



For Immediate Release

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## **DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIANS HONORED BY SAINT FRANCIS**

### *Two Physicians Chosen for Annual Award*

(Hartford, Conn. – May 5, 2015) - The Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center *Distinguished Physician of the Year* award has been presented to Paul F. Mitchell, D.M.D., and John Polio, M.D.

The *Distinguished Physician of the Year Award* is given by the Saint Francis medical staff to physicians who have demonstrated clinical excellence and achieved a high degree of recognition for their non-clinical contributions in the Hospital, regionally or nationally. The Hospital medical staff began presenting the award in 1997 at the group's annual dinner dance. The recipients are chosen by the medical staff's Medical Executive Committee which consists of the officers of the medical staff, the chair of the credentials committee, the chair of the quality oversight committee, the medical department chair, the surgical department chair, the chair of the OB/GYN, and five active medical staff members elected at-large.

Dr. Mitchell is the Director/Chairman of the Department of Dentistry and a past president of the Medical Staff. He has been practicing at Saint Francis since 1989.

Dr. Mitchell received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers, his D.M.D. from New Jersey Dental School (now Rutgers School of Dental Medicine); and completed his dental residency at Martland Hospital (UMDNJ).

He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Special Care Dentistry and a Fellow of the American Association of Hospital Dentists. In 2008, he was the recipient of the *Lawrence J. Chasko* award, the highest honor given by the American Association of Hospital Dentists for his contributions and leadership to the field. Since its inception in 2000, only seven individuals have received this honor. His areas of interest include pain control, intravenous conscious sedation, pre-prosthetic surgery, implant placement and restoration, removable and fixed prosthetics.

Dr. John Polio completed his undergraduate studies at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA and his medical degree at Boston University. He was the Resident/Chief Medical Resident in Internal Medicine at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, N.Y., and completed his Fellowship at Yale University.

Dr. Polio is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. His clinical interests are in the areas of general gastroenterology, diseases of the liver and liver transplantation. He is also an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine: University of Connecticut and Co-Medical Director, Liver Transplant Program at Hartford Hospital.

*CAPTION: Saint Francis Hospital medical staff awarded Dr. Paul F. Mitchell (L) and Dr. John Polio the Distinguished Physician of the Year Award. Photo courtesy of Joe Driscoll.*

**About Saint Francis Care**

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, the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research, and Saint Francis Health*Care* Partners. Johnson Memorial Medical Center, parent organization of Johnson Memorial Hospital, Evergreen Health Care Center, and Home and Community Health Services is also a Saint Francis *Care* Partner. Saint Francis *Care's* 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](http://www.stfranciscare.com).