



For Immediate Release

Contact: Fiona Phelan  
Media Relations Manager  
860.714.1076/ 860.712.8517  
[FPhelan@stfranciscare.org](mailto:FPhelan@stfranciscare.org)

**CHRISTINE RIZK, M.D., JOINS  
SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER**  
*Specialist in breast surgery to lead Comprehensive Women's Health Center*

(HARTFORD, Conn. – May 18, 2016) Christine Rizk, M.D., F.A.C.S., has been named director of the Comprehensive Women's Health Center at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

Dr. Rizk is the third fellowship-trained breast surgeon to join the team at Saint Francis. She will work alongside Kimberly Caprio, M.D., and Niamey Wilson, M.D., co-directors of the Hoffman Breast Health Center which is located in the state-of-the-art Comprehensive Women's Health Center. The 24,000 square foot center opened in 2014 and offers services inclusive of breast health, heart health, gynecology, and integrative medicine.

Dr. Rizk earned her Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, graduating Magna Cum Laude, at the University of Rochester, NY. She then completed her medical degree with honors at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY, and completed her residency training in general surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH. She then went on to complete a fellowship in breast disease at Brown University Women and Infants Hospital in Providence, RI.

Dr. Rizk has been in practice over 11 years and has been on faculty at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, an NCI designated cancer Center, as well as SUNY Stony Brook, where she was an Assistant Professor of Surgery.

As a fellow of the American College of Surgeons with specialty training in breast cancer, and Board certified in general surgery, Dr. Rizk focuses her practice on breast cancer surgery, and provides clinical services for the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. She also focuses on helping women prevent breast cancer, particularly women with a strong family history of breast cancer.

Dr. Rizk's interests include breast conservation and cosmetically appealing breast surgery including nipple sparing mastectomy and oncoplasty.

Dr. Rizk was selected for inclusion in the 2009 edition of Guide to America's Top Surgeons published by the Consumer's Research Counsel of America. Additionally, she was included in the New York Times Rising Star Edition 2015.

Dr. Rizk has also been on Fox News as a commentator on breast health issues in 2014 and 2015. She has also contributed a chapter in the award winning *Surviving Cancer: Our Voices and Our Choices*.

She has also received many awards including humanitarian and teaching awards, and has been involved in multiple clinical trials.

Dr. Rizk feels that “for women going through a diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer, it is one of the most stressful experiences in her life. It often affects the entire family. Our goal is to not only cure the disease, but also help women heal. Cure is of the body whereas healing is of the body, mind and soul. It is an honor and privilege to take care of women as they go through that journey.”

#### **About Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center**

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897 and is now a member of Trinity Health - New England. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other Trinity Health - New England entities include Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at Saint Francis, the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research, Saint Francis HealthCare Partners and Sisters of Providence Health System, Springfield, Mass, along with Johnson Memorial Hospital, and Home and Community Health Services. For more information, visit [www.stfranciscare.com](http://www.stfranciscare.com).