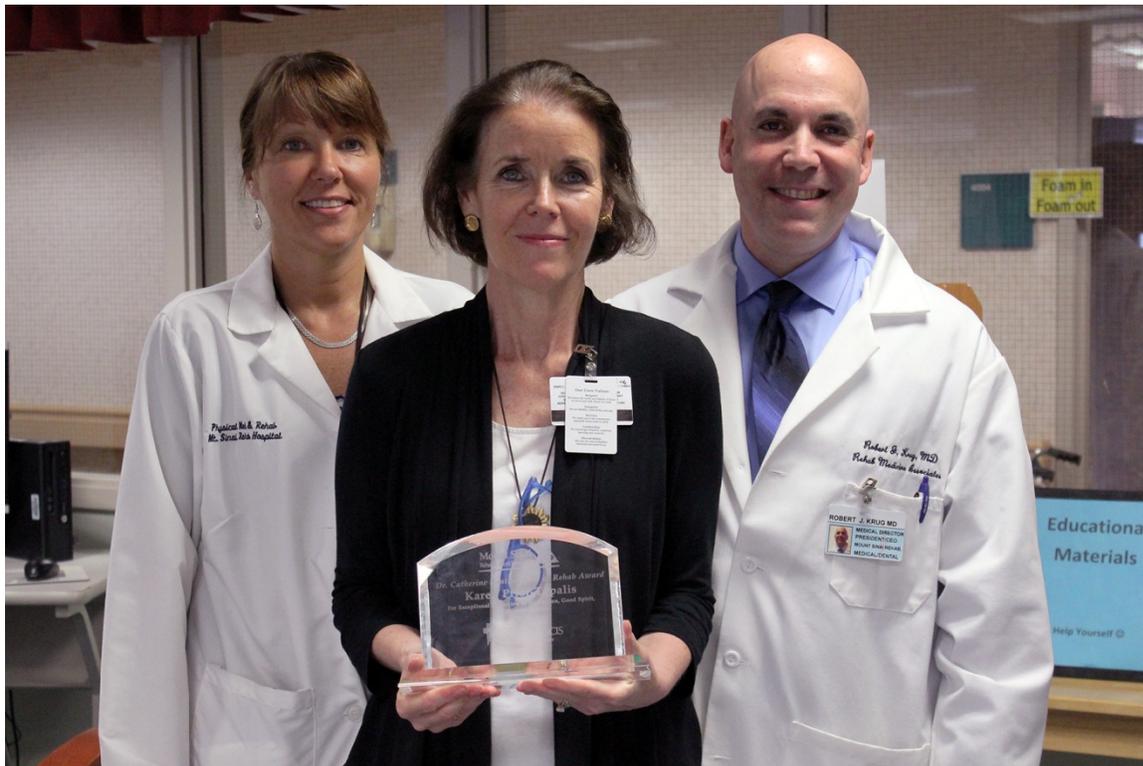


For Immediate Release

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## MOUNT SINAI REHABILITATION HOSPITAL PRESENTS 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPIRIT OF REHAB AWARD



*Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital (MSRH) Executive Director Maura Murray (left) and Robert J. Krug, M.D., president and medical director MSRH(right) present the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Dr. Catherine Bontke Spirit of Rehab Award to Karen Prior-Topalis of Simsbury.*

(Hartford, Conn. – July 20, 2016) Quality and Outcomes Manager Karen Prior-Topalis at Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, a Trinity Health - New England provider, is the 2016 recipient of the fourth annual *Dr. Catherine Bontke Spirit of Rehab Award*. This peer-nominated award is presented to a rehabilitation service line employee who exemplifies professionalism and dedication to the patient populations served.

Dr. Bontke was the first medical director at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Connecticut, now Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital (MSRH), and was known for her humanistic caring of patients with brain injuries.

A 16-year employee at Mount Sinai, Prior-Topalis of Simsbury is responsible for ensuring that patients receive optimal care during their stay at the hospital by coordinating services across multiple departments.

Karen's co-workers, who nominated her for the award, noted that she "is truly committed to the role rehab plays in helping people be as independent as possible. For staff and peers, she is always responsive to questions and issues that any staff identifies, and she works to get the answers they need."

Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital is one of four separately licensed hospitals that comprise Trinity Health - New England. Trinity Health - New England's Regional Health Ministry that also includes Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, Johnson Memorial Medical Center in Stafford Springs, and Sisters of Providence Health System, which includes Mercy Medical Center, in Springfield, Massachusetts.

"Karen epitomizes our Mission by serving as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities," said Steve Kunsman, P.T., director of operations at Mount Sinai. "Her commitment to her colleagues and our patients is admirable. Karen is an exceptional reflection of the rehabilitation profession and her dedication to her role and patients and their families is to be commended."

#### **About Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital**

Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, located on Blue Hills Ave., in Hartford, Conn., is Connecticut's only licensed acute rehabilitation hospital and the largest provider of acute rehabilitation services in central CT. In 2015, MSRH became part of Trinity Health - New England, an integrated health care delivery system that is a member of Trinity Health, Livonia, MI, one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation. MSRH offers rehabilitation for brain and spinal cord injury, amputees, stroke, nerve and joint injury, multiple sclerosis, and the effects of major surgery. The Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research is located on the MSRH campus. At MSRH, a nationally recognized staff of rehabilitation specialists in physical and occupational therapy, physiatry, neurology, urology, neuropsychology, orthopedics, otolaryngology, and speech language pathology is equipped to provide integrated services needed to reach the best possible rehabilitative outcomes in one center of medical rehabilitation excellence. For more information, visit <http://saintfranciscare.com/msrhhome.aspx>  
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#### **About Trinity Health - New England**

Trinity Health - New England is an integrated health care delivery system formed in 2015 and is a member of Trinity Health located Livonia, MI, one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation. Trinity Health - New England is comprised of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut; Johnson Memorial Medical Center, Johnson Memorial Hospital, and Johnson Health Care and Home & Community Health

Services in Stafford Springs, Connecticut; and The Sisters of Providence Health System which includes Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts; Providence Behavioral Health Hospital in Holyoke, Massachusetts; Weldon Rehabilitation Hospital, Springfield, Massachusetts; Brightside for Families and Children; and Mercy Continuing Care Network that includes Mercy Homecare, Mercy Hospice and Mercy LIFE. For more information visit [www.stfranciscare.com](http://www.stfranciscare.com)