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Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Selected to Participate in National Initiative

Hartford, Conn (September 16, 2013) – Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been selected to participate in National Initiative IV: *Achieving Mastery of CLER*. The National Initiative is sponsored by the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers (AIAMC), a national membership organization based in Chicago, IL.

The AIAMC National Initiative (NI) is the first national and multi-institutional effort that focuses on the alignment of medical education with hospital quality and safety strategies. Thirty-five AIAMC member and non-member hospitals and health systems were selected to participate.

“Saint Francis is pleased to be recognized as one of the nation’s most progressive healthcare providers,” said Gregory Makoul, PhD, Senior Vice President for Innovation and Chief Academic Officer at Saint Francis *Care*. “This National Initiative will provide innovative tools to further support our focus on quality and safety through education and team training.”

Saint Francis was selected based upon demonstrated leadership in utilizing medical education as a key driver to improve the quality of patient care as well as a strong commitment to mastering the ACGME’s new Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) process. The CLER program has been designed to evaluate the level of institutional responsibility for the quality and safety of the learning and patient care environment, and NI IV will provide teams the training and guidance necessary to a) identify strengths and weaknesses across the six focus areas, b) prioritize areas for improvement, c) outline, streamline and implement improvement strategies, and, d) significantly and measurably advance the institutional level of preparedness.

A leadership team from Saint Francis will collaborate with select hospitals from across the United States in designing and implementing a quality improvement project within the institution. Participants from Saint Francis will attend four on-site meetings as well as monthly conference calls and webinars during the 18-month period of the National Initiative.

“AIAMC members recognize that part of our responsibility as medical educators is to train the next generation of practicing physicians,” states Kimberly Pierce-Boggs, AIAMC Executive Director. She continues, “The teaching faculty and residents in our participating institutions will be uniquely trained as leaders and communicators, and this training will ultimately have a most positive impact upon the patients we serve.”

The Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers was founded in 1989. Its membership includes 82 major academic medical centers and health systems representing more than 750 senior medical academic leaders from Seattle to Maine. Membership in the association is unique in that AIAMC members are affiliated with medical schools but are independent of medical school ownership or governance. AIAMC members regard medical education and research as strategic assets in providing patient-centered care. For more information on the AIAMC and its National Initiative, visit www.aiamc.org.

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 Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, 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, Evergreen Health Care Center, 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.