



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Oct. 19, 2010

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CJRI TO COLLABORATE IN TOTAL JOINT REPLACEMENT STUDY

Research Is Funded by Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

(HARTFORD, Conn.) – The Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute (CJRI) at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been selected to participate in the largest ever federally funded study of total joint replacement (TJR) surgery.

The \$12 million grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, a unit of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will establish a nationwide registry of 33,000 TJR patients and is designed to identify the most important factors in achieving excellent patient outcomes in joint replacement surgery, now performed on over one million citizens per year in the United States.

CJRI is one of six high-volume joint replacement centers entering their patients into the registry over the next four years. The data collected from these six centers, as well as from several smaller groups around the country, will be analyzed by University of Massachusetts School of Medicine researchers to assess the everyday quality-of-life improvements these operations provide to patients suffering from arthritis.

Established in 2007, CJRI is a “hospital within a hospital” with dedicated operating rooms, inpatient facilities, and staff who specialize in musculoskeletal care. It

is the highest volume joint replacement center in Connecticut. CJRI currently maintains a TJR Registry with more than 6,300 patients who have been treated since its establishment.

“Of the six large centers participating, our program has the highest volume of replacements and we look forward to contributing to an improved understanding of factors which make great operations even better for the patient. CJRI is already actively involved in outcomes research, and we have begun our collaboration with UMASS researchers on a pilot version of the outcomes registry program that will be employed in the study,” said Courtland Lewis, M.D., CJRI’s Director of Research and Quality Improvement.

In addition to Saint Francis, other participating institutions include: University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester; University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.; University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore; Baylor College of Medicine, Houston; and Kaiser Permanente Georgia.

Founded in 1897, Saint Francis is a major teaching hospital licensed for 617 acute inpatient beds and 65 bassinets. It is the largest Catholic hospital in New England.