Huntsman Cancer Institute Announces
Major New Training Initiative for Cancer Research

July 8, 2009, Salt Lake City – The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has licensed the University of Utah’s Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) and Department of Biomedical Informatics as a cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG®) Support Service Provider in the category of Training Materials and Services. The distinction is the first to be awarded to an academic medical institution.

“NCI’s caBIG® program is an ambitious effort to provide a way for cancer researchers, clinicians, and patients to share information across the globe through computer-based technology,” says Lewis J. Frey, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Utah and director of the Utah site, to be known as the caBIG® Training Site at the University of Utah (http://www.huntsmancancer.org/cabig). “Here at the university, our role will be to serve as a training hub for other cancer centers interested in linking into the powerful information grid that is the backbone and power of caBIG®.”

Frey anticipates that for the first two years, the primary service will involve two-day training events located at the University of Utah, which will eventually expand into remote locations, distance-learning classes, and mini-training conferences. The training will draw scientists, researchers, clinicians, biomedical informaticists, and industry professionals as well as students from universities, cancer centers, government agencies, research institutes, and private industry who wish to participate in the broad range of caBIG® programs.
About Huntsman Cancer Institute
Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah marks its 10th anniversary in 2009. HCI was founded by Jon M. Huntsman to fulfill his dream of finding a cure for cancer through genetic research. In the last 10 years, HCI has grown to become one of America’s major cancer research centers. HCI is part of the University of Utah healthcare system and is ranked consistently by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top cancer hospitals in the country. For more information about HCI, please visit www.huntsmancancer.org.

About Biomedical Informatics
The Department of Biomedical Informatics was established in 1964 at the University of Utah. Located in Salt Lake City, the department is internationally recognized as a leader in biomedical informatics research and education. The department has a National Library of Medicine (NLM) training grant to support its educational programs. Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree programs are offered along with short-term traineeships for students and visiting fellows. The mission of the department is to improve health outcomes through information systems (including health, economic, and satisfaction results for consumers and providers) in both the private and public sectors of the healthcare and public health systems.

About caBIG®
caBIG® (cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid) was conceived by the National Cancer Institute as a standards-based interoperable nationwide network that provides a grid infrastructure, data repositories, analytic software, and policy guidelines to enable data sharing and collaboration across the biomedical research community. This infrastructure will speed research and discovery, support improved patient outcomes, and accelerate the realization of personalized medicine in cancer and beyond.