

## **Mike Cruz, M.D. – Chief Operating Officer, OSF HealthCare**

**The OSF Breakthrough Treatment Center is precision medicine in a way at its finest. We are targeting very specific people with very specific novel approaches.**

We might have access to a million patients. But only 50 qualify for this because there are specific characteristics. So that's some of the challenge with clinical trials and clinical protocols. You can have an open protocol for a year and only accrue one patient who meets that criteria. So you can understand in short order, the only real way to scale the research and learn a lot about that protocol, regardless of what phase it is in is really to collaborate with many other institutions have access to the same trials. So instead of having one institution has a certain amount of trials, we have a potential to access a trial and learn among 30 Different institutions. :43

**This really sounds like a game changer for central Illinois, as well as the OSF HealthCare Cancer Institute. Is it?**

Yes. We have access to all these clinical trials, who has the infrastructure to execute on these phase one or phase two or phase three trial or phase four trial. And then once you're part of all these organizations, then that protocol in short order with an IRB - which we have here in Peoria and a great facility and clinicians who will be the primary investigators - to execute that trial. So it really kind of flips things a little bit upside down or definitely sideways.

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**You as a physician and your physician colleagues, what are you hearing from them?**

*The doctors are so psyched about this, and nurses and APNS and clinicians in general.*

We have access to trials and taking care of our patients that we ordinarily wouldn't. We send patients everywhere, some to Texas to Minnesota or some New York or some to California, some to Belgium because there's a protocol, it's only available in Belgium. And so that happens today. What this will allow is they'll be allowed to take care of some of those patients who are ours, theirs, and will be able to take care of them and offer them these trials here. So it's really it's a very exciting time. :35

**You will hear people say Peoria, really - central Illinois? What do you say to them?**

I say it is perfect and it makes a ton of sense. I'll just use NCI designations as example. If you just take St. Louis, Chicago, Indianapolis and Iowa City and you look in between those four areas it lands in one spot and it's Peoria. And so no surprises. No surprise that these NCI designated areas, as an example, are regionally distributed in some fashion. Well, there's an absence in this area. And yet we have a great facility and great health care industry. It'll be great for the economy. It's going to be great for the clinicians and for recruiting as well. And for sustaining that that capability. And we have a lot of that already. :46