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## PHOTO/FEATURE OPPORTUNITY

**EVENT:**      **4<sup>TH</sup> District Congressman Jim Himes To Present Top Cardiac & GI Surgery Award to St. Vincent's**

**DATE:**      Monday, March 1, 2010

**TIME:**      3:30pm

**WHERE:**      St. Vincent's Administrative Conference Room

### BACKGROUND:

4<sup>th</sup> District Congressman Jim Himes will present an award to St. Vincent's Medical Center officials for the hospital's recent ranking as #1 in Connecticut for cardiac surgery, and in the top 5 % nationally for GI Surgery, according to the 2010 rankings of *HealthGrades*, the leading independent ranking source in the nation.

The 2010 *HealthGrades* ratings for all hospitals nationwide are available, free of charge, on HealthGrades' consumer website, located at [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com)

### **# 1 in Connecticut for Cardiac Surgery:**

Recognized over the years for its role in the development of emergency angioplasty for heart attack treatment, St. Vincent's is now at the vanguard of the minimally invasive surgical approach to treatment of cardiothoracic disease, which leads to less blood loss and much shorter recovery times for patients. It also allows surgical intervention on much older and sicker patients. At St. Vincent's, minimally invasive techniques are used to perform endoscopic vein harvesting for coronary artery disease (making small incisions to take veins from the leg to create a bypass around the diseased arteries), to correct atrial fibrillation, and to *repair* the mitral valve, a delicate procedure that offers longer, even life-long effectiveness and is safer than the traditional valve replacement.

Technology also plays a role in the ranking as the innovative Ventricular Assist Device (VAD), currently in use at St. Vincent's, allows the heart to rest after a heart attack, helping to ensure that any surgery necessary to correct underlying problems will be more successful.

### **Top 5% Nationally for GI Surgery**

To reach this designation, St. Vincent's has established a multidisciplinary GI committee, and has invested in state-of-the-art operating rooms and diagnostic equipment such as MRI and interventional radiology equipment, allowing the treatment of patients with very challenging problems. This technology matches the expertise of St. Vincent's surgeons who have introduced the latest surgical techniques including single incision laparoscopic surgery. St. Vincent's has also enhanced its peri-operative care by instituting the World Health Organization (WHO) checklist at the time of surgery, which leads to safer surgery. Meaningful peer review has also led to better patient outcomes and satisfaction.