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**Connecticut Hospital Association Recognizes
Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital's Karen Santucci, MD
As a 2011 Healthcare Hero**

June 24, 2011, Wallingford - At its 93rd Annual Meeting on June 23, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) recognized **Karen A. Santucci, MD, medical director and chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital**, as a *2011 Healthcare Hero*. She was nominated for this award by her colleague Cynthia Sparer, executive director of Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital.

Sparer shared a story exemplifying Dr. Santucci's approach. After numerous visits to the Pediatric Emergency Department at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, one mother was beyond distraught. Pediatric ED staff still recall the patient and her distressed mother, and how Dr. Santucci listened, heard the woman, and acted on her firm belief that parents know their children best.

What distinguishes Dr. Santucci is her unsparing dedication to ensuring that the next generation of doctors trained in emergency medicine at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital learn and see firsthand how patient care improves when the doctor really listens to the patient – and the parent.

CHA's "Healthcare Heroes" Contest was developed in 2002 to celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. Now in its tenth year, the presentation of the "Healthcare Heroes" awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.