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Contact:

John Jamieson
Marketing Coordinator
jjamieson@rmipc.net
(810) 720-7575 x1424

Tiffany Cole-Stitt
Marketing Director
tcole-stitt@rmipc.net
(810) 720-7569

RMI Donates \$100,000 in FREE Lung Cancer Screenings for High Risk Populations

Genesee County, Mich. (July 2014) — Regional Medical Imaging is providing free lung screenings (valued at more than \$100,000) to Genesee and Saginaw County residents Aug. 1 through Dec. 31, 2014 in order to fight the area's high lung cancer rates.

As of 2013, there were nearly 230,000 cases diagnosed nationwide each year, and nearly 160,000 lung cancer deaths. Due to the lack of annual screening for high-risk populations, only about three of every 20 lung cancer patients live more than five years after late diagnosis. **Lung cancer and smoking rates in Genesee County are among the highest in the state and nation.** Approximately 24.5% (104,199) of Genesee County residents fall within the high-risk age-range and may qualify CT lung screening.

In clinical trials, CT lung screenings have reduced lung cancer mortality in heavy smokers by 20 percent — even higher according to some experts. The exams, which can detect smaller cancers at a much more treatable stage, are now endorsed by the American Lung Association and numerous other medical societies in the U.S. and abroad. At RMI, patients are eligible for a FREE screening if they have a physician's order and meet the following criteria:

- Age 55 to 80
- Current smoker or quit smoking within the last 15 years
- Smoking history of at least 30 pack years (an average of one pack of cigarettes per day for 30 years, two packs per day for 15 years, a half a pack per day for 60 years, etc.)
- No history of lung cancer or obvious lung problems

The screenings will be analyzed by a distinguished lung imaging expert: Ehab Youssef, M.D., of RMI. A graduate of the medical school at Cairo University, Egypt, and a University of Michigan fellow, he is board certified by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine.

"With higher lung cancer rates here in mid-Michigan, we face a major health challenge," Dr. Youssef said. "Right now, insurance companies do not offer CT lung screening coverage to high-risk populations, but we are optimistic that by offering free low-dose CT lung screenings we can make a lifesaving difference."

RMI wants to bring the regional medical community together around this issue to find ways to reduce risks, increase detection of lung cancer, increase prevention, and reduce lung cancer-related deaths.

The company seeks sponsors and partners in this effort in order to expand the program.

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About RMI

RMI began in 1985 as a private, outpatient-based imaging facility with a goal of offering patients an alternative to hospitals for radiology services. Today RMI continues its commitment of providing quality medical service and a patient-friendly atmosphere at its offices in Flint, Fenton, Davison, Grand Blanc, and Saginaw. For more information, visit www.rmipc.net.