



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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THE MANDELL MS CENTER RECOGNIZED AS CENTER FOR COMPREHENSIVE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CARE

(HARTFORD, Conn., December 5, 2013) - *The Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research* at The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, a Saint Francis Care provider, has been officially recognized as a *Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care* through the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's *Partners in MS Care* program. This formal recognition honors The Mandell MS Center's commitment to exceptional patient care; its provision of coordinated, comprehensive MS care; and its continuing partnership with the MS Society to address the challenges of people affected by MS.

"*The Mandell MS Center* has a deep and longstanding commitment to serving the multiple sclerosis community," said Robert J. Krug, M.D., Medical Director, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. "That commitment is demonstrated by the investments we have made in our staff who are nationally recognized in the field. It is further underscored through a range of world-class programs and services to help improve outcomes for patients and their families.

"We are gratified to be recognized as a *Center for Comprehensive MS Care* and the only one in Central Connecticut," adds Maura Murray, Executive Director, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. "We are very proud of the care and services we provide here and to receive national recognition is truly an honor."

"We are so proud to partner with the *Mandell MS Center* in ensuring coordinated, comprehensive care for the thousands of people living with MS in Connecticut," said Lisa Gerrol, President of the Connecticut Chapter of the National MS Society. "In earning this recognition, *The Mandell MS Center* has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in MS care, care that has a real-life impact on people affected by MS in our community."

"This recognition confirms our philosophy that comprehensive care is essential to improving the quality of life for our patients and their families," said Peter Wade, M.D., Director of Neurology.

“It is a privilege to be part of a comprehensive center that understands the evaluation and care of the whole MS patient, including the often unrecognized or untreated urologic issues commonly associated with multiple sclerosis,” said Marlene Murphy-Setzko, M.D., Director of Urology.

The Society’s designation as a *Center for Comprehensive MS Care* recognizes the need for patients to have access to a full array of medical, psycho-social and rehabilitation services to address the varied and often complex issues related to living with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling chronic disease of the central nervous system.

The *Partners in MS Care* program acknowledges and encourages total coordinated care for people living with MS and involves healthcare professionals in the areas of neurology, mental health and rehabilitation, as well as sites that provide multidisciplinary, comprehensive MS care.

About the Mandell Center:

The Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research at The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, a Saint Francis *Care* Provider, offers multiple sclerosis care at its best with an emphasis on early and ongoing treatment. The MS Center brings together a full range of services and programs for MS care and research – providing a coordinated approach to help with the rehabilitation of disease and restoration of function. At the MS Center, patients can see a neurologist, a urologist and rehabilitation physician, receive customized infusion treatment, and participate in a wide range of physical, occupational, speech and language therapy. A therapeutic “cool” pool and neurorehabilitation gym is also available. The Neuroscience Research Center is performing several investigator-initiated projects and clinical trials specific to various aspects of MS rehabilitation and symptom management. The Neuroscience Research Center recently received a \$500,000 grant from the National MS Society to examine upper extremity function in persons living with MS.

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 HealthCare 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. Its 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.

About the National MS Society: The National MS Society addresses the challenges of each person affected by MS. To fulfill this mission, the Society funds cutting-edge research, drives change through advocacy, facilitates professional education, collaborates with MS organizations around the world, and provides programs and services designed to help people with MS and their families move forward with their lives. In 2013 alone, the Society invested \$48 million to support 380 research projects around the world while providing programs and services that assisted more than one million people. The Society is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. Join the movement at www.nationalMSSociety.org