

Contact: Lucinda I. Ames 203-576-5550 Lames@stvincents.org
January 21, 2009

PHOTO/FEATURE OPPORTUNITY

EVENT: **State Public Health Commissioner Galvin To Present Stroke Award to St. Vincent's**

DATE: Friday, January 30, 2009

TIME: 2pm

WHERE: St. Vincent's Medical Center's Seton Room on Level "C"

BACKGROUND:

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, MD, MPH, MBA, will present an award to St. Vincent's President/CEO Susan L. Davis, RN, EdD, recognizing that St. Vincent's has received its first *state of Connecticut Department of Public Health* designation as a Primary Stroke Center.

"We're proud to achieve this new distinction from the state for our stroke program," said Susan Davis, RN, Ed.D, President and CEO. "It further demonstrates St. Vincent's commitment to providing timely, advanced and safe care to our stroke patients to ensure the best outcomes possible."

According to Stroke Center Medical Director Srinath Kadimi, MD, "In order to achieve State Primary Stroke Center status, a hospital must undergo a rigorous inspection and adherence to very detailed protocols which help ensure rapid diagnostic evaluation and treatment of stroke patients."

To be designated a Primary Stroke Center by the state, a hospital must demonstrate the capacity to meet criteria adapted from the American Stroke Association (ASA) practice standards, and recommendations from the Brain Attack Coalition (BAC). The goal of the program is to decrease premature deaths and disabilities associated with stroke.

St. Vincent's was also recently reaccredited as a Primary Stroke Center by the *Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)* after a recent survey. St. Vincent's earned this designation for the first time back in 2006 and was one of the first hospitals in the state to do so. St. Vincent's Stroke Center was also recently named a Gold Performance Achievement Award winner by the American Stroke Association's *Get With The Guidelines- Stroke (GWTG-Stroke)* program. To receive this award, St. Vincent's demonstrated 85% adherence in the *GWTG-Stroke* key measures for 24 or more consecutive months. These include aggressive use of medications like tPA, antithrombotics, anticoagulation therapy, DVT prophylaxis, cholesterol-reducing drugs, and smoking cessation.

###

