wait time, please call the office of Dr. Angelica Belo at (903) 927-6680.

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