



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MANDELL MS CENTER ENLARGES FACILITIES

New Services, Equipment Added

(HARTFORD, Conn.) – *The Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research* at Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital has completed a major \$ 1.7 million expansion of its facilities and services.

“This expansion allows us to significantly increase both our services to patients with Multiple Sclerosis and to enhance our research facilities,” said Robert Krug, M.D., Medical Director, Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital.

The addition of more than 5,000 square-feet of floor space has enabled the Center to increase the number of treatment rooms from two to six, install a “cool pool,” expand infusion facilities, build a neurorehabilitation gym, and add physician offices.

Water in the cool pool is maintained at a temperature of 84 degrees for therapeutic water exercises by MS patients, who are unable to tolerate the 92-degree water in the main therapeutic exercise pool at Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital.

The neurorehabilitation gym features exercise equipment that is configured to meet the special needs of neurological patients. It will be used for the Center’s gait

assessment research studies as well as clinical care. The Center has recently added additional research staff and is now engaged in 15 different research projects.

Opened in 2008, the MS Center provides a coordinated approach to comprehensive care not previously available in the region and rarely available nationwide for treatment of Multiple Sclerosis, an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system. One thousand of the 6,000 known individuals in Connecticut with MS currently receive their care at the Mandell Center.

Funding for the renovations was generated through the proceeds of the MIRACLES XXI gala, held in September, 2010, which had the MS Center as its beneficiary.

During dedication and blessing ceremonies for the expanded facilities, a plaque in the Patient Waiting Room was also dedicated to Edward Johnson, D.D.S., retired Senior Vice President of the Mount Sinai campus, for his vision and leadership in helping establish the MS Center.

“The expansion of this Center’s unique services is yet another expression of Saint Francis *Care’s* commitment to meet the healthcare needs of the region. We anticipate that the patient population served by this Center will continue to grow and benefit from these new services,” said Christopher M. Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer.

About Saint Francis

Saint Francis *Care* is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis *Care* include The

Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, and the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research. Its services are supported by a network of five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit www.stfranciscare.com.

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