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For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - Congressman John Murtha joined officials of Windber Research Institute and Temple University's Sbarro Health Research Organization at the Showcase for Commerce today to announce the launch of a pilot project in breast cancer research at the local institute.

The Cancer Biomolecular Markers Research is designed to better understand and treat breast cancer using the latest technologies and approaches in genetic research at WRI's world-class biomedical research facility. SHRO will provide research scientists to work on the project at the Windber facility.

"In addition to the other ongoing research programs at WRI, I'm proud to support this new collaboration," Murtha said. "WRI is a jewel in the community, and bringing more research programs here will not only benefit our community, but help our nation battle this deadly disease. SHRO's work has led to new strategies to treat tumors of the lung and brain, and we're fortunate to have them as part of this effort."

The project will employ a combination of diverse platform approaches incorporating genomics, proteomics, metabolomics and bioinformatics disciplines in an interactive-interdisciplinary approach. WRI and SHRO will include molecular reclassification of breast cancer, improved prediction response to therapy, and isolation of tailored biomarkers.

"The project will provide a visionary framework for discovering, understanding, modeling and engineering new dynamic anti-breast cancer bio-tools that will contribute to the development of individualized therapies tailored to the specific needs of breast cancer patients," said Dr. Antonio Giordano, president and CEO of SHRO.

The organization's hope is that the project will lead to a greater understanding of the complexity of breast cancer, improve decision making around treatment options and provide better outcomes for cancer patients, he added.

"WRI and SHRO are devoted to understanding the molecular and cellular workings of cancer and cardiovascular disease, the connection between obesity and cancer, and molecular therapeutics," said Nick Jacobs, president and CEO of WRI.

SHRO's vision is to produce a new generation of therapies and diagnostic strategies to help cure different illnesses. Scientists at SHRO have completed research on new technologies designed to diagnose lung, ovarian, endometrial, breast and brain tumors, as well as lymphomas.