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## **MANDELL CENTER FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS MARKS FIRST YEAR**

### *Success Noted, Services Expanded*

(HARTFORD, Conn.) – The *Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research at Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital* recently marked its first year in operation.

The Center was established in 2008 with a \$1 million gift from the Mandell Family Foundation. It provides a level of care for multiple sclerosis (MS) not previously available in the region.

“In just one year, we have been able to bring together a full range of services and programs for MS care and research – all under one roof,” said Robert Krug, M.D., the Center’s Co-Medical Director, Psychiatry.

Recent developments include the addition of two physical therapists who work with MS patients; and the Center’s attainment of full membership in the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers, an international organization representing MS centers that provide a comprehensive plan of care for patients.

“Team collaboration makes our program unique,” said Peter Wade, M.D., the Center’s Co-Medical Director, Neurology. “Our treatment plans address not only the disease but the consequences of MS.”

In its first year in operation, the Mandell Center treated more than 300 new patients.

MS is an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system and interferes with the ability of the nerves to conduct electrical impulses to and from the brain. More than 400,000 Americans are affected by MS.

The Mandell Center emphasizes early and ongoing treatment of MS. Resources include a dedicated infusion therapy suite; physical, occupational, speech and cognitive therapy facilities; and a computer-controlled robotic treadmill system, known as the Lokomat®.

“The Lokomat plays an important potential role in increasing the mobility of MS patients and improving their quality of life. It also provides essential research data on improving the functionality of our patients,” said Albert Lo, M.D., Ph.D., the Center’s Director of Neuroscience Research. “The Lokomat represents an important first step toward the clinical research program we are developing to improve the lives of people with MS.”

In its first year in operation, the Center has forged a strong working relationship with the Connecticut Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, which is also headquartered on the North Campus of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

“This close relationship has given the MS Center full access to the MS Society’s expertise, guidance, and knowledge of leading-edge resources,” said Edward Johnson, D.D.S., Senior Vice President for Saint Francis’ North Campus.

Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital is a 60-bed comprehensive acute medical rehabilitation facility located on the North Campus of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. It offers major inpatient and outpatient programs in traumatic brain injury, stroke/neurological rehabilitation, sports medicine and general rehabilitation, including spinal cord injury and orthopedics.



**FIRST ANNIVERSARY** – Staff and friends of the Mandell Center for Multiple Sclerosis gathered recently to mark the Center’s first anniversary. Located at Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Center provides a level of care for MS patients not previously available in the region. L-R: Joan Page, P.T., Director of Clinical Programs, Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital; Lisa Gerroll, President, Connecticut Chapter, National Multiple Sclerosis Society; Peter Wade, M.D., Co-Medical Director, Neurology, Mandell MS Center; Amy Neal, M.S., P.A.-C., MS Center Coordinator; Jessica Vegerano, Medical Assistant; Jennifer Fawcett, B.S., Exercise Physiologist/Research Coordinator; Andy Mandell; Michele Labas, B.A., Research Associate; Edward Johnson, D.D.S., Senior Vice President, North Campus, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. Absent for photo: Joyce Mandell; Robert Krug, M.D., Co-Medical Director Psychiatry; Albert Lo, M.D., Ph.D., Director of Neuroscience Research