Aghajanian Appointed as NRG Oncology Gynecologic Cancer Committee Chair

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Carol Aghajanian, MD of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) in New York has been named Chair of NRG Oncology’s Gynecologic Cancer Committee. Dr. Aghajanian’s experience in gynecologic cancer research and her leadership at MSK and within the National Cancer Institute (NCI)’s National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) will be invaluable to NRG Oncology as the organization pursues its mission of improving the lives of cancer patients through multi-institutional clinical and translational research. She follows the prior NRG Oncology Gynecologic Cancer Committee Chair, Robert S. Mannel, MD, who was elected as an NRG Oncology Group Chair in 2017.

Dr. Aghajanian is an internationally recognized expert in the care of women with gynecologic malignancies. She has conducted several seminal, first-in-human trials which have led to first-in-class new drug approvals. She has concentrated on building a comprehensive research program focused on the introduction of new therapeutic agents for gynecologic malignancies, particular in ovarian and endometrial cancers.

Currently, Dr. Aghajanian is the Chief of Gynecologic Medical Oncology Service and a co-leader of the Gynecologic Oncology Disease Management Team at MSK as well as a Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. She previously served as Chair for NRG Oncology's Developmental Therapeutics Committee from 2006 to 2017, and works closely with the organization’s emerging investigators to help develop and cultivate their clinical and translational leadership abilities. Dr. Aghajanian represents the NCTN groups on the Investigational Drug Steering Committee, serves on the Gynecologic Cancer Steering Committee for NCI, and is the Principal Investigator for the MSK NCTN Lead Academic Participating Site (LAPS) grant. She has received numerous awards for her research efforts and teaching accomplishments, including the MSKCC Louise and Allston Boyer Award for Distinguished Achievement in Biomedical Research (2003), the Visionary Medical Research Honoree by the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (2012), the Michaele C. Christian Oncology Development Award (2014), and the Harry Long Multidisciplinary Award, Society of Gynecologic Oncology (2017).

“I am honored by my new role and the opportunity to direct NRG’s gynecologic cancer research efforts. Our collaborations will shape the future of clinical care for these women,” stated Dr. Aghajanian.

NRG Oncology is grateful to Dr. Mannel for his years of dedication to his position as Gynecologic Cancer Committee Chair, and the organization looks forward to his outstanding contributions as a Group Chair.
NRG Oncology conducts practice-changing, multi-institutional clinical and translational research to improve the lives of patients with cancer. Founded in 2012, NRG Oncology is a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit corporation that integrates the research of the NSABP Foundation, the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), and the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG). The research network seeks to carry out clinical trials with emphases on gender-specific malignancies, including gynecologic, breast, and prostate cancers, and on localized or locally advanced cancers of all types. NRG Oncology’s extensive research organization comprises multidisciplinary investigators, including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, physicists, pathologists, and statisticians, and encompasses more than 1,300 research sites located world-wide with predominance in the United States and Canada. NRG Oncology is supported primarily through grants from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and is one of five research groups in the NCI’s National Clinical Trials Network.