For Immediate Release

Contact: Elizabeth Long, APR
Manager, Media & Public Relations
Office: 937-752-2047
Cell: 937-367-2233
elizabeth.long@khnetwork.org

Surgeon performs southern Ohio's first minimally invasive, image-guided laser therapy on patient with brain tumor

*NeuroBlate Laser therapy used for patients who have difficult-to-access tumors*

**KETTERING, Ohio, December 16, 2014** — Neurosurgeon Phillip Porcelli, DO, recently performed southern Ohio's first minimally invasive, image-guided laser therapy on patient with brain tumor at Kettering Medical Center's Wallace-Kettering Neuroscience Institute.

The NeuroBlate® System from Monteris Medical® is a robotic laser technology that uses real-time magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to precisely guide a laser probe. The laser applies heat to the tumor, in controlled amounts, until the diseased tissue is destroyed. It can be used on tumors and lesions in many locations in the brain, near the surface or deep inside.

NeuroBlate Laser therapy can be precisely controlled to kill abnormal tissue while doing as little harm as possible to surrounding healthy tissue. It can also be used with patients who have tumors in areas of the brain that are difficult to access by traditional open surgery without harming essential functions like speech, vision, and muscle control.

"The NeuroBlate technology can be used for some tumors that are difficult to access with standard surgery or are considered inoperable," says Dr. Porcelli. "The procedure is done while the patient is in an MRI machine so the doctor can see the tumor and surrounding healthy tissue to apply laser energy where it is needed. The temperature of nearby healthy tissue is monitored to help ensure that it is protected as much as possible. Besides the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospital in Cleveland, Kettering Medical Center is the only other hospital in Ohio to have this advanced technology."

Rather than making a large opening in the skull, the NeuroBlate laser technology requires just a small hole, about the diameter of a pencil. The procedure is considered minimally invasive surgery, a type of procedure that generally involves less pain, discomfort, and scarring than traditional surgery and allows patients to go home and resume normal activity sooner.

Celebrating 20 years, the Wallace-Kettering Neuroscience Institute is Kettering Health Network's comprehensive treatment center for diseases and disorders of the brain and spine. The Institute offers the most advanced diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic neuroscience care available. WKNI is home to many of the world's most brilliant minds in the field of neuroscience, and the most sophisticated tools and technology.

**Note to media: If you are interested in interviewing Dr. Porcelli and/or the patient, contact Elizabeth Long at 937-367-2233. Elizabeth is out of the office Dec. 18-24, so contact Alex Smith at 937-7184883 on those days.**

Kettering Health Network is a faith-based, not-for-profit healthcare system that improves quality of life through healthcare and education. The Network has eight hospitals: Grandview, Kettering, Sycamore, Southview, Greene Memorial, Fort Hamilton, Kettering Behavioral Health and Soin. Kettering, Grandview, Southview, Greene Memorial and Fort Hamilton are ranked as U.S. News &