



For Immediate Release

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SAINT FRANCIS' SCHOOL OF INVASIVE CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS

(Hartford, Conn. – October 2, 2015) – The School of Invasive Cardiovascular Technology at The Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center recently graduated its first class of seven invasive cardiovascular specialists

The school is the first of its kind in New England and one of only a handful of hospital-based programs in the country.

"We are thrilled to graduate our first class of invasive cardiovascular specialists," said Jeffrey C. Hill, BSBA, ACS, FASE, Program Director, Clinical Coordinator *School of Invasive Cardiovascular Technology at The Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut.*

With the focus on the delivery of high-quality healthcare, there is a significant need for highly-trained invasive cardiovascular specialists and we are confident our graduates will go on to very successful careers helping cardiac patients. In addition, we are proud to announce all of our students have passed the national credentialing exam offered through Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) (<http://www.cci-online.org/content/registered-cardiovascular-invasive-specialist-rcis>) and have secured employment throughout the area," Hill adds.

Students are eligible to apply to the program after completing a bachelor's degree, a two-year AMA Allied Health degree or working as a paramedic.

The one-year program trains students to work with physicians and nurses in the cardiology field to assist in diagnostic procedures in the catheterization laboratory (Cath Lab) setting.

Students begin the program by learning the basic fundamentals of heart and vascular function and physiology. Students then concentrate on core, didactic, lab and

clinical cardiovascular courses. The program also incorporates a clinical practicum at Saint Francis and affiliated hospitals throughout Central and Southern New England.

“The Invasive Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) profession is one of the fastest-growing fields in healthcare. With the demand for highly skilled healthcare workers increasing, the *School of Invasive Cardiovascular Technology* has been developed to meet the needs of the profession and community,” said Daniel J. Diver, M.D., Medical Director, *The Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut* and Chief of Cardiology at Saint Francis Hospital. “We are proud of our graduates for meeting the rigorous demands of the program.”

The school recently received programmatic accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). To find an accredited program, visit, <http://www.caahep.org/Find-An-Accredited-Program/>

The *Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute* also offers an award-winning accredited School of Cardiac Ultrasound, recognized as one of the most successful programs of its type in the country.

CAPTION: *Students graduate from Saint Francis Hospital, School of Invasive Cardiovascular Technology. Pictured back row (L-R); students Christopher Turpin, Stamford; Brian Soloway, South Windsor; Natanael Flecha, Southbridge, MA; and Brian Neubaum, Oxford. Front row, (L-R); Liz Beninato, Instructor; students Kathryn Burney, Vernon; Mark Sokolowski, Southington; and Brie Bobeck, Agawam, MA; Jeffrey Hill, Program Director; Murthappa Prakash, M.D., Instructor.*

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 Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at Saint Francis, 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 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.