CPTV to Air Three-Part Documentary *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies* Beginning Monday, March 30
—Presented by Ken Burns, the New Series Will Air Nightly, Monday, March 30, Tuesday, March 31 and Wednesday, April 1 —

HARTFORD, Conn. (March 26, 2015) – CPTV/Connecticut Public Television is pleased to announce the premiere of the new three-part documentary series *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*, beginning with the episode “Magic Bullets” on Monday, March 30 at 9 p.m. Part 2, “The Blind Men and the Elephant,” will air Tuesday, March 31 at 9 p.m. Part 3, “Finding the Achilles Heel,” will air Wednesday, April 1 at 9 p.m.

Based on Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, this six-hour documentary follows the development of cancer, from its first appearance thousands of years ago to what the future may hold for this disease. Executive producer Ken Burns, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, and director Barak Goodman, an Emmy- and Writers Guild Award-winning producer and director, delve into Mukherjee’s book and tie in real-life stories, chronicling cancer patients and their fights against the disease. *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies* also explores the great strides in treatments, prevention and the search for a cure.

Part 1, “Magic Bullets,” follows the centuries-long search for a cure for cancer, focusing on the story of Sidney Farber, who, defying conventional wisdom in the late 1940s, introduced the modern era of chemotherapy. Interwoven with Farber’s narrative is the contemporary story of a 14-month-old diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The film follows her as she and her parents struggle with the many hardships and decisions foisted upon cancer patients.

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In Part 2, “The Blind Men and the Elephant,” the historical look at cancer continues into the 1970s, as Richard Nixon declares a “war on cancer.” However, not until the late 1990s do advances in research begin to translate into more precise targeted therapies with breakthrough drugs. Also, hear the contemporary story of an oncologist diagnosed with breast cancer.

Finally, in Part 3, “Finding the Achilles Heel,” scientists believe they have cracked the mystery of the malignant cell, and the first targeted therapies have been developed – but very quickly cancer reveals new layers of complexity and a formidable array of defenses. By the second decade of the 2000s, the bewildering complexity of the cancer cell yields to a more ordered picture, revealing new vulnerabilities and avenues of attack. Perhaps most exciting is the prospect of harnessing the human immune system to defeat cancer.

Local funding for Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies is made possible by Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven and The Jackson Laboratory.

In addition to CPTV’s broadcast of Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies, CPTV will air a special encore presentation of the Frontline film “Being Mortal” on Monday, March 30 at 11 p.m. Frontline teams up with writer and surgeon Atul Gawande to examine how doctors care for terminally ill patients. In conjunction with Gawande’s book, Being Mortal, the film explores the relationships between doctors and patients nearing the end of life, and shows how many doctors – including Gawande himself – struggle to talk honestly and openly with their terminally ill patients.

CPTV will also air the 30-minute Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies companion piece, Cancer: A Conversation, on Tuesday, March 31 at 11 p.m., following Part 2 of the documentary. This roundtable conversation features Katie Couric of Yahoo! News and co-founder of Stand Up to Cancer. Couric interviews Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, Ken Burns and Sharon Percy Rockefeller, president and CEO of WETA and a cancer survivor.

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And on Wednesday, April 1, the CPTV premiere of the documentary *Kids Rock Cancer* airs at 11 p.m. For a few magical moments, kids undergoing the pain and emotional challenges of cancer have a chance to step away from their daily routine and instantly transform “into rock stars.” *Kids Rock Cancer* profiles these young musicians as they write and record original songs in the unlikeliest of places: their own hospital rooms.

**About Connecticut Public Television**

CPTV is a media service of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN). It is a locally and nationally recognized producer and presenter of quality public television programming, including original documentaries, public affairs shows and educational programming. CPTV has built a reputation as a leader in children’s programming, including playing an historic role in bringing *Barney & Friends™*, *Bob the Builder™* and *Thomas & Friends™* to public television. The station offers 11.5 hours of positive, nurturing children’s programs each weekday, reaching 450,000 households each week. The Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network also includes WNPR, an affiliate of National Public Radio, Public Radio International and American Public Media. WNPR serves 276,000 listeners weekly in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island with news and information. Its award-winning local programming includes *The Faith Middleton Show*, *The Colin McEnroe Show* and *Where We Live*. CPBN also includes two affiliate channels: CPTV4U, a 24/7 television channel featuring award-winning drama, news and talk programming, concert performances, independent films, nature shows, British comedy and more; and CPTV Sports, Connecticut’s only 24-hour local sports network, covering statewide high school, college, semi-professional and professional sports. CPBN also houses the Learning Lab, home to the Journalism & Media Academy Magnet School satellite campus and the Institute for Advanced Media, which includes the Veterans Vocational Training Program. For more information, visit [CPTV.org](http://CPTV.org).

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