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For Immediate Release

Frank Scifo MD Named Primary Care Development Director at St. Vincent's

BRIDGEPORT, CT, January 26, 2009--Frank R. Scifo, MD, FAAFP, a family practitioner, has been appointed to a new position, Director of Primary Care Development, at St. Vincent's Medical Center.

"We are fortunate to have a physician like Dr. Scifo taking on this new position, which will help expand the specialty of primary care in this area, benefiting doctors, patients and the practice of leading edge health care," said St. Vincent's Senior Corporate Vice President Ronald J. Bianchi. "He possesses more than twenty years of experience in medical practice, familiarity with the issues and challenges facing primary care and medicine in general, and is a well-regarded doctor who has been recognized for his service to the medical profession and the community."



In his new role, Dr. Scifo will be responsible for helping St. Vincent's develop strategies to recruit the best of primary care doctors amid a looming nationwide shortage. The shortage is resulting from a number of factors, according to Dr. Scifo, such as increasing paperwork, the demands of treating the chronically ill and people with complex diseases within a short span of time, inadequate Medicare reimbursement for visits versus procedures, and the salary gap between primary care physicians and other medical specialties.

"Our goal is to create a climate that is conducive to the successful and fulfilling practice of primary care medicine, and ensure that the community will be well served in this area for the future," Dr. Scifo said. Primary care medicine includes internal medicine, family practice medicine and pediatrics.

He will also be working to enhance St. Vincent's hospitalist program. (Hospitalists are physicians who specialize in caring for patients once they are admitted to the hospital.) In addition, Dr. Scifo will focus on developing relationships with other health partners in order to foster quality of care.

Frank Scifo, MD, FAAFP

Dr. Scifo, a fellow in the American Academy of Family Physicians, comes to St. Vincent's after being on active staff since 1988, having spent 22 years as a solo family practitioner in Stratford. He has also served as Medical Director of Lord Chamberlain Nursing Facility and Rehabilitation Center in Stratford since 1996, and also currently serves as State Police Surgeon with the Connecticut Department of Health. Dr. Scifo recently completed a 21 year stint as Assistant Medical Examiner with the State Department of Health.

After receiving his undergraduate degree in biology/pre-med from St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, Dr. Scifo earned a graduate degree in biology at the University of Bridgeport and in 1979, his medical degree from Universidad del Noreste in Tampico,

Mexico. Dr. Scifo performed his internship in family practice at St. Joseph Hospital in Stamford, and also completed a residency in surgery at St. Vincent's Medical Center. After working in emergency medicine for a time, Dr. Scifo established his family practice in Stratford in 1987.

Currently serving as Medical Director of St. Vincent's College's Medical Assisting Program and a participant in teaching rounds for St. Vincent's Internal Medicine Program, Dr. Scifo also completed a term in 2000 as a clinical instructor in internal medicine/primary care at the Yale University School of Medicine.

A past member of the board of directors for St. Vincent's Medical Center/Health Services, Dr. Scifo has been a member of St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation board since 2004. Having served as president of both the Fairfield County Medical Association and the Greater Bridgeport Medical Association, Dr. Scifo is a member of a number of professional organizations including the American Medical Association, the Connecticut State Medical Society and the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians.

Well known for his community contributions, Dr. Scifo has co-chaired St. Vincent's Swim Across the Sound since 2000, helping to raise millions of dollars in the fight against cancer, and has also served as a member of many civic organizations, including a term as medical advisor to Bridgeport's Emergency Medical Services. He has also donated countless hours of his time as the host of "St. Vincent's Health Talk," a radio call-in show on WICC 600AM spotlighting medical topics.

Dr. Scifo was named Physician of the Year in 1997 by the Greater Bridgeport Medical Association, Volunteer of the Year by St. Vincent's for 1985/86, Person of the Year by the St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation in 2004, and has received many community service awards from organizations such as the NAACP, the Trinacria Society of Bridgeport, St. Vincent's College, the AMA and the Stratford Board of Education. He has also been published in several Best Doctor listings.

Dr. Scifo is married with two grown children and resides in Trumbull.

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